

Events and training

More details for all these events at gloucester.anglican.org/events

Everyday mindfulness, introduction and taster session

Wednesday 20 July, 6.30 pm to 8.45 pm

St Luke's Church, Tutshill, nr Chepstow

Research has shown that mindfulness can help with anxiety, stress, low mood and sleep disruption. This course, led by Ian Bussell, will teach you a number of practices which you can try at home. An 8-session course following this taster starts on 6 September.

gloucester.anglican.org/event/everyday-mindfulness-2

The Big TRAC 5-day adventure residential Monday 8 to Friday 12 August At the Tom Roberts Adventure Centre, GL18 1HE

A 5 day Sportily camp full of sport, art, drama and exploring the Christian faith. For children in school years 6 to 12. All activities, meals, accommodation (tents and cabins) and fun is provided for the full 5 days. Any questions please

email hello@sportily.org.uk

Have your say

Visit Facebook [f/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%20of%20Gloucester) or visit our website gloucester.anglican.org

Have a sporty summer

Various dates and locations

Sportily, a network of fun-loving sport and faith groups, is holding events for children and young people in various locations around the Diocese this summer. You can try different sports, make new friends and explore what life is all about.

Visit <https://sportily.org.uk/> to find out what's happening near you and to book your children in.

Messy Church Goes Wild Saturday 17 September, 11.30 am to 4 pm at the Christian Adventure Centre, Viney Hill

An intergenerational day, using mostly outdoor space, activities will focus on exploring nature, and what we learn about God from noticing creation. Come as a family, or a Messy Church group with leaders. Booking essential at gloucester.anglican.org/event/messy-church-goes-wild-at-viney-hill

Cllr Harry Ives on faith and service



In our #OneDiocese blog this month, Cllr Harry Ives blogs about how his faith prompts him to serve his community on the District Council.

“Three years ago, I took a leap of faith. After much discussion with loved ones and private prayer, I stood for election to the Forest of Dean District Council.

“At the time of my election (May 2019), I was a regular Sunday worshipper and member of my Church Management Committee. I was also both a ‘Foundation’ School Governor (responsible for maintaining my school’s Christian ethos) and a Town Councillor. I was steeped in my community and cared deeply for its well-being. Despite this, I remained very unsure about whether to stand for the District Council. Would I still have time for loved ones? Would I still have time for my day job?

“My faith was key here. I reminded myself that God has a plan for everyone and if I’m meant to do this, he’ll find a way. Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”. My life choices had so far led me to a position where the community was my life. If I stand and lose, well... God must have other plans for me. So, with my faith as a rock, I stood for election and won!

“This was (and remains) the biggest achievement of my life. As District Councillor for Lydney North Ward, I am accountable to almost 2,000 people on matters ranging from homelessness to environmental issues, planning applications to benefits. People can (and do) contact me about anything and everything.

“Formally, I am summoned to six meetings of the Full Council a year, along with any committees I’m appointed to and any meetings of my political party. Whilst attending meetings is important, 90 per cent of my time is spent in the community fixing problems for residents. Requests are extremely varied, from fixing maintenance issues (potholes, uneven footpaths, overgrown vegetation, blocked drains, missed bin collections, dog bin requests, signage issues etc) to simply helping someone take their greenhouse down (which I did). My inbox is always busy and any semblance of “free time” is history. Despite being so demanding, I relish this side of the job. Every request is another chance to help someone and if you can physically point to something and say, “I fixed that”, you’re doing the job properly.

“Three years later, I am hopefully known as someone who works hard and gets things done. I am warmly welcomed in most places and people who disapprove usually dislike my party, rather than my actions personally. You can never please everyone and once again, my faith is a rock here. Unfair criticisms and attacks are shrugged off. If God hadn’t intended me to serve my community, I wouldn’t be doing this. If my faith hadn’t been there, I may not have stood in the first place.

“There will come a time when I am no longer the District Councillor here and that’s OK. I will thank God for the time he gave me in the role. When that time comes, it’ll be onto the next adventure.”

Councillor Harry Ives
Lydney North Ward, Forest of Dean District Council.

The Big Butterfly Count

Begins Friday 15 July and runs until Sunday 7 August.



Get ready for the annual Butterfly Conservation’s Big Butterfly Count. It’s a UK-wide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment simply by counting the amount and type of butterflies (and some day-flying moths) that we see.

The survey was launched in 2012 and has rapidly become the world’s biggest survey of butterflies. Over 107,000 citizen scientists took part in 2021, submitting 152,039 counts from across the UK.

Come together with your church, your school, your friends and family to count butterflies for 15 minutes during bright (preferably sunny) weather. Records are welcome from anywhere, from parks, churchyards, school grounds and gardens, to fields and forests.

Visit <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/> to download identification sheets and find out how to upload your results.

As Christians, we have responsibilities as we live alongside all God’s creation. The crisis we are in can feel overwhelming. We all can make a difference, and it’s often taking the small steps, that add up to create the big change.

You can use the Big Butterfly Count to work towards your next A Rocha Eco Church Award – visit gloucester.anglican.org/eco-church-in-an-hour to find out more about #EcoChurchInAnHour.