



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

newsletter

NEWS IN BRIEF

LENTEN JOURNEY TO STEWARDSHIP

All Saints, Belvedere began their Lenten journey of reflection and preparation by taking some time to consider their own personal response to Stewardship.

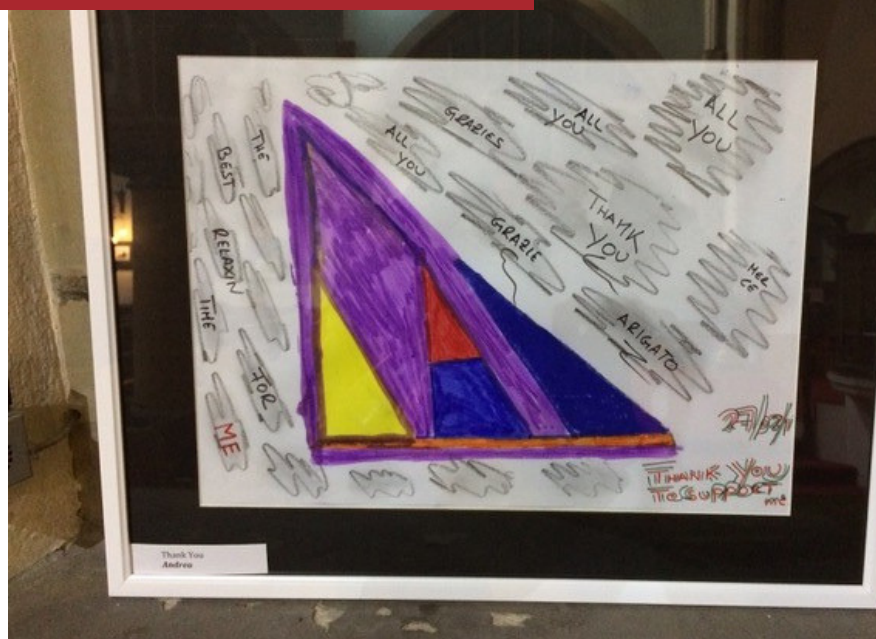
By doing so they have become the first church in the Diocese to conduct a Stewardship Campaign with support from the new Diocesan Stewardship Initiative; a scheme developed as a response to the new Called Together vision.

AN A-PEAL TO BELLRINGER

An appeal has gone out to church bell ringers around Britain to join in a major event later this year to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1.

The organisers of Battle's Over, a national and international event marking the armistice, would like to see more than 1,000 churches and cathedrals participate by ringing their bells simultaneously at 7.05pm on the night of November 11th 2018

Churches can register their involvement by completing the Ringing out for Peace entry at: www.brunopeek.co.uk/battles-over.php



UNEXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR WINTER SHELTER ARTS PROJECT

An artistic collaboration between the local library and the Winter Shelter in Tunbridge Wells has been bearing creative fruit for the shelter's visitors.

Although only open for two months of the year, the small team involved at the Tunbridge Wells Winter Shelter has been having a big impact through the chaplaincy service they offer to the guests and volunteers.

Last year the team supplied prayer resources which also included adult colouring books. Proving popular, they decided to try running some art afternoons for which the local library kindly offered some space.

As Rev Miriam Barker, Community Chaplain explained: "There are now library cards for people without an address which allow them to borrow books and also access to the internet for extended time. Linking libraries with Winter Shelters has now been adopted by libraries Kent-wide as a new and creative approach offering welcome to rough sleeper in their areas."



TACKLING LOAN SHARKS AS PART OF #HOPE2018

Chatham High Street became the unlikely scene of a shark attack when Caroline Clarke, Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Advisor for the Diocese, was joined by Sid the Loan Shark and other local civic, community representatives to raise awareness of the dangers of borrowing money from loan sharks and to give details of ethical banking via Credit Unions.

The leaflet drop was organised in partnership with the Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) – a specialist unit that investigates and prosecutes loan sharks.

Caroline explained how the campaign formed part of the Diocese's wider HOPE 2018 initiative: "Our awareness raising on this particular issue is part of our year-long drive of activity across the Church locally called #Hope2018. This campaign is about 'setting captives free' from social issues such as addiction, modern slavery and debt."

To report a loan shark:
Call the 24/7 confidential hotline 0300 555 2222
Visit the website: www.stoploansharks.co.uk

TRAINING

GDPR workshops & resources

With new data regulations - GDPR - coming into force in May, the Diocese has created a Parish Toolkit full of guidance and explanations as to what GDPR is and what parishes need to do.

Workshops are also available in March which will take place at Diocesan House in Rochester

Visit the GDPR page of the Diocesan website for details and to book: www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/gdpr/

VISION AND AIMS

Resilient growing churches

Part of the Resource strand of Called Together, this priority is all about enabling parishes to run efficiently and sustainably, so that they can focus more on ministry and mission.

• SAFEGUARDING TRAINING ONLINE

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our churches is of the upmost importance.

The C0 and C1 online modules, which are recommended for anyone who needs a basic level of awareness of safeguarding, are now available to complete online via the Diocesan website.

If you need any advice on Safeguarding training or have a Safeguarding concern, please contact our Safeguarding team on 01634 560 000 or visit the website at: www.rochester.anglican.org/resource/s/safeguarding/

• PARISH RESOURCES WEBSITE

A fantastic website from the National Stewardship & Resources team full of resources to support all aspects of stewardship, administration and management in the local church, as well as links to other sites and pages of interest.

Visit: www.parishresources.org.uk

Get in touch

Diocesan Office
St. Nicholas Church
Boley Hill
Rochester,
ME1 1SL
01634 560000

