

# OXFORD DIOCESAN SYNOD

## Intentional Evangelism

The General Synod paper 'Intentional Evangelism' (GS 1917) set the scene for a debate among that body in November 2013 that explored the challenges faced by the Church throughout the world in the transmission of faith and the need for a more intentional evangelism. A copy of the paper is included in the pack of papers for Oxford's Diocesan Synod on 21 June 2014, and members are invited to take time to read it before that day. The paper includes a call to every PCC and every diocesan and deanery synod to take time annually to develop and focus on its agenda. Hence the purpose of work to be undertaken at Diocesan Synod will be:

- To familiarise ourselves with the national dialogue that is taking place;
- To reflect on the opportunities and challenges such dialogue poses for our Diocese.

The aim of our discussions will be to listen to each other, to share and identify experiences of good practice and to attend to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Our aim will not be to generate a long wish-list of potential initiatives. The format of our discussions will be as follows:

- An overview of the paper and its thinking (10 minutes)
- An invitation to synod members to divide into 8 groups that with the support of a facilitator will reflect on 'The Seven Disciplines of Evangelisation' included in the General Synod paper plus an additional group charged with thinking about issues of resourcing (25 minutes). This will occur as follows:
  - The facilitator of each group will read through twice the short text from the paper relevant to that group.
  - There will then be a short period of silence, followed by the request that each member of the group speak briefly and concisely about what has struck them most about what has been said and why.
  - A period of general discussion will follow around three questions<sup>1</sup>:
    1. What has been the group's experience in this area?
    2. What stories of good practice would you share and why?
    3. What do you think the Spirit is saying to our Diocese about this area?
  - The group's facilitator (or her/his nominee) will be asked to write up a flipchart sheet summarising the group's discussion. These sheets will be collected for analysis and review by the Board of Mission.
- Group facilitators will then be asked to feed back to synod in plenary for **no more than 3 minutes** a summary of the group's discussions.
- The item will close with a brief summary of the overall discussion (5 minutes).

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that groups are not being asked to address the questions set within the paper for General Synod's consideration.