



Your monthly round-up of news and information from around the Diocese

## newsletter

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New support for older people in Bromley

Support for older people and those with dementia needs has arrived at Bromley Parish Church, as Rev Sophie Sutherland is welcomed in her new role as an Anna Chaplain.

Anna Chaplains have a special focus on those with Dementia. Wider in scope, Sophie's position is also the first paid post of this kind in the Diocese: "This is [a] vital ministry and I am very excited to be embarking on this new role."

#### Doing the Labyrinth walk

The ancient spiritual practice of Labyrinth walking has been given an interactive feel at St. George's church in the Weald this December.

Having hired a labyrinth from the Diocese, mother and son team, Stephanie and Jonathan Tibber, were inspired to develop their own on the theme of 'God of Promises'.

"Modern life is so busy that finding a place and a means of spending quality time with the Lord can be difficult for all of us," says Stephanie, "The labyrinth creates that opportunity."

*Interested in bringing a Labyrinth to your church? Contact Rochester Arts in Mission at: [mandy@carrfamilyonline.co.uk](mailto:mandy@carrfamilyonline.co.uk)*



### NEW FIVE YEAR VISION LAUNCHED!

**The Diocese of Rochester, has launched its new five-year vision. Entitled Called Together, hundreds gathered for an afternoon of worship and celebration in Rochester Cathedral on in November.**

The result of a year-long process of conversation, listening and prayer, the plan will guide and shape the activity of each and every person that makes up the Church across the region for the next five years.

Speaking about the new vision, the Rt Rev James Langstaff, the Bishop of Rochester said: "This is a significant moment for us as a Christian community. It has implications not just for how we move forward and connect as a Church family, but how we engage and support people across our communities."

He continued: "We have prayed, talked and shared our thoughts about what we need to be doing more of and where we are being guided to serve as a Church."

*For resources and videos visit the Diocesan website: <http://www.rochester.anglican.org/strategy/called-together/>*



## HOPE IN 2018

Throughout 2018, the Diocese will be helping inspire, encourage, upskill and resource churches to be more confident in sharing the hope they have in Jesus with their communities, through words and actions.

All part of the national Hope 2018 initiative, with a variety of workshops, courses and events planned, on social issues such as loan sharks, modern day slavery and befriending, there are lots of ways to get involved.

Caroline Clarke, Mission and Community Engagement Advisor says the prospects for the year ahead are exciting:

"We want to welcome and support you as we love our neighbours and help transform lives together in 2018. As the year progresses, we'll be share how things are going and adding your stories, write-ups and photos, so do please keep in touch."

More details about Hope 2018 can be found at:  
[www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/hope-2018/hope-2018.php](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/hope-2018/hope-2018.php)

## TRAINING

### Stewardship Training

Want to be more confident in talking about stewardship? Then new training for parish representatives could be for you. Its aim is to help parishes review and refresh their approach to stewardship and to see it as more than just asking for people to give financially.

Dates are: **24 January** and **6 February, 2018** in the Diocese Office. To book, search for finance courses on the Diocese of Rochester website at [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

## VISION AND AIMS

### Growing disciples

As one of our three key **priorities**, we want to build confident disciples, who have deeper relationships with God and are more confident for evangelism and mission.

- **PSST! HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT JUSTONE?**

A mission event led by popular evangelist, J.John, is set to take place in the Priestfield Stadium - home of Gillingham FC - on 9 June next year.

Christians across the region are encouraged to take part by inviting 'just one' person along to come and hear the Gospel.

Discover more at:  
[justonepriestfield.com](http://justonepriestfield.com)

- **A CLOSER WALK WITH GOD**

Recently baptised and confirmed, Allie Wallace is one of the first cohort of people to try 'Closer', a new one-year experiential course in Christian Spirituality, run by the Diocese for lay people.

Allie says: "Closer has been an invaluable way of deepening and expanding my spiritual toolkit with like-minded people.

For 2018 sessions contact the Diocese's Spirituality Advisor at:  
[susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk)

## Get in touch



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