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Living out Christ's love and hope: Investing in people and programmes, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith

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Who you are, is more than how you look?

engagement

That's the message that Bishop Rachel has been sharing with children and young people across our diocese and beyond as part of her #liedentity campaign.

In response to the growing body of evidence highlighting the unhappiness of many young people due to body image anxiety, Bishop Rachel launched the #liedentity campaign in 2016 to challenge negative body image in children and young people and encourage them to look within to discover true value and beauty.

Bishop Rachel said. "Many young people today are sourcing their identities from social media and advertising and in the process often losing their self-esteem. So much of what they experience through social media presents a message of value based on physical appearance. I long for every young person to discover their worth as a unique individual created in the image of God and to find happiness as they go on becoming who they have been created to be."

Bishop Rachel has been visiting schools, youth groups and worshipping communities and intentionally talking about this issue and listening and reflecting with young people on their personal experiences. On 20 February she is hosting a national conference on this issue with the aim to raise awareness and to share knowledge and resources, to help us discover how we can all play an active role to promote confidence in the young people with whom we engage.

The event is open to all who work with children and young people, but spaces are limited. For more information and to register, visit www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/liedentity



"The Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance ... For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.'" (1 Samuel 16:7)

The PEEL project: Exploring self identity

This month, the Diocese of Gloucester, in partnership with ASHA and the British Computing Society, is piloting a resource to help young people recognise the true value of others.

In a workshop setting, young people are put into pairs and interview each other. The aim is for them to discover the beauty at the core of the other individual. They are then helped to capture this in words, through poetry and also visually, through photography. It was launched with an exhibition at London Fashion Week last year.

The PEEL programme is being developed and rolled out to primary and secondary schools this spring. The Diocese of Gloucester, agency ASHA and the British Computer Society are currently collaborating in partnership to pilot the programme, aiming to produce National Curriculum standard resources that will enable schools to run the programme. Find out more at <https://projectpeel.org/>

Events and training

More details for all these events at www.gloucester.anglican.org/events/2018-01

FestivALL networking event
Friday 9 February, 1pm to 3pm
Barnwood Trust, Ullenwood Manor Farm,
Cheltenham GL53 9QT or
Saturday 24 February, 11am at St Mary de Lode Church, Gloucester, organised by Simon Culley of Inclusive Church

We are inviting all our worshipping communities to be part of FestivALL, a month of events bringing people closer together and celebrating the communities in which we live and work. It aims to break down barriers in our communities. So far, up to 40 community and statutory organisations are interested in being involved. The big launch is on Thursday 17 May, in Gloucester Cathedral. Street food, bands, dancing and much more. More at www.festivall.org

Exploring Christian Vocations
Saturday 10 February, 10am
Jerusalem Room, 4 College Green, Gloucester
GL1 2LR

A day for individuals to reflect on God's call through discussion, input, personal reflection, guest speakers and scripture. We bring together guests from a variety of ministries, both lay and ordained, who will share their experiences and answer questions. Free. To book contact nkent@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835544.

Beyond Thomas the Tank
Engine: Seeking Theology for Uncertain Times

Tuesday 27 February, 9.45am to 1pm at St Mary de Lode Church, Gloucester GL1 2TB
Once, stories of talking steam trains offered parables for the secure ordering of the world under God. Today we are seeking God through uncertainty and chaos. Cost £5. To book contact ibird@glosdioc.org.uk, 01452 835551.

Growing Messy Leaders
Saturday 3 March, 10am to 4pm
An inspirational, all-age training which will energise and empower Messy Church teams. It's a hands-on, fast-moving day which combines the leadership skills of CPAS and experience of the BRF Messy Church team to give leaders of all ages the opportunity to understand more of the practicalities of leading a Messy Church, developing a team and reflecting on their relationship with God. Cost is £10 and lunch is provided. To book email nkent@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835544.

Social media training
Monday 5 March, 6pm to 7.30pm
St Lawrence Parish Rooms, Barnwood, GL4 3JB
A session to train congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using social media both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Led by the diocesan communications team. Free. To book email kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835591.

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