



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 (see below), 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 a member of a charitable organisation or worshipping community, lay or ordained, who has a vision and a path to realising it, whether that be starting cookery lessons for teenagers, or a new network of social justice projects across the Diocese, then we may be able to help you do that with some encouragement, support or finance.

The 10:10 Circle

If you have a great idea and want to develop a new partnership, or you are looking to build on an existing activity, then we would like to invite you and a colleague to join our 10:10 Circle. This four-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 form a network of leaders, with everyone benefiting from the collective wisdom in the room.

Each organisation 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 an idea for over a year, but whatever stage you are at, the goal of the 10:10 Circle is to help you get your ideas and plans into the best possible place for success.

Partnership

If you are ready to launch or grow your idea at the end of the programme, then we would invite you to explore entering into a partnership with us. There will be an opportunity to learn more about what a partnership could look like.



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 four 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 responsibility 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 one of The Grace Network's bases in and around Stroud or Cirencester, where lunch and refreshments will all be provided.

There will be no charge to individuals for attending. Facilitated by Sandra Millar (Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry), Will Mansell (the Grace Network), and Lucy Taylor (Deputy Diocesan Secretary) together with key practitioners who bring relevant perspectives, sessions will pose questions for the group to explore and share insights from their own experience.

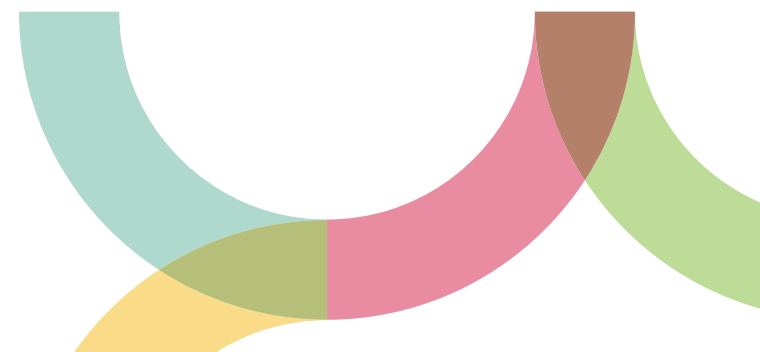
FACILITATED DISCUSSION DAYS


Session 1 – Culture and thinking

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, finance and review

In this session we will explore what a good sustainable business plan looks like. In addition, we will discuss administration and financial management, monitoring and evaluating and implementation plans. 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.

Level of commitment

In addition to the four discussion days provided by the 10:10 Circle, which you are required to attend with a colleague, members are also invited to keep a reflective learning journal throughout the programme.

Members are also invited to form their own Learning Circle or practice group with peers from their community or field of interest.

The process

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

- Attended four facilitated sessions and completed all the preparatory work required for these
- Kept a reflective learning journal
- Developed networks and relationships which will continue beyond these workshops
- Developed a vision and plan for an idea or partnership 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

If you think the 10:10 Circle is you for you then you will be invited to make an application to join the group. It is a requirement that two people attend from each organisation, worshipping community or school, as we find it helps each partner to develop ideas and plans. At least one of these two people must have an active Christian faith.



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