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Dear Friends,

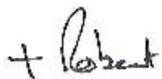
The ministry of welcome is at the heart of the Gospel: it is what Jesus does and teaches us to do. We need to be especially aware of this truth when new people move into the community. They come excited about a new house and new opportunities, but perhaps also nervous and apprehensive about finding their place in a new setting.

That's why we have developed this resource pack to help welcome new people. It can be adapted to fit local need. It is a gift of hospitality and welcome that helps those new to your community with vital local knowledge, the locations of doctors, banks and shops as well as information about local groups and activities – all things that are needed to live well. But for life in all its abundance, which comes from friendship with Jesus Christ, it will be essential that this pack also includes a generous invitation to explore this greater gift we have to share in worship and fellowship.

I hope having this pack to hand will really help in your ministry of welcome, something to take when you visit, something to talk over and a gift to leave – even better when you remember to include in it a tea bag and a bar of chocolate.

As you develop your ministry to people who have newly arrived in your area, you might want to seek further advice – please feel free to contact the Revd Cate Williams, in the Diocesan Mission and Ministry department who can offer support. Her email is cwilliams@glosdioc.org.uk or you can phone 01452 835543.

I pray this resource may be a blessing to you as you are a blessing to those new to your community.



Bishop Robert

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