

The Council's plans for 2017

Evangelism: to bring more of the people of England to the faith of Christ through the Church of England, by helping at least half of dioceses to establish credible strategies for growth, supporting at least half of them through strategic funding, and beginning national programmes for targeted groups in higher education and estates.

Discipleship: to strengthen the Christian faith and life of all who worship God in the Church of England, by establishing the new discipleship portal, and supporting five champion dioceses for lay leadership, with take-up of activities by 10,000 adults in 2017.

Ministry: to ensure there are sufficient ordained and lay ministers of the required gifts and qualities who are effectively deployed to enable the Church of England to fulfil its mission, and to support those ministers in their calling, development, ministry and retirement. Our priority in this area in 2017 is to achieve a 10% increase in the number of ordinands, and to set a strategy for further increase, and from wider backgrounds; to implement the new funding arrangements for ministerial training; to complete a review of the selection of ministers, and to establish a national framework for lay ministries.

Common Good: to contribute to transforming our

society and communities more closely to reflect the Kingdom of God through loving acts of neighbourliness and service to all, by supporting dioceses in building social action initiatives into mission plans, and by developing more structured links with dioceses to give national support to local programmes in at least four areas.

Education: to promote high quality Christian education in Church of England schools and voluntary education settings, and through our Church contribution to other schools, colleges, further and higher education institutions – namely, through 50 new schools; developing programmes and training for 75 Multi Academy Trust (MAT) CEOs and 150 aspiring head teachers; and establishing 100 schools within the peer-to-peer support network.

Resources for the Church: to help dioceses and cathedrals to be most effective in their mission by introducing a cost-effective new national recruitment service for dioceses and all parts of the Church and to provide valued consultancy support to cathedrals facing financial difficulties.

Safeguarding: to ensure all children and vulnerable adults are safe in the Church, by continuing to build infrastructure and processes for the National Safeguarding

Function to promote a safer Church at all levels, including the development of policies and practice guidance, long-term audit processes, training, high-level casework handling, survivor engagement and responding to the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA).

Governance: to operate the national governance arrangements of the Church of England as cost-effectively as possible in pursuit of the Church's mission, by devising and implementing new approaches to organising and supporting meetings of bishops; better coordinating engagement with the Church's core internal stakeholders; and assisting the Church's governing bodies to decide a way ahead on issues of human sexuality.

Welcoming all people: to be a Church for all the people of England by developing a strategy for evangelism and discipleship for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME), economically excluded and disabled people; supporting the continuing work of the bishops' and General Synod's conversations on marriage and same-sex relationships; undertaking a stocktake of the impact of Renewal and Reform on BAME communities, and developing the Renewal and Reform work on evangelism in outer estates.