

How to use this document ...

The statement of our identity, vision, values and priorities is the fruit of a process of consultation which gathered the insights of the membership of the diocese— first through the MAPping process, and then Bishop's Council. It was agreed at Diocesan Synod on 27th January, 2007.

It is a resource ...

for parishes and benefices, deaneries and diocesan departments. Each group or organisation is asked to use the vision and values as a focus for their prayer and reflection, as they examine their life together and contribution to God's work in the diocese over the next four years.

The values ...

describe our hopes for the nature of our common life, and our relationships with each other and those beyond the church's membership. Every body is invited to consider how their life reflects these values—and to recognise that we will often be known as much for who we *are* as what we *do*.

The priorities ...

describe the areas that we believe we are called to address in the next four years, as a concrete expression of our vision. Not every organisation will do everything—but each one is invited to consider what part they can play in helping us achieve the vision. The ► points are *examples* of what we can do.

The future ...

Over the next four years we will be returning to this statement as a benchmark against which we may measure our progress. Resources are being made available to assist diocesan bodies to engage fully in this process together.

The Diocese of Gloucester is the Anglican family of God in and around Gloucestershire

We are a family of Christian communities, gathered around the Bishop, who belong together, to the Church of England, and to the worldwide Anglican communion, who are strengthening and encouraging one another in making Christ known.

The Diocese of Gloucester



Vision, Values and Priorities 2007—2011

We are called in the power and grace of
the Holy Spirit

to proclaim and live the gospel of
Jesus Christ,
transforming lives and communities,
advancing the Kingdom of God.

We will hold, and be known for, these values ...

Celebrating God's Love

- ▶ **Cultivating** a spirit of thankfulness
- ▶ **Relishing** time spent together

Being Obedient to God

- ▶ **Discerning** his will through our shared resources of scripture, reason and tradition
- ▶ **Relying** on God's grace and equipping for service

Encouraging risk taking

- ▶ **Valuing** the order of the church but recognising that changing times require us to take risks
- ▶ **Affirming** the freedom of local discernment and expression of God's will.

Being committed to all people

- ▶ **Engaging** with our local communities
- ▶ **Staying** with those on the edge of the church and society
- ▶ **Valuing** our history and heritage

Respecting one another

- ▶ **Valuing** our diversity
- ▶ **Rejoicing** in vigorous debate
- ▶ **Affirming** the principle of 'as well as' and not 'instead of'
- ▶ **Giving** the young a voice

Expecting accountability and transparency

- ▶ **Encouraging** a culture of openness with one another
- ▶ **Recognising** the need for clear communication and effective structures of decision making

Sharing and learning with the Worldwide Church

- ▶ **Delighting** in our membership of the church at all levels
- ▶ **Co-operating** with Christians from other traditions and denominations— not doing separately that which we can do together.

In light of our vision and values, our priorities are...

Worship and Prayer

Offering worship that honours God and transforms lives

- ▶ Encouraging prayer as the foundation of our life and mission as a Diocese.
- ▶ Offering excellent liturgical resources for use in the Diocese.
- ▶ Providing formational training and development of worship leaders and congregations
- ▶ Encouraging local experimentation

Proclamation and Service

Reaching out into our local communities

- ▶ Renewing our commitment to evangelism
- ▶ Focusing on the spiritual needs of the 20-33 year olds especially (the missing generation).
- ▶ Encouraging social responsibility at a local level towards our communities and our environment

Growing Leadership

Strengthening local leadership

- ▶ Encouraging local communities to identify and develop new models of leadership
- ▶ Equipping clergy to lead their churches into growth
- ▶ Encouraging lay and ordained vocations in every parish

Nurturing Disciples

Building up the people of God

- ▶ Caring for clergy and people
- ▶ Teaching the faith with clarity and confidence
- ▶ Developing discipleship programmes
- ▶ Working with young people through schools and youth work

Stewardship

Ensuring a stable future for a committed church

- ▶ Teaching on Christian commitment
- ▶ Careful stewardship and development of resources
- ▶ Working together towards financial self sufficiency within the Diocese.