

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

THY KINGDOM COME MARKED ACROSS THE DIOCESE



Churches across the Diocese have taken part in Thy Kingdom Come - the nine days of prayer between Ascension and Pentecost (30 May to 9 June)

Just over 400 events were registered and available to view on a Diocesan Prayer Events calendar.

A number of churches have been open for prayer, have undertaken prayer walks, Messy Church activities, sessions using the Novena, ecumenical events, 24/7 prayer rooms and much more.

Events culminate in a giant indoor picnic at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 8 June.

The free 'Come and See' event (midday onwards) will include lots of fun, family-friendly activities, as well as prayer displays from deaneries and schools within the Diocese.

Bishop Simon will lead the closing worship at 3pm.



NEW LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Seventeen new Licensed Lay Ministers have been welcomed to the Diocese at a special service.

A 'Licensed Lay Minister' is a distinctive role within the Diocese of Rochester and is for those called to work for God and the Church, but not called to be ordained.

Between them, the new Lay Ministers represent a range of parishes, from urban town centres to more rural locations,

A number of the candidates have expressed a sense of surprise that God has led them to this point, like Jennie White, from Greenhithe:

"The journey I have taken to get to this point has involved a huge transformation within me, like a caterpillar turning into a butterfly. From one who hid within the background to one who is visible to many."

Karen Senior, Warden of Lay Ministry for the Diocese said: "God loves variety. One thing our LLMs do have in common is knowing that God has called and they have responded."

Explore how God may be calling you at:
www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/its-your-calling/

HALF-TERM HUNGER PUT AT BAY THANKS TO CHURCH PROJECT



During half-term, Christ Church in Luton launched a Make Lunch kitchen.

A partnership with TLC (Transforming Lives for Good) - Make Lunch is about providing hot meals in school holidays.

Church Urban Fund data shows that the parish has one of the highest levels of child poverty in the Diocese.

Lay Minister, Brad Cook said: "We fed 29 people and had an amazing 15 volunteers helping to cook, welcome and entertain.

"We're particularly grateful to Rochester Diocese for giving us funding for Make Lunch through the Children and Young People's Fund."

The Diocese's Children and Young People's fund aims to support ideas that will give children and young people lifelong encounters with Jesus; it's been made possible through the significant financial support of Colyer-Ferguson Charitable Trust.

Brad says: "We plan to open again in the Summer Holidays and welcome in even more families."

Visit: www.rochester.anglican.org and search CYP Fund



ENRICHING OUR COMMUNITIES

Working with Schools

Please pray for our 90 Church of England schools this month. Many secondary school students will be preparing for and taking exams, while our primary school communities will be coming together for the annual Diocesan School Celebration days.

Find out more about our work in schools at:

<http://www.rdbe.org.uk/>

TRAINING & EVENTS

DIOCESANE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MIDNIGHT ICE SKATE -

Friday 21 June, Gillingham

Open to young people from across the Diocese aged 11 -18. Cost £5 per person payable on the night.

The Cafe will be open all night so bring some money! For more information contact the Diocese's Children and Young People's team: sarah.cabella@rochester.anglican.org

FOSTERING & ADOPTION CELEBRATION

29 June, Rochester Cathedral

Come and celebrate the amazing work of foster carers and adopters in Kent, as well as the partnership between Christian fostering and adoption charity, Home for Good, Diagrama Fostering and Adoption and the Diocese of Rochester, as we work to raise awareness of fostering and adoption in churches. All are welcome.

www.homeforgood.org.uk/events/fostering-and-adoption-celebration-at-rochester-cathedral

RETREAT DAY FOR CARERS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Monday 1 July, St Benedict's Centre, West Malling

Hosted by the St. Benedict's Centre and the Diocese's Anna Chaplaincy. Local poet Elizabeth Miller will join this time for people to rest, reflect and receive prayerful support.

Visit:

<https://stbenedictscentre.org/>

Get in touch



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