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# VISION IN FOCUS

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## Introduction

This month we take a look at the Discipleship branch of our diocesan vision and how we are committed to 'growing more like Jesus'.

Archdeacon Ian Rees shares his thoughts on why discipleship matters and the importance of small group meetings as a way of building fellowship. There are plenty of resources available to help you get started, so why not pull up a few extra chairs and set one up!

We also find out what discipleship means for our schools. Mike Camilleri, the Acting Headteacher of All Saints Church in Wales Primary School in Llanedeyrn, explains what it means to be a Christian outside 'church'!

Many of you will have been following Lent courses, so as we move into Easter, we hope you will continue to meet together and have included a suggestion for a post-Easter course to keep you talking!

*Debra Goddard*  
*Diocesan Communications Officer*



The discipleship branch of our diocesan vision looks at different aspects of what this means...

- To embed a culture of discipleship throughout our diocese
- To promote discipleship in our everyday faith
- To support and nurture our life-long discipleship journey to reflect God's calling and to enable discipleship groups to flourish
- To encourage a culture of invitation and growth through life events and occasions such as festival services
- To develop and support the journey of discipleship within our church and community schools, helping teachers to reflect on their vocation as educators

Let's have a look at how this is being developed across the diocese...



## Belonging to a 'believing community'



The time and focus we invest in our own discipleship matters beyond nurturing our own relationship with God. It is through us that others see and know the love of God. What helps people to understand Christianity is not a well written book, or a carefully crafted course, but the life and activity of the Christian community. Our church communities are theology in action. We are the lens that explains the Gospel to those that encounter us.

The theologian Leslie Newbigin says,

“I am suggesting that the only answer, the only hermeneutic (way of interpreting) of the Gospel, is a congregation of men and women who believe it and live by it. I am, of course, not denying the importance of the many activities by which we seek to challenge public life with the Gospel..., but I am saying that these are all secondary, and that they have power to accomplish their purpose only as they are rooted in and lead back to a believing community.”

How we live out our faith, how we participate in God's mission as a community of believers, how we talk about the world around us, and interpret it through scripture, has an impact on the faith life of others. This is why discipleship matters. This is why we are called to develop and nurture our own relationship with God.

**Join Archdeacon Ian Rees as he shares his thoughts on the need for us to spend time together - and not just at services! He reminds us of the importance of meeting as small groups, which he describes as an 'amazing gift'.**




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## Discipleship through small groups


Small groups are a great way of building fellowship, support and confidence in people. We are hoping that ministry areas will offer a variety of small groups and are encouraging those who may be interested in leading a group to come along to this training at the diocesan office in Newport on May 3rd at 7pm. Please book through the email [admin.monmouth@cinw.org.uk](mailto:admin.monmouth@cinw.org.uk)

If you're not able to make it then but are interested, please could you send a message to [archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk)

**3<sup>RD</sup> MAY, 7PM**  
IN THE DIOCESAN OFFICE



**LEADING  
SMALL  
GROUPS**



**SPEAKER:**  
**REVD JAMES HENLEY**

TO BOOK A PLACE,  
PLEASE EMAIL: [ADMIN.MONMOUTH@CINW.ORG.UK](mailto:ADMIN.MONMOUTH@CINW.ORG.UK)

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## Fancy running a small group?

There are all kinds of resources for courses that can run for small groups. They range from bible study courses to courses exploring particular issues, to courses which just enable us to talk more about our faith. We also have a number of 'in house' diocesan courses.

Some of the courses are on the diocesan website at:

[https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/prayer\\_and\\_spirituality/discipleship/](https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/prayer_and_spirituality/discipleship/)

Take a look and see which one or ones might be best suited to your ministry area. If you would like any further advice or to chat about this more please contact Archdeacon Ian ([archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:archdeacon.monmouth@churchinwales.org.uk))

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## Post-Easter Course



We hope that ministry areas will continue to offer groups for study and discussion through the year. As you will have seen there are many options available. For the post-Easter period though we would like to recommend 'Creation Matters'  
<https://www.stpaulsdorking.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=236621>

This is a six session course (with an option for a social session at the end). It fits in well with several branches of our vision, particularly **discipleship**, **stewardship** and the **environment**. Each of the sessions begins with an icebreaker then a short time of worship,

followed by some bible reflection and then some practical applications of our thoughts for today. It is a course that can be followed at any time of the year but as Spring moves into Summer and we begin to think more about the beauty of creation as well as the opportunity to get outside in it, this seems a really good time for thinking how we live our lives valuing creation to the full!

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## Discipleship in schools

Being disciples isn't something that just happens in church. It is something that must dominate our lives, something that we take into every situation we face. An important place where this is evident is in our church schools.



Mike Camilleri, the Acting Headteacher of All Saints Church in Wales Primary School in Llanedeyrn, has written the following...

'I truly believe that a distinctive Christian ethos sets the culture of a Church in Wales Primary School and the values that sit behind the ethos shape the education which our learners receive. This along with my personal faith is what first attracted me into teaching in a church school.'

Mike Camilleri



“These beliefs have helped shape the person and leader that I am today, and I strive to apply the Christian values to all aspects of my school and personal life. I believe that Christian ethos and education should be a church, school and community partnership, based on trust, with the child placed firmly at its centre.

“I have spent most of my career teaching in Church in Wales schools across the Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff and am now incredibly proud to lead a school with a distinctive Christian character. Working within these schools gave me the opportunity to work with strong Christian role models and have experiences that provided me with excellent preparation for my own leadership. I strive to continue to develop and explore the role of personal faith in my own leadership.

“As a leader of a church school, I aim to serve our community by providing education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practices. I am committed in creating a happy, safe and stimulating place for pupils and all stakeholders to learn and achieve their full potential.



“Faith and Christian values are at the heart of all we do at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, including the decisions made to drive school improvement forward. I believe that our school is an incredibly special place and extension of the church and Christian home, where all our learners have the opportunity to question, challenge and explore their own faith in a safe and spiritual community.”

**Please pray for Mike and for all who continue to live out their faith through their work in schools.**

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