

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

PAST CASES REVIEW

Independent reviewers are currently carrying out a comprehensive safeguarding review of churches and key institutions within the Diocese of Rochester, called the Past Cases Review.

Its purpose is to help establish whether all known cases of church-related abuse have been considered and dealt with appropriately.

It's also an opportunity to learn about concerns that may not have previously been known about.

The Ven Julie Conalty, Archdeacon of Tonbridge and Bishop's Lead for Safeguarding says:

"We want to encourage anyone who may have information about church-related abuse to know that there are people you can talk to and you will be taken seriously.

"If you are concerned about something you have experienced in a church, now or in the past, we want to hear from you."

Anyone with information regarding church related abuse, is encouraged to contact the Diocese of Rochester's Safeguarding team on: 01634 560000.

A dedicated telephone helpline, operated independently by the NSPCC, is also available on: 0800 80 20 20. You can remain anonymous if you wish.



'BISHOP JAMES' CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHERE CAN WE LOOK FOR THE SIGNS OF GOD'S KINGDOM?

Bishop James has used his Christmas message this year to encourage us, amidst the uncertainty in our society, to look for where we see the signs of God's kingdom and to take those with us as we enter the season of Christmas.

Advent, he says, is a time when we are, 'watching and waiting, looking, expecting, anticipating', the arrival of God made flesh, of the 'breaking in of the reality of God's reign, of God's presence.'

Referencing the uncertainty and conflict present in our world, he highlights issues that the Diocese has itself focused on in recent months: knife crime, modern slavery, and domestic abuse.

In such an environment, where are we to see the signs of 'God's kingdom'?

For Bishop James, it is present in the many churches, schools, and chaplaincies he visits day to day. In the stories he hears of those being nurtured to faith and the people meeting the needs of others.

The Bishop's message can be read and watched in full at: www.rochester.anglican.org

NEW 'ECO-CANON' FOR CATHEDRAL



The environmentalist, theologian and author of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book in 2020, Dr Ruth Valerio, has been appointed to the honorary position of Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral.

The appointment will be for 3 years. Dr Valerio will be officially installed at the Cathedral during a service of Evensong on Sunday 23 February - followed by a lecture given by Dr Ruth which will be live streamed.

Dr Ruth is Global Advocacy and Influencing Director at the Christian relief and development charity Tearfund. Prior to this, she was Churches and Theology Director for A Rocha UK, and spearheaded the Eco Church initiative.

Speaking about her appointment she said:

"This is an immense honour. We are facing an unprecedented climate emergency and we all have a calling to be part of the solution and to care for God's earth.

"I look forward to helping to develop the Diocese's work in this area."

Bishop James said:

"We greatly look forward to the inspiration, guidance and expertise Ruth's connection to the Cathedral will bring to us, as we aim to take better care of God's creation across the area of the Diocese."



Life Together is a new initiative, developed out of conversations around Called Together, to help deepen our relationship with God. It does this by encouraging small groups to form in a flexible and accessible way to allow people to abide and obey with others in Christ.

Find out how it could work for you at:
www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/lifetogether

TRAINING & EVENTS

TIM BONIFACE - THE INFANT

Saturday 7 December, 7pm
St Stephen's Church, Tonbridge

A performance by jazz multi-instrumentalist, composer and theologian, the Rev Dr Tim Boniface, of his latest jazz work, 'The Infant: A Jazz Suite for Christmas'. Tickets cost £12.50 per person (includes wine during intermission.) To book visit: www.ststephens.org.uk/christmasjazz

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Saturday 14 December, 12:30pm
Rochester Cathedral

Join in with traditional carols as the nights grow darker and celebrate the light of Christingle in aid of the Children's Society.

BAME VOCATIONS CONFERENCE

22 February, 1pm to 5.30pm
St. George's, Beckenham

An event to bring together people of BAME heritage from the local church to talk about vocation in the Church of England.

Be inspired in your vocational journey, be equipped with knowledge about the various ministries in the Church and be informed about the current state of BAME vocations nationally.

For more details and booking visit:
www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/

Get in touch



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