

Big Mission Weekend, with the Archbishop of Canterbury

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What's happening across the Diocese? Over the May Bank Holiday, Friday 24 to Sunday 26 May, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, will be coming to the Diocese of Gloucester to join in with our mission and vision.

[Download the flier here](#)

Friday 24 May

Archbishop Justin will start the day by sitting down to breakfast with a group of farmers in the North Cotswolds. They will be having some big conversations about the issues affecting farmers, environmental considerations and care for creation.

He'll then have the chance to meet children at two of our Gloucestershire schools, answering their questions and joining in with singing and worship on an environmental theme.

After lunch, he'll visit a church where the community have set up a thriving café and shop and get to know some of the team who volunteer there, as well as being trained up to make a delicious latte.

You're invited

At 5pm, Archbishop Justin will be joining Evening Prayer at St John Baptist Church in Cirencester. It's a quiet and reflective service which happens every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Next on the agenda is a trip to The Grace Network for dinner. The Grace Network supports social enterprises which reinvest profits into their local communities. Guests will have the chance to put their questions to the Archbishop and find out more about how his faith has shaped the person he is today.

Saturday 25 May

The morning begins with a service of morning prayer and a Messy Church session in Gloucester. The Archbishop will be having a go at some crafts, singing and chatting with the children and families who worship here.

He'll set off on a prayer walk through Gloucester, stopping for an ice cream on the way to chat to some local Christian business owners and see how their faith plays out in their business. He will be popping into a not-for-profit community café, before getting a steam-punk angle on Gloucester's Tall Ships Festival.

You're invited

At 1pm to 3.30pm, the Archbishop will be involved in a community fun day run by Sportily, full of lots of sports and activities, at Longford Skate Park with a giant rounders match, basketball, a climbing wall and a football cage. Come along for a coffee and an ice cream and practise your map-reading skills in our treasure hunt.

As a diocese, we believe that people deserve to live in homes that are safe, stable, sustainable, social and satisfying. The Archbishop will find out more about how the Diocese of Gloucester is locally supporting better housing provision.

Young people in Cheltenham have invited the Archbishop to come and join in their regular worship session and then he finish the day with a meal with partners from across the diocese. Bishop Rachel will interview Archbishop Justin and there will be a question and answer session about Christian faith and mission.

Sunday 26 May

To begin the last day of his visit, Archbishop Justin will travel to Tidenham in the Forest of Dean to join in worship, which is open to the local community.

You're invited

The weekend ends with a celebration diocesan Eucharist (Holy Communion) service at Gloucester Cathedral at 3pm. We will thank God for all of the projects Archbishop Justin has seen and the people he has met and look forward to the next season of mission and evangelism in the Diocese of Gloucester. Please do come and join us for this joyful service of celebration and thankfulness.

