



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ARCHBISHOPS'
COUNCIL

23rd September 2021

Dear Colleagues

I am delighted to announce, on behalf of the Strategic Investment Board, the launch of the Innovation Fund.

This £4.8m Fund will support limited-scale projects which will innovate in the light of the Church of England Vision and Strategy and generate learning about 'good growth', i.e. growth which increases the number of new disciples, strengthens discipleship, grows the impact of the Church's social engagement work, or increases and diversifies the number of leaders in the church.

Innovation Funding aims to help find creative approaches to challenges facing the Church of England today. The new Vision and Strategy calls us to be a Christ-centred and Jesus-shaped church that is simpler, humbler, and bolder with three strategic priorities; to become younger and more diverse, a church of missionary disciples and a church where mixed ecology is the norm. Therefore, the funding will support innovation which is focused on at least of one of the following underrepresented groups as we aim to be a church which fully represents the communities we serve in age and diversity: younger people and children; lower income communities; UK Minority Ethnic/Global Majority Heritage populations, urban areas.

The Strategic Investment Board hopes that the Innovation Funding will encourage and nurture further innovation that advances mission and supports the Vision and Strategy as new ideas are tested.

The Board warmly invites you to consider submitting an application from your diocese for any project which clearly fits within the funding criteria, as detailed in the Guidance note attached. Applications must come through the diocese (ie, a parish receiving funds must do so through a diocese's application). If you are interested in applying, or would like to find out more, please contact the Innovation Funding Manager, Ben Keenan, at ben.keenan@churchofengland.org.

Ben will be hosting a series of Zoom workshops, detailing the funding criteria and application process, and to answer any questions. These will be held on the 6th and 13th October at 3pm-4pm. To book a place on one of these workshops please contact Ben Keenan.

The first round of applications will be considered when the Board meets on the 9th December 2021, with the deadline for applications being the 12th November 2021. Further applications will be considered in 2022, as detailed in the Guidance note. In the event that you wish to apply for funding at the December meeting please supply a submission of interest to Ben no later than the 8th October.

Please do feel free to circulate this letter and the invitation to the Zoom workshops to any parishes or other organisations in your diocese whom you would like to encourage to apply for funding.

Best wishes

John Spence