



Life
TOGETHER

Investing in
LIFE Together

 DIOCESE OF
GLOUCESTER

The Diocese of Gloucester's vision of LIFE Together emerged from listening to stories from across the Diocese and noticing what was being lived. Together we committed to go out and share the transforming Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that people may know life in all its fullness.

Our LIFE Together Fund aims to serve and engage communities through our five spotlight commitments, with a hope that people of all ages and backgrounds will be inspired to discover Jesus Christ for themselves, transforming lives and communities. To do this we invest, support, and empower people with great ideas from across the Diocese to drive change and growth in their local area.

If you are someone, lay or ordained, who has a vision and a path to realising it, whether that be starting cookery lessons for teenagers, or building a county-wide network of social enterprises, then we may be able to help you do that with some encouragement, support and finance.

The 10:10 Circle

If you have a great idea and want to develop a new project or partnership, or you are looking to build on an existing activity, then we would like to invite you to join our 10:10 Circle.

This five-session programme brings together Christian leaders from across the diocese to help each person develop their vision to grow the Kingdom of God and to start a network of leaders, with everyone benefiting from the collective wisdom in the room.

Each person that joins the 10:10 Circle will be at a different stage with their vision, some won't have started on an idea yet, while others might have been working on a project for over a year, but whatever stage you are at the goal of the 10:10 Circle is to help people get their ideas and plans into the best possible place for success.

Funding

If you are ready to launch or grow your idea at the end of the programme, then we would invite you to make an application for financial investment. We recognise that people will be at different stages, so to ensure our process does not 'hold up' anyone's vision, financial support will be given based on individual's timing and need. For example, if you have already begun to deliver your vision and have a solid business plan, then the funding could be provided before you start with the programme.

We recognise the time and commitment it takes to be part of the 10:10 Circle and we want to ensure that there are no financial barriers for people to be part of it. A grant can be made to your organisation for the release of your time and to cover expenses. If you are a member of clergy then the grant would be made to the PCC.

Not another personal leadership training programme...

The 10:10 Circle is about developing a vision, a great idea and a business plan which the whole of your community will benefit from. Members of the Circle will need to be part of a community looking for positive social change and action in the Diocese of Gloucester.



What does the 10:10 Circle offer?

The Diocese of Gloucester's strategy for growth, renewal and development comes from the LIFE Together vision, serving communities through our five spotlight areas –

- Nurturing everyday disciples
- Investing in people and programmes which excite young people to explore and grow in faith
- Encouraging new and courageous ways of worshipping in different places which connect with more people
- Being advocates for flourishing through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation
- Developing diverse lay and ordained leaders

These spotlight commitments allow us to understand a network of concepts that ultimately point to a world where John 10:10 is manifest across our communities.

10:10 Circle members are invited to commit to participate in five facilitated discussion days broadly themed around the above spotlight commitments. Whilst these topics offer a structure to the conversations, the sessions are flexible, enabling members to take responsibly for sharing the issues that are important to them.

These are not taught training days - they are safe and creative spaces to explore specific topics as a group, allowing individuals to share their understanding, experience and challenges with each other. The sessions build over time as a programme that links members into a network of peers and supports them to navigate the complexity of transforming society in a changing context.

The discussion days will be held at The Grace Network's warehouse in Brimscombe, where lunch and refreshments will all be provided. There will be no charge to individuals for attending.

Facilitated by Will Mansell (the Grace Network) and Sandra Millar (Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry), together with key practitioners who bring relevant perspectives, sessions will pose questions for the group to explore and share insights from their own experience.

FACILITATED DISCUSSION DAYS

Session 1 – Introduction

In this initial workshop we will be getting to know one another and exploring the LIFE Together vision and how we influence the change of culture and thinking. We will consider what we understand about transformation, and what that means to our organisations, the wider system and ourselves.

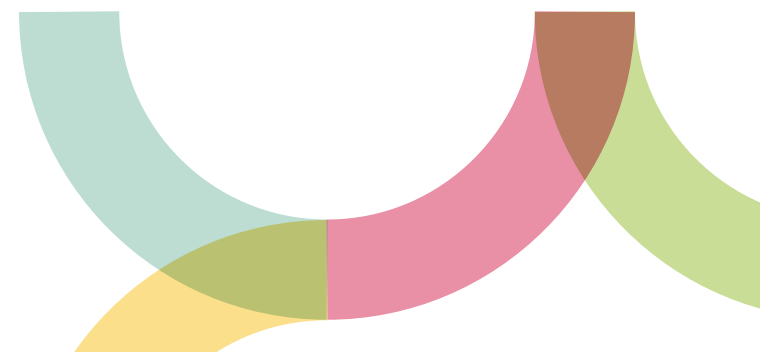
Session 2 – Discovering leadership and transformation

In this workshop we will explore your understanding of your capacity to lead and influence. We will take a deeper look at the leadership qualities we are seeking to nurture in ourselves and others. We'll also be inviting reflection on the opportunities and tensions that can emerge as leaders find ways of letting go of their power in order to unleash the potential of social change from within communities and individuals. Finally, we'll consider what actions we can take together that we can't do on our own.

Session 3 – Community, communications, and partnership

How is your model of 'Church' relevant in today's society?
How do you see it helping people to discover Jesus Christ?

In this session we will dig down into what you know about your community and audience and how we can partner with others to encourage outreach.





Session 4 – Sustainability and finance

In this session we will explore what a good sustainable business plan looks like and members will have time to develop the LIFE Together Fund application form. In addition, we will discuss administration and financial management, monitoring and evaluating and implementation plans.

Session 5 – Summary and review

This final session will give us the opportunity to reflect on what we've learnt over the last few weeks, and to consider our next steps as individuals within the Diocese of Gloucester. How will we continue to grow our networks?

Who will we develop partnerships with? What ideas will we take forward and how will we make them happen? What do we need from this group and facilitators to help us thrive?

Level of commitment

In addition to the five discussion days offered by the 10:10 Circle, members are invited to keep a reflective learning journal through the programme. Members should allow approximately two days over the year for background reading and reflection, although some may wish to spend longer on this.

Members are also invited to form their own Learning Circle or practice group with peers from their community or field of interest. From our experience we have learned that these groups can be effective when they meet up to three times over the year, although they may choose to meet more frequently.

The total commitment is expected to be approximately ten days over the year.

The process

It is anticipated that by the end of the '10:10 Circle', its members would have:

- Attended five facilitated sessions
- Kept a reflective learning journal
- Developed networks and relationships which will continue beyond these workshops
- Developed a vision and plan for a project, partnership or scheme which aims to grow, stimulate and share the LIFE Together vision.

Members may also find they have developed some new skills in the process.

Am I the right person to join the 10:10 Circle?

Members are Christians whose passion is to transform society and to enable an encounter with God in new ways. They value relationships over prestige, power and position. They understand how to move beyond a single issue and recognise the importance of mobilising people to develop a whole community vision that includes the interests of everyone.

Members of the 10:10 Circle do not need to have any formal leadership experience, but they will have the ability to develop and implement innovative ideas. They may hold a role in a Christian organisation or have an excellent track record as a lay or ordained leader within a worshipping community.



Application process

The first 10:10 Circle will be run as a pilot, and those who have enquired about or received funding from the Diocese of Gloucester over the last three years will be invited to make an application, as well as the people and organisations with which we are working in partnership. Organisations will be asked to nominate one or more individuals to make a personal application to join the pilot group.

Up to 30 people will be offered a place each year. There will be a review after the first pilot year is completed, before opening applications for the next course.



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