

UNLOCKING OUR  
**POTENTIAL**  
DIOCESE OF ST ASAPH  
**UNDER 25s VISION**

**LIFE IN ITS FULLNESS**

"I have come that they may have life,  
and have it to the full".

*John 10 vs 10.*



Encountering God



Knowing God



Transforming Communities  
and the World





## Introduction



Jesus' message was one of life. Today Christians believe that their faith offers everybody the opportunity to know life and life in abundance through Jesus. As Christians, we face a real challenge of how to engage families, children and young people with this message. God loves children and young people whoever they are and whatever they believe.




This message of love and acceptance is still as powerful as it ever has been and the promise as real as when Jesus spoke it. However, the way we communicate this has changed and we need to know how to share this with others today and in the future. 2020 Vision through the Diocese of St Asaph's Unlocking Our Potential initiative has gone a long way to helping the Church in Wales express this. It would be fair to say however that we are not there yet!



# Life in its fullness

We do need to change things, to stop doing things and take up new things to develop our future. The church will cease to exist without continual renewal. I hope this document provides us, as the Teulu Asaph, with a lens through which we can discover, dream, be inspired and ultimately judge and plan our work with children and young people. The road may not be easy, in fact it will require dedication, bravery and investment. There may be difficulties and failures as well as joy and successes, but we need to place children and young people at the centre of this adventure.

We've devised three lenses through which the Diocese will plan, grow and critique our work with young people and children:

-  Encountering God
-  Knowing God
-  Transforming Communities and the World



# The Three Lenses

## Encountering God

We believe in a real, living, loving and life changing God who wants all people to know this for themselves. This often happens when an individual or community encounters God in a wonderful and transformational way. Whether this is in church, in school, on a mountain, participating in social action, accepting or giving charity, eating a meal or talking with people and role models, this experience is deeply personal and occurs in a variety of ways. We must treat children and young people with respect, openness and inclusivity as fellow pilgrims on a life changing journey.



## Knowing God

Being a follower of Jesus is a journey of a life time and beyond. Being a disciple means we change, grow and learn about the love of God and what this means to us. When we work with young people and children and those who are leading this ministry we must take seriously the task of providing them with opportunities to explore and develop their faith and apply it to their own lives. This must happen in simple, relational, relevant and dynamic ways which continually transform individuals and community life.

## Transforming Communities and the World

Being a follower of Jesus does not stop with transformation of ourselves. It compels and inspires us to share this message with other people. Children and young people need to be given opportunities to experience this and to get stuck in! By sharing their own faith with friends, engaging in social action projects both in north Wales and overseas and in many other ways, young people and children can be a light in their communities and share love and hope with others, whilst learning about their faith and having fun in the process.








## What Next?

Working with children and young people is an amazing privilege. We have the opportunity as a church to make a difference to their lives in so many ways. I truly believe that God has chosen the church in this time, not to manage decline, but to work and see the church grow to reach many people offering them 'Life in its Fullness'. We cannot let this document or the minutes of our well-intentioned meetings about children and young people's work, gather dust on a shelf. We must now act.

### Here are some suggestions of what you can do next:

-  Consult your Mission Area to better understand the needs of young people and children in your communities. Understand what gifts you have within the potential leaders of this work within your Mission Area. As you start to plan be realistic, consult your Mission Area Executive, think about and implement good safeguarding practice and be creative.
-  Consult your Mission Area Youth Rep – the people who know the most about what young people need are... Young People. Ask your Youth Rep for advice.
-  Contact the Under 25s Officer – The Diocesan Under 25s Officer is here to help. Tim can facilitate meetings, offer training and help with the planning and logistics of a project.  
Email [timfeak@cinw.org.uk](mailto:timfeak@cinw.org.uk) or  
phone 01745 582245 / 07918 729 461.

**Remember, we need to act!**



In working with young people, do not try to call them back to where they were and do not call them to where you are as beautiful a place as it may seem.

You must have the courage to go with them to a place  
neither you nor they have ever been before.

*(Vincent Donovan)*