

November 2017



Engagement: Living out Christ's love and hope

Connecting with new housing developments in innovative ways, the Bishop of Tewkesbury, the Rt Revd Robert Springett

engagement Earlier this year I moved house and I have been reflecting on the process by which empty rooms have been turned into a home, unpacking, deciding where things should go, occupying the space, so that now six months on it is a place of returning and rest.

We know we have an acute housing shortage in this country, but this is more than simply a matter of bricks and mortar, it is about homes, for us, for our children and theirs, homes as a place to live and from which to build community. This is something we know a thing or two about as the church too, we have been building community in England since the year the year 597!

As part of our LIFE vision and the housing priority within that, we are pooling that knowledge to help enable us to build community today. We have identified three strands to this work. Where there are smaller developments it is about helping existing communities integrate new homes into their life, offering a welcome and hospitality. To help us in this we are planning some workshops in early 2018 and we are also developing a welcome pack for our communities to adapt and use as part of their ministry. In our largest developments, of which we have currently identified five, we are looking to early engagement to work in partnership with the developers to build new communities by a mix of the appointment of pioneer ministers and church planting. Lastly we are planning a consultation on how we respond to medium sized developments which is perhaps our greatest challenge. These are developments not large enough to form a new community but equally of a size that is bigger than can easily be absorbed by an existing community without careful thought and planning.

The challenge of new housing is not easy, but at its heart are homes and those who will live in them, and our commitment that they, as all who live in our diocese, will find life in all its fullness, the life we know in Christ.

Bishop Robert will lead two gatherings in January, which will help parishes explore how they can engage with small housing developments. More info to come. To register your interest, contact Helen Wolfson on hwolfson@glosdioc.org.uk



Welcoming people to new housing developments – experience from Kemble by Martin Kingston

Engaging with people into their new homes makes them feel welcomed into the community that they have moved into. It provides them with a point of contact and useful information about their new community.

Kemble is a medium to large size village with a mix of older and newer housing developments. The new housing development we welcomed people into consisted of 47 new houses of different sizes, 30% of which were affordable housing. We made contact with the developer's sales office to explain that the PCC wanted to be able to welcome people into the village. The sales office staff were friendly and pleased that their purchasers would be receiving a welcome into the village.

We put together a welcome pack including a leaflet containing local information, a parish magazine with the contact number of the visitor and, if appropriate a leaflet about Kemble Primary School. When we were told by the sales office that a new occupier had moved in, we delivered the welcome pack and a bunch of flowers personally to the house, choosing a time of day that the family was likely to be at home. After visiting, a note was made of the new residents and their address in order to avoid any duplication of visits.

If you have never engaged in this activity before, you will find that a new enlivening and rewarding experience awaits you which is very effective in extending a warm welcome to new residents.

Events and training

Digital media training

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

Sharing our stories in new and different ways, including through digital media, is one of the priorities that was highlighted in the new LIFE vision for our Diocese. 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

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. Come and talk about it on 18 November when we are

holding a day for young women to come and explore your vocation. It may not be a calling to ordained ministry, but to another type of ministry – this is an opportunity to listen to how God might be leading you. To find out more contact Pauline Godfrey on 01452 835548 or visit www.gloucester.anglican.org/event/young-women-gods-calling

Domestic Abuse Workshops

Mon 27 Nov, St Paul's Cheltenham, Tue 28 Nov, The Old Town Hall, Stroud, Thur 30 Nov, Holy Trinity, Tewkesbury and Fri 1 December, Church House Gloucester, all 2pm to 4.30pm

The Diocese of Gloucester, in partnership with Restored, is holding domestic abuse workshops as part of the 16 Days of Action Against Gender Based Violence. To book, email safeguardingtraining@glosdioc.org.uk

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