



GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

THEOLOGICAL PRÉCIS



A SUMMARY FOR THE CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

As we look ahead to the next five years, the Dean and Chapter have been reflecting deeply on God's calling for Guildford Cathedral. This summary outlines the theological foundation that will guide our vision and strategy, rooted in prayer, Scripture, and our Anglican heritage.

Our Foundation: Christ at the Centre

Everything we do must flow from our commitment to Jesus Christ. As Paul reminds us in Colossians, "in him all things hold together" and "in everything he might have the supremacy." This means our worship, community life, and strategic decisions will be shaped by Christ's love, sacrifice, and resurrection power, with prayer and Scripture at the heart of our discernment.



Eight Key Areas of Focus



1. Mission and Outreach We are called to be a “sending and welcoming hub” for Christian witness. This includes hospitality to visitors, clear proclamation of the gospel, active engagement in social justice, and embracing digital ministry to reach the spiritually curious online.



2. Beautiful Liturgy Our worship must be excellent and beautiful—both in form and spirit. We will offer music that lifts the soul, preaching that feeds heart and mind, and sacraments that mediate grace, creating liturgy that is inclusive and accessible to all ages while remaining rooted in Anglican tradition.



3. Our Role as Mother Church As the diocesan cathedral, we serve as a symbol of unity for the whole Diocese of Guildford. We will host major diocesan events with warmth and dignity, provide refuge and reflection for clergy and lay ministers, and pioneer initiatives in theology, arts, reconciliation, and vocations.



4. Financial Stewardship Achieving financial stability is essential for sustainable mission. We will focus on balanced budgets, imaginative fundraising, and diversified income streams while maintaining Gospel values of transparency, justice, and generosity in all financial decisions.



5. Congregational Growth We seek both spiritual and numerical growth, rooted in deep community, prayer, and formation. This includes developing hospitality and welcome ministries, small groups, courses for enquirers, and fostering a culture where people are known, loved, and empowered to serve.



6. Young People's Ministry Following Jesus' example of welcoming children, we will develop robust ministries for children and young people, build links with schools and universities, and mentor young leaders. Young people will not only be served but empowered to shape Cathedral life.



7. Diocesan Partnerships We will strengthen our relationships with parishes across the Diocese, supporting them in evangelism and discipleship while serving as a centre for diocesan training, mutual support, and shared missional identity.



8. Lifelong Learning and Discipleship We will create a culture that prioritises learning, reflection, and spiritual maturity through regular teaching opportunities, study groups, theological forums, and retreat days. Our discipleship will be intergenerational, intercultural, and inspiring.

Moving Forward Together

This vision is not about preserving the past but about faithful transformation. Over the coming months, we will be developing detailed strategies for each of these areas, always guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit.

We invite you to join us in this journey of discernment and growth. Your prayers, insights, and participation are essential as we seek to be a holy place of encounter, service, and hope—radiant with the light of Christ for our Diocese and beyond.

As the Psalmist reminds us:

“Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

The Very Rev'd Bob Cooper

Dean of Guildford

July 2025

Questions for Reflection:

- How might God be calling you to participate in this vision?
- Which of these areas particularly resonates with your heart for ministry?
- What gifts and skills do you bring that could serve our mission?



Please follow this link for the full Theological Reflection on Vision and Strategy document.



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