



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

newsletter

NEWS IN BRIEF

THOUSANDS VIEW FACEBOOK LIVE PRAYER EVENT

In a first for the Diocese, an Imaginative Prayer session, live-streamed on Facebook, allowed people from within the Diocese and beyond, to hear Archbishop Justin in conversation with Bishop Simon Burton-Jones and to share in a time of prayer with him.

Reflecting on the story of 'On the Road to Emmaus' - the prayer was led by Susanne Carlsson and Madeline Dahl from the Companions of Christ, who are based at the Diocese's Attic Retreat Centre in Chatham.

Reaching over 18,000 people so far, it can be viewed on the Diocese of Rochester's Facebook page: @CofERochester

GURDWARA VISIT BOOSTS INTER-FAITH LINKS

Making his first visit to a Sikh gurdwara, the Archbishop of Canterbury gave interfaith relations in the Diocese a boost, when he visited the Medway Towns Gurdwara Sabha.

After receiving a scarf from the community as a sign of respect and honour, he spoke about the powerful change that can be brought to communities when faiths work together.

His visit comes ahead of Interfaith Week which runs from the 11 to 18 November.



UPLIFTING VISIT BY ARCHBISHOP

The Archbishop of Canterbury enjoyed a wonderful two-day visit to the Diocese at the end of October. His visit saw him share time with parishes, people and communities across the three archdeaconries.

Uplifting and encouraging those he met, he too was inspired and moved by the many stories he heard and the work he witnessed.

Highlights included a prayer walk through Chatham High Street, a visit to the Medway Towns Sikh Gurdwara and a question and answer session with students from the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust in North Kent.

At a closing service in Rochester Cathedral, members of the Diocese's Youth Council also took the opportunity to grab a selfie!

Each place visited shone a light on just some of the amazing work taking place in parishes, alongside the relevant agencies, which help churches support those in their areas affected by issues such as addiction, domestic abuse and dementia.

Pictures can be found at:
www.rochester.anglican.org/photos/



MODERN SLAVERY AWARENESS VOLUNTEERS COMMISSIONED

At a moving service in Rochester Cathedral, 18 new volunteers were commissioned by Archbishop Justin, who will work across the Diocese to raise awareness of Modern Slavery.

In 2013, the Home Office estimated that 13,000 people were in slavery in Britain, in 2017, that figure rose to over 100,000.

These startling statistic underline the importance and urgency of the Diocese's partnership with The Clewer Initiative - an organisation set up to enable Church of England churches to spot the signs of modern slavery in their communities and support those affected.

A set of new resources for use in schools has recently been launched and which are being promoted in schools across the Diocese.

Caroline Clarke, Community Engagement Adviser for the Diocese said: "Modern Slavery is an evil crime. We are committed to raising awareness, offering victim support, providing education and campaigning to wipe out this crime against humanity."

Called together **VISION AND AIMS** grow enrich resource

GROW: Prayer - To make prayer the fundamental basis for life in the Diocese.

Prayer on the go with PrayerMate App

The Diocese of Rochester's Calendar of Intercession is now available via the free PrayerMate App. Bring the prayers for the people and causes you care about in one place on your phone or tablet. To find out more and to get started, visit: www.rochester.anglican.org//prayermate/prayermate.php

TRAINING & EVENTS

UNDERSTANDING THIS GENERATION

**Monday 26 November, 7.30pm,
Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells**

A training event from the charity Fegans, looking at transforming children's mental health; how can the Church be part of the solution? How to spot the signs and knowing what to say. Speakers include Bishop Simon Burton-Jones. Book at: fegans.org.uk/event/generation

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED

**Sunday 9 December, 6pm to 8pm,
KICC, Buckmore Park, Kent**

A Christmas carol concert for the whole family. Join preacher J. John, the Salvation Army Band and WE CAN Sing UK for a festive celebration to kick off Christmas together. Visit: www.christmasunwrappedkent.co.uk/

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

**Available nationally from 17
November to 23 December 2018.**

A festive, witty and thoroughly Christmassy event for your church. Springs Dance company is inviting churches to host a performance of Journey of the Magi. Further information can be found on the Springs Dance Company website: www.springsdancecompany.org.uk/productions/journey-of-the-magi/

Get in touch



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