

From Vision to Action



Once the parish is committed to becoming a Ministering Community in Mission it is time to work together to develop a fresh or renewed vision and plan for the parish. This vision will build on the good ministry of the past.

It is really useful to engage in a visioning and planning process even if the parish already has a plan.

The revised plan for the parish will contain this new work and should also include a section on how parish leaders will help existing groups within the parish to make the transition to MCIM.

The horizon for the plan should be around five years. It will take between three and five years for the initial team to be identified, established and complete three years of work as a commissioned team.

There are many different ways of planning. The Archdeacons and the MDO are well placed to help you undertake a planning exercise.

A useful starting point is the Diocesan Strategic Plan which poses six questions –

- How are we energising the ministries we already undertake?
- How are we engaging people in our local community in effective witness and sharing the Christian faith?
- Are our structures, budgets and processes enabling the ministries we undertake?
- How are we equipping people through training and formation?
- Are new expressions of church emerging in our setting?
- How are we empowering people for justice and peace?

The parish plan should identify the work that it intends to do to sustain the ministries areas which help develop God's mission in the parish. It should also identify the key areas of work the parish should embrace to increase its health and vitality. The plan should be specific. It also needs to be realistic with clear indicators that demonstrate what should be achieved and who will take responsibility.