

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

DELIGHT AS TRUST EXPANDS

The Chief Executive Officer of the Aquinas Church of England Education Trust has expressed delight at welcoming two community schools into the Trust.

Aquinas is a partnership between Bishop Justus Secondary School and Bromley Church of England primary schools within the Diocese of Rochester.

CEO Kathy Griffiths says:

"We are delighted to welcome two community schools, one primary and one secondary, from Rye into the Aquinas Trust. This means that our Trust now operates across two geographical areas."

'SCANDAL' OF WORKING HOMELESS

A vicar in Tunbridge Wells has spoken of the rising numbers of those in work, but who are homeless, visiting their winter night shelter.

Bishop James went on to raise the issue in the House of Lords, when he spoke in the chamber just before Christmas, calling the matter a 'scandal'

"...some of the people who have died had jobs and were homeless yet in work. That seems to compound the scandal."



NEW FIGURES SHOW EXTENT OF LOCAL CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL ACTION

Just over 900 social action projects across Medway, north west Kent and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley, have had some form of involvement from their local Church of England church, according to new figures from the National Church.

Activities include food banks, toddler groups, to community cafes and night shelters.

In a breakdown of figures from the 2017 Statistics for Mission report, of the 233 churches in the Diocese of Rochester who responded, 93% are involved in one or more form of social action; this is compared to 80% nationally.

Caroline Clarke, Community Engagement Advisor for the Diocese of Rochester, says:

"It's so exciting to see Rochester Diocese leading the way. I'm so humble and proud to be working with Church and community leaders who say 'Yes'".



'LISTENING IS OUT OF FASHION' IN OUR NETWORKED WORLD, SAYS BISHOP

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones has shared his hopes and concerns for 2019 in a New Year message.

Writing for the Times of Tunbridge Wells, he said that it would be good in 2019 to see an improvement in the way we debate with one another publicly about what matters.

"Listening is out of fashion and the tendency to demonise people we disagree with and let the world know online is making for a harsher climate. Societies flourish where there is forgiveness and strangers are shown kindness."

He went on to say: "Slowly, without noticing in our networked world, we are surrounding ourselves with people who think the same way we do... We no longer know what to do with opinions we disagree with."

"Good communities are built on tolerance; the best are founded on love."

Read in full at www.rochester-anglican.org

TRAINING & EVENTS

WINTER ART EXHIBITION

Rochester Cathedral Crypt from 7 January - 4 February. Free to visit

Rochester & West Kent Art Society's Winter Exhibition. Times and details at www.rochestercathedral.org/

HOPE SERVICE FOR THOSE WITH DEMENTIA

**Sunday 6 January, 2.30pm
Burrswood Health and WellBeing Centre, Tunbridge Wells**

Rochester Diocese's Anna Chaplains welcome people with dementia or other long-term conditions to a time of creative Worship and Spiritual. First Sunday of every month.

Visit: www.burrswood.org.uk/new-s-and-events/activities

TWON YOUNG PEOPLE'S MIDNIGHT ICE SKATE

**February 1, 11pm-1am,
Gillingham Business Park**

Young people from across the Diocese are invited to join this annual get together of fun and fellowship. Get your skates ready! Cost is £5. Contact Sarah Cabella on 01634 560024



VISION ONE YEAR ON

Having completed a busy and productive first year on Called Together, plans are in place to do more communication on sharing stories and demonstrating progress around the vision.

In 2019, planned action includes events for resourcing rural churches, to share resources for discipleship, for prayer, church growth and more. Read a full update on each aim at: www.rochester.anglican.org/strategy/called-together/

Get in touch



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