

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

**GROW ENRICH RESOURCE**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### AFTERNOON SERVICE GOES VIRAL



News of a new Sunday afternoon service over at St Gabriel's, Kings Hill caused a stir, as the media became taken by Rev Mark Montgomery's honesty.

Introducing the new service, which will complement their usual morning service, Mark said:

"We understand that Sunday mornings are not always a great time to come to church, there's sport...visiting...the night out the day before...and a whole host of other things."

Mark says that the interest was surprising but became a great opportunity:

"We were able to tell everyone that churches across the Diocese and beyond, are similarly responding to the needs of their communities by offering services, not just on Sunday mornings, but on Sunday afternoons and mid-week too."



Creative outreach and growth in the Diocese to receive a boost as bid to Strategic Development fund is a success!

### DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER TO BENEFIT FROM £1.39MILLION GRANT

Sports ministry to prevent knife crime, outreach to estates and creative worship to families are among just some of the projects to receive a share of a £1.39 million grant to the Diocese of Rochester from the National Church.

The projects are part of a bid made to the Church of England's Strategic Development Fund, part of the Church's Renewal and Reform programme.

Bishop Simon Burton Jones, who will lead the delivery of this successful bid said:

"We are delighted to receive this funding which goes to the heart of the work we are already undertaking to grow disciples, enrich communities and resource our mission and ministry across the area of the Diocese.

Church projects in Anerley, Slade Green and Erith, Gillingham and Strood are to receive particular support, while a Learning Community will be established so that best practice from these projects can be shared across the parishes of the Diocese.

**Get the full story at: [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)**

## Ministry to those with Dementia continues to grow as new chaplains licensed.



The Diocese's pioneering work supporting those with dementia and in the later years of life, Anna Chaplaincy, has welcomed another 10 Chaplains and Friends into its ranks.

The ministry takes its name from the faithful older Bible character in the second chapter of Luke's gospel, Anna.

Anna is recorded as being 84, and to have been widowed for many decades. She speaks of redemption to all who will listen.

Four Anna Chaplains and six Anna Friends were commissioned at a summer ceremony in the garden of Bishopscourt, the Bishop's official residence.

During the service, Bishop James Langstaff said: "The role of Anna Friends and Chaplains requires sensitivity, discretion and patient love. Do you promise to carry out your duties with due understanding for people, and with courage to advocate on behalf of those left in the silent places of this world?"

To which they all replied: 'With the help of God, I will.'

Dementia Specialist Project Officer and Anna Chaplaincy Lead for Rochester, Julia Burton-Jones, spoke about the growth of the ministry which now has 21 Anna Chaplains and 34 Anna Friends working across the Diocese.

**Visit:** [www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/anna-chaplaincy/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/anna-chaplaincy/)



## RESOURCE: PLANNING FOR GROWTH

Called To Grow is a new five step process to help parishes to review, plan and deliver mission. A toolkit to support parishes with the steps is now available. Growth Enablers are soon to be appointed to each archdeaconry to support parishes during the review period, and as they implement their actions.

To find out more and to view the toolkit visit:

[www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/called-to-grow/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/called-to-grow/)

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### KNIFE ANGEL

**2 to 29 September, Rochester Cathedral Gardens.**

The Knife Angel, the nationally recognised national monument against violence and aggression is coming to the Cathedral; the focal point for 28 days of education, reflection, remembrance and prayer in Medway on the dangers of carrying a knife. Join a prayer vigil too. Visit:

[www.rochestercathedral.org/](http://www.rochestercathedral.org/)

### THE POINT - KNIFE CRIME CONFERENCE

**13 September, Historic Dockyard Chatham**

Knife crime is fast becoming a national priority in Britain. The Point Conference will bring together specialists, academics, and practitioners to explore this problem, working towards an achievable solution that saves lives. Chaired by Bishop of Tonbridge, The Rt Revd Simon Burton-Jones. Tickets £37.90.

To book visit:

[www.thepointconference.org](http://www.thepointconference.org)

### TASTE AND SEE

**26 September 2019, 10am to 7pm  
St Benedict's Centre, West Malling**

A day offering taster sessions and access to a wide range of discipleship resources to suit different church traditions, settings, and groups.

Ideal for church and house group leaders working within the Diocese of Rochester.

Book your free place at:

<https://tasteandseerochester.eventbrite.co.uk>

## Get in touch



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