



Monday 16th September 2019

Dear Friends,

The past four days of the oneLIFE mission have been filled with so many inspiring stories of people being touched by God's grace at work in countless different settings and in every part of the diocese. We know of people reconnecting with the church and faith after many years away, others receiving prayer for healing or some need in their life, all-age events hosted by churches where new friendships have been formed, as well as people making a more personal step of faith in Jesus. All the glory goes to God.

We simply want to thank you for what you have done personally to enable over 450 events to happen. This is never just about four days of more intense activity, but the fruit of so much hard work throughout the year. We are praying with you that the clearest blessing will be seen in those who have taken a first step or a next step as a follower of Jesus Christ. There are already over 70 courses planned to start in the next few weeks to give people the opportunity to explore issues of life and faith – these are open to everyone, whether as a refresher or something completely new. The diocese website has an interactive map to help people find a course near them (please visit <https://southwell.anglican.org/onelife-map>)

It was a double blessing to share in the oneLIFE mission with some wonderful bishops and their teams from across the northern dioceses. They have been such an encouragement to us as we have spent time with them hearing their stories and receiving the gift of their presence with us. Archbishop Sentamu's unflagging energy for sharing the Good News of God is infectious which has been part of the reason fellow bishops, clergy and laity have left their dioceses to join us. We thank them all from the bottom of our hearts. A very big thank you also to the oneLIFE team, including deanery catalysts and deanery administrators and those in parish who planned, set-up and hosted the many events. We are also immensely grateful to all who provided accommodation, transport and generous hospitality to our visiting Bishops and their teams.

Over the next few weeks we will certainly be passing on some of the stories from the mission – please let us know if there is something in particular for which you are thanking God. The Diocesan Conference in a couple of weeks will also be an apt occasion to give thanks and feedback. For now we sign off with these heartfelt words of gratitude as we begin a new week: *"We always thank God for all of you... We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Thessalonians 1:2*

With every blessing and gratitude as ever for your partnership in the gospel.

+ Paul

+ Nancy Skeswold