

**October 2017**

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## **Leadership: Committed to transformation**

### **Creating learning networks for lay and ordained leaders**

#### **The Revd Canon Dr Andrew Braddock, Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry**

During the months of September and October many of our churches and schools will celebrate harvest and Creationtide. We give thanks that what has been sown and nurtured earlier in the year has also been gathered and shared. Harvest thanksgiving is part of a deeper rhythm of sowing and reaping, of growing and gathering.

Jesus used this same rhythm in growing his disciples. He sent them out to heal and to proclaim God's kingdom. But they then returned to Jesus to give thanks for all that they had seen and done. It was through this rhythm of going and returning, sending and gathering, doing and reflecting, that Jesus enabled the disciples to learn from him and from each other.

This pattern of action and reflection is at the heart of the different learning networks we are seeking to nurture in the life of the diocese. There is much collective wisdom to draw on from across the many different dimensions of our diocesan life, from children's ministry to social action, from evangelism to caring for creation and so on. By creating opportunities, both locally and more widely, to share together, we can see more clearly what God is growing, encourage one another, and learn afresh to recognise the call of Jesus in our daily lives.

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## **Celebrating and sharing cross-parish work, the Revd Rowena King**

One of the practical out-workings of the vision to live and learn together is the desire to set up an online directory of groups currently meeting, which aim to support those participating in different fields of leadership or cross-parish work.

This Harvest we want to take time to gather and celebrate the stories of those networks and groups where people are already meeting to share their journeys, reflect on God's call on their lives and in their communities, and support each other in action. Taking time to celebrate and appreciate the sharing and learning already happening across our Diocese is central to our life together.

If you are a part of such a network, please take time this month to share some of your experiences on our Diocesan social media channels (@glosdioc on Twitter, #OurLIFEStory, f/Diocese.of.Gloucester on Facebook or Diocese of Gloucester on Youtube). If your group has an open membership and you'd like to extend a welcome to others who share your particular interest then please forward the details of the group and a contact name and email to me at [revrowena@gmail.com](mailto:revrowena@gmail.com) and we will add those to our directory as it takes shape in the coming months.



## Thrive: Multi– parish benefices that work

The House of the Open Door,  
Childswickham House,  
Childswickham, Worcestershire

Thrive is a two-year programme of development and growth, especially designed for multi-parish benefices.

Each group must include the incumbent, plus four to six leaders - lay or ordained - with significant influence in the life of the benefice. Obviously, attendees will need to be open to the possibilities of change, and keen to work to see the mission of their churches grow. The example of the incumbent in this process will be key to its success.

Upon their return from the Thrive community gatherings, this thrive group will then work with others in the benefice to decide the future shape of ministry and mission across the churches.

Participants commit to four non-residential Thrive communities of two full days each, (usually a Friday and a Saturday, over the course of two years, plus one final day for review and commissioning). At the end of each gathering, each team puts together an action plan for the next six months to facilitate change. Interested? Email [lbird@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:lbird@glosdioc.org.uk)

### Dates for the trainings

- 2 and 3 February 2018
- 27 to 28 July 2018
- 25 to 26 January 2019
- 12 and 13 July 2019
- 25 January 2020

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## Events and training

### Pioneer visit to the Grace Network

Saturday 7 October, 10am to 2pm, Stroud (map of tour and meeting place sent on booking)

This is a chance to get a look behind the scenes at some of the pioneering ministry projects based in the Stroud area. The visit is open to anyone wanting to explore creative approaches to mission and ministry. Bring sandwiches. Contact Cate on [cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk) to book.

### Social media training

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

Free training in social media, suitable for beginners and more advanced, for all who use social media to promote stories and share stories of individual faith journeys. To book email [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk)

### Children and bereavement

Monday 16 October, St Andrew's Churchdown, 10am to 4pm

How do you talk to a child about death? Winston's Wish, the leading charity on child bereavement, will provide insight into how children grieve and what support adults can offer. This event is open to anyone working with children in school, parish or community settings. £10. To book email [nkent@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:nkent@glosdioc.org.uk)

### Minority Ethnic Vocations Conference 2017

Friday 27 to Sunday 29 October The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Theme, come and see.

For more information visit [bit.ly/CaS2017](http://bit.ly/CaS2017) CODE: come&see2017

Have your say: Visit Facebook [/Diocese.of.Gloucester](https://www.facebook.com/Diocese.of.Gloucester), email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube [Diocese of Gloucester](https://www.youtube.com/DioceseofGloucester) or visit our website [Gloucester.anglican.org](http://Gloucester.anglican.org)