

Diocese of Brechin

Towards a Diocesan 2020 Vision



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TOWARDS A DIOCESAN 2020 VISION

Bishop's Thoughts for Diocesan Synod 7 March 2015

Our Diocese is who we are, where we are, under God. When I ask the question, 'where do I hope the Diocese of Brechin will be in five years' time?' 'Visible, vibrant and viable' comes to mind. We are moving away from a survival mentality to something purposefully achievable. *The Growing Church Report* (October 2013) explored our Church life against the five Anglican Marks of Mission. We know we can do better, growing in faith and membership, serving others, challenging injustice and caring for the earth.

At heart I am a principled pragmatist. I believe in doing things properly but God doesn't always work in straight lines and the Church is inherently untidy. Sometimes the right way forward reveals itself as time passes. Appointments, adjustments and changes are made as they become possible. Some approaches have been abandoned, people have moved on and fresh things are under way - finding the right people for the right roles at the right moment.

Enabling partnerships between local churches and the diocese, the province, the Church Army and other agencies have brought about the Cathedral curate, the Pioneer Evangelist and the Centre of Mission at St Luke's. More reinvention of what local churches are and do is needed, particularly in Dundee where our churches are well located in the city but more closely so. Across the diocese we still have some 'sleeping' resources in people, money and buildings which might be used more creatively.

Who we are, where we are, I want Brechin to be an even greater diocesan family to belong to than it already is. Listening to what God may be asking of us I feel that the time is now right to set out our stall for the coming years. We should our foot on the accelerator and become more intentional, thinking boldly, prayerfully risking new things.

My hope is that **Towards a Diocesan 2020 Vision** might provide a working document and discussion starter for our strategic priorities and resources allocation over the next five years. It suggests our **Mission and Values, our Vision and our Strategy**. Clergy and vestries and folk around the diocese are invited to engage with these ideas, relating them to local churches and communities – and shaping local vision and strategies. In order to flourish I believe we need diocesan and local initiatives that go hand in hand – a joined up jigsaw puzzle in which the overall picture gradually comes into view. We need a discussion about bringing those pieces together.



7 March 2015

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Our **Mission & Values** (who we are, where we are) are theologically rooted in being Christ-centred people of God and our Neighbour, as expressed in Jesus's summary of the Law, and may be described as:

Faithful Christians, Serving Others, Transforming Lives

Our values would include trust, integrity, humility, respect, compassion and courage ...

Our **Vision** (what we are called to do) reflects the opportunities and challenges of the next five years or so and may be described as:

Flourishing in our worship, discipleship and membership

Engaging with individuals, communities and issues

Resourceful and imaginative in how we do things

Making a Difference in people's lives

Our **Strategy** (how we get there) is based on the principle that

We intentionally create Local and Diocesan initiatives hand in hand

Therefore this means ...

Vestries and clergy will articulate their local vision and priorities.

Local mission and ministry will 'read' the particular context creatively, finding authentic focus for community involvement and congregational life.

Our churches will aim to steadily increase congregation size and to build up and diversify revenue streams – a 20% challenge perhaps?

The diocese will maintain as much stipendiary ministry as possible, as well as part-time ministries, each strategically located.

We continue to enhance our diocesan ministry team of many talents.

We endeavour to keep ministry vacancies short, providing Interim Ministers enabling creative times for congregations.

We will encourage vocations, aiming to ordain and licence new clergy and Readers.

Reimagining what particular churches focus on is important, maybe less on Sundays and more in midweek, maybe fewer or quite different services along the lines of Cafe Church at St Luke's Dundee, the community activities in church halls at St Martin's and St John's, Dundee and pre-school provision in various churches. The diocese is an active partner in these developments.

Diocesan leadership will be strategically focussed and efficient, friendly and service orientated – a new Diocesan Council will enable this approach.

During 2015 we will explore moving the Diocesan Office to existing Episcopalian premises, and normally hold Diocesan Synods in our own church premises.

Annually the Bishop and Synod will review how the 2020 Vision is progressing.

More can be added ... what are your thoughts?