

From the Diocesan Secretary

‘Seek ye first the Kingdom of God’

David Pain writes:

This weekend our Diocesan Synod will be meeting. On the agenda we have a discussion of our emerging ‘Mission and Pastoral Plan’. This is an important step in making sure we have a creative and sustainable future for mission and ministry across the wide range of local churches in the diocese. The plan will be developed in each local area and together set out priorities for mission and ministry with the aim of renewing the local church in a time of crisis. It links to our vision of ‘Renewing Hope’ and to the goals we agreed for growth last year.

Last year the Diocesan Synod discussed a 5-year Financial Framework, which will help us to eliminate the current £2m budget deficit. This week the Archdeacons hosted a day starting to explore how we might develop a stewardship campaign for 2021 seeking to inspire generous giving. We will seek to grow our confidence to speak and preach confidently about giving as part of our discipleship, responding to a generous God. We will attend to the mechanisms for giving, make sure we are clear on our impact and ensure we are growing trust in the church locally and collectively.

In the autumn I was pleased to be part of the ‘Beyond the Present’ series of online consultation meetings in each deanery. These were a chance to hear about the local church’s experience of, and response to, the pandemic. These valuable insights are now influencing our planning and vision for the future.

Our vision, locally and collectively, will both shape our plans for mission and ministry, and will also determine our approach to giving and stewardship. People give to an inspiring vision: what we spend our money on clearly reflects what we consider most important! ‘Seeking the Kingdom of God’ in this time and this place gets to the heart of what I hope we will be discussing at the Synod and working on together in the year ahead.