

Toolkit for



# *Mission*

A resource for parishes, deaneries and the diocese





# Introduction

## Mission-shaped church

feels like a phrase that has entered into the consciousness of most churchgoers and most churches. It started as the title of a best-selling report in 2004 that drew attention to the changing cultural, social and spiritual context and the need for the church to be re-focused and re-equipped for God's purposes in the world.

'Where is the Diocese going?' Was the title of a paper Bishop John took to clergy gatherings in each Deanery in 2006. It was a response to calls for a strategy. One of the most fundamental points the Bishop made was that the Diocese is going where the parishes (and other manifestations of Church of England presence) are going. The basis of our strategy is that every parish should have

its own strategy (and where required be provided with help to develop it).

The Diocese is a household of churches belonging together in fellowship and prayer and mission with its bishop. So in light of Mission Shaped Church and Bishop John's strategy we offer a household Toolkit for Mission. It is offered to all that make up our Diocese – the local church (predominantly

parishes – ideally working with ecumenical partners - and also institutions), the churches of geographical areas (the Deaneries) and the overall structure of the church (Diocesan organisation and administration). It is intended as a theological, practical and flexible approach to assessing what we are all about, where we are up to, what we have got to do the job and where we might be going.



It may be used for a regular organisational “health check”; it may be particularly helpful when a fresh start is called for.

In each section of the Toolkit, we have suggested some Bible passages for reflection, identified a set of issues and posed a number of questions for consideration. Though compact, the Toolkit covers a huge number of issues and a great amount of potential

development. It is important, therefore, at the outset to consider a realistic pathway and timescale through it.

**Possible pathways**  
(not all mutually exclusive):

- Decide whether and how you can involve ecumenical partners in the process.
- Identify a small working group or groups containing people with the

appropriate skills to do the spadework.

- Focus on a section a month over six months, the theme of the month possibly introduced by a sermon and the provision of a prayer focus.
- Use the Toolkit to take a snapshot of where you are at, and put a marker down from each section for attention in the coming year.



# Introduction

- A section could be addressed by the PCC or appropriate steering group in sector ministries before the ordinary business through a series of meetings.
- Consider seeking the assistance of an external consultant (see Resources page) either at the outset to help plan the process or to assist with the Moving On stage.

- Share ideas about planning the process in the Deanery Chapter or local Churches Together, possibly identifying people from the area to act as consultants/facilitators to the process.

At every stage, avoid either being vague or taking short cuts! It is a task worth engaging with seriously for God's sake and for the sake of our calling

to mission. It is good to be specific, even detailed, so that we affirm everything that is valuable and valued and identify anything that is lacking or lacklustre.

Much of the material may be readily accessible, not least if your parish has compiled a Statement of Needs/Parish Profile in the last year or two. It is important that the work is not the work of any one



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individual (no matter how competent) but a collaborative effort. The PCC (or relevant Board or Committee) needs to take overall responsibility for it. The worshipping community should be appropriately involved in the process.

### **Commendation**

This 'Toolkit for Mission' is a resource to be used throughout the Diocese by PCCs, parish groups, Diocesan bodies and anyone else to focus our work in mission and ministry. It will probe and encourage and we commend it to all of you as you pray, for guidance in the fulfilment of God's mission.





# Mission

God calls us  
Responding to God's call  
We will affirm the Gospel is for all  
We will pursue Mission in every place  
We will seek mutual resourcing within the Church  
and a common dependence on God

**BEING AND BECOMING**  
personally and together

**GROWING AND DEVELOPING**

**RECEIVING AND GIVING**

**MOVING ON**



The process begins from the conviction that what we are about is God; God's mission to and in and for the world.

Hence the opening "mission statement" begins and ends with God, affirming the need to hear and respond to God's call and to depend on his grace to see it through. If our mission arises from the nature of God and his calling,

the first area for attention must be our spirituality which is rooted in the character of God, our connectedness to his purpose. That's the Being and Becoming.

From that core emanates both the Growing and Developing and the Receiving and Giving.

With those foundations in place, we can then give attention to a renewed sense of direction, purpose and commitment.

We hope this is a simple but profound structure for looking at what we are all about, where we are up to, what we have got to do the job and where we might be going next.



# Mission

## Passages for reflection

I Samuel 3:1-10; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 1:26-38; Luke 5: 1-11

### Mission

- What is our understanding of the word “mission”?
- Where do we see God’s mission at work in our context?
- Have we got the energy for mission?

