



Diocese of London – Values Added

Approved by the Diocesan Bishop's Council on 29 September 2016

Vision and Values

The London Diocesan Bishop's Council adopted this Values Statement at its meeting on 29th September 2016. It seeks to spell out something of the ethos and culture of the Diocese of London. The Values Statement is intended to be read alongside our other Diocesan policies, including Capital Vision 2020 and the various College of Bishops Policy Papers.

The relationship between Diocesan Values and Capital Vision is relatively easy to enunciate. Capital Vision 2020 is our collective vision. “We share a vision of a Church for London that is Christ-centred and outward looking. We seek to be more confident in speaking and living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, more compassionate in serving communities with the love of God the Father and more creative in reaching new people and places in the power of the Spirit.”

We renew our vision on a regular basis. That vision is driven and sustained by our desire to know and serve God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and to make him known to all.

Values are about the core priorities in how we operate – and are frequently implicit in an organisation. We hold these values in humility, with a desire to serve our city, our nation, and our world. The values of the Diocese have not been spelt out in this way before¹ - and these values have been discussed and refined by the Bishop's Council over the past couple of months, in order to:

1. Enable us to hold ourselves to account in the way in which we live and engage in worship and mission. We acknowledge the challenge that these values present to us as a Diocese!
2. Prepare ourselves to explain to others what sort of Diocese we are, and particularly in relation to the vacancy in the Diocesan See. The unique character of the Diocese and the way in which we understand ourselves will need to be conveyed to the Crown Nominations Commission.

An Anglican identity

What underpins our values is the character of the Church of England itself, which is spelt out in the Canons: “The doctrine of the Church of England is grounded in the Holy Scriptures, and in such teachings of the ancient Fathers and Councils of the Church as are agreeable to the said Scriptures. In particular such doctrine is to be found in the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, *The Book of Common Prayer*, and the Ordinal” (Canon A5) “The Church of England is part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion, *The Book of Common Prayer* and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons.” (Canon C15)

¹ We have adopted a series of values in relation to how the LDBC and LDF as charitable company operates – these were included in the 2014 Governance Review Report and communicated to Trustees when the new Bishop's Council was constituted.



Our Values

Generous Orthodoxy

The way in which we inhabit and live the story of God in the scriptures, the creeds and the tradition will make room for the whole spectrum of the Christian Church who wholeheartedly affirm that story.

Gospel Proclamation

Our conviction is that the Church is called upon to proclaim and live the historic and eternal gospel in a changing world and society.

Christ Encounter

We are expressly about enabling people to come to Christ – by whatever means he may choose – to receive his grace, forgiveness and love.

Deep Church

We affirm CS Lewis' phrase describing how the Church of Jesus Christ is embodied in and needs intentionally to embrace catholic, evangelical and orthodox insights in order truly to be the Church.

Intentional Discipleship

Beyond encounter and conversion, there is a necessity for the Church to be a place of catechesis and discipleship, where the people of God are equipped through scripture and the sacraments, in the power of the Spirit, to be ambassadors for Christ in his world.

Urban Spirituality

We aim to be learners in prayer as the foundation of all we are and do, knowing our dependence upon God, and to teach people to pray and to develop a pattern of life and spirituality that is real and nourishing in our world city.

Kingdom Justice

To live and proclaim the Kingdom is to seek to see the Kingdom of God and its values established in our society, country and world. We gladly embrace the cultural, ethnic and national diversity that is the reality of London and we seek through hospitality, welcome, generosity and acts of mercy to show and live the love of God for all,

Mission Focus

The *missio Dei* is not only our Great Commission and Great Commandment, but is also our challenge in all we undertake, and to the way in which we operate as churches and as a Diocese, and as we serve our communities, our neighbours and those in need.

Global Partnership

We never forget our context as a World City – and our partnership with the worldwide Church. The context in which God has placed us calls us to be servants to all, always facing outwards towards the world for which Jesus Christ lived, died and rose again.