

## Latest progress on the diocesan vision

February 2026 / Quarterly update 2

### Additional support for parishes

A range of new diocesan-wide roles are planned to support parishes with key areas of mission, and to enable local growth and flourishing. Several of these posts have now been successfully recruited. Meet your new support colleagues below.



#### Children and Young People Mission and Ministry Adviser (10 -18yrs specialist)

Jen Coleman brings a wealth of skills and expertise to the Children and Young People's Mission and Ministry Team. Working alongside Cheryl (Lead Adviser) and Laura (0-11yrs specialist), she will help develop effective ways in which parishes can engage with young people in this age-group, as well as deliver training for all who work and minister with young people.



#### DAC Administrator

Tracy Vedamuttu works with Sarah (DAC Secretary) and Izzy (Assistant DAC Secretary) to help parishes with their faculty and other building enquiries. Since joining the team, she has had a significant impact on how quickly parishes are responded to and signposted to initial information.



#### Missional Development Places Project Manager

Ravi Pooni will support the missional projects within the Missional Development Places workstream. A key part of her role is to ensure that learning and best practice from those projects is shared with parishes across the Diocese, so all can benefit.

**Make contact today visit:** [www.rochester.anglican.org/contact-us](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/contact-us)

**Let's pray** Please pray for the success of the vision across the Diocese over the months and years to come. It is only by working together that it will be possible.

Dear God,

Fill us with **courage and creativity** to carry your light into new places, meeting people where they are, and sharing the life-changing truth of your gospel.

Bless the churches and communities of this Diocese with **Spirit-filled leaders, faithful disciples,** and hearts ablaze with love for you.

May they become **vibrant and healthy expressions of your Kingdom** - places where your Word is proclaimed, lives are transformed, and communities are renewed.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen

**DID YOU KNOW?** In March 2025, the Diocese of Rochester secured nearly £11 million of funding from the National Church to support a **nine-year programme of work** to grow **missional churches**, with **missional leaders and missional disciples**. This is the **largest external funding** award the Diocese has received in support of mission and ministry.

**Workstream highlights** Work to fulfil the vision is starting to happen across four strands, all underpinned by a commitment to growing safe and healthy cultures.



#### Missional Leadership Development

Work has begun within the Mission and Ministry Development Team to see how the current training available for lay and ordained people might be refreshed, developed, and new opportunities identified. A programme of clergy and lay courses for 2026 has been prepared, and redevelopment work continues.



#### Missional Development Places

Initial meetings have taken place with 15 places to receive targeted funding to kickstart missional projects in those settings – including parishes, a school, and new housing areas. The aim of these projects is to provide a group from which learning can be shared with all parishes, to help inform future initiatives and good models of practice.



#### Children, Young People and Families

Work to set up three School Engagement and Resource Hubs to support parishes across the area of the Diocese has begun. These will provide opportunities that local parishes can access and engage with to strengthen their work with schools. Recruitment for a Schools Engagement Advisor is now underway. They will be available to all parishes for advice on nurturing relationships with church and community schools.



#### Revitalise

The Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Working Groups (AMPWGs) are existing groups made up of local clergy and lay representatives. They are being prepared for the refreshed role they will play in helping inform how resource and support available through the vision workstreams, and existing diocesan support teams, are most usefully directed to help parishes flourish.



#### Safe and healthy cultures

A working group has now been set up to help ensure commitments in this area are embedded across each workstream. Diversity and Inclusion and Net Zero working groups have also been established and will start to meet in the coming months.

### Explore more

For more information about the vision, the workstreams, and to access prayers and stories about the work underway in parishes to share and grow God's kingdom, **SCAN** the QR code.



*The Diocese of Rochester is the Church of England in the areas of Medway, north and west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley. A **diverse and vibrant** community of faith, we are **seeking first the Kingdom of God**, as we are Called Together by God **to change, serve, and grow with compassion, courage, and creativity.***