



# Retirement within the Diocese of Leicester

We are delighted to write to you as you begin your retirement in this Diocese. The desire of diocesan and bishop's staff is to support you in the mission and ministry to which God is calling you in and with the context He has placed you. We realise that will look very different person to person and context to context, with some stepping back from more active ministry for a season or more permanently, for others the shape of ministry being more recognisably priestly and for others retirement bringing a calling or desire to explore new forms of mission and ministry. We are available to help you discern what that looks like where you are, rather than just to look at what gaps need to be filled.

You'll be aware that, as a Diocese, our development and training ethos, is that we work with people specific to and often with those in their context, and that nearly all training and development is open to all (ordained, lay, actively retired, still exploring). Our hope is that what we offer helps the whole people of God to see and be part of the growth in the three dimensions articulated below. So unless otherwise stated, everyone is welcome to all. Where possible, we would encourage you to come with others from your context, but we appreciate that can take time in the early days of being in a new place. Details of how to find out what is on are included below.

We don't want money to be a bar to what God is calling us all to, and so, in addition to nearly all events being offered without charge, we also have a small pot of money to help equip actively retired clergy in their mission and ministry within the diocese. As with other ordained and authorised Ministers, guidelines will help you discern what can be applied for, with a normal maximum grant of £160 in any calendar year. For more information contact [Stuart.Burns@LecCofE.org](mailto:Stuart.Burns@LecCofE.org) or 0116 261 5354.

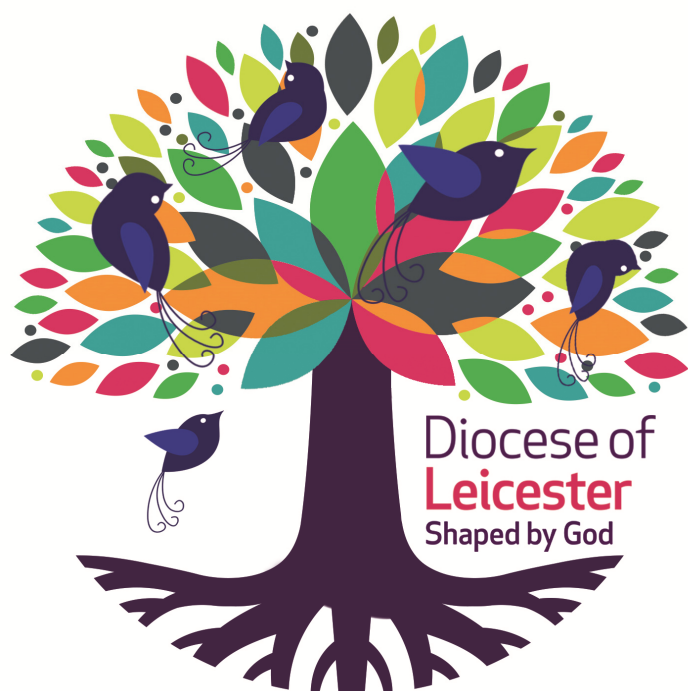
There are a number of ways of plugging into news, events, courses and resources which might be of interest. Although you hopefully got these in the past, that does not automatically continue, especially if you have a new e-mail address, so it will likely be necessary to re-register to continue receiving:

- ❖ **Diomail** – each week, a single e-mail of news is sent to all that would like to know what is going on. You can sign up for it, if that would be interest, here:  
<http://www.leicester.anglican.org/misc/diomail-signup>
- ❖ **Annual Mission and Ministry events brochure** - If you haven't already received a copy of the annual Mission and Ministry events brochure, we would love to send you a one off copy or add you to list of those receiving this each July. To receive it on a one-off or annual basis contact [claire.stapleton@leccofe.org](mailto:claire.stapleton@leccofe.org) or on 0116 261 5317.
- ❖ **Termly resources mail** - and finally, once a term e-mail with further events, courses and resources is sent from the Mission and Ministry team. Contact Claire (as above) to receive it.

## Shaped by God...

As you'll know, Shaped by God is the long term vision of the Diocese of Leicester. Originally discerned in 2005, with two reviews and renewals since, and aided by identifying nine common marks of mission (with auditing and training focused around each), Shaped by God looks to see every church growing in the depth of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, a growth in the numbers of those disciples, and the Kingdom service which leads from it. The Shaped by God strategy is the umbrella under which all mission and ministry in the Diocese exists; all our energies, both as parish and fresh expressions of Church, as local churches and diocesan officers, flow from what it means to have Shaped by God as our diocesan vision.

A short video explaining more of the vision, the report itself, plus a host of different resources (including a Growth Fund) can be downloaded here: <http://www.leicester.anglican.org/shaped-by-God/> or available by post from [barry.hill@leccofe.org](mailto:barry.hill@leccofe.org) or 0116 261 5335. At the heart of our diocesan vision is an image of growth, a metaphor, drawn from the parable Jesus told of the



Mustard Tree. The picture to the left is of a seed that has become a tree so big that the birds of the air come and rest in its branches. It contrasts the latent potential of the seed with a plant that has grown and serves creation. This is a picture of the Kingdom of God. If the tree illustrates the growth of God's Kingdom people in number and reach, its roots represent that growth in depth, and growth in service to the world can be seen where the birds rest in the tree's branches. These three dimensions of growth are at the heart of what we expect to see in our church as we allow ourselves to be shaped by God. We need to be intentional in allowing God to grow his church in this way and the image is intended to be a reminder.