



# Planning for Mission in New Housing Areas

By the staff of the Strategy and Development Unit, Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners

## Introduction

The Archbishops' Council and Church Commissioners made £7.25 million available in 2008-10 to support the Church's mission in new housing and other development areas<sup>1</sup>. The funding was shared between 15 dioceses.

One of the projects supported by the funding programme is the post of Community Link Worker on the Cheswick Village new housing development in the parish of St Michael, Stoke Gifford (Bristol diocese). The Community Link Worker is on the staff team of St Michael's church and plays a key role in the church's outreach to Cheswick Village.

## Vision

St Michael's church's vision for its ministry to Cheswick Village is to form '*...a new congregation of St Michael's Church on Cheswick by making disciples, sharing the good news of Jesus and demonstrating God's love by serving the local community.*'

The church's aim is to plant a congregation in the new school which is at the heart of the Cheswick Village development.

## Planning

St Michael's church has found it helpful to plan out the key steps that it needs to take to turn its vision into reality.

The Revd Jimmy Rocks, Pioneer Minister at Michael's, says that putting the plan together has strengthened the congregation's ownership of the church's vision to serve Cheswick Village and has helped to release people's energies and gifts.

The church has kindly agreed to share its plan with Bulletin readers<sup>2</sup> - please see overleaf. It is hoped that others who are seeking to engage with new housing development areas will find the plan helpful as a stimulus to their own thinking and planning.

## Further information

For further information, please contact the Revd Jimmy Rocks, Pioneer Minister at St Michael's church, Stoke Gifford ( [jimmy@stmichaelsbristol.org](mailto:jimmy@stmichaelsbristol.org) ).

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<sup>1</sup> The findings of an external evaluation of the use of date of this funding programme can be found at <http://www.churchgrowthrd.org.uk/news/30>

<sup>2</sup> The plan is based on a template provided by St Mellitus College on its church planting course <http://www.stmellitus.org/church-planting-course>

**VISION: 'forming a new congregation of St Michael's Church on Cheswick by making disciples, sharing the good news of Jesus and demonstrating God's love by serving the local community.'**

- Making Disciples ▶ Commit to following Jesus' way of life and mission
- Outreach ▶ Share the good news of Christ making more disciples
- Serving the Community ▶ Demonstrate the love of God in practical ways

**MITIGATION**

1. Not over committing St Michael's
2. Gathering enough team and having the right gifts and skills
3. having the space
4. Good relationship with residents
5. Not promising roles too much in advance

- Stress that we are still very much part of St Michael's Church and it's vision
- Create a good case for planting
- Share vision
- Maintain good relationships and communication with community partners (Local Council ,school, Care Home, Residents groups)

