

September 2017



Faith: Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

Nurturing confident disciples to live out their faith seven days a week

The Revd Pauline Godfrey, Diocesan Discipleship and Vocations Officer

Are you an orange or a peach? Many of us are involved in so many different things that we compartmentalise everything: family, work, gym, church, community, charities etc. We may have different friends linked with each and nothing really mixes. We're a bit like an orange – lots of segments to our lives.

But is that the best way to live out our faith? What if our faith had an impact on everything that we do? What if we recognised our whole life is linked with being a follower of Jesus? Very often people come to me asking what more they can do for God. They want to be better disciples. In their segmented way they think that that means that they should do more for the Church. They wonder whether God is calling them to be a full-time minister. Sometimes that might be true, but often God is longing to be full-time in their lives.

As we recognise that God wants to be involved in every area of our lives, so we will discover that our faith can make a difference to the way we shop, the way we work, the people we mix with – that God wants us to be a full-time disciple. Instead of being an orange we can become a peach!

Foundations in Theology, Ministry and Mission

Is God calling you into greater public involvement in the life of your church, to serve your local congregation, live out your faith in the world and serve your local community? Are you excited to be part of a Church which desires to be a 'more effective sign and agent of God's kingdom in the world', and are looking for an opportunity to find out more and to study with likeminded people? This part time, one year course is an opportunity to explore this sense of vocation.

If you are already involved in some aspect of ministry – perhaps as a Pastoral Assistant or Worship Leader, as a member of an 'Open the Book' team, a PCC member or Churchwarden – this course could be what you have been looking for to learn more, deepen your connection with God and learn to live out your vocation with increased confidence.

For further information about the course or an application form contact: Jane Cusworth, West of England Ministry Training Course, 01452 874969, jcusworth@wemtc.org.uk



Young Women: God's Calling

On 18 November, Trinity Cheltenham will play host to a special event organised through the Diocese of Gloucester - *Young Women: God's Calling*. It's a day for young women who are considering ministry in the church to come together and explore both what God's call on their life might look like, and how they might begin to respond in faith.

Speakers including Emma Ineson (Trinity College, Bristol), Andrea Russell (Queen's Foundation, Birmingham) and Janet

Williams (West of England Ministerial Training Scheme) will lead seminar sessions inviting us to consider the scriptural basis of women's vocation; to explore ideas about the level of confidence and qualifications you'll need; to think about the impact and challenge a sense of God's call may have on family relationships; and to learn more about what the process of discernment and ordination looks like in the Church of England.

This is our chance to share our stories as women seeking to hear God's voice and obey His call on our lives: to be candid about the challenges, but joyful in our acceptance of God's call to minister in His Church.

Wherever you are on your journey with God, if you have any inkling He's calling you to ministry, this event is for you. This is a fully accessible, free event with free lunch. 9.30am for 9.45am start. For booking please contact nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

Events and training

Exhibition of images from the Palestinian History Tapestry Project

19 to 22 Sept, 10am to 4pm, The Hub Gallery, Christ Church, Cheltenham

A charity supporting Palestinian women embroiderers to stitch the story of their land and people in panels to be linked to form a tapestry. Admission free.

www.pht2012.wordpress.com

A Monk's Tale

26 Sept, 7.30pm to 9pm at St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, GL7 3AB

A new play by James Cary, touring the country after a run at the Edinburgh Fringe. Witty and entertaining, with plenty of laugh-out-loud moments, this is Reformation history as you have never seen it before. Tickets from Eventbrite £8 or £4 for U18s:

<http://bit.ly/LechladeMonk>

Minority Ethnic Vocations Conference

Theme: Come & See

2017
27-29 October

At the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

For more information:
www.bit.ly/CaS2017
CODE: come&see2017

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



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