

**May 2017**

## **Leadership: Committed to transformation**

**Developing diverse lay and ordained leaders  
from the communities we serve**



### **Message from the Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock Director of Mission and Ministry in the Diocese of Gloucester**

'They are unreliable witnesses.' That is how some of Jesus' disciples dismissed the news brought by Mary, Joanna and other women that Jesus' tomb was empty and that he was risen. Indeed Luke's Gospel tells us that the women's message seemed to the other disciples to be no more than 'an idle tale, and they did not believe them.' Yet it was to these women that God gave the Easter message that Jesus is risen. It was these 'unreliable witnesses', so easily dismissed by the other disciples, that were the first to announce that God was doing a new and transforming thing.

*Leadership*

These women remind us of two things. First, that God will often enable new beginnings to be led from surprising places. As a church we need to create space and opportunities for fresh leadership and insights to challenge our perceptions and help us see anew what God may be bringing to birth. Secondly, leadership is not just about roles and authority. It is also about influence – leading by example. That's what the women who followed Jesus did as they simply went out to share what they had seen and heard. In so doing they became the first witnesses to the resurrection, becoming messengers and participants in God's transformation of death and loss into the gift of life now and eternally. That's the kind of leadership and witness we are all called to share in, not simply in the church, but in the world.

## **God calls each one of us: The Revd Pauline Godfrey, Discipleship and Vocations Officer in the Diocese of Gloucester talks about recognising God's call**



'Who me? No, I'm the last person God would call.' Having been brought up in a church tradition that was uncomfortable with women as leaders I, like so many women before me, heard the call of God and tried to get **others** to follow it. The fact that God didn't differentiate took some learning. God calls each one of us.

*Leadership*

First of all he calls us into a relationship but then he calls us to work with him to build the kingdom wherever we are – in our daily lives, in everything we do. Some of us don't think that what we do or who we are is special enough for God's call. But God calls the weak and the strong, men and women, the young and the old.

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