

## Events and training

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](http://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

### Eco Church Zoom Seminar: Getting Started

Thursday 3 February, 7 to 8 pm

Pledge one hour a week to Eco Church and you will find yourselves moving forward rapidly to a first award. Take the leap in 2022 and show your commitment to our planet.

### Vocation to ministry day

4 College Green, Saturday 5 February, 10 am to 4 pm

If you feel the Holy Spirit is nudging you to explore new ways of serving God in the Church, this day is for you. Reflect on your personal journey and find space to engage, question, struggle and pray for discernment. You'll have the chance to meet guest speakers from different ministries, read scripture together and ask questions. Book at [gloucester.anglican.org/event/vocation-to-ministry-day-3-2/](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/vocation-to-ministry-day-3-2/)

### Meeting young people where they are

Tuesday 15 February, 7pm to 9pm, St Lawrence, 32 Church Lane, Barnwood, Gloucester

#### Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/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/Diocese%20of%20Gloucester) or visit our website [gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

Most of our churches don't have young people (11-18) turning up on a Sunday morning. This workshop will help you explore how you can engage with young people in the spaces they already inhabit – schools, parks, sports fields, etc. We'll also explore the key issues for young people today – like race, environment and gender and sexuality, and how we can encourage them to be enablers of change in society. Led by Barrie Voyce, Senior Youth Connector. Book at [gloucester.anglican.org/event/meeting-young-people-where-they-are/](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/meeting-young-people-where-they-are/)

### 'Plenty!' – Joy in enough Lent course

Wednesdays in Lent starting 9 March, 7.30pm to 8.45pm

Do you want to have a better understanding of the economic drivers of the climate and environmental emergency? Are you seeking to make connections between Christian faith and environmental concerns? Are you wondering what actions you could take to make a difference? 'Plenty!' is a six-week online course exploring Christian responses to sustainability, consumerism and the environmental crisis. Spaces limited to 12 people. [gloucester.anglican.org/event/plenty-joy-in-enough-lent-course](http://gloucester.anglican.org/event/plenty-joy-in-enough-lent-course)

## One Diocese blog: Will Mansell shares his 'why'



Will Mansell, Pioneer Minister and Founder of the GRACE Network Social Enterprise shares his passion for creating social change through faith and action.

“As I grew into adulthood, I realised that my sense of being was motivated by a feeling of discontent between what the world could be, compared to what it currently is.

“Every manifesto that was written seemed to be a nod to the problem that quickly returned to the safe ground of compromise. Yet those who feel lost, lonely, hopeless or poor don't want compromise, they want power and agency to change.

“I began to help lead a small local church and as time went on I would pray, go to church on a Sunday and then try to encourage people to be better citizens individually and collectively. The problem was although some people grew, the wider community kept on existing in its broken state and the world just rolled on, seemingly crushing people into despair and trouble.

“I began to be convinced that to create the conditions for change in the world, we needed to change our economy as that was the seat for so much power. If people have a job with a social purpose, it can give them meaning. A good workplace can give you community. A good employer invests in its staff to see them grow in skills, confidence, and leadership. I started to dabble in social enterprise, founding a couple myself, and rapidly ended up with a network of social enterprises based in a local warehouse.

My day job now is leading The Grace Network and co-leading a new monastic community called Wayfarers Monastery. The Grace Network aspires to create a network of place-based enterprise hubs that can spawn 100s of social enterprises over the next 50 years. Whilst Grace Network itself is not a religious organisation, we are pioneering a model of all-encompassing community building centred around monastic models of living.

My sense of purpose in life, my **why**, has always been to help people have the space and time to grow in emotional, physical, relational, spiritual, and intellectual capital and ultimately to be able to become leaders themselves.

In running Grace Network for 7 years, I have discerned some basic principles for this work:

1. Change needs to be done in community. No one can do it on their own.
2. Change can't be controlled from the top down. It needs to be a shared endeavour.
3. Change needs to include all aspects of life. It is not just a "work thing".
4. Change needs to happen little by little. It is not a quick fix.

"I don't know where my journey for meaning and hope will end up but working with the Diocese and 100s of people now involved in our site in Brimscombe, I am excited to share with others and meander forward to a more hopeful reality through the power of social enterprise and the ancient rhythms of monasticism.

Will is working with the diocese to develop local social enterprises in our communities. For more info contact Lucy Taylor, [ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk)

## Praying together for LIFE Together



'Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus'.  
*Philippians 4:6-7*

*Worshipping communities and individuals in and around Gloucestershire are invited*

*to join in monthly prayers on Zoom for the work of the church in this area.*

Prayer needs to be at the heart of all we are and do, so as we continue to live our LIFE Together vision, there will be a monthly online prayer gathering over Zoom. This is an exciting opportunity for us to gather across our many different local contexts and to discover new depths to prayer together.

Bishop Rachel writes, "The intention is that this is a time of prayer for anyone and everyone, regardless of age, story, church tradition or familiarity with prayer. All that is needed is a willingness to join in with what God is doing, as we bring our thanks and desires to God. No expertise or previous experience is required, and no one will be asked to speak unless they wish to do so."

The prayer gathering will last no more than 30 minutes and will be scheduled for a different time each month so as to be accessible to different people during the course of the year. Bishop Rachel or Bishop Robert will be present to welcome people, and each gathering will be led by someone different.

- Monday, 7 February, 5:30 pm, led by Bishop Robert, from St Barnabas Church, Gloucester
- Monday, 28 March, 10:30 am, led by Bishop Rachel

Email [THastieSmith@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:THastieSmith@glosdioc.org.uk) for Zoom details.