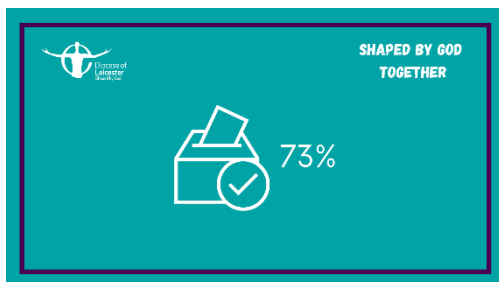


Shaped By God Together - Where are we now? November 2021



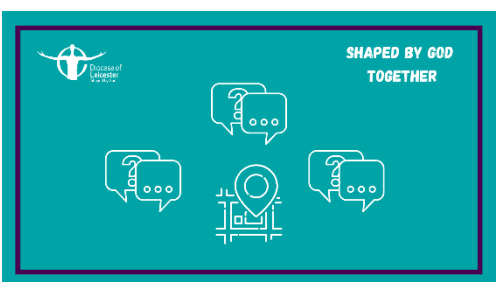
As a diocese we've been on this Shaped By God Together journey for 18 months now, and we've come a long way together. We've gathered and analyzed stories and insights from parishes and local contexts, we've had Study Days and local conversations, PCC's have given their feedback, Bishop's Council have met, proposals have been made and revised following listening and at the beginning of October your Diocesan Synod voted by a large majority to adopt a new framework for the diocese. We are calling this framework "Minster Communities"- groups of churches in which parishes work together and support each other, while retaining their own individual character and calling.



In the New Year we'll pilot our first Minster Communities in 2 or 3 locations.



But for most in the diocese the next few months will be a time for local thinking, discernment and conversation... a time for every parish, church, and fresh expression to ask themselves what their unique gift will be to the minster community that one day they'll be a part of? What do they discern their particular missional calling to be? How can they contribute to the mission of the new Minster Community? Where will they be looking for particular help and support from the same? What conversations do they need to have to develop stronger partnerships with schools? A central team will support this work and we'll begin facilitating the process of working out together in local and diocesan conversations where the various minster communities are likely to work best in terms of location and relationship.



We're not in a hurry... we want to keep moving forward but we want to get things right, so we need to be talking and listening to each other, and to God as we look to continue to be Shaped By God and to engage in everyday witness, prayer, and action in our parishes and local communities, pursuing our vision of the Kingdom of God, together.