

April 2018

engagement **Living out Christ's love and hope**

Being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation

Judith Knight, Assistant Diocesan Secretary and Head of HR and Safeguarding



Social action plays a huge part in living out our understanding of the Gospel. So much goes on in our schools and worshipping communities that contributes to championing, campaigning, and enabling people, and our environment to flourish. There are so many great stories to share to encourage and motivate each other; and so many great projects we are engaged with at so many levels on this 'flourishing' agenda. We do this because we are the Church - we seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

National Vocations Sunday, 22 April

Each of us is called to be and do what God has called us to. For some that might mean ministry in the church, but for many of us, it is to life within the wider community. Vocations Sunday is a chance to talk about who and what you believe is your calling. Use this day to talk to others about their calling. Ask someone how God is blessing what they are doing and what their challenges are. Then pray for them in their vocation. If you would like to explore this further, please come to our next Vocations Day on 16 June. Contact pgodfrey@glosdioc.org.uk for more information.



FestivALL: 17 May to 17 June

festivall.org

FestivALL is a month of events bringing people closer together and celebrating inclusive community in and around Gloucestershire.

How to get involved:

1. Create or brand an event of your own, big or small, for FestivALL
2. Attend a launch event at Gloucester Cathedral
3. Join in with one of the events happening during the FestivALL month

You are invited to the free launch party on Thursday 17 May, 4pm to 7.30pm at Gloucester Cathedral. It's a fun, totally free all-age party / bring a picnic, enjoy live music, dancing, sports and more.

FestivALL sharing and learning day, Friday 18 May, 10am to 4pm, Gloucester Cathedral

Inspiring talks and workshops exploring inclusion. Contact ltaylor@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835515

How ducks could raise your church's green rating

An eco-advocate who is passionate about protecting our planet is offering a talking PowerPoint to help other churches become better environmental stewards.

Chantal Whitehouse is part of the environment team at St Andrew's Church, Churchdown, the first church in the Diocese to achieve the A Rocha UK Silver EcoChurch Award. A Rocha is a Christian environmental charity, and the award recognises the work that churches do to incorporate green thinking in all that they do.

Chantal said: "We are trying to make environmental considerations part of everything that we do as a church and to carry on raising awareness of action people can take."

The church has been posting daily Lent eco challenges on Facebook, recycling coffee pods (this has so far raised over £400 for Gloucester Autism Support Group) and recycled inkjet printer cartridges to raise money for Gloucester Food Bank. Even the Fair Trade communion wine that the church buys uses ducks instead of pesticides to remove snails from the grape vines.

Get in touch with Chantal on chantillywhitehouse@gmail.com for a copy of her PowerPoint and some creative ideas on making greener choices for your church. More information about the EcoChurch awards can be found at ecochurch.arocha.org.uk

Events and training

More details for all these events at

www.gloucester.anglican.org/events/

'ABCD' Community Development

Thursday 19 April, 10am to 4pm

Gloucester Farmers Club,

Greville Close, Gloucester GL2 9RG (£10)

An introduction to community building practice and how Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) is growing across Gloucestershire. Stories of how good ABCD practice is enabling friends and neighbours to get together to do the things they love, and make a difference where they live. To book, email nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

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Welcoming people to new housing developments—a networking and training evening

Monday 23 April, 7.15pm to 9pm

St Lawrence Church, Bourton on the Water (please park on nearby roads).

Particularly suitable for parishes which have new housing developments of up to 300 houses and it would be appropriate for a group to come from a parish. Email Helen Wolfson to book by Wednesday 18 April on hwolfson@glosdioc.org.uk

Social media training

Monday 23 April, 6.30pm to 8pm

Parish Centre, St James the Great, Dursley

Training for more of our congregations, clergy and parish teams to feel confident in using social media both to promote our churches and to share stories of individual faith journeys. Book at <http://bit.ly/2Hrcxqs>

Christening Workshops

Tuesday 24 April, Chipping Campden,

Saturday 28 April, St Andrew's,

Churchdown (more in May, check the website events calendar for details).

One or two people from each parish are invited to come along to learn more about the national Christening resources, ways to maintain relationships with Christening families and hear good news stories about how initiatives are working in parishes across this diocese. For booking and information contact nkent@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835544.

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