



Strengthening Our Life Together across the Diocese

One of the clearest invitations before us as a Diocese is to grow stronger in our **relationships** with one another.

As we continue to shape our Diocesan Strategy, “*A New Way for a New Future*”, we recognise that our shared calling—to **worship, serve, and grow**—is strengthened when we are better connected across parishes, communities, and the Diocesan Office.

We also recognise, honestly, that this sense of connection is not always as strong as it could be. Many parishes can feel isolated, and opportunities to

share in one another’s life and ministry can sometimes seem limited. Yet we believe that deeper relationships will lead to greater encouragement, shared learning, and more confident participation in God’s mission.

In 2026, we will be creating intentional opportunities for **gatherings within Archdeaconries**. These gatherings will be simple, relational, and grounded in conversation—offering space to:

- share stories of ministry
- name hopes, challenges, and opportunities
- listen to one another across parish contexts
- strengthen our sense of being one diocesan family

Alongside these gatherings, there will be opportunities to visit neighbouring parishes, to see ministry in different contexts, and to learn from one another’s experience. This is not about adding more to already busy lives, but about making space for connection that sustains and strengthens our common life.

How You Can Take Part

We warmly invite every parish to engage in this shared work of renewal:

1. **Join the gatherings**
Come and share your parish’s story—where you see God at work, where you find joy, and where you face challenge.
1. **Share your story more widely**
Consider offering a short written or video or photographic reflection from your parish—celebrating ministry, naming hopes, and inviting prayer, and what your parish would do with more money in its hands if your fair share was reduced. Where is God at work?
2. **Pray and be prayed for**
Let us know how we can pray for you, and commit to praying for others across the Diocese.

Looking Ahead with Hope

At the heart of this work is a simple conviction:

We are stronger, more faithful, and more hopeful when we journey together.

As we deepen our connections, we believe we will be better equipped to:

- worship with faithfulness and care
- serve our communities with generosity and love
- grow as disciples and raise new leaders for the Church

This is part of how we are beginning to live into *A New Way for a New Future*—not through programmes alone, but through renewed relationships, shared purpose, and a growing sense of hope in what God is doing among us.