

Mission Action Plan

Balderstone-Chadderton-Failsworth-Oldham-Werneth
30 May 2025

Manchester Diocese has a strong commitment to **GROWING**, in numbers and depth of faith.

There are two key words at the heart of our Growing strategy: Fresh and Refresh.

Fresh means new initiatives, intentionally designed to produce church growth. *Refresh* is about helping our existing churches grow.

Manchester Diocese has a strong commitment to discipleship and evangelism within the context of **NURTURING**.

We recognise that our lay people spend most of their time at work, home or community, as opposed to being in church on Sunday. Therefore, we want to affirm the value of their work beyond church life.

Our aim is to help all of us to grow in confidence as those who follow Jesus in God's world by:

- Forming and equipping lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel.
- Enabling laity and clergy to minister together, based on their baptismal mutuality, equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission.

We believe these changes would represent a seismic revolution in the health and vibrancy of our people and our churches. They are important in their own terms, but we also believe they are essential to creating confident Christian communities equipped to live out their faith, from which appropriate faith sharing will develop.

We are called as followers of Jesus and as Christian churches to follow Christ's example in **SERVING** our neighbour.

Serving is about transformation, changing lives, and creating a different future together in a diocese which is deprived, and which is diverse: people with different cultures, faiths and languages.

We seek to be present for all, speaking and acting for justice, and providing support, especially to the vulnerable, deprived and excluded.

The parishes of St. Mary, Balderstone, and Christ Church, Chadderton, have expressed that due to major differences in understanding of the nature of the Gospel, they are not able to collaborate with the other parishes in the Mission Community in joint mission activities. All activities across the Mission Community still remain open to all.

GROWING

	St. Paul, Oldham	St. Thomas, Werneth	St. Stephen & All Martyrs	St. John, Failsworth	Oldham Parish Church	St. Mary, Balderstone	Christ Church, Chadderton	St. Saviour, Chadderton
welcoming, including & encouraging all ethnic, cultural & other diversities to participate in the life of the church—as a blessing! ^a	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
nurturing Farsi/Dari speaking congregation members		x					x	
increasing our awareness of visible & invisible disabilities and barriers better to welcome people ^b				x	x			
Offering and developing All-Age Services ^c	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Mission through Music ^d				x	x			
stay-and-play toddler groups with gospel message						x	x	x
Christianity Explored group for 14-18 year olds							x	x
women's and men's breakfasts with Bible talks						x	x	x

^aposters (STW), improving Sunday a.m. organisation and focus (STW)

^b**Roof-breakers** (SJF), Autism Training (OPC), Dementia Training (SJF)

^cExisting (SPO, STW, SSC, CCC, SMB, OPC), New (STJ)

^d*Sing My Soul* (OPC), Dementia Choir (SJF)

NURTURING

	St. Paul, Oldham	St. Thomas, Werneth	St. Stephen & All Martyrs	St. John, Failsworth	Oldham Parish Church	St. Mary, Balderstone	Christ Church, Chadderton	St. Saviour, Chadderton
nurturing Farsi/Dari speaking congregation members		x					x	
building up the Sunday School / Children's Work and leaders	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
supporting young people as they move to, and at, Secondary School	x	x	x	x	x			
supporting people into other roles / ministries in the church ^a	x	x	x		x			
servers' training	x	x		x	x			
seasonal / weekly discipleship Bible study groups ^b	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
prayer gatherings ^c						x	x	x
midweek Eucharists			x	x	x			
visiting Care Homes	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
end of life care for the dying and the bereaved ^d	x	x	x	x	x			

^aEucharistic Assistants (SPO,STO), ALM (OPC, SSAM), Intercessions training (OPC, SSAM, SPO, STW), Welcome Team (CCC), Pastoral Care (CCC)

^bIn parishes, but advertised across Mission Community

^cJoint, in person (SMB, CCC, SSC), Whatsapp (OPC)

^dThrough Nursing Homes (SPO, STW), through Town Centre Chaplaincy (OPC), the Bereavement Cafe, deceased pets (SJF)

SERVING

	St. Paul, Oldham	St. Thomas, Werneth	St. Stephen & All Martyrs	St. John, Failsworth	Oldham Parish Church	St. Mary, Balderstone	Christ Church, Chadderton	St. Saviour, Chadderton
hosting activities for all members of the community (run by ourselves or others) ^a	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
improving our buildings better to serve the community	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
moving forward with eco church ^b	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
education, visits to church, collective worship & school governance ^c	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
services specifically to welcome LGBTQI+ community					x			
services on significant Civic, Royal, National occasions ^d				x	x			
theatre / sports / Town Centre / Community Chaplaincy				x	x			

^aRUN BY US: English Classes (STW), Stitch & Share (SPO), Pop In (SPO), Place of Welcome (SSAM), King's Kitchen Food Bank and Café with gospel message (CCC,SSC), Heritage Open Days (SJF, OPC), Crypt Trips (OPC), Concerts (SPO, SJF, OPC), Plays & Performances (OPC), Photography Exhibitions (SJF), Coffee Mornings (SPO, SJF, OPC, SMB)
 RUN BY OTHERS: OL1 and food pantry (SSAM), Guides (SPO), Rochdale Food Bank (SMB), Street Angels (OPC, SSAM), Rugby Club (SSAM), Roma Church (SPO), Dance Troupe (STW), Pilates (SJF), Impact Martial Arts (STW), Baby Bonding (STW) School Parents' Groups (STW), S. Asian Women's Network (STW) HAF Holiday Club (STW)

^bNot registered (OPC, CCC, OPC, SSC); Registered (SSAM); Bronze (SPO, STW).

^cExperience Christmas (STW), Assemblies (all), Experience Easter

^dRemembrance Sunday, Advent, Interfaith Services (OPC)

SUSTAINABILITY

	St. Paul, Oldham	St. Thomas, Werneth	St. Stephen & All Martyrs	St. John, Failsworth	Oldham Parish Church	St. Mary, Balderstone	Christ Church, Chadderton	St. Saviour, Chadderton
regular Teaching on Giving						x	x	x
integrate teaching on giving into sermons etc	x	x						
encourage giving by delivering clear benefits	x							
information available on how to give to the church	x					x	x	x
increasing Venue Hire / Income	x	x						
building maintenance to prevent deterioration ^a	x	x						
stewardship / legacies / gift aid / parish share / Gift Days								
fundraising efforts for wider Church Mission & Relief Work (Christian Aid, etc)	x							

^agardening and cleaning days (STW)