

# ‘Cairns’ will enhance our spiritual lives

ONE of the key parts of our diocese’s vision and strategy was launched with clergy and lay leaders from across our diocese.

We showcased the idea of ‘Cairns’ – small groups that meet to eat, pray and study together – with an initial get-together over tea and cake at Harbour Church in Portsmouth. Bishop Jonathan and other senior diocesan leaders outlined the idea before inviting those present to participate.

It’s a key part of the **REVIVE** strand of our diocesan strategy, which aims to offer our clergy and lay leaders the support, inspiration and resources they need to maintain a close relationship with God and to thrive in their roles. All the clergy and lay leaders invited to the event, at St George’s Church in Portsea, had signed up to be part of the nine ‘Pilot Cairns’, which are trialling this method of working collaboratively.

Bishop Jonathan outlined what a Cairn is. He said it would be a mistake to regard the Christian faith as an individual project, as our faith is actually shaped by the discipline of working in community with other Christians.

He suggested that Cairns of five to 10 church leaders across the diocese could create a regular space for people to listen to the Holy Spirit and minister to each other. This could be achieved by praying, eating and studying together.

And nine ‘Pilot Cairns’ – three in each Archdeaconry – will work to a specific programme, testing



**The Rev Andrew Hargreaves, our interim director of Ministry and Discipleship speaks to members of an Isle of Wight cairn at the launch event**

out study material such as ‘Divine Renovation’ and giving feedback on the difference it makes to their spiritual and working lives.

They’ll come up with mission action plans at the end of that first 12-month period. Each of these mission plans can then be funded by £50,000 of strategic funding.

The nine Pilot Cairns involve:

- Clergy and lay leaders from Cowes, Northwood and Gurnard;
- Clergy and lay leaders from Ventnor, Wroxall and Shanklin;
- Clergy and lay leaders from Newport, East Cowes, Whippingham and Wootton;
- Clergy and lay leaders from the Meon Valley parishes;
- Clergy and lay leaders from the Western Wards, Fareham;
- The Petersfield deanery chapter;
- Deacons from the Havant deanery;

- Clergy and lay leaders from Central Portsmouth
- Clergy and lay leaders from Havant.

Meanwhile, Bishop Jonathan has now appointed the Rev Neil Smart as Lead for Revive, to head up this work. Neil, who was associate vicar at St Jude’s, Southsea, will also lead on the wellbeing, training and spiritual formation of clergy and lay leaders. He’ll begin work at the start of March.

And the Rev Andrew Axon has been appointed as our Lead for Revitalise. He is currently the vicar of two villages in Kent and area dean. He’ll work with churches as they devise pathways for unchurched people to become disciples. He will start work at the beginning of May.

Find out more on [www.portsmouth.anglican.org/strategy](http://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/strategy)