### Calling

- How do we hear God’s call?
- What are we called to now, in this community?
- What are our fears and hopes?

### Understanding

**and responding** to culture and context (urban, suburban, rural)

- What are the defining features of culture and context?
- What are the key issues of our local context?
- What are the opportunities and the difficulties?



## **Engaging with the local**

(Parish-workplace-institutions-networks)

- What is the make-up of our locality?
- What are our current priorities in ministry and mission?
- How do we seek to fulfill them?





# Being and Personally

## Passages for reflection

Genesis 12:1-9; Exodus 3:1-12; John 1:35-42; Revelation 21:1-6

### Praying and worshipping

- How does our worship reflect the awe and wonder of God?
- How does prayer sustain us?
- How might both be developed?

### Receiving and responding

- How do we make space to receive from God?
- Where do we seek/see/sense/find God?
- What difference does God make to our lives?

### Relating and communicating

- How do we encounter God in others?
- How do we develop relationships?
- How do we share faith?

# *Becoming* and Together

## **Confidence and risk-taking**

- What excites us about the Christian faith?
- What challenges our faith?
- How do we grow in dependence on God?
- How do we tell Good News?





# Growing and

## Passages for reflection

John 15:1-17; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:1-16

### Developing people

- How does our church nurture people in faith and discipleship?
- What training might be helpful to enable growth?

### Developing partnerships (community, ecumenical, interfaith)

- Who are our existing and potential partners?
- Are there pieces of work we could do with others?

### Exploring 'Fresh Expressions' of Church

- What parts of the community are untouched by the church?
- What might enable new people to participate in the life and worship of our church?
- How could we reach the untouched parts and networks?

# developing



## **Promoting creative use of buildings**

- How could our building be adapted to serve the community better?
- How could our building become more inspiring for worship?
- Are there opportunities to share our building with other Christians?

## **Engaging with the global**

(environment, peace & justice, world partners)

- What are our links with the world church?
- In what ways does our church care for the environment?
- What issues of justice feature in our prayer and action?



# Receiving

## Passages for reflection

Mark 12:41-end; Mark 14:1-9; John 6:1-13; John 13: 1-17

**Appreciating and celebrating** the grace of God in Christ

- What has God given us?
- Does our giving adequately reflect the generosity of God?

**Supporting and sharing**

- How do we share what we have been given with others?
- What do we need to receive from others?

**Discerning and valuing** human and material resources

- How do we identify the resources given to us?
- How do we affirm and employ the gifts of each one?
- How do we make best, creative use of our resources?

# *and giving*

## **Focusing**

- What do we need to continue doing?
- What might we need to stop doing?
- What might we need to start doing?





# Moving on

## Passages for reflection

Luke 10:1-11,17-20; John 20:19-23; Acts 6:1-7; Philippians 1:3-11; Revelation 2 and 3

### Praying and discerning

- How shall we make space to wait on God?
- How shall we establish our priorities?
- How do we make a commitment to move on?

### Clarifying and consulting

- Who might we find as an external facilitator?
- How do we get everyone involved in the process?

### Planning and measuring

- What needs to happen, when, and who will be responsible?
- What are the milestones – how will we know we are getting there and how much further there is to go?



## Reviewing and renewing

- When will we make space to reflect on the movement?
- How will those given responsibility report back?
- To whom are they accountable?
- How will we renew the vision of what we are called to do?





# Resources

## **Consultants**

Please contact your Archdeacon for the names of consultants from the Parish Consultancy Group (which includes the Mission Resourcing Team).

## **Books**

'Mission-Shaped Church'  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4013 2

'Mission-Shaped Parish', Paul Bayes and Tim Sledge  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4083 3

'Mission-Shaped and Rural', Graham James and Sally Gaze  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4084 1

'Mission-Shaped Spirituality', Susan Hope  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4080 9

'Mission-Shaped Children', Margaret Withers  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4081 7



'The Healthy Churches' Handbook:  
A process for revitalizing your church'  
Robert Warren  
Church House Publishing ISBN 0 7151 4017 5

'Natural Church Development:  
A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches'  
Christian A. Schwartz  
ChurchSmart Resources ISBN 1889 638005

Ripon & Leeds Fresh Expressions DVD and Study material  
(copies sent to PCC Secretaries; further copies available from the  
Diocesan Office)

**These and other resources may be available from the  
Diocesan Resources Centre,  
Ripon & Leeds Diocesan Office, St. Mary's Street, Leeds  
Contact Kath Hinchcliffe on (0113) 200 0558.**



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