



The Bishop of Norwich
The Rt Revd Graham Usher

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

13th May 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

At Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon the Church, empowering ordinary people to speak of God's goodness in ways others could hear and understand. It is a season of courage, invitation, and renewal. This year, on Pentecost Sunday, 24th May, I am delighted that we will begin together a new diocesan journey called STREAMS.

STREAMS forms part of an exciting and emerging diocesan vision and strategy, with this first phase focusing entirely on Stories.

STREAMS is the culmination of multiple conversations, ideas and feedback from parishes and chaplaincies and it has enjoyed strong support by the Diocesan Synod. We all wish to see new people come to be a part of the life of our churches and congregations and we are hopeful for this journey ahead.

More information about the vision and strategy can be found on the diocesan website dioceseofnorwich.org under "Mission Strategy". If you have not yet had an opportunity to explore it, I warmly encourage you to do so.

This Pentecost, STREAMS offers us a simple invitation: to notice where God is already at work in people's lives, to listen well, and to grow in confidence as we share stories of faith, hope, and everyday discipleship. It marks the beginning of living out our diocesan vision - to see every person deepening their life as a disciple of Jesus, prayerfully, pastorally, and prophetically.

Many people find it difficult to speak about faith, even within church life. Yet throughout the Gospels, Jesus invited people to tell their stories, by asking questions. STREAMS Stories seeks to create simple and welcoming opportunities for people to do just that, helping us nurture a culture in which sharing our faith becomes something natural and life-giving.

From Pentecost, and throughout the Trinity season that follows, I encourage every parish to make space for story-sharing in ways that feel appropriate to your context, whether during worship, in small groups, over coffee after services, in schools, or pastoral gatherings. These moments need not be polished or formal. The aim is simply to give people confidence and permission to speak naturally about faith and life, or to ask questions they may never previously have felt able to ask.

To support this launch, we have included a STREAMS resource pack containing:

- 4 A4 posters
- 20 A5 flyers
- 20 A6 postcards
- 20 coasters

These resources will also be available for download on the new STREAMS website, launching on 24th May: exploringstreams.org. If you would like more physical copies please do not hesitate to get in touch via the website.

So, in summary, what is the invitation this Pentecost and beyond?

1. Explore, enjoy, and share the new mission website (exploringstreams.org)

Here you will find local stories, guidance, reflection questions, and practical ways to join in with this diocesan journey. The website is evolving, and if you find the resources helpful, I encourage you to share them widely, display them prominently, and personally invite others to take part. Perhaps through prayer and sharing we may help someone take a fresh step towards God.

2. Encourage story-sharing in your context

My prayer is that STREAMS Stories will help us become a Diocese that is more confident in sharing faith, attentive to the work of the Spirit, and open to one another and to our communities. I would love to see parishes using this opportunity to create space for story-sharing in services, small groups, coffee times, and beyond. I hope the resources in this pack will support and encourage you in that journey.

3. STREAMS as a shared journey

We hope STREAMS will be a blessing to everyone, and that it will continue to grow and develop alongside our Diocese as we grow together. This is the first step in a longer journey. We look forward to beginning STREAMS Communities in January 2027. These will be small group learning communities centred around helping churches in every season and context, to grow in fruitfulness. You can find out more on the new website under 'Communities'. As this journey deepens we hope to capture and celebrate our shared learning from these communities, as a resource for each other. In that regard, it is an iterative process and so if there is a story that you believe could encourage others, or a resource that you would like to share, or an idea you have, we would love to hear from you as we listen and learn together.

Thank you for all that you do in the service of Christ and his Church. Please know of my prayers for you and the communities you serve as we begin this new season together.

With every blessing,

+ *Graham Norris*