

OneLife Commonly Asked Questions

What is the vision for OneLife?

How does OneLife fit within the diocesan LIFE vision?

What is the OneLife 7 spaces framework?

Why has OneLife chosen sport and physical wellbeing as its primary focus for mission and ministry?

Can those who are not interested in sport engage with OneLife and its activities?

How does OneLife work alongside existing churches?

How does OneLife support the work of diocesan Church of England schools?

How are locations for OneLife centres chosen?

How does a OneLife centre launch?

What does a OneLife centre do?

What is the OneLife Mobile Team?

How does someone join a OneLife centre?

Is a OneLife centre a worshipping community?

What is the OneLife Rule of Life?

What does success look like for OneLife and a OneLife centre?

How are OneLife centre leaders and staff trained?

How is a OneLife centre governed and managed?

Does the OneLife network work with ecumenical partners?

Can people of all faiths and none participate in the activity of a OneLife?

What is the vision for OneLife?

Developed from the diocesan LIFE vision and responding to its four priorities (leadership, imagination, faith and engagement), OneLife is a pioneering network of sport and wellbeing centres primarily engaging with children and young people, their families and young adults.

OneLife centres provide the context through which the Christian faith can be explored, fullness of life experienced and new worshipping communities emerge within our 7 spaces framework.

How does OneLife fit within the diocesan LIFE vision?

OneLife aligns itself within all four LIFE vision priorities and exists in support of the work of the LIFE priority groups, providing an additional context for the delivery of this vision and the plans of those priority groups.

More has been written about this in our associated documentation.

What is the OneLife 7 spaces framework?

The OneLife 7 Spaces Framework provides the structure we use to develop OneLife centres and the lens through which we understand the mission and ministry undertaken by a OneLife centre, which meets people contextually where they are.

Each OneLife centre expresses and relationally inhabits each of the 7 spaces in contextually appropriate ways but is recognised as a OneLife centre by their expression of all 7 spaces.

- CONNECT: A space to meet, hang out, play and have fun
- EAT: A space to eat, share and laugh
- SERVE: A space to make a positive difference in the world
- EXPLORE: A space to explore faith
- ENCOUNTER: A space to encounter God together
- CONTRIBUTE: A space to help make decisions
- GROW: A space to discover myself

Each of the 7 spaces is not defined through the occupation of a physical place or an activity within a programme and may be expressed digitally. It is recognised that God is present among His people and experienced within all 7 spaces.

More has been written about this in our associated documentation.

Why has OneLife chosen sport and physical wellbeing as its primary focus for mission and ministry?

- Only 17.5% of children in school years 1-11 currently meet government guidelines of at least 60 mins of sport and physical activity per day [Sport England Active Lives survey]
- 1 in 2 women and 1 in 3 men in England are damaging their health through lack of physical activity, costing an estimated £7.4bn a year
- Children who regularly play outdoors are happier, healthier and more confident

OneLife is rooted in the significant research conducted in recent years that has demonstrated that sport, in the broadest understanding of the word, plays an incomparable role in building community, developing community cohesion, and building confidence, particularly amongst young people, by giving opportunities for leadership and developing a sense of service and commitment to others as well as contributing to wellness and mental wellbeing.

The Government's Sports Strategy: *Sporting Future - a new strategy for an active nation (2015)* puts the social outcomes that community sport can deliver at its heart. Engagement with sport can bring about transformation in physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

Whilst only 1% of children and young people engage with Anglican churches in the Diocese of Gloucester, 44% regularly engage with sport. With the positive impact of sport acknowledged OneLife seeks to grow not only the number of children and young people engaged with the church, but also the number engaged in sport and physical activity as a means of enabling them to experience fullness of life.

Associated Sport England reports:

<https://www.sportengland.org/media/13698/active-lives-children-survey-academic-year-17-18.pdf>

<https://www.sportengland.org/media/13851/active-lives-children-survey-2017-18-attitudes-report.pdf>

Can those who are not interested in sport engage with OneLife and its activities?

Yes, absolutely! OneLife recognises the significant health and wellbeing impact of sport and physical wellbeing and hopes to support all people to find a form of physical activity which appropriately brings life to them. However, sport and physical wellbeing is not the only way people can engage with a OneLife centre and belong to that community. All are welcome to find a home in the community created by a OneLife centre.

Sport and physical activity provide the focus of activity of a OneLife centre and weave themselves into all aspects of the shared life of that worshipping community. Not everything the centre does is sport, but sport is integral to the life of each OneLife centre and can be present within each of the 7 spaces.

Within the 7 spaces approach taken by OneLife centres there is space for eating and being refreshed together, learning with one another, experiencing God in creative and active ways and simply belonging within that community.

How does OneLife work alongside existing churches?

OneLife is a new part of the church in the Diocese of Gloucester, it is a companion and partner of existing churches, not a competitor. It is widely recognised within the Church of England that new churches reach new people. Within the Diocese only 1.5% of the population engage with an Anglican church and nationally, 95% of all children and young people have no connection to the church at all.

