

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

**GROW ENRICH RESOURCE**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### TEA AND PRAYERS FOR BREXIT



Parishes across the Diocese took the opportunity in March to encourage their communities to come together in conversation and prayer as Brexit discussions continue.

Bishop James endorsed materials from the Church of England, which included prayers and conversation starters.

St Philip and St James church, Chatham held an evening of tea, prayer for the nation and worship.

The Rev Martyn Saunders said: "It was lovely to see people coming together especially to bring the state of our nation to God and to ask for unity at this time."

The vicar of St Peter & St Paul's Church, Aylesford, the Rev Ruth Peet, whose church also ran an event said: "...we thought this is exactly what we, the Church, should be doing - creating a space for all people to be met with company, gentle conversation and prayer."



### GIANT PICNIC SET TO HELP DIOCESE MARK 'THY KINGDOM COME'

A family-friendly event at Rochester Cathedral and free resources for parishes will form part of the Dioceses support of 'Thy Kingdom Come, the global wave of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost (May 30th - June 9th 2019)

Last year over 300 diverse prayer events and meetings took place across the Diocese.

This year, a Novena booklet, prayer journal and a family prayer adventure map will be made available via Thy Kingdom Come deanery champions to all parishes.

People are also encouraged to bring a friend and a picnic to join a mega-picnic in Rochester Cathedral's 900-year old nave as part of a free event on 8 June from midday.

Rev Rachel Phillips, Canon for Mission & Growth at Rochester Cathedral and one of the coordinators of the celebrations said: "There will be displays from all 17 deaneries of the Diocese and many of our Church schools, as well as singing workshops, praying with icons, bell ringing and much more."

**Find more details at:**  
[www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/thy-kingdom-come/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/thy-kingdom-come/)



## YOUTH WORK CELEBRATED

Nearly 200 people took part in a celebratory service for employed youth workers and volunteers in the Diocese at Rochester Cathedral.

Thirty people were Licensed or Commissioned, formally encouraging and affirming them in their ministry.

Family and friends attended and members of the Diocesan Youth Council led the prayers.

In his address, Bishop Simon, spoke about how valuable it is to work with children and young people, nurturing their talents and abilities, and remembering never to give up on someone:

"We do not always see the people [the young people we minister to] become...you will shape the lives of many, sometimes in ways you won't see, until the last day, when you will be filled with praise and wonder at what God has done through you."

Lynne Parkinson, Youth Worker at Christ Church, Dartford said:

"It was a joy to celebrate the brilliant and varied youth and children's work undertaken each week across the whole Diocese and it was an honour to be prayed for by our marvellous Diocesan Youth Council."



## RESOURCE - RESILIENT GROWING CHURCHES

Two significant Diocesan funds are now open and welcoming applications. The **Missional Property Fund** aims to support projects which allow parishes to open up church buildings for mission. The **Children and Young People's Fund** is for those who have a vision or an idea for children's or youth work that needs some resource.

**Visit:** [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org) and search via each fund's name

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### THE EIGHT WORDS

**Sunday 7 April, 7.30pm,  
Rochester Cathedral**

Acclaimed Jazz musician and priest the Rev Dr Tim Boniface performs his jazz suite *The Eight Words* joined by Phil Merriman, Ed Barbar and Jon Ormston. Tickets £15 Concession £10 Visit: [www.rochestercathedral.org/events](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/events)

### IT'S YOUR CALLING DAYS

**11 May, Christ Church,  
Orpington**

A session from the Diocesan Vocations team, aimed at helping those exploring where God may be leading them. If you, or someone you know would like to attend, speak to your local clergy first before booking. Everyone has a vocation. Find yours. Visit: [www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/its-your-calling/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/its-your-calling/)

### ST FRANCIS AND THE SULTAN

**Saturday 20 July 2019, Rochester Cathedral 12pm to 3pm**

Join a day of learning and conversation inspired by an early example of interfaith engagement With drama by the Khayaal Theatre Co, workshops, conversation and discussion Tickets £10. Details and booking: [www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/interfaith/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/interfaith/)

## Get in touch



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