



## Strategic Development Funding

### Some key statistics

- 2009-15 the diocese has continued to experience decline in average weekly attendance (35000 – 27000 adults)
- Concern about declining number of children, students and young adults attending church (31% of church attendance is 70 or over and 14% drop in baptisms and thanksgivings 2009-14).
- Four largely urban population areas (Brighton and Hove, Hastings, Crawley and Worthing) contain 38% of the diocese population but only 26% of its church attendance. Within these four areas, 20 parishes have an average attendance of 0.7% of population vs the Diocesan average of 2.4%.
- In urban areas there is approximately one church for every 15000 people. Elsewhere there is approximately one church for 1500 people on average.
- There are fourteen areas of substantial housing development across the diocese.
- Hastings, Brighton & Hove, and Eastbourne have the highest levels of overall deprivation according to figures in Sussex Community Foundation's report 'Sussex Uncovered 2: Bridging the Gap. There are 14 wards in Sussex in the top ten per cent of most deprived areas in England and 26 in the top 20 per cent, with only Mid Sussex, Horsham, Chichester, and Adur having none. In some wards, childhood poverty is at 70%.

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- Four projects starting in 2017 and then four each year for the next four years until we reach twenty projects.
- We are aiming for a balance of urban and rural, wealthier contexts and those in deprived areas, and a mixture of church traditions.
- This project is made up of four component projects each with its own aims which are set out in detail in the sections below. However, the scope of the project is diocese-wide. Of vital importance is the way in which each of these four component projects contributes to a larger objective which is the transformation of the apostolic life of the diocese of Chichester. This is about a renewed desire for God himself, a new confidence in the gospel to transform lives, and a new embracing of the vocation to serve the common good. The projects proposed for 2017, and those that follow in the next four years, must move us in this direction.

### Questions:

- What constitutes the major risks or threats to diocesan growth in the next ten years?
- Is the language of church planting helping across the diocese? Might it be necessary to describe this activity in a different way?



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How much is all this going to cost?

The total cost of the projects being launched in 2017 is £2.19m

We are seeking £825,000 from the Church Commissioners.

The rest is coming from the DBF and the churches involved.





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How will we measure the progress?

Quantitatively

- Church membership in the diocese will grow by 7,000 to 35,000 by 2024 (the end of the three year period of the planned fifth bid).
- There will be twenty ordained clergy leading church plants and a further twenty people in IME 1 and 2 identified as potential leaders of future plants and undergoing specific training to equip them for that by 2022.
- We will have twenty apostolic projects and church plants including at least four into areas of new housing development by 2022.



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How will we measure this

### Qualitatively

- There will be a greater expectation for churches to flourish.
- There will be an expansion in lay leadership, both paid and voluntary, in post and in training, in many diverse aspects, working collaboratively with ordained leaders.
- Excitement will have grown in the area of prayer, spiritual disciplines and even religious life.
- We will see an increase of new projects making a contribution to the common good in local communities.
- The poor and the marginalised will be closer to the centre of Church life.
- There will be more anglo-catholic churches in a position to take responsibility for the apostolic life of the diocese.
- More genuine joy.



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Question:

What will enable these projects to have the best possible impact on the apostolic life of the whole diocese?