

# MISSION TEAM REPORT



The new *Mission Team* was born in June 2016 with the purpose of inspiring, encouraging and resourcing churches for mission.

We wait with confident expectation to see God's Kingdom grow both spiritually and numerically across generations. Our desire is to re-imagine our strategy for mission, exploring fresh vision to further grow the Kingdom and serve Parishes as they initiate new mission ideas to ensure a growing Christian witness in every local community.

The Team started at a good pace and throughout the second half of 2016 and into 2017 thrived in a number of areas.

## Contributing at a National Level

We have been eager to build relationships across the country and have been involved in the national mission agenda attending conferences and consultations such as:

- National Growth & Evangelism Strategy Consultation where the Diocese of Chester presented our story so far
- Both the National and Northern Regional Missioners conferences and consultations
- Pioneer networks and conferences
- National Weekend of Invitation 2018 conference and consultations
- Ministry of Sport conference
- Cathedrals and Growth network
- Serving as part of the Archbishop's Crossroads Missions in Blackburn (September 16) and will again in Durham (March 17)

### The Mission Team

**Lyn Weston** (Bottom Right)  
*Diocesan Missioner*

**Anne Cody** (Top Left)  
*PA / Assistant for the Mission Department and the Committee for Social Responsibility*

**Andy Stinson** (Top Middle)  
*Worship & Liturgy Missioner*

**Martin Smith** (Bottom Left)  
*Christian Giving & Pastoral Re-organisation Missioner*

**Jonathan Masters** (Middle Left)  
*Youth, Children and Families' Missioner*

**Emily Allen** (Top Right)  
*Church Buildings Development Officer*

Emily Allen moved to the Mission team in February 2017 and her work in 2016 is included in this report.

## Contributing at a Diocesan Level

- Development of *Diocese of Chester Mission Strategy* (this will take some time to review, debate and agree).
- Development of *Capacity Building Bids* from Church Commissioners Strategic Development Fund – potential to submit in the next round for more resource to be employed centrally and deployed locally.
- Commencement of the two year Lead Academy journey with our 300+ Church Leaders (Clergy and Lay teams) starting November 16.
- Commencement of re-planning to provide greater structure and strategic input for the 300+ Churches Clergy Network.
- Commencement of the *Local Missioner Network* in February 17 inviting people to participate in intentional missional dialogue and teaching as well as spend time worshipping and eating together.
- Appointed Youth, Children and Families' Missioner, Jonathan Masters who commenced on 13<sup>th</sup> February 17.
- The Diocese of Chester announced as a Thy Kingdom Come National Beacon Event (detailed plans are in place and new resources for all Parishes to use are being loaded to the website).
- Organised a successful teaching all day event for Family/Children's Leaders across the Diocese with international speaker and author Mark Griffiths in attendance as well as a number of experts in children and families' ministry and mission.

- Re-structuring and re-organising of the separate Youth and Children's Committees into one strong and vibrant committee who will steer the direction of the critical work across the Diocese for our Youth, Children and Families for the years to come.
- Following the fabulous event held in Chester Cathedral in November 16, where 500 (mostly) women took part in the first ever Cathedral Zumbathon, planning is well underway for a 3-Cathedral Zumbathon in 2017. We are hoping that Manchester and Liverpool will also take part this year in events, which this time will be more intentionally missional and raising awareness for a special cause as well as raising funds.
- Review and re-write of the Diocesan Mission Webpages – changes currently being implemented.
- Developing new mission teaching for Foundations for Ministry including a full day on mission teaching/practical application.
- Delivery of Ministerial Training Days such as 'Leading Change in a Missional Era' and 'Creating Uncommon Worship'.
- Development of worship resources – Advent Video, All-Age Story and Micro Prayer station resources as well as produced guide to Choosing Hymnbooks.
- We have joined GROW (Grove Booklet Worship Series Author/Editorial Group) as well as joined Praxis NW Committee and begun planning TED style short talk event.
- Interviewed for RSCM research project on the future of the RSCM and Church Music.
- An informative day was developed with Church Commissioners on Pastoral reorganisation.
- Seven training days have been delivered, including buildings maintenance, writing a successful grant application, engaging local communities and interpreting church heritage.

#### **Contributing at a Deanery Level**

- We have held Deanery Envisioning Days to start to develop the Urban Transformation Programme.
  - Detailed plans being developed for Believe in *Birkenhead Year of Mission* consisting of the Archbishop's visit September 17 and ongoing Mission Programme. Ahead of the Archbishop's visit, we are planning Evangelism Teaching and considering Discipleship Teaching after the event. During the Mission Weekend, parishes will be participating in all sorts of ways with some bigger events being planned and visits to get involved in local industry and youth work.
  - Planning continues in other areas identifying the strategy for growth going forward.
- We have presented at over 30 Deanery Chapters, Deanery Synods and Church Services and will continue to consult and collaborate with deaneries throughout 2017.

#### **Contributing at a Parish Level**

- Vision days have been held with Parishes to support in growing fresh vision and re-visit Growth Action Plans.
- Consultancy on 'Missional Worship', All-In Worship and growing work with young people has been carried out in Parishes.
- We have completed consultancy on Everyday Worship at the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity.
- Ongoing development of Worship Audit Toolkit for Parishes is in progress.
- Providing fundraising support to churches that are planning building projects exceeding a total of £4.5million.
- 50 churches have received 1:1 support to realize the potential of church buildings.
- St Peter's Chester and St Peter's Congleton have participated in a national research initiative, *Empowering Design Practices*.
- Support has been provided to a number of parishes with regard to Christian giving and pastoral re-organisation.
- A successful Parish Giving Officers evening was organised with Dr John Preston, National Stewardship and Resources Officer sharing his vision.

**The key areas of focus for Mission in the Diocese of Chester in 2017 are Prayer - Thy Kingdom Come, The Urban Transformation Programme, Inspiring Younger Generations, Discipleship and Evangelism, Spiritual and Numerical Growth.**

**Our big aim is to see our communities transformed through God's amazing love.**

Our contact details can be found in the mission section of the Diocesan website [www.chester.anglican.org](http://www.chester.anglican.org)