



**DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER**

gloucester.anglican.org

Dear Friend

I am delighted to share with you the vision for the life of the Diocese of Gloucester, over the next five years – **LIFE**.

Developing our vision

In 2012 the diocesan vision statement of 'Journeying Together' identified four areas of commitment in our desire to share the transforming gospel of Jesus Christ with people in and around Gloucestershire. The four areas focused on being people who worship together, who share our Christian faith and values, who provide a visible Christian presence in every community and parish, and who serve the wider world. These aspirations and commitments remain unchanged.

Since Ascension Day, we have journeyed on through a vision process of prayer and conversation involving approx. 6,000 people. This has led to the emergence of LIFE, our new vision, setting out key priorities for our mission and ministry over the next five years.

Context of LIFE

The vision priorities have deliberately not named every aspect of our Christian mission and ministry. It is important to note that whilst there is much we need to reimagine, we also want to celebrate those things, which are being done well. The intention is to turn up the volume on specific things and make purposeful decisions about where we will focus the majority of our time and energy. This will inevitably influence the culture of our life together and the way we live out our love of God and neighbour.

We have important partnerships with the Church across our world and we minister alongside Christians of other denominations. Furthermore, our identified priorities resonate strongly with much of the National Church of England programme of Renewal and Reform. Our vision sits firmly within this broader framework, including a commitment to increasing our number of ordinands by 50 per cent. Furthermore, it is important to underline that our desire for people to know life in all its fullness means that our commitments regarding safeguarding need to continually flow through everything we are and do.

In committing together to these priorities, decisions will have to be made not only by diocesan bodies of governance, but also by local worshipping communities, chaplaincies and schools, about what we need to stop doing and where we will focus our time and resources. Partnerships with key individuals, charities, organisations and institutions will be vital in supporting and resourcing our vision as we seek to celebrate and create community amidst the joy and pain of life.

We have many riches in this Diocese: between us we have financial wealth, rich experience and the treasure of many people's gifts and skills. It is my hope that as we journey on and live these priorities, we will grow in our generosity both towards one another and beyond this diocese, as we seek to resource ourselves and others in our continual response to God's immense generosity. As followers of Jesus Christ on our journey together, may we discover yet more of life in all its abundance as we pray for God's Kingdom to come on earth as in heaven.

And finally.....Bringing the LIFE vision alive

As we celebrate the start of our journey with the LIFE vision, every worshipping community, school, fresh expression, chaplaincy and individual is invited to think and pray about what the vision might mean for them. There may be a particular theme or priority that resonates with something already happening, which can be further progressed, or it may be that there is something new to be discussed and developed. It would be great to hear about all this – do get in touch!

Alongside this, those working on coordinating the vision process across the Diocese are planning to bring groups of people together to network and develop common efforts on the different priorities in our vision.

If you think that you might be interested in contributing your time and insights to helping collective work on a particular priority, please do send an expression of interest to vision@glosdioc.org.uk by the end of November 2016.

+ Rachel

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