

SEASON FOR CHRISTIAN LIFE PRESENTATION, GENERAL SYNOD 2023

I'm Jenny Holden, currently the Advisor for Christian Life for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. Prior to this I served as a priest at a growing congregation in city centre Aberdeen.

So what might we do, each of us as individuals and members of congregations, as part of the Season?

It's a Season that has as its purpose the enlivening of Christian faith and life, with many entry points. Each of us is different and connect to God and express that in different ways as we each seek to follow Jesus and to learn from him, patterning our lives on his teaching and life.

For some people it might be acts of service, for others commitment to treasuring the environment, or it might be telling others about Jesus or exploring different spiritual practices. There are things you do already - for example serving as a member of Synod, prayer practices, serving in a church service, campaigning on a local issue or global issues,

The Season will not defined by one Christian tradition, rather it has the potential to be of value and encouragement in every place. The purpose is to encourage diversity, which matches the diversity of people and enthusiasms, but seen as part of whole church expression of the breadth of Christian Life. The Season isn't here to tell you what to do, far from it - you know your context and the people in your community, but its aim is to offer resources, to help you to look forward with hope, reflect on the past but focussed on the future as we all continue to seek to know God more clearly, love God more dearly, follow God more nearly, day by day.

What might this look like in a Provincial context? In the initial *Inspires Online* article [about the Season for Christian Life] and the document

in the Synod papers there was a mention of a Provincial gathering - not like that which I hear many stories of, but a smaller-scale gathering, bringing people together, sharing stories, equipping and enabling those working in dioceses on facilitating the Season for Christian Life. We're consciously engaging with existing work of boards and committees of the church, including the Provincial Environment Group where discipleship is one of the key three themes of the vision.

However, we want to ensure that as a Provincial working group we're responding to the needs of individuals and congregations and that leads us to the table discussions.

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Season for Christian Life