OneLife centres are seeking to establish new worshipping communities, with and for those who engage with them. A OneLife centre is not looking to draw people away from existing expressions of church, but to connect with those 95% and see a form of church which is relevant to them emerge within the context of sport and physical activity.

Some who engage with a OneLife centre may also find a spiritual home within their local established church, others will find that the OneLife centre is their worshipping community. The OneLife vision is to see the expansion of God's Kingdom, especially among the young, not the reorganisation of it.

OneLife leaders are committed to partnership with other expressions of church and external agencies and always look to establish mutually beneficial relationships with others.

How does OneLife support the work of diocesan Church of England schools?

OneLife centres imaginatively connect with schools using sport to help children and young people explore faith and seek to address the challenges laid out in *Growing Faith*.

OneLife centres engage with their local schools in ways which serve and support those schools. This engagement is established through relationship, partnership and dialogue.

One pioneering programme which OneLife centres can offer to schools is ActiveRE. ActiveRe enhances and complements the RE already taught in schools, utilising a method which engages with sport, games and physical activity. Teachers within schools where ActiveRE is delivered have observed an increase in levels of positive engagement shown by pupils with RE as a subject.

Another programme is AdventureRE and bespoke CofE school residential experiences offered by OneLife with the Christian Activity Centre Viney Hill.

How are locations for OneLife centres chosen?

A OneLife centre is a geographically based expression of the OneLife vision and framework adhering to the OneLife operating values. This is not necessarily a building or premises owned by the Diocese and may be created in partnership with others in existing facilities.

There is no single answer to this question. Some centres are established through engagement between OneLife and a Local Authority, Council or other agency who have a leisure facility that they would like OneLife to consider running as a OneLife centre. Some centres on new housing estates are established through a partnership with the local developer. Some centres are established in locations where the Diocese already owns facilities and sees an opportunity to repurpose these for new mission opportunities. And some centres are established in partnership with a local church or other agency that wants to access a level of support from OneLife to enable them to setup their own OneLife centre in their own facilities.

In all instance's partnership, relationship and local engagement and consultation are paramount, this is balanced with the wise stewardship of resources available, an honest assessment of the opportunity and a considered view of the potential for positive, transformational impact in that place. It is recognised that setting up a OneLife centre is not always the best solution for a location and where other options and potential partners can be identified introductions to local stakeholders will be made.

How does a OneLife centre launch?

OneLife centres are launched after a proposal made from the OneLife team to Bishop's Council receives approval. It is Bishop's Council who, with advice from the Bishop's Staff Team and diocesan officers, hold an oversight view of the Anglican mission and ministry provision in any existing area, and hence why they are the best body to approve the establishment of new mission and ministry through a OneLife centre.

Each proposal is different as it is developed out of a response to local needs and opportunities. Therefore, the structure, resourcing and activity of each centre will vary. It is the OneLife 7 spaces framework and agreement made with each centre which brings a centre to the point of belonging within the network.

The OneLife 7 spaces framework is not a linear development model. The delivery of a OneLife centre does not begin with space 1, neither does church emerge when a centre launches an expression of space 5, nor a person find faith when they have engaged with 6 of the spaces. A OneLife centre, expressing the 7 spaces is understood to be a worshipping

community and it is at this point that we understand a new worshipping community to have emerged within its context.

What does a OneLife centre do?

A OneLife centre provides a place for people to do life together in 7 spaces, to engage in sport and physical activity, seek holistic wellbeing and find fullness of life.

A OneLife centre create community for people alongside a wide-ranging programme of activity. Some of this activity will be sport and physical activity, some of it may be focused on building community whilst being active, some of it will be focused on supporting peoples holistic wellbeing.

The activity of each centre will differ according to local needs and opportunities and those within the community will have the opportunity to contribute to what activity happens at the centre.

All activity will support the building of community and be in support of the expression of the OneLife 7 spaces framework in that location.

What is the OneLife Mobile Team?

The OneLife Mobile Team is a flexible team of sports pioneer ministers, volunteers, sessional workers and trainees that serves the OneLife network in three core ways:

1. Pioneering new OneLife centre opportunities. The OneLife Mobile Team may initiate a OneLife presence in a new area with a view to exploring whether a OneLife centre may be established in that place.
2. Supporting existing OneLife Centres. The OneLife Mobile Team may support the work of a OneLife Centre by leading sessions for that centre or delivering programmes such as ActiveRE in partnership with the centre.
3. Partnering with local churches in delivering sports ministry. The OneLife Mobile Team may work with existing churches to run sports ministry sessions as part of the broader mission and ministry programme of the church bringing learning from the OneLife approach to support parish ministry in a place where a full expression of OneLife is not appropriate at that time.

How does someone join a OneLife centre?

OneLife believes in belonging not membership. Anyone can join a centre by participating in, or contributing to the activity of the community.

