



Life
TOGETHER

Investing in
LIFE Together

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 leader or member of a charitable organisation or social enterprise whose work is focused on helping people have life to the full, then 10:10 Circle is the place to grow your ideas and your leadership skills in order to realise these ideas. The 10:10 Circle is not generally open for clergy or church leaders, unless you run projects or are part of organisations that serve people beyond your own parish.

The 10:10 Circle

If you have a great idea you want to develop, or you want to grow your existing work, 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. Participants then become part of the 10:10 Network of leaders, with everyone benefiting from the collective wisdom and experience.

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

At the end of the programme, you may wish to explore a closer partnership with the Diocesan Board of Finance. Your time in the 10:10 Circle will give you 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 participants are invited to commit to, and participate in, four facilitated discussion days, broadly themed around the elements needed for ideas and projects to flourish. Whilst these topics offer a structure to the conversations, the sessions are flexible, enabling participants to take responsibility for sharing the issues that are important to them.

These 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 participants 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 Catherine Pearson (Goodmakers Society), Will Mansell (the Grace Network), Sandra Millar (Diocesan Director of Mission and Ministry) and Lucy Taylor (Deputy Diocesan Secretary) – all of whom bring relevant experience and perspectives – the sessions will pose questions for the group to explore as well as provide opportunities to share insights from your 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. We will consider what we understand about transformation and what that means for our ideas, our organisations, wider systems 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

In this session we will dig down further into how you might bring your vision and values to life. What do you know about the community and audience you want to engage with? What might partnership with others look like in order to create synergy around your work.

Session 4 – Sustainability, finance and review

In this session we will explore what a good, sustainable business plan looks like. In addition, we will be honest about what we need and how we can go about resourcing the launch and growth of this work. 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 if possible), some sessions may require some pre-reading or pre-work. This will be kept to a minimum and will require no more than an hour of your time to complete.

The process

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

- Attended four facilitated sessions and completed all the preparatory work required for these
- 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.

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

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

Participants are Christians whose passion is to put their faith into action and transform society in new and creative 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 leader within a worshipping community.



Application process

Ideally, participants will come in a pair, from one organisation, although solo starters can also attend and bring someone with them who is committed to their idea/vision and wants to help make it happen. However, if you are unable to find another person to attend with you, please don't let this stop you applying. If you are interested, please complete the application form on the website, or contact Kathryn Warner, Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Officer kwerner@glosdioc.org.uk 01452 835529 if you would like to chat about the programme before applying.



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Church House, 5 Denmark Road,
Gloucester GL1 3HW
01452 410022