

Capital Youth

A strategy for youth mission from 2017 – 2022

Summary Version

Our strategy is to develop five strands that can transform our ministry in this crucial area:

1: Capital Youth will create a Diocese where youth ministry thrives

Changing the way we work so that decisions at all levels of our Diocese are taken with consideration of how they will impact on young people. To achieve this we need leaders who understand young people, so we will inspire and develop youth leaders while upskilling existing leaders on how to create a youth friendly culture.

- **Young People are central in everything we decide.**
- **Bishops and Archdeacons will take the initiative in raising the profile of youth ministry in their area.**
- **We will take participation seriously and ensure that the voices of young people are heard in the Diocese.**
- **We will train more youth workers.**
- **We will train clergy in youth work.**
- **New communications will tell the story of our youth ministry and build momentum.**

2: Youth Minsters

We plan to support the establishment of three – five parishes as Youth Minsters. They will be commissioned and supported to become ‘resourcing churches’ for youth ministry, to reach new young people by pioneering fresh expressions of church for young people and transform youth ministry across the diocese by planting and revitalising existing work. It is anticipated that a ‘Youth Congregation’ will be the flagship event of each of these, but they will be creative in providing a ‘mixed economy’ of expressions of church that best fit the context of the young people they engage with.

What is a Minster?

We will initially establish three to five parishes to act as ‘minster churches’ for youth ministry in the Diocese. These will be resourcing parishes or ‘centres of excellence’ who grow youth congregations, develop leaders, support other parishes with their youth work and plant youth churches. We will be basing this work in places that are already growing rather than launching new work.

- **We will continue to support the establishment of 3-5 parishes as ‘Minsters’ to resource youth ministry across the Diocese.**
- **The objectives of these minsters will be:**
 - **Be intentional about evangelism and discipleship.**
 - **Grow large numbers for their context.**
 - **Innovate to develop fresh expressions of church for young people.**
 - **Plant into new locations.**
 - **Equip all churches in the Diocese to reach young people.**
- **Each minster will be a resource for the whole diocese and not just the area they are based.**

3: Investments in Parish Ministry

Recognising the effect that paid youth and children's workers can have in the right parish, we will continue to support parishes in employing them and train young people to be youth leaders. By 2020 we hope to have put 16 youth work apprentices through our program and to have funded around 20 other youth mission projects.

- **Invest in the continuation of the highly successful apprentice scheme.**
- **Invest finance into funding youth ministry at parish level.**

4: Developing Links between Churches and Schools

We will continue to work at supporting ways of churches and schools working together, and help parishes to maximise the mission potential of their local schools – both church schools and community schools.

- The Capital Vision church/schools link group chaired by the Archdeacon of London and led by Revd Peter Anthony will lead this work. In 2017 it will include the development of more prayer spaces in schools and the promotion and rollout of the RE with Soul resources.

5: Missions in London

We will work with other youth organisations to run two missions to reach young people with the Christian Story. We will ensure that we connect these young people with faith communities where they can find out more. We will seek to talk to 5000 young people on these missions and aim to connect 200 young people into churches after the events.

- **Missions will be led by Soul Survivor and Hope.**
- **The first mission will be in two boroughs in 2018.**
- **A second, larger mission is planned for 2020.**

Targets and objectives:

By 2022: To have 4,000 11 – 18 year olds engaging with existing or fresh expressions of church (this is an additional 2000 young people involved in their Christian community). To achieve this we need to change our culture. We will inspire and develop leaders for the future – recruiting a further 20 youth workers, 16 youth apprentices and developing vocational pathways for those who want to lead youth church. We will support the establishment of at least 3 Youth Ministers with around 600 young people involved and plant or revitalise 8 youth congregations to engage a further 600 young people. We will host 2 youth mission weeks aiming to connect 400 more young people into church. We also aim that our investment in existing parish ministry through additional youth workers and our apprentices will engage a further 400 young people.

If all plans go ahead the LDF will invest £275,000 in 2017, rising to a total of £1,266,782 by 2022. We hope to be successful in achieving Church Commissioners funds of £987,000 in 2017 to further support the work. If these objectives are hit then the Diocese of London will have established growth and we can develop from that. Could we see 5% of Young People in London part of a church by 2040?