



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

## newsletter

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### New Youth Fund now open!

Originally announced at the Called Together launch in November, the Diocese is delighted to announce that the new Children and Young People (CYP) Fund is now open for applications!

Grants of £1,000 to £5,000 are available to projects that meet specific criteria. Full details of how to apply can be found on the Diocesan website: [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

#### A PLACE OF 'GENEROUS' WELCOME IN CHATHAM

The Vicar and Mission Leader for Chatham, Rev Carol Morgan, has spoken about the exciting vision for the currently disused St. John's Church in the town centre, as a place of 'generous' welcome.

Speaking as part of a new series of Diocesan podcasts she said: "I just want to be able to meet people at their point of need...and for me it's about people and relationships first, and the building second.

"We are feeling our way forward very much...I think it's about each and every one of us getting out of our comfort zone and being willing to walk with other people and to serve them and serve their needs."

Listen at: [www.rochester.anglican.org/media](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/media)



Joseph Wastell with Rev Helen Burns, Vicar of St. Justus

#### ONLINE DISABILITY FORUM GETS 'REAL'

The young founder of what is thought to be Medway's only online disability network says he is delighted at the success of the group's first off-line event, which recently took place at St Justus Church in Rochester.

Twenty-four-year old Joseph Wastell, who himself has a disability, set up the Disability Medway Network on Facebook only a year ago, to provide a central place for disabled people in the area find the support they need.

Nineteen groups and charities took part in the event, which was hosted by the church - of which Joseph is a member.

Joseph, who is committed to getting the voice of disabled people heard said: "I believe that the way to improving people's life chances is to build up their confidence. Many disabled people are missing out, simply because it can be so hard to find out what groups are out there to support them."

Search for 'Medway Disability Network' on Facebook



## BUILDING INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP IN BEXLEY

The Bexley Interfaith Forum was recently re-launched at a superb evening where the Forum was warmly welcomed by the Sikh community at the Belvedere Gurdwara.

Following the first meeting, Rev Trevor Wyatt, Vicar of Christ Church Bexleyheath and Chair of Bexley Interfaith Forum said:

"The evening was a very uplifting experience for everyone who attended. We went into the worship space where the Sikh faith tradition was explained to us, and there was then the opportunity for questions and answers. Throughout the evening we were able to talk together and build friendships.

He continued: "Someone may not have a Sikh gurdwara or mosque where they live, but maybe through their work or child's school they will meet someone of another faith; this is about us loving and meeting our neighbour."

A 'Steering Group' will meet separately to the Forum, to plan future events and activities.

For more information about interfaith work, contact Rev Richard Martin - Interfaith Lead on [ramartin@talktalk.net](mailto:ramartin@talktalk.net)

## TRAINING

### SPACE FOR GOD

A session to help you explore silence and how to use it for prayer. There will be some input and time to explore silence together. Led by the Diocese's Adviser for Spirituality, Rev Canon Susanne Carlsson

Date: **19 March 9.30am - 1pm, St George's Weald.**  
To book contact: [susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:susannecarlssons@hotmail.co.uk)

**STOP PRESS -- A new online course directory covering all the training available in the Diocese has now gone live! View at [www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/courses/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/courses/)**

## 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.

- **YOUTH COUNCIL SHARE THEIR VIEWS**

Youth Council members were instrumental in putting forward the views and values of young people from across the churches during the conversation process for the new vision.

"Our generation wants to influence the Church," said Amy from St. Augustine's Gillingham, "with the Church helping us to develop and grow - help us now!"

In my church we promote children being involved," said Taliesin from St Martin's Barnehurst: "So much so, that I serve, preach and read the bible. It has given me so much confidence and has helped my faith grow dramatically". Clearly, children and young people certainly want to be seen and heard!

- **NURTURING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE**

In a special film created for Called Together, Cheryl Trice, Children and Young Peoples' Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester talks about the powerful ways in which youth work across parishes is helping young people grow spirituality.

*Watch on the Called Together pages of the Diocesan website.*

## Get in touch



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