Each of the 7 spaces is a potential access point to the OneLife community and a space where people may find greater depth depending on their current personal circumstances, needs, discipleship and journey of faith.

People are invited and welcomed into each and all of the 7 spaces and to find a place of belonging within the community where they can personally respond to the Good News of Jesus Christ, grow in faith as disciples and respond in worship.

That sense of belonging is self-identified by each individual and expressed in a way personal to them. A OneLife centre is established with its context and involves both people and communities at every stage of its inception and existence.

Is a OneLife centre a worshipping community?

Yes, a OneLife centre, expressing the 7 spaces is understood to be a worshipping community and it is at this point that we understand a new worshipping community to have emerged within its context.

OneLife centres are mission focused as expressed through the Anglican 5 marks of mission, and nurture the 'upwards, inwards and outwards' dimensions of the Christian life expressed in Acts 2 as part of one communion and fellowship. The mission and ministry of a OneLife centre also provides the contexts for the worshipping community to engage relevantly with the sacraments of the Church.

Space is created within the OneLife model where those belonging within the worshipping community are dispersed, it is here that everyday faith is lived out naturally and through the OneLife Rule of Life.

What is the OneLife Rule of Life?

A Rule of Life says, 'this is who we are, and this is our story'.

The OneLife Rule of Life gives shared identity to OneLife communities and serves as a framework for freedom – not as a set of rules that restrict or deny life. It is a radical call on the way people live their lives together.

The rule guides individuals personal lives, the corporate life of a OneLife centre as a community and the decision making of the centre in all things.

The rule says:

We... Live, Love and Give

To... Know God and do Good

More has been written about this in our associated documentation.

What does success look like for OneLife and a OneLife centre?

Ultimately success looks like individuals experiencing fullness of life in all its forms. It looks like communities transformed through engagement in physical activity and it sees people finding faith in Jesus Christ. Success is built around OneLife centres inhabiting all 7 spaces and creative engaging with people, inviting them into a place of belonging within that community.

A full theory of change and monitoring and evaluation strategy are being drawn up to articulate this and provide the framework against which success will be measured and tracked.

How are OneLife centre leaders and staff trained?

OneLife volunteers, staff, ministers, leadership and overseers, motivated by the Christian faith, help and support people to experience life in all its fullness.

OneLife pioneer leaders are experienced, trained and skilled in a diverse range of disciplines. They are, at their heart's pioneers, seeking out new ways to establish worshipping communities and identifying new opportunities for the Gospel to be shared afresh in this generation.

OneLife leaders are also qualified in at least one sporting discipline and all OneLife staff are be mental health first aid trained.

OneLife centre leaders participate in an innovated facilitated learning community which enables OneLife to ensure that good practice and learning is shared across the network.

To support the growth, development and sustainability of OneLife, a leadership development programme enables the network to identify, invest in, develop and release leaders of all ages.

OneLife also supports the Sports Ministry Training course at Ridley Hall. Students studying this course, specialising in sports ministry, can be pastors or evangelists, teachers or prophets. Students recognise sport as a vehicle for transformation and growth and are able to draw on the multiple aspects of engagement in sport to profoundly offer life giving hope to people.

How is a OneLife centre governed and managed?

OneLife is a connected, interdependent and intersupportive network of centres.

Some OneLife centres are established by the Diocese and managed centrally by a OneLife project team. These centres may have a Local Management or Steering Group to provide governance and oversight.

Other OneLife centres may be established in partnership with a local church or partner agency. In these instances that partner agency accesses support from the network, but provides its own independent governance and oversight structure. Sometimes this sees a OneLife centre operating as a project of a local church and accountable to the PCC.

Some OneLife centres may hold a Bishop's Mission Order to provide the context and framework for their mission and ministry provision outside of the parish structures of the Anglican church.

In all instances a partnership agreement is put in place detailing the nature of the arrangement and what is required of each party in terms of support, governance, oversight, branding, IPR, reporting, financing and terms.

Does the OneLife network work with ecumenical partners?

OneLife is a project of the Diocese of Gloucester but identifies as a part of the wider Church. As such OneLife centres are encouraged to work with local church and parachurch partners who are willing to support the local vision of OneLife through their local OneLife centre. This ecumenical partnership will look different in each location and is driven by relationship, dialogue and genuine partnership for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

The OneLife governance board is an ecumenical body which seeks diverse representation in its membership whilst recognising that OneLife has been born out of a vision and approach pioneered by the Diocese of Gloucester that is therefore rooted in the Anglican church.

Can people of all faiths and none participate in the activity of a OneLife?

OneLife centres are Christian worshipping communities providing a wide range of sport and physical activities for their local communities. The 7 spaces framework provides places for the Christian faith to be explored and God to be encountered. However, the activities of a local centre are open to all, to those of any faith and none, and participation is open to all. OneLife centres will be mindful of and sensitive to those of other faiths and respectful to those who hold different faith views to those held central to the OneLife vision and values.