

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

**GROW ENRICH RESOURCE**



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### PAST CASES REVIEW

Churches across the Diocese of Rochester are taking part in a comprehensive safeguarding review.

This to help establish that all known past cases of concern relating to church abuse have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

If you are concerned about something you have experienced in a church, now or in the past, there are people you can talk to and you will be taken seriously.

Or it may be you are worried about another person - perhaps a vulnerable adult or a child.

We want to hear from you.

Please feel encouraged to come forward with any information you may have regarding church related abuse, by contacting the Diocese of Rochester's Safeguarding team on: 01634 560000.

We understand that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse.

So, a dedicated telephone helpline, operated independently by the NSPCC, is available on: 0800 80 20 20

**You can also find out more at:**  
**[www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/past-cases-review/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/past-cases-review/)**



### 'THE WAY WE DISCUSS ISSUES OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE HAS BECOME BITTER AND DIVISIVE.' SAY BISHOPS IN ELECTION MESSAGE

With election campaigning underway, Bishop James and Bishop Simon have shared a message with the Diocese.

Encouraging churches and individuals to engage with the process they say:

"Pray for generosity in debate, wisdom in policy forming, and to show hospitality in offering our buildings as places for hustings so the democratic process can be enabled."

The Bishops state that the General Election comes at a time of division and a break-down in civility over the way issues are discussed:

"The local church is well placed to help in the necessary process of healing and reconciliation that we face; to encourage true community where the voiceless and the most vulnerable have their role."

The message also shared prayers and other resources churches could use as they consider their role in the process.

Read the message in full at: [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org)

## NEW RESOURCE TO DEEPEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

# Life Together

Deepening our relationship with God across the Diocese of Rochester

A new tool to support those within the Diocese wishing to deepen their relationship with God has now arrived.

Called 'Life Together', it encourages small groups to come together to develop a rhythm of listening, commitment and regular prayer.

"This is not about setting ridged structures or rules," says the Rev Jane Winter, Assistant Director - Formation and Ministry, "but following guiding principles based on the Benedictine spiritual tradition, to help sustain a relationship with God and one-another."

Groups might include students or commuters who connect online. Or maybe a school or office group.

One group who piloted the resource said:

"We set up a group using our phones, We always make sure we talk to each other at church on Sunday and we meeting in a local cafe."

Reflecting on the resource, Bishop Simon said:

"I am very excited by the possibilities raised by Life Together. The creation of small groups of followers of Jesus who are willing to be accountable to others...is a striking counter to the idea that we must make our own way in life."

Learn more at:  
[www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/lifetogether/](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/lifetogether/)



### RESOURCE - PLANNING FOR GROWTH

**Called To Grow** is a new five step process to help parishes to review, plan and deliver mission. Our three new Growth Enablers to support parishes in this process work - Abi Hiscock, Graham Wilkinson and the Rev Dylan Turner - have now begun their work. Please hold them in your prayers. Visit: [www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/called-to-grow](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/resources/called-to-grow)

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### RYAN HART - MY STORY

**23 November, St John's Church Hall  
in Hildenborough, 10am to 12pm  
(refreshments from 9.15am)**

In July 2016, Claire and Charlotte Hart were murdered in broad daylight by the family's father, using a sawn-off shotgun. He then committed suicide.

Ryan Hart, one of the two surviving sons, now openly shares his story to raise awareness of the coercive and controlling behaviour their family suffered.

An event hosted by the Diocese of Rochester and White Ribbon UK

Tickets are £10. To book visit:  
[www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/domestic-abuse](http://www.rochester.anglican.org/mission/domestic-abuse)

### ADVENT QUIET DAY

**12 December, 10am to 4pm  
Companions of  
Christ, Chatham, ME4 6DP**

A day to explore the Advent theme of searching for and looking forward to the coming of Christ our Lord and King.

There will be short times of input with extended times of quiet for personal reflection and study.

Bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided. Donations are welcome.

For more details and booking email:  
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## Get in touch



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