



— DIOCESE OF —  
**LONDON**

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## Capital Vision 2020

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# THREE

years later,  
this is  
the story  
so far.

In 2013, we launched Capital Vision 2020:  
*Our vision of a Church that is Christ-centred  
and outward looking.*



# We will be more confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ



*A short film of Toby's story of coming to faith through the music scene was launched to help connect with Londoners as they investigate faith online.*

## *Communicate the Gospel more effectively, using the opportunities offered by new media*

We have a growing positive presence in the media, averaging two news stories a week on Capital Vision themes. Our social media presence continues to increase; in three years, we have more than doubled the number of Diocese of London Twitter followers and quadrupled our Facebook 'likes'. Of London parishes, 90% are now online, with many using it in creative ways, such as live-streaming and Periscoping services. Many individuals across the Diocese are active and influential on social media. We have launched a Parish Communications Network and a toolkit to help support parishes to tell their own stories. We have trained a group of people to amplify the Christian voice in the media, online and offline.

**NEXT STEPS:** We are exploring how to connect with Londoners as they investigate faith online.

*One thousand ambassadors commissioned at All Souls Church, Langham Place.*



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*Equip and commission 100,000 ambassadors representing Jesus Christ in daily life*

We have equipped and commissioned almost 14,000 ambassadors to represent Jesus Christ in daily life. These ambassadors are ordinary people living out their Christian faith where they are. More than 100 churches across a number of traditions have joined in. These include 15 pilot churches joining a learning community on equipping and commissioning people to live out their faith in everyday life with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity. A partnership with Premier Media has helped to resource our ambassadors with a website and bi-monthly publication.

**NEXT STEPS:** We aim to reach 100,000 ambassadors by 2020 as churches across the Diocese join in, with a particular focus during Lent 2017.



*Ambassadors pray together at Holy Trinity, Tottenham.*

*Invest in leadership and increase the number of ordinands by 50%*

Since the launch of our vision three years ago, 149 ordinands have completed training with 58 going to serve outside London, while a further 148 London ordinands have started training. St Mellitus College has grown to become one of the largest theological colleges in the Anglican Church worldwide, with 210 ordinands in training, and over 650 people taking its courses from its bases at St Jude's, London, Chelmsford Cathedral and St Mellitus North West in Liverpool. We launched the London Callings website to support and encourage people considering vocations to ordained or church-based ministry. More than 100 clergy have benefited from our Riverside Leadership programme, which has enhanced how we train leaders, combined with an increased focus on coaching and mentoring.

**NEXT STEPS:** We are increasing our focus on encouraging vocations to the ordained ministry, including an emphasis on BAME leaders, as we are still some way from our aim of seeing 70 ordinands complete training annually by 2020.



# We will be more compassionate in serving our communities with the love of God the Father

*Enable new initiatives to fight poverty, inequality and injustice in London and worldwide, including our joint venture with the Church Urban Fund*

We have launched Capital Mass, our joint venture with the Church Urban Fund, which engages and supports every parish in the Diocese of London to tackle poverty and inequality. We have appointed a refugee response co-ordinator to enable parishes to respond to the refugee crisis. Currently, there are over 200 ministries delivered by parishes across the Diocese that address poverty and inequality – from providing credit unions to giving free English lessons.

With regard to the environment, we are progressively reducing the energy use and carbon emissions of our churches, our record being an annual 23% reduction in energy use and 16% in CO2 emissions. At least 26 solar installations have been made at churches and halls, houses and schools across the Diocese. Diocesan House is now net carbon neutral and sends zero waste to landfill sites. Together with other dioceses, we are running the first-ever London-wide survey of wildlife in churchyards, helping us to care for God's creation.



*The food co-op at St Dunstan's in Stepney offers local people fruit and vegetables at affordable prices.*

**NEXT STEPS:** We are increasing our communications impact to encourage more of the regular attendees in our churches to engage in this mission field. We are also exploring an extension to our work through the Credit Champions Network. We aim to beat our record in carbon savings and progress our two low-energy parish pilot projects.



*Local charity Hope in Tottenham, St Ann's Church, South Tottenham, and the Metropolitan Police joined together last summer to run a five-day festival for schools.*

### *Open up our church buildings to the wider community*

Our churches are increasingly open for use by their surrounding communities. You will find more unlocked doors, and welcoming initiatives from worship to 'soft play'; from coffee shops, theatre and art to space for prayer and community; and practical services, including post offices, debt advice and medical services. An open churches toolkit was launched online to support parishes in opening their buildings. We have run a series of workshops on the practicalities and theology of open buildings, enabling parishes to share experiences.

