



HOPE IN THE FUTURE PARISH TEAM

A suggested timeline



Hope in the Future is an invitation to every parish in the Diocese to recognise and develop their missionary identity and their call to evangelise.

Thank you for agreeing to be part of the team.

A missionary parish will have a focus on evangelisation: deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ, and inviting others to get to know him and the Gospel message. A fuller description of a missionary parish is to be found in Bishop John's document, "Strengthening our Presence as Church: A Journey in Hope." This document, available on the diocesan website, outlines the direction in which we will be travelling together as a diocese over the coming years.

A first stage of this new development is that each parish is asked to recognise and celebrate all that is already taking place in terms of the three key words, "Welcome", "Engagement", and "Outreach". Already, we have parishioners, and parish groups, who are bringing the gospel to others in many different forms of service.

WELCOME

The Parish is a place where all may come and meet God and find a place in the community of the Body of Christ = Service in the Liturgy and Hospitality.

ENGAGEMENT

The Parish is a place where everyone is called to be a member of Christ and a minister of the Good News of the Kingdom of God = engagement of all parishioners.

OUTREACH

The Parish is a place where, nourished by our meeting with Christ, we are charged to do God's work in the world = service in charity and community

First and foremost this process needs to be rooted in prayer and sustained by prayer which is why we are encouraged to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is a particular **novena** as a resource in this pack, to help us do this.

It is proposed for you to meet three times between the launch on 4th October and the first Sunday of Advent. As Bishop John has written, in his Introduction, further resources will be forthcoming.

Each meeting, which should not last more than one hour, can be in the following format if this helps;

- Opening prayer (Hope in the Future prayer)
- Reflection/Formation
- Task
- Points for Action

These points for action will lead to an opportunity to recognise and give thanks for the many gifts with which your parish is blessed.

(A guide to help with this celebration has been included in the resource pack).

Meeting One: **WELCOME**

Opening Prayer (Hope in the Future Prayer)

Reflection (On the Cross of San Damiano)



- Have the image of the Cross which was presented on the launch as a reflection point if possible.
- Look at the reflection on the San Damiano Cross (this has been included in your resource pack and is named Rebuild My Church.).
- A person can take the lead to read each point.
- Take time for some personal reflection.
- You may wish to give this reflection to the parishioners in the parish community for their own prayer and consideration.

Task: Identifying the many different groups/individuals of ministry within your parish.

- Identify the many groups or individuals who help make up the parish eg: Altar Servers, Bereavement support, Cleaners etc
- The gifts they bring to the parish community, how can these be celebrated?

Points for Action

- Nominate a person from your parish group who can become the contact person for the diocese. This person will be sent further information and resources throughout the coming year to bring back to the Hope in the Future parish team.
- Please contact Marie Sartini (PA to Bishop John) with the name of your representative.

E: Bishop.pa@dioceseofsalford.org.uk or write to:

Marie Sartini
Hope in the Future
Wardley Hall
Wardley Hall Rd
Worsley
M28 2ND

Meeting Two: **ENGAGEMENT**

Opening Prayer (Hope in the Future Prayer)

Reflection (Reflecting and Celebrating our Gifts)



- Look at reflection two (this has been included in your resource pack).
- Listen, as someone reads out the Word of God.
- Take time for some personal reflection on the gifts God has given you.
- Take the following words to reflect and share.
- What do we mean when we say the word Gift?
- You may wish to give this reflection to the parishioners in the parish community for their own prayer and consideration.

Task: To recognise and celebrate the many gifts of service within the parish community.

- Make a list of all the activities in your parish that are part of a caring, sharing community.

- Contact each group and invite them to nominate someone to represent them for each Mass 1st Sunday of Advent.
- As part of your liturgy (which is enclosed in your resource pack), each group will be asked to bring up a symbol representing their ministry within the parish community.

Points for Action

- To ensure each group, as far as is possible, is represented at each Mass and they have a symbol which they can bring up during the Mass.

Meeting Three: **OUTREACH**

Opening Prayer (Hope in the Future Prayer)

Reflection (Using our gifts for the service of others)



- Look at reflection three (this has been included in your resource pack).
- Listen, as one person reads out the Word of God.
- Spend a few moments in silence, reflecting on the words.
- Share any thoughts you may have from the reading.
- You may wish to give this reflection to the parishioners in the parish community for their own prayer and consideration.

Task: Reaching out to other groups.

- After reaching out to the other groups, report back to the rest of the team who is available for the Sunday Masses and what symbols they may be bringing.

Points for Action

- Is there anything else that needs to be done, to also enable the 1st Sunday of Advent to be a true celebration of the gifts of our parish?
- Arrange a meeting during Advent as a follow-up. At that meeting reflect on the celebration of gifts. How might the good news that our parish is so richly blessed be carried forward into the New Year and shared with more people?