

GENERAL SYNOD

A church which is younger and more diverse

Summary

Over the next ten years, the Church of England seeks to be:

- A Church where mixed ecology is the norm.
- A Church of Missionary Disciples.
- A Church which is younger and more diverse.

This series of nine bite-sized workshops hosted by practitioners, members and staff will focus on the third of these.

Background

1. The business committee has allocated time at the recent General Synod to explore the three strategic priorities of the Vision and Strategy. In November 2021 the Synod had a presentation and questions on **A Church where mixed ecology is the norm**.
2. In February 2022 there was a presentation on Setting God's People Free, explaining the foundations and learning around being **A Church of Missionary Disciples**, though regrettably due to agenda overrun the groupwork on Missionary Disciples was cancelled.
3. On Sunday afternoon, Synod members will have the opportunity to explore the third of the strategic priorities: **A Church which is younger and more diverse**.
4. In addition, thirty young leaders aged between 12 and 16 led and engaged in discussions with members of the General Synod in six workshops across the three strategic priorities of the Church's vision for the 2020s at the November Synod. Up to 200 members in total engaged with these workshops. They asked what would enable the church to really make younger and more diverse its priority. Synod members answers included:
 - Jesus-centred
 - Invest
 - Sacrificial in style
 - Love
 - Listening

Workshops

5. On the Sunday afternoon of General Synod, following an introduction to workshops in the main chamber, members will have the opportunity to join two of a selection of 30-minute workshops. These will be hosted by practitioners, members and staff, and will explore different aspects of what it might mean to be a church which is younger and more diverse including:

- *What can we learn from each other? - new research into parishes with growing youth and children's work*
Hosted by Debbie Clinton, Co-Director Vision and Strategy with churches involved in the research.
 - *Church/school/home working together – going to where the young people already are*
Hosted by Lucy Moore, Head of the Growing Faith Foundation
 - *Creative ways to reach underrepresented groups - what works and what doesn't work?*
Hosted by Andy Milne, Missional Youth Church Network and Dave Male, Co-Director Vision and Strategy
 - *What if there are no young people? Starting youth work in parishes – learning from St Albans, Blackburn and London dioceses.*
Hosted by Chris Curtis, Chief Executive, Youthscape
 - *God has not forgotten people and places on the margins - how do we join in?*
Hosted by: Dave Champness, National Church of England Estates Evangelism Consultant and estates practitioners
 - *Everyday Witness - 'motivating the million' to reach our communities*
Hosted by: Stephen Hance - Co-Head, Church and Network Support
 - *The future of online church - some lessons from Easter 2022*
Hosted by: Bob Jackson – writer and former archdeacon
 - *Getting in & Joining In - disabled people and the Church*
Hosted by: Zoe Heming and Fiona MacMillan
 - *Solving wicked problems – how to make the Church of England more ethnically diverse*
Hosted by: Sanjee Perera, Archbishops' Adviser on Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns
6. These workshops will enable all of us to engage with our vision to become younger and more diverse, to learn from practitioners, and to reflect on our own context in a way that leads to practical action.

**The Revd. Dr. Stephen Hance, Co-Head, Church and Network Support
July 2022**