YOU are part of the Anglican Communion, made up of 85 million worshipping Christians around the globe in over 165 countries.

There is no single Anglican Church, but a Communion, or family, of national and regional churches, with shared values and practices which all look to the Archbishop of Canterbury as a leader and a sign of unity.

YOU are one of 2.2 billion Christians worldwide, united by baptism.

YOU belong to the Church of England

The Church of England (CofE) is made up of:

- 1.11 million regular worshippers
- 16,000 church buildings of which 12,500 are listed by Historic England
- 20,000 clergy men and women
- 42 dioceses, each led by a bishop

It has a presence in every community:

- The Church of England has the country’s biggest volunteer network, with worshippers offering an estimated 23 million hours of voluntary work every month.
- There are 4,632 Church of England schools.
- Our church buildings belong to everyone and are often steeped in history.
- 46% of people in England and Wales identify as Christian (2021).

For more information, visit gloucester.anglican.org
YOU belong to the Diocese of Gloucester

The Diocese of Gloucester is the Anglican family of God in and around Gloucestershire. A diocese is a group of worshipping communities, gathered around a bishop, forming the fundamental unit of church life, organisation and mission.

The diocese covers the county of Gloucestershire and parts of neighbouring counties. It runs from the Welsh border in the west, to Lechlade in the east, from beyond Chipping Campden in the north to Chipping Sodbury in the south. It is home to over 750,000 people, living in settlements ranging from small rural communities, through market towns, to the urban centres of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud.

KEY PEOPLE AND PLACES

BISHOP: The Rt Revd Rachel Treweek is the 41st Bishop of Gloucester and shares her ministry with the Rt Revd Robert Springett, the Suffragan Bishop of Tewkesbury. Bishops are the spiritual, pastoral and executive heads of dioceses. Our Bishop is supported by a small senior staff team that includes the Dean of Gloucester and the Archdeacons of Cheltenham and Gloucester.

CLERGY: There are over 400 licensed clergy in the diocese. Some of these people are stipendiary (paid), getting an allowance so that they can be freed to serve God. Some of them are voluntary roles. They include priests, vicars, rectors, sports ministers, prisons and hospital chaplains and many more varied and diverse roles. Many clergy continue to serve even after retirement.

LAY MINISTRY: Every baptised person has a ministry within the church and community. This could be a formally recognised role like being a Reader, part of a local ministry team or leading a Messy Church. Many people’s ministry happens as part of their everyday lives, in workplaces, homes and community spaces, as they live as a follower of Jesus Christ.

A PRESENCE IN EVERY COMMUNITY: The Church of England is rooted in our communities, with almost every village having access to a church or other worshipping community, such as a Sportly sports ministry community. One local expression of church is the parish church, and each parish will have a Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is an independent charity. Very often, especially in rural areas, parishes are grouped together into a ‘benefice’, a number of parishes who share the ministry of their parish priest/s.

DEANERY: The link between a parish or a benefice to the diocese in delivering the Church’s mission is the deanery. The Area Dean, with an elected Lay Chair (a non-ordained member of the church) and Standing Committee, give leadership to the deanery. A deanery is typically a cluster of between 12–15 benefices, or several larger parishes.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: At the heart of the diocese is Gloucester Cathedral, which is known as the ‘mother church’ of the diocese. It has a history going back to the 7th century. It is led by the Dean of the Cathedral and a team of lay and ordained people called the Chapter. Your Cathedral seeks to be a welcoming Christian centre for all the people of Gloucestershire and beyond.

DIOCESAN SUPPORT SERVICES: Like all dioceses, the Diocese of Gloucester is served by a Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). Gloucester DBF is a registered charity and company which funds the payment and housing of clergy, manages central investments and property, and provides support services for parishes and other Church charities, such as human resources, communications, safeguarding etc.

DIOCESAN SYNOD: Important decisions at diocesan level are made by the Diocesan Synod, where elected clergy and lay people take counsel with the Bishop to make decisions.