



A shared vision and strategic framework for the Diocese of Rochester



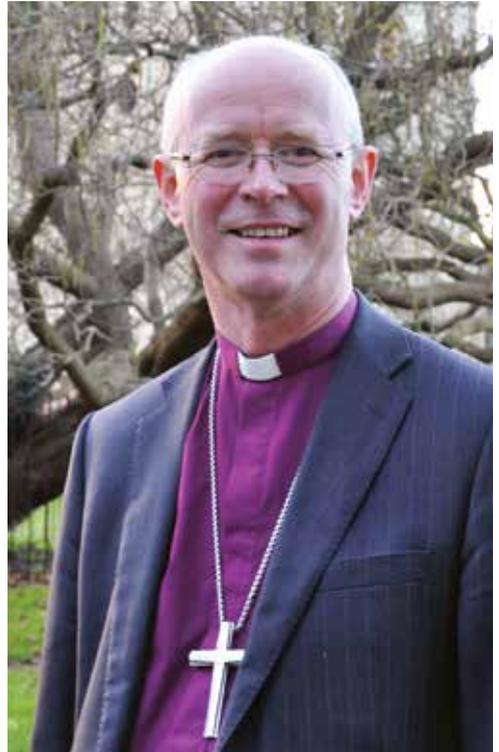
'God has called you by name. God has called you.'

Those are the words I use when I confirm somebody. They are really important words for any of us that is a disciple of Christ; to know that we are called by God and that we belong to God. These words are actually derived from verses in Isaiah, and they are not addressed to an individual but to the whole of the people of God.

What is God calling us to do? What is God calling us to be? We know that the Church and indeed the world faces many challenges, but what we've heard when we've listened to the Church across Medway, Kent, and south-east London is a desire for us to be confident in our faith, to be ready to proclaim that faith and to live it out in our communities, and to steward the resources that God has given us in such ways as to serve that mission.

While being absolutely honest about the challenges and the likely costs, I do believe that God asks us to respond to his calling with confidence, trust and prayer. God calls us by name and makes us his own; God calls us together into a common endeavour of worship and of prayer, of proclamation and of service; God calls us to join with him in transforming the lives of individuals and communities; God calls us above all to show forth his character in acts and attitudes of grace and generosity.

In each place where we are in village, town, suburban or urban setting; in workplace, school, college, hospital or other place of human activity in all of these and other settings across south-east London, Medway and West Kent, we are called together to



enhance and steward our resources for the work of God, to enrich with Christian value and character the places where we are, to grow in numbers and in spiritual vigour disciples who will be both faithful and fruitful.

+ James.



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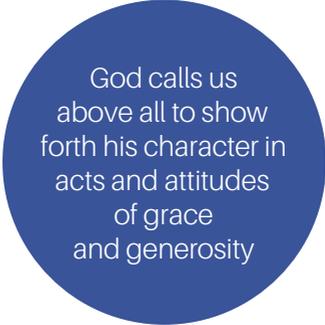
God the Creator of all,
grow your church in faith;

God the Son who
saves the world,
enrich us with
your presence;

God the Spirit of wisdom
and understanding,
resource us for your
mission and ministry;

that we may be a blessing
throughout and beyond
this Diocese, for we are
called together
to proclaim the good news
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

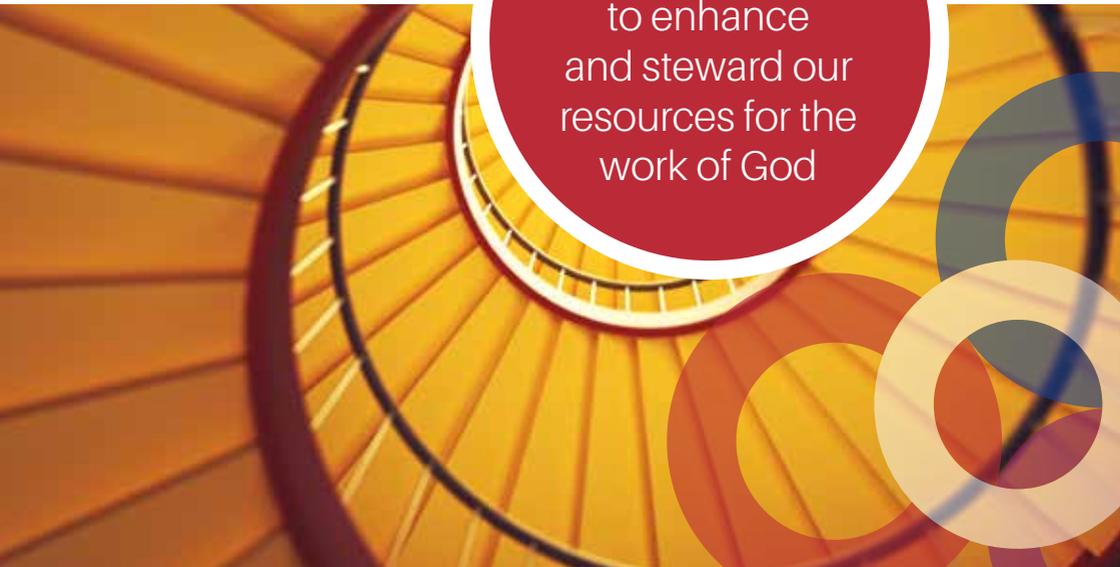
Amen.



