

The Kingdom of God: good news for all!

Under the leadership of Bishop Libby the Diocese of Derby wants to see the lives of individuals, households and groups transformed through the growing of churches¹ and the building of communities across the length and the breadth of the Diocese: this is what Bishop Libby describes as ‘The Kingdom of God: good news for all!’

This vision calls us to proclaim afresh in this generation the good news of the Kingdom by living lives that seek to embody in word and action generous faith, courageous hope, and life-giving love.

What does the Diocesan vision mean for us, the five parishes in Glossopdale?

- **Transformed Lives:** a commitment to **equip missionary disciples** whose lives are centred on Jesus Christ and are shaped by him so that we live out our baptismal calling as members of the body of Christ participating in God’s mission in the world².
- **Growing Church:** a commitment to **grow a mixed ecology of church** – where we grow and expand worshipping and witnessing communities – that is more diverse, enabling people of every age and in every context to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.
- **Building Community:** a commitment to **be outward-facing**, rooted in and connected to our communities, working through word and action in partnerships and networks for the Common Good³, with particular regard for the poor, the outcast, and the vulnerable.

Over the coming months, especially following Diocesan Synod in July, more details and ways for us all in our churches to work together will begin to be released.

The four incumbents of the five parishes in Glossopdale – Felicity, Nick, Toby and David – are committed to work together to support the five parishes – individually and together – to strive for the vision of ‘The Kingdom of God: good news for all in Glossopdale!’

¹ By ‘churches’ we mean worshipping and witnessing communities in settings such as parish churches, schools, chaplaincies, church plants, and Fresh Expressions.

² The Anglican Communion’s ‘Five Marks of Mission’ help us understand what God’s mission in the world looks like:

1. proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom;
2. teaching, baptising and nurturing new believers;
3. responding to human need by loving service;
4. transforming unjust structures of society, challenging violence of every kind and pursuing peace and reconciliation; and
5. striving to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

³ We understand the Common Good to be the ordering of society so that every person, as individuals or as members of households or groups, can reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily. This ordering of society requires each of us to contribute according to our abilities and our capacities.