

OCTOBER 2018

An active month of conversations with new people about the baptism preparation project!

I attended the Cheltenham Deanery Meeting in early October where we hope to begin training a team in the new year; and I've just returned from a wonderful Celebrate Bristol weekend. The first 'Celebrate' for me and my husband, Chris. I took along some resources and had some enquiries and I'm happy to report that there was some interest in the project; plus other aspects of marriage and family life – it was great and worthwhile setting up the stall!

I had another lovely session with the team-in-training at St Edmund's in Calne - Anne, Christine, Gabrielle, Jessica and Tessa (from Chippenham). We have two further sessions that will take place on Sunday 18th November - Session 3 'Become what you receive': reflecting upon the Eucharist' and the final session will be held on Sunday 6th December – Session 4 'The Resources: making them happen'. If you are reading this and are interested in joining us in Calne, or have an interest in being trained to deliver baptism preparation for parents, please get in touch with me via my email anitra.rawlins@cliftondiocese.com. I am hopeful that I will start training a team at St Teresa's, Filton soon and look forward to meeting the willing volunteers at St Mary's, Bath. Our nibblers are growing in number too – onwards and upwards!



A beautiful interlude to the month was some peaceful time at Buckfast Abbey. If you've never been, then go! I heartily recommend it ... a calm and restoring view of the River Dart that flows through the Abbey grounds and Sunset ...



Please note that this resource for baptism needs to be firstly understood as a process of adult catechesis which allows parents to reflect on their role as the first and best teachers of their child in the ways of faith. The focus of the resource is to help parents have a real encounter with Jesus Christ and deepen within them what it means to belong to the body of Christ, the Church. We believe it's through this encounter that parents will be more able to be the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith.

A Future Full of Hope, our Year of Mission will soon be our Year of Prayer. With this in mind, the baptism preparation formation will:

- Equip those who are walking with the families, improving their confidence to share their faith and help develop prayer within the family
- Gently challenge parents, affirming their role and mission as a family - the 'little' or 'domestic churches'
- Equip and sensitise the parish family in its mission to be a welcoming and prayerful community
- Help to retain families, encouraging them to become part of the parish family.

Don't forget – we have some beautiful baptism anniversary cards available to buy at just 5p each. If you would like some, just send me an email and I'll pop them in the post to you - anitra.rawlins@cliftondiocese.com – a great way to stay in touch with your families!

