



Resourcing Mission Across the Diocese

Last year, the diocese was awarded more than £5.6m to launch two major projects to encourage church growth. One project is aimed specifically at supporting rural communities with the appointment of Rural Pioneer



Missioners. The other will extend the provision of Hub Churches. The new Director of Transforming Ministry, the Revd Mike Haslam, will have oversight of both these projects.

Rural Pioneer Missioners



The Growth Fund money allows for the creation of three Rural Pioneer Missioner posts. These will be based in the Mission Areas of Caereinion, Tanat Vyrnwy and Valle Crucis and will offer each area additional capacity for mission. The Revd Helen Dawson (left) has already been appointed as the Pioneer Missioner for the Caereinion Mission Area.

Rural Pioneer Missioners will be connecting with new people in new ways and in new parts of each Mission Area. Each will bring creative new ways to enable mission and outreach. The intention is to develop models which can be adapted and lived out in other rural communities across both the diocese and the province.

The creation of Rural Pioneer Missioners means Mission Areas can continue to value and strengthen traditional church, while at the same time, develop new ways of being church.

Pioneer Missioners will:

- work with the Mission Area Shared Ministry Team and Mission Area Conference in developing their strategic vision and outreach
- work to build up the life of the Mission Area churches in collaboration with the clergy rooted in the churches
- go out to the communities across the Mission Area, meet people where they are, start new activities and invite people to join in
- have an entrepreneurial spirit and pioneer new worshipping communities across the Mission Area

- proactively build links with schools across the Mission Area and find creative ways of engaging with children and young people
- encourage existing church communities in mission and evangelism, building people up and growing effective teams
- support the existing provision of worship, occasional offices and pastoral care in the Mission Area as a priest, but this will not be their main focus.

Look out for news of the appointment of further Rural Pioneer Missioners in the coming weeks and pray for them, their work and the people they will meet.

Hub Churches

The Growth Fund Money will enable the opening of three new hub churches this year, to join the four already established in Welshpool, Mold, Holywell and Penrhyn Bay. The new hubs will be in St Giles' in Wrexham, All Saints' in Newtown and Christ Church in Prestatyn. Each new hub is committing to create a new congregation based on a specialist focus. Another three hub churches will be identified and announced next year.

St Giles' in Wrexham



The plan for St Giles' is to create a centre of musical excellence using the 'Choir Church' model to start a new choir and a new congregation to go with it. The aim is to attract children from as wide a range of backgrounds as possible

across the city. At the same time, the church will develop nurture and discipleship programmes and explore the idea of a city-centre chaplaincy.

A Hub Church Associate Priest has already been appointed. The Revd Petra Goodband joined the team at St Giles' in Autumn 2024, and the Revd James Tout was announced as the Vicar of St Giles in February 2025.

All Saints' in Newtown

All Saints' is already becoming a centre of hospitality excellence after the church underwent a major re-ordering in 2023. All Saints' runs a regular Tuesday soup-lunch which is preceded by Holy Communion. It also

operates as a Well-Fed Food Hub, with weekly deliveries of meals from the Flintshire-based social business Well-Fed. A new congregation is being established as a result of the church's outreach to the local community, established during lockdown with the weekly Sunday Lunch deliveries. The Hub Leader is the Revd Canon Nia Wyn Morris, and a recruitment process is underway for an associate priest and lay worker.



Christ Church in Prestatyn

Christ Church is aiming to become a centre of eco excellence and will seek to grow the church through Forest Church and other outdoor projects. Christ Church



has already become a silver eco church, and the Mission Hub Leader, the Revd Gregor Lachlann-Waddell, is a member of the Church in Wales Climate Change Hub. Gregor has been instrumental in encouraging other

churches in the Mission Area to become eco-churches. A recruitment process is underway for a curate/associate priest and lay worker to join the team at Christ Church.

Other roles supported by the Growth Fund

As part of the bid to the Growth Fund, two new diocesan posts are being created to ensure the successful development and sustainability of the projects. A Project Manager will oversee the implementation of the plans, and an Income Generation Manager will ensure giving is embedded into the culture of new congregations from the start. Both posts will be sharing their learning with Mission Areas to ensure the continued resourcing of mission in all our churches. The recruitment process for both roles is underway.

To find out more about the Rural Pioneer Missioners and the Hub Churches, please contact the Director of Transforming Ministry, the Revd Mike Haslam:

mikehaslam@cinw.org.uk

Future Plans

It will be four years this year since our first Resource Church, Hope Street, in Wrexham opened. The launch was delayed owing to Covid, but online services started in early 2021 and events to mark the start of regular worship and events happened in October 2021. Now, thoughts are turning to the opening of a second Resource Church, a Hope Street church plant. **The Archdeacon of Wrexham, the Ven. Dr Hayley Matthews,** gives *Teulu Asaph* an update.

Built into the original plan for Hope Street was the expectation that it would resource the opening of other churches, based on the Hope Street model. Discussions have been underway over the last year to identify a location, and a number of site visits have been made to potential buildings. Now a possible base for a church plant has been identified after a series of positive meetings.

Subject to funding, St Tudfil's in Coedpoeth will be the location of Hope Street's first church plant. The church, based in the centre of the village, was temporary closed last year while urgent works were carried out. After a campaign by the local community to keep the church open, three services were held towards the end of last year (Remembrance, a Christingle service and a Carol Service) all of which were well attended. As 2025 begins, the church is starting an Alpha Course in collaboration with Hope Street.

The next steps will be to identify funding to re-order the church and resource it to become a Hope Street plant. It is likely to be 2026 before plans are finalised and everything is in place for Coedpoeth to be a Hope Street plant to bring hope to the local community.

