



## Diocese of Monmouth

*At the centre of all our work is a vision to share our resources and harness them to best effect as we seek to be faithful to Christ and serve the world he came to save.*

### **Ministry Areas - why now?**

Our diocese has been on the journey towards establishing Ministry Areas for at least five years. The time has come to complete the work. We all work better when the structures are clear: when we know who our partners are and who we are working with; when we are clear what our resources are and who is in the team that is leading us. At the moment, in many areas of our diocese, these things are not clear and this is hampering our ability to move forward together. It is also preventing us from being as effective as we can be with the resources that God has blessed us with.

### **Why this?**

We are doing this because we believe that it is where God is leading us. God uses the raw material of our experience to guide us into the new.

Our experience for the last few decades has been one of declining membership and church attendance, growing demands on our finances, and a world that seems increasingly to have little time for organized religion and little interest in commitment to a faith community.

Whilst this is challenging for us, we do not lose heart. Rather, we trust in God who continues to be at work both in the Church and in the world. And we trust God to lead us into the new and shape us for the mission and ministry to which we are called. This will involve discovering new ways of being church, new ways of nurturing disciples, new ways of engaging with our communities. Our faith will not change. Our commitment to following Jesus will not change. But what that will look like as it is lived out in today's world will change and is changing; in some ways, quite radically.

### **Faithful in Mission and Ministry**

The vision is to share our resources and harness them to best effect as we seek to be faithful to Christ. It is to work collaboratively and collegially, with groups of churches working together with all that God has given them to be salt and light in their communities. It is about those churches being served and led by a team of ordained and lay ministers who will compliment one another and enable each other to flourish in their ministries. It is about creating different and diverse ways for people to discover faith in Christ and grow in their discipleship.

When we work together, each achieves more. When we share what God has given us, we find that the whole is more than the sum of its parts.

In his letter to the Church in Ephesus, St Paul writes:

*'we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.'* (Eph 4: 15b – 16)

We do this, not for our own benefit, but so that we can be Christ's hands and feet, joining in with God's work of healing and reconciliation in our broken and needy the world.