

# Planning, planting, propagating, pruning



**Committed and seeking to grow?  
Are you equipped?**

Bristol Diocese is offering three conferences for groups of people of any age, for clergy and lay, to help churches to grow.

## **Dates and Venues**

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January, St Joseph's College, Swindon.**

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January, Sheldon School, Chippenham**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February, City Academy, Bristol**

**9.30am till 1.00pm.**

**Hot drinks and cakes will be available  
on arrival and drinks all morning.**

## **Aim and Purpose**

Modelled on the 2007 conferences we aim to provide encouragement to all those working hard in parishes to build growing communities of wholeness with Christ at the centre. We aim to provide practical resources and support through a variety of workshops, prayer, plenary sessions, and discussions. We hope and pray that together we might discern and take the God given opportunities for growth in this diocese.



# **Equipped to Grow**

# **'09**

## **Key Questions and Input**

The keynote address will be given by Bishop Mike. There will be opportunity to discuss key questions facing us all in parishes and the diocese over the coming years. How can we grow in the face of massive change and the opportunities and challenges that that will bring? To give opportunity for thought out exploration we are taking your questions now. If you would like to suggest questions or promote a discussion then feel free to use the discussion forum on the website or send them by post or email to Rachel Williams (Contact details on the form below).

## **Workshops**

Workshops will be provided by members of Mission and Ministry Development (MnM) (formerly PDT), by ISR, the Board of Education and others.

## **Worship and Prayer**

We are aware of the need to centre all we do in Christ. There will be worship to begin the conference and in addition an opportunity throughout the morning to spend time in prayer in the prayer room. The room will be set up in conjunction with 24-7 Prayer an organisation that specialises in 'Boiler room' prayer. If you have never heard of it look at their website or better still drop into the prayer room during the morning.

## **Further Resources**

As well as resources offered by diocesan personnel there will be displays by a range of organisations. The list of organisations is still growing but so far we have The Bible Society, Alpha, BRF, and the Wesley Owen Bookshop

## **Crèche and Children's activities**

Recognising that the church is made up of people of all ages and that families often struggle to attend conferences we hope to provide a crèche for under 5s and activities for those between 5 and 12. We hope that teenagers might feel drawn to some of the workshops or the prayer room.

## **Cost**

To cover the cost of the venue and refreshments parish groups will be charged according to the size of the group attending each conference.  
Groups up to 4: £10 per head, Groups of 5 or more: £8 per head, Teenagers: £5 per head, Under 13s free.

Please don't let cost be a barrier to coming. Contact George Rendell (MnM, address below) if you would like to discuss funding of places. Parishes which may wish to provide sponsorship of others should also get in touch.

## **Publicity for your church**

If you would like to publicise the conferences in your parish you can download a poster and information for your newsletter, magazine, pew sheet etc

## **How to book**

To book places at the conferences complete the registration form and return it with payment by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. A conference pack for each delegate will be sent to groups early in January 2009.

## Workshops

Workshops on offer at the three conferences will include:

Growing churches through change	Derek Chedzey & Hugh Milsom
Developing lay involvement in leadership	Ian Wills
Recognising a healthy, growing church	George Rendell
How to grow a leadership team	Christine Froude
Making better use of the building.	Andrew Motram (EPS)
Equipping for Growth by 'Doing less better'	Douglas Holt
Communicating the message more effectively	Sam Cavendar
Partnership for Missional Church	Paul Rush
'Adam where art thou: getting men to come to Church'	Glynn Harrison
Equipped to grow .... 24/7 Christian service	Samantha Rushton
School as Mission	Jacqueline Waters-Dewhurst
Worship Changes Lives	Mark Pilgrim with Diocesan Worship & Liturgy Committee members
What do we mean when we speak of community?	Emma Ineson
Building on Growth Plans (+ stuff on vision and strategy for those who have not started)	Tim Harle

This list will be updated in the coming weeks. Delegates should discuss with one another, before coming to the conference, which workshops will be most appropriate for their parish so that they can organise who attends which workshops. The delegates information pack sent in advance of the day will display which workshops will be on offer that morning together with workshop details. Workshops are not bookable in advance and each will be restricted to 20 members.

## Discussion forum

If you have questions related to the Bristol Diocese Programme for Growth you may post them on the discussion forum. You may also write a response to any questions that have been previously submitted. Visit [www.bristol.anglican.org](http://www.bristol.anglican.org) and select Communicate > Discussion Forum. Discussion about the upcoming conference will come in the 'Mission and Ministry' section of the forum.



