"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"

JOHN 10:10
Message from Bishop Rachel

Through Jesus Christ, ‘God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things’ (Colossians 1:20) and one day ‘creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God’ (Romans 8:21). One day all will be brought to completion and God’s kingdom will be fully here. Yet all this is not simply about a future hope. As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to join in now with God’s mission of liberation and transformation - to work for the flourishing of all people and the flourishing of the whole of creation.

In five years’ time I dream of our worshipping communities being celebrated as being at the heart of our wider communities, known as living and breathing beacons of love and hope. As we serve and engage with those communities, people of every age will be inspired to discover Jesus Christ for themselves.

I dream of new and existing followers of Jesus Christ being increasingly confident in telling their stories of faith, and sharing stories of how our gifts are being nurtured as we participate in God’s work, both within the lives of our worshipping communities and in the encounters of our daily lives.

And in all of this I hope that we will be even more connected across the Diocese - both within our worshipping communities and with new people and organisations - working together to transform lives and communities as we continue to pray ‘Your kingdom come.’

+ Rachel
“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”

(WORDS OF JESUS FROM JOHN 10:10)

We commit to go out and share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people may know life in all its fullness.
Leadership

Committed to transformation

- Developing diverse lay and ordained leaders from the communities we serve
- Piloting liberating models of leadership and ministry, especially in multi-parish benefices
- Creating learning networks for lay and ordained leaders
Opening new paths to faith

- Investing in our engagement with baptism families to spark an amazing adventure with Jesus Christ
- Placing schools at the heart of our mission with creative connections between churches and schools
- Encouraging new and courageous ways of worshipping in different places, which connect with more people
- Approaching the use, upkeep and future of our church buildings in bold and creative ways
• Enabling people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth, individually and together
• Nurturing confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week
• Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media
engagement

Living out Christ’s love and hope

- Being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation
- Using sport, music and art to build relationships and share the Christian faith
- Connecting with new housing developments in innovative ways
- Investing in people and programmes, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith
As the Holy Spirit breathes life into what this vision will mean for each of us, we will find joy in the unknown and familiar. We can be confident that each action we take, big or small, will transform lives and communities.