**NEXT STEPS:** This is a priority that is now genuinely part of our everyday thinking. So we will continue to look actively at opportunities to open up our buildings to our communities, and provide the support necessary for parishes to do so.

### *Strengthen links between schools and their local Christian community*

From Forest Schools, organising police and student engagement to build trust and cross-curriculum mission in schools, to new church and school partnerships through the resources of RE with Soul, we are seeking to strengthen further links between churches and schools. We have also set up prayer spaces in schools, including one where 1,000 students in two secondary schools spent an hour in prayer during Lent. In 2014, a Lent mission in the Kensington Area delivered 46 assemblies, 89 lessons and 21 lunch clubs to 4,700 pupils, and is still bearing fruit in secondary schools across the area.

**NEXT STEPS:** We plan to enhance how we share best practice for linking churches and schools, and how we build on successful models.

*St James's Church in West Hampstead hosts community services including a post office, a children's play area and a debt advice centre.*



# We will be more creative in reaching new people and places with the Good News in the power of the Spirit

*Inspire London runs a free children's football programme with a 'Coach's Corner' water break to share a Christian perspective on sport and life.*



## *Double the number of young people involved in local Christian community*

We have launched 16 new Messy Churches with 15 more in the pipeline, and have renewed and expanded the training and support we offer in children's and youth ministry. We are pioneering a youth worker apprenticeship scheme in the Diocese, which focuses on training young people in youth work in their localities. But, while we have built an excellent framework, this is not sufficient to result in the step change we are praying for and numbers remain static.

**NEXT STEPS:** We need to increase our focus on young people significantly as we seek to gather and reach this generation. Exciting initiatives are being planned as we endeavour to make a real difference over the next four years.

*Messy Church hosted at St Paul's Cathedral.*

## *Create or renew 100 worshipping communities*

We have created or renewed 20 worshipping communities in a variety of ways with another 65 new worshipping communities developing their vision and plans. The appointment of a bishop for church planting, and funding from the Church Commissioners have allowed us to plan for 100 communities by 2020. A robust identification, training and support process is now in place.

**NEXT STEPS:** We plan to launch many more new worshipping communities, continue to identify new opportunities, and support and train those considering launching such initiatives.

*New Year celebrations at the new worshipping community of St David's Church in Holloway, following its £4 million restoration programme.*





### *Engage more closely with sport*

Research commissioned by the Diocese of London and Sport England illustrates the myriad ways in which parishes are already engaging with sport and physical activity, and has identified opportunities to build on these. Kick London has established four new church football/dance academies, and Scripture Union is developing four sports-based projects. One of our new worshipping communities, Inspire London, has shown how sports ministry can build church attendance and faith. We also hosted the inaugural sports ministry partners' meeting to galvanize and create synergies within sports ministry in the capital.

**NEXT STEPS:** We aim to develop a new sports ministry hub, launch a London Sports and Physical Activity Ministry Network, explore the role of physical activity, health and well-being in the Diocese, and further resource parishes to develop local sports and physical activity ministries.

### *Each pray for at least seven people that we may share with them the story of our faith*

Our Pray for Seven initiative, in which we each seek to pray for seven people, is engaging people across the Diocese. We have distributed 25,000 Pray for Seven bookmarks, and there have been over 100,000 global downloads of the PrayerMate app. We launched four diocesan-wide weeks of prayer, the most recent of which engaged with the national Thy Kingdom Come week. We produced a film helping people to think of whom they might pray for.

**NEXT STEPS:** We plan to keep engaging with national and local prayer initiatives, including joining with others in praying for London's residential estates. We will produce a film tracking people praying for their friends, and seek to develop further engagement with Pray for Seven, aspiring to pray for over 500,000 people.

### *Engage more closely with the creative arts*

Our Creative Network numbers over 200 people who are passionate about engaging with Christianity and the creative arts – in fields as diverse as art, theatre, music, film, fashion and writing. Parishes have been active, engaging in everything from a youth theatre variety show to commissioning artists to beautify one of London's new churches.

We plan to network, share resources and value the contribution creatives make to the life of the Church and our city. We are also seeking to provide training for clergy and parishes to engage with the creative arts. We have appointed a Missioner to the Creative Industries, who is developing an innovative project called The Haven to support creatives in the heart of London.

**NEXT STEPS:** We want to continue to grow the Creative Network, develop further training and continue to build the engagement of the Church with creatives in London.

*A ballerina performs at a Theatre Chaplaincy event at St Paul's, Covent Garden.*



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# Capital Vision 2020

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*(L-R) Steven, Nikkita, Richard and Sam are the four youth and children's work apprentices appointed to the Willesden Area this year.*

  
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[www.london.anglican.org](http://www.london.anglican.org)

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