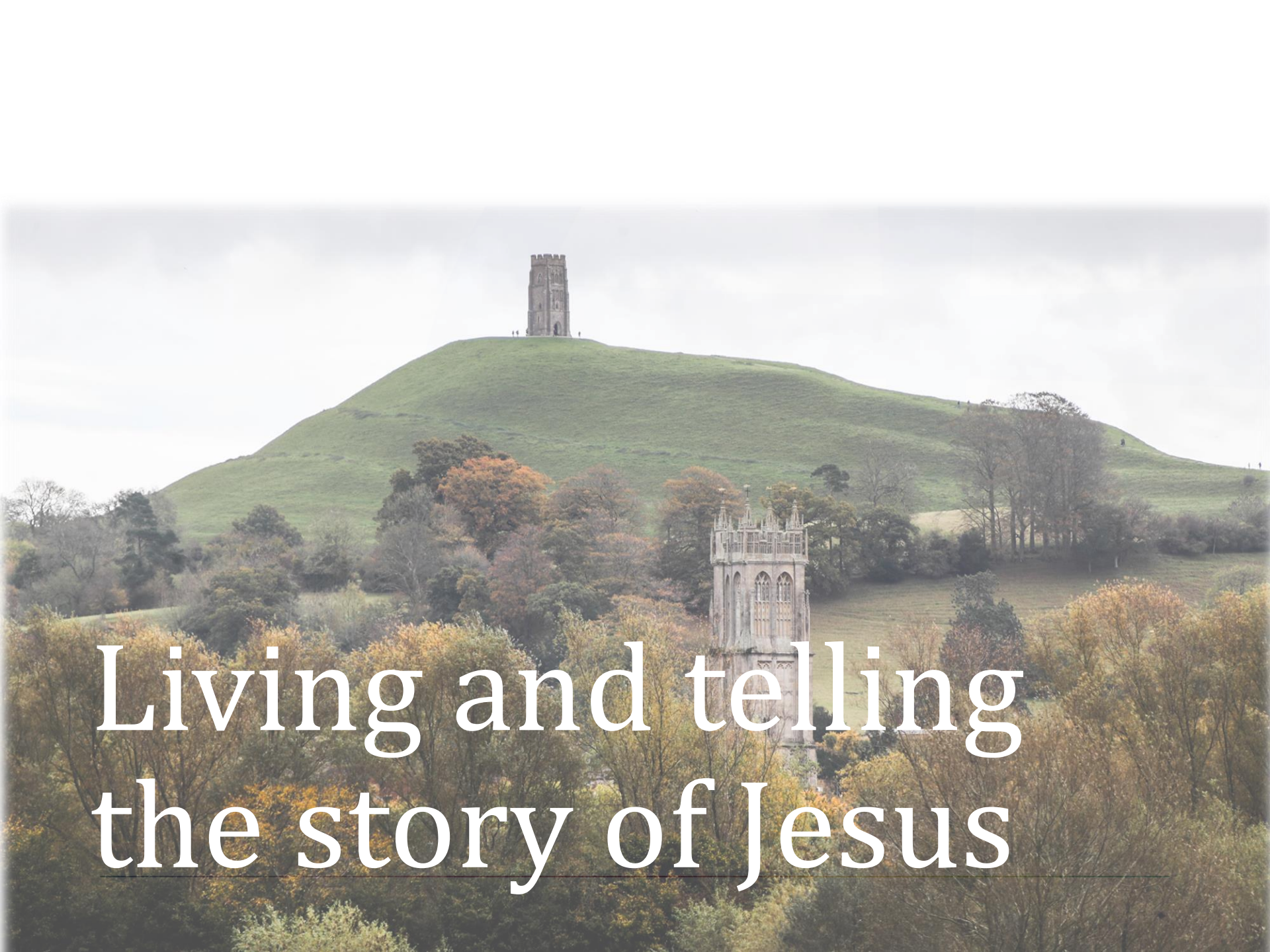


# Refreshing our diocesan vision together

Online sessions  
30 Jan, 1 & 2 Feb 2023

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Living and telling  
the story of Jesus

# Approaches

- Looking outward
  - Mission not maintenance
  - Everyone has a part to play
-

What should we be focusing on if we are getting out of the boat?



# A common direction of travel?



# This needs all of us

- Can't be one size fits all
  - Must be asset based – out of a narrative of what we have, not what we lack
  - Must be capable of being locally owned
  - Must come from all parts of our diocese – parishes, schools, chaplaincies, support services, synod, Bishop's Council, bishops and archdeacons
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# My request of you is for

- prayer  
thinking  
conversation  
and consultation on the  
following:
-

# Areas of focus (1):

- Our starting point needs to be that of valuing and cherishing the people we already have so that we can live out our calling to be light and salt within the communities in which we live. Our churches, chaplaincies and schools have committed people, blessed with a rich variety of skills, held in the trust of their local communities, inheritors of an amazing heritage of history and buildings.
- Under this we could 'nest' a series of sub objectives e.g. ministerial welfare, financial sustainability, buildings policy etc



## Areas of focus (2):

- At the same time, the ways in which our traditional congregations worship doesn't seem to be so attractive to people of younger generations. We're all conscious that most of our traditional congregations are aging. Yet we see that when we provide ways to express faith in ways that are different from the usual Sunday offering, people who'd never normally come on a Sunday morning seem keen to get involved – especially children, young people and families. So I want to hear how we are experiencing offering the substance of our faith but in new forms? Across the diocese – how are we forming new worshipping communities in our different contexts?

# Areas of focus (3):

- When the Church began, the model it worked on was one in which many different people had different roles to play. We've ended up with a Victorian model which assumes that the Vicar will do almost everything. Not only is this a crying waste of different people's talents, gifts and passions, it's increasingly leaving our clergy tired, overstretched and liable to burn out. The development of shared local ministry is crucial: both to use the gifts that all people have and to ensure that the load is shared.

# Areas of focus (4):

- Faith is at its most attractive when it's an experience of being on a journey – of growing, changing, developing. Where there is attentiveness to faith development, things happen. We've a whole range of examples of offerings that help people put their toe in the water. But how do we help people try out what it's like to go ankle, knee deep or beyond? And how do all of us keep growing in faith? None of us have arrived at the destination.



Living the story. Telling the story.

## Refreshing our diocesan vision together

As we enter a new stage in our diocesan life, with Bishop Michael as our relatively new diocesan bishop, we want to think afresh about our common directions of travel. We want to hear from people across Somerset about how we can live and tell the story of Jesus in churches, schools, chaplaincies and communities. This will help us all to better plan and do things together.

Since joining our diocese, Bishop Michael has noticed a number of areas that could form the basis of some positive ways forward. A two-pager about these can be found here [{insert weblink}](#) The questions in the sections below relate to the four areas about which we want to hear your comments, stories and ideas.

Thank you! We look forward to hearing your responses. If you have questions about this work, please contact us on [livingandtelling@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:livingandtelling@bathwells.anglican.org)

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\* Required

\* Required

## Valuing what we already have

Valuing and cherishing the people who are already part of the church family in our context; celebrating and using the assets we have available to us.

1. What does this look like in your context at the moment? Do you have stories of encouragement or challenge to tell? \*

Enter your answer

2. What might good, success or impact look like or feel like in relation to this area? \*

Enter your answer

Next