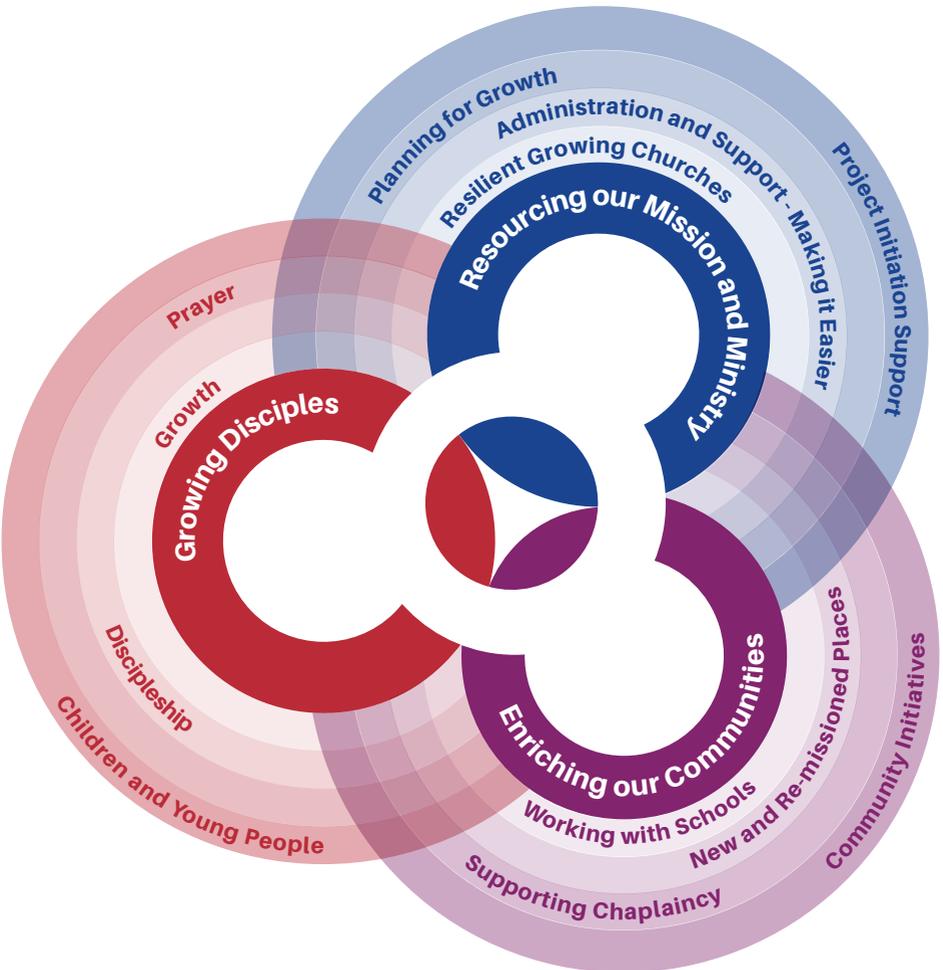
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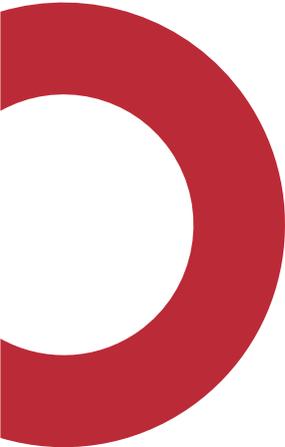


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Called Together has three core themes. Each theme has four distinct areas of focus; these twelve workstreams link to, support, and influence each other, forming a tapestry.





Growing Disciples

Growth

To better live out the Great Commission, share the Good News, and see more people find faith

Discipleship

To build confident disciples, who have deeper relationships with God and are more confident for evangelism and mission

Prayer

To make prayer the fundamental basis for life in the Diocese, to harness the power of prayer to transform lives; to encourage every individual to pray for five people to come to faith

Children and Young People

To offer life-enhancing encounters with Christ to children and young people



To better live out the Great Commission, share the Good News, and see more people find faith



Enriching our Communities

Community Initiatives

Enrich every community through the activities of the local church

New and Re-missioned Places

Establish and renew Christian presence in response to the significant predicted population growth over the next 30 years

Working with Schools

Increase Christian influence in schools across the Diocese

Supporting Chaplaincy

Encourage more people to consider chaplaincy and seek to create collaboratively energised ministries



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local church





Resourcing our Mission and Ministry

Resilient Growing Churches

Enable parishes to run efficiently and sustainably, so that they can focus more on ministry and mission

Administration & Support - 'Making it Easier'

Make it easier for parishes to work with the Diocese Office and legal requirements

Planning for Growth

Enable parishes to establish local mission plans which give focus and energy to worshipping communities and achieve measurable outcomes

Project Initiation Support

Enable, equip and support parishes to define and deliver major projects, such as property redevelopment or significant community projects



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