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Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ: Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media

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faith

“And this good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world.” Matthew 24:14

Sharing the message of the Gospel is the mission of the Church, so effective communication should be at the heart of all we do. In today’s society, the ways in which we communicate are constantly changing and as a Church we need to make sure we are meeting people where they are.

Social media offers us a wonderful opportunity to be in conversation with people and to listen and learn more about who we are engaging with. You can connect with people locally, nationally and globally and if done well, using the right tools, can create meaningful relationships and form new partnerships you might not have explored, all in an affordable way. For churches that have limited financial and human resources, social media could be your solution for reaching new people.

Through our LIFE vision conversations we heard many times that people want to feel more confident sharing their faith-based stories and to learn more about the mechanics behind how social media works. So combining the two we are offering free deanery-wide social media training to all in our worshipping and school communities. We hope to see you there.

Young Women: God’s Calling, responding with confidence

Saturday 18 November, 9.30am to 4pm

“I’m too young! You can’t mean me!” Have you had that feeling that God is calling you but you think it can’t be true? He doesn’t call people like you. Maybe it’s because you think you’re not clever enough or holy enough? Come and talk about it on



18 November when we are holding a day for young women to come and explore their vocation. Bishop Rachel of Gloucester will be our key speaker and champion for the day. There will be worship, seminars and a market place to explore different avenues of vocation. Across the day we will look at the biblical questions around

female leadership; and address questions and concerns around family life, qualifications and confidence; and begin building networks to provide role models, mentors and peer support. Find out more and watch the stories of other women who are called to ministry at

www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/young-women-gods-calling

If you like these videos, why not subscribe to our **YouTube channel**, Diocese of Gloucester, for all the latest videos telling the stories of people and projects in this area? Would you like to share your faith story? Why not make a three minute recording of yourself and send it to us—we’d love to hear from you.

Digital media training

“Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media” is one of the priorities that came from the LIFE vision, based on shared conversations from around the Diocese. Many of you have approached the Communications Team saying that you would welcome help and training in this area, whether it’s to develop what you are currently doing and reach new audiences or to take those first steps into creating a welcoming digital presence.

The Communications Team is putting on a free 90-minute training session in every deanery and all are welcome to come along, just email kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk to book your place. You can find the latest details of all the trainings under ‘Social Media Training Dates’ (below left) or on www.gloucester.anglican.org/communications

18 September, 6.30pm to 8pm, Parish Rooms Highnam

16 October, 6.30pm to 8pm, Holy Trinity Church Hall, Tewkesbury

6 November, 6.30pm to 8pm, Holy Trinity, Stroud

5 March 2018, 6pm to 7.30pm, St Lawrence Parish Rooms, Barnwood, Gloucester

23 April 2018, 6.30pm to 8pm, Parish Centre, St James the Great, Dursley.

A Church Near You (ACNY)

Are your church’s details up to date on ACNY? This website, owned by the Church of England, lists the address of every Anglican church in the country. There’s a place where a representative from every church can add details about services, clergy and leadership teams, accessibility and events. Even if your church doesn’t have a website, keeping these details up to date can be a great introduction to your church and what you are doing in the community. Visit www.achurchnearyou.com to update your church’s details.

Events and training

Comedy in the Gospel of John

Wednesday 16 August, 9.30am—4.30pm,

Chipping Campden Parish Rooms

£15 or £8 concessions. Details from

Sheila Rosenthal, 01386 700530

or rev.s.rosenthal@gmail.com

Rudford Retreat

Thursday 17 August, 10am to 3pm, Rudford Church, GL2 8DT

On the third Thursday of each month. Rudford Retreats provide an opportunity to give space for God in our lives; to still ourselves, listen for God, and share in quiet fellowship with others. More information from www.highnamchurch.org/rudford £12, booking required.

Ride + Stride, Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust

Saturday 9 September, all day

Plan your own sponsored walk, cycle or horse-ride around churches in your area to raise money for Gloucestershire’s church buildings. If you’re not heading out on the trail, sign your church up to welcome other ride and striders. Find out more at www.ghct.org.uk/ride-and-stride

Digital media training

Monday 18 September, 6.30pm to 8pm, Parish Rooms, Highnam

We would like to help train and resource more of our congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using digital media both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Places are free. Booking via 01452 835515 or kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk

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