

On 25 January, MLDT and the Welcome, Integration and Numerical Growth Development Team ran a day with Bishop Graham Cray, the Archbishops' Missioner and leader of the Fresh Expressions Team in the Church of England. Over 60 lay and clerical leaders in the diocese and some representatives of neighbouring dioceses (St Andrews and Argyll) came together in St Margaret's Newlands for an inspiring presentation by Bishop Graham, who explained the scriptural background to the imperative on each of us to become disciples before all else. He went on to give us some fascinating and diverse examples of fresh expressions of church and inspired many of us to have more energy and courage.

There was much food for thought in the day, a real buzz among the 'congregation' and some wonderful local examples of outreach among our own churches. More details of the day in the latest edition of the Diocesan News Service.

Since 25 January, we have circulated recordings of Bishop Graham's presentations, and copies of the slides; this resourcing seems to have been very welcome to those who were in attendance. Now we are considering offering a Mission Shaped Church course (later this year) and are hoping that some charges will take us up on the suggestion that members of MLDT could visit to discuss, listen, encourage innovation and share experience.

Further ahead, we are planning a follow-up conference for a wider group in the diocese – an event which we might hold at Pentecost in 2015 – and considering how we might help to promote resilience.