

A more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world



Together we are the Church of England across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire in more than a thousand churches, chaplaincies and schools. We are called to be more Christ-like for the sake of God's world: more contemplative, more compassionate and more courageous.

Our world is changing in new unprecedented ways. We must think afresh about the environment, inequality, our growing communities, and what it means to be human. We are called to put into deep water and let down the nets: to tell the Christian story with love and hope and confidence. **How can your church take the next steps to live out this common vision?**

Development Fund

Not every new initiative needs funding to get going, but some do. Parishes, benefices and deaneries can now bid for grants from a new development fund to support local Christ-like Church projects.

Find out more overleaf.

Bible studies

We are called to become a more Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world. Four study guides written by Bishop Steven explore what this means for us, our families and the wider Church.

store.oxford.anglican.org

Parish Planning Tool

A new Parish Planning Tool will help you recognise where God is already at work in your community, and suggests the questions you need to answer to find out how you can best join in.

Find out more overleaf.

Save the date

Four area days, with teaching by Bishop Steven. Who you will bring along from your local team?

14 Sep, Buckinghamshire, 28 Sep, Oxford, 9 Nov, Dorchester, 7 Dec, Berkshire

find out more at:
oxford.anglican.org/commonvision

The Development Fund

The amount available to parishes, benefices and deaneries in the Diocese is c. £1m each year over the next three years. The Development Fund is open to all, but it's likely to be most helpful to parishes that have limited resources to invest in missional activity.

Grant applications to the Development Fund must support local projects that are missionally creative, reflect where God is at work in the community and encourage wider learning across the Diocese.

Grants up to £2,500

Short term, one-off grants are available to parishes and benefices to kick start a new initiative. Grant applications will range from small modest sums up to £2,500. Deaneries may apply for a Mission Development Grant to distribute themselves to local parishes, see the website for further details.

Grants over £2,500/employing staff

Grants are available for larger initiatives and long-term programmes that require substantial sums. Grant applications in this tier will range from £2,500 to many thousands, Development Fund grants will not normally exceed £80k in a single grant, or £200k over a maximum of 5 years.

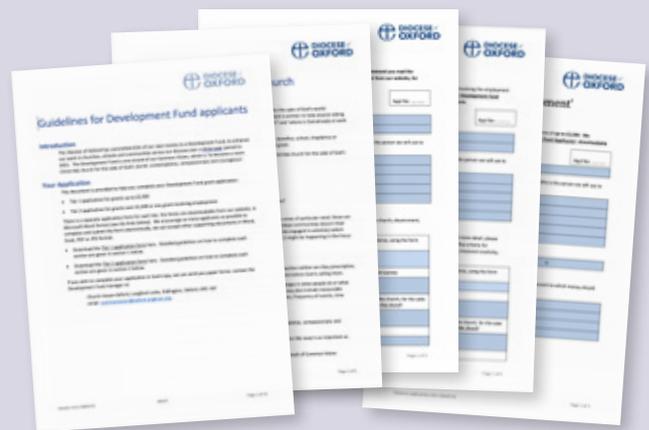
How can we apply?

Application forms are available to download, along with important information about eligibility criteria and reporting requirements. Additional support is available for parishes that would welcome assistance to prepare their application.

Closing dates for applications:

30 September 2019 | 31 January 2020 | 31 May 2020

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Parish Planning Tool

Local churches are not a problem that need fixing. The new Parish Planning Tool, developed by the Diocese of Oxford, helps people to focus on the positive core that's there in every church, discern where God is already at work in their community, and discover how they can best join in.

What is it?

At the core of the Parish Planning Tool is a pack of cards, complete with facilitator guidelines, that guide groups to think through what it means for them to become more Christ-like. The pack includes a quick-start process for first timers as well as optional cards and facilitator notes for more advanced work. Missional creativity cards keep the process fun and engaging and encourage the group to distinguish between good ideas and God ideas.

Who is it for?

The Parish Planning Tool is suitable for small groups, PCCs, whole-church meetings and Deanery Synods.

Parish Development Advisors are on hand if needed to support the process or even facilitate sessions, but with a little bit of planning and preparation anyone from the parish can lead sessions using the pack.

How do we order?

The Parish Planning Tool is free to parishes in the Diocese of Oxford, though it must be ordered by a member of the PCC. Available to order now for delivery August 2019 onwards.

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