



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

newsletter

NEWS IN BRIEF

HAVE YOUR SAY!

After a number of years and numerous editions, this May will mark the final edition of the Rochester Link newspaper.

An online survey has been created so people can share their views on what might replace it. This can be found on the homepage of the Diocese of Rochester website.

If you know someone who would prefer to contribute their thoughts by post, please see a cut-out survey on page 11 of the April edition of Link.

'OPEN EYES' TO SLAVERY

Bishop James Langstaff was one of 15 Church of England bishops who issued a call to the public to "open their eyes" to slavery in their midst.

In a letter to The Times over the Easter weekend, the bishops remarked that slavery is on the rise in the UK in a way "not seen since the days of William Wilberforce".

It comes ahead of a Modern Slavery Conference the Diocese is holding on 16 June to equip parishes to know the signs of this modern social issue.

Find out more by visiting Hope2018 pages of the Diocesan website



NEW BISHOP OF TONBRIDGE ANNOUNCED

The Venerable Simon Burton-Jones is to be the next Suffragan Bishop of Tonbridge. He currently serves as Archdeacon of Rochester and Canon Residentiary at Rochester Cathedral.

As Bishop of Tonbridge, Simon will focus on evangelism and growth. This aspiration and intention to grow is rooted in "Called Together", the Diocese of Rochester's vision. He will also have oversight and leadership of the education, youth and children, and community engagement work of churches across the Diocese of Rochester.

Speaking of his new role, Simon said: "We are living in an era of extraordinary, almost unprecedented, change. What we need to develop as a Church is this sense that God is before us, and we can have trust and confidence in Him to face these challenges together."

Understanding how we do discipleship, following Jesus, I think is one of the most exciting challenges that we face, that's one I'm really looking forward to sharing with people."

Simon will be consecrated in London on July 3, 2018



THY KINGDOM COME IS ON IT'S WAY

From 10 - 20 May – Ascension Day to Pentecost – Christians all over the world will be praying for more people to come to faith, under the banner of Thy Kingdom Come. Many have already taken up the Pledge2Pray challenge to pray particularly for five people they know.

Special events and prayer initiatives will be happening across the Diocese and these will be publicised, via social media and other means, so that we can all pray for them as they happen.

Each deanery is appointing a TKC Champion as its main point of contact, with overall co-ordination through Rochester Cathedral: TKC@rochestercathedral.org

Between 10 and 20 May, Rochester Cathedral will become a giant visual prayer for our Diocese, with prayers and displays from each deanery, encouraging everyone to pray for the growth of God's kingdom throughout the Diocese.

Find out about Thy Kingdom Come events in your area and get involved at: www.thykingdomcome.global/

TRAINING & EVENTS

It's Your Calling - Saturday 12 May, Christ Church, Orpington, 9.15am to 3.45pm

A chance to exploring where God may be calling you. Not just ordained ministry but considering the gifts that God has given us. Meet others on a similar quest

Online Safeguarding Training

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. For Safeguarding advice or training please contact our Safeguarding team on 01634 560 000

VISION AND AIMS

CHAPLAINCY

Part of the Enriching Communities strand of Called Together, this priority is all about encouraging more people to consider chaplaincy and seek to create collaboratively energised ministries

• SUPPORTING CHAPLAINCY

Everyday within schools, hospitals and care homes, retail parks and prisons, chaplains are carrying out an often unseen part of the church's mission and ministry.

Supporting chaplaincy is a key part of the Called Together vision. A working group to lead this work has already been convened, as well as a shared role of 'Dean' of Chaplains, which will engage with Area Deans on this area of ministry.

• PRAY FOR CHAPLAINS

Heavenly Father we pray for all chaplains in their daily witness of Christ's love in their workplace. May they through their presence and conversations show your wisdom and understanding. Help them to listen and guide all whom they meet to grow and bear fruit in their labour. In times of difficulty and tension show them the way of peace, life and truth. We give thanks for their work, their time and gifts they bring. In the name of Christ the Good Shepherd. Amen

Get in touch

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