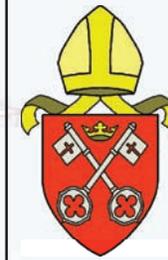


## What will we see grow over time?

These initial areas of focus are about making generous disciples of all ages and encouraging all of us to live out the life of faith in the church and in the wider community. With this as a strong base we expect to see growth in:

- The number of those regularly attending worship and other opportunities for spiritual development.
- The number of children and young people coming to faith in Jesus Christ.
- The number of men and women responding to God's calling to ordained and lay ministries in the Body of Christ.
- A renewal of the influence of the church in the life of our wider communities.



## A Dynamic Vision of the Diocese of York



## What happens next?

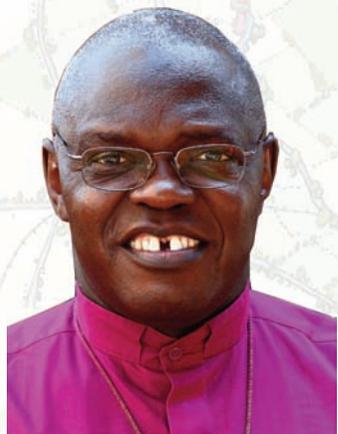
The Archbishop's Staff and members of the Archbishop's Council are working on specific aspects of the initial areas of focus and will be reporting back on progress in the coming months. Our communications, training plans and budget decisions are being reviewed to better reflect these priorities for growth. The "Way Ahead" resources have been expanded to include a Lent Course on generous living (details of all the material can be found on the diocesan website) and the Diocesan Board of Finance will be consulting further in 2012 on changes to the Share Allocation system.

The spiritual and numerical growth we all seek can only be realised through local vision, engagement and generosity – all of us, in every congregation, can get started right now by reviewing our own plans and priorities in the light of this call to support each other as we seek to make and nurture disciples and so build up the body of Christ.

## Generous Churches Making & Nurturing Disciples



“We will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”  
Ephesians 4:14 & 15



In April 2010, Diocesan Synod decided to consult all parishes and benefices on how our mission should be shaped. Mutual Support consultations were held across the diocese in November 2010 and the issues raised have been brought back to Synod. One of the key areas of feedback was a strong feeling that as a diocese we should articulate a clear vision for our shared commitment to God’s mission.

A small group was commissioned to work on the issues arising from the consultation to provide a vision for mission and ministry in the diocese. Following the approval of Diocesan Synod in September 2011, I’d like to share this vision with you.

I believe that this shared vision for **generous churches making and nurturing disciples** will renew our churches’ lives and make Christ visible in our communities. We want to recognise where God is working, and join in as disciples of Christ!

+ *Sentamu*



## What is it that we want to see?

To see our churches in the Diocese of York making Disciples of all ages.

## What is our shared mission?

Mutually Resourcing to build up the Body of Christ, to grow into Christ-likeness, Commitment, Partnership, Influence and Numbers.

## What does that mean “on the ground”?

It means that as we look at each parish we should see:

- Christian disciples growing in faith, hope and numbers;
- each church and school community seeking to be at the heart of what God is doing in each parish and deanery that they serve;
- diverse communities served by a vibrant and participative mixed economy of churches;
- leaders being raised up to serve these communities both today and for the future.

## What will we focus on first?

There were a lot of suggestions made in the Mutual Resourcing consultations, and the Synod agreed that initially we need to focus on:

- A deepening of lay and ordained discipleship;
- a nurturing of lay and ordained vocations;
- the equipping and liberating of leadership: lay and ordained;
- creating a sustainable base for mission and ministry, that includes:
  - i. a strategy for the proactive deployment of SSMs, and Readers, in Partnership with Stipendiary Clergy;
  - ii. a common, coherent and mutual commitment to share in the cost and delivery of ministry.

