

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

PARISHES TACKLE DOMESTIC ABUSE

Parishes across the Diocese raised awareness of the issue of domestic abuse, marking White Ribbon Day in November, and the United Nation's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence in December.

Through a series of events, parishes highlighted the many local organisations and agencies available to support victims, perpetrators and their families.

They also raised awareness of the diverse forms that domestic abuse can take, from physical and mental, to financial and coercive control.

Caroline Clarke, Community Engagement and Social Responsibility Adviser for the Diocese of Rochester, said:

"While women are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse than men, the White Ribbon UK campaign does recognise that violence can be perpetrated by women against men, in same-sex couples and in other settings too."

For emergency support please contact:
Rape Crisis: 0808 802 9999 / Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327 / Galop - LGBT+: 0800 999 5428 / Women's Aid: 0808 2000 247

For safeguarding support visit:
www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/



FINDING GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

With the start of a new year, are you looking for a new approach to finding and following God?

On the 12 January, The Church of England launches, 'Everyday Faith'.

A series of reflections and prayers shared over 21 days, online and in a booklet, to help us all find and follow God in everyday life. (www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith)

To tie in with this, three new films have been produced to highlight the Diocesan-wide 'Life Together' initiative, which was launched in November.

Like #EverydayFaith, it aims to help deepen relationships with God across the Diocese, by encouraging a rhythm of listening, commitment and regular prayer, inspired by Benedictine spirituality.

The films are available on the diocesan website at: www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/lifetogether/

Stories of #EverydayFaith are planned to be shared throughout the year too, as part of our commitment to Grow Disciples, as expressed in our shared Called Together vision.



The 'Trusting Twenties'?

BISHOP SIMON CONSIDERS DECADE AHEAD

'We need a decade that warms our rapidly cooling relationships.'

As we begin a new year, Bishop Simon Burton-Jones has been considering what might need to define the decade ahead.

In an online blog he writes:

'Decades are neatly packaged by advertisers and opinion formers. The swinging sixties. The stagnant seventies. The selfish eighties. The caring nineties. They contain a grain of truth, but hardly do justice to reality.'

He continues:

'The 2020s will deepen the trends begun in the earlier part of the century. Tech will get bigger and more pervasive. Surveillance by company and state will be normalised.'

With a concern about the increasing polarisation in society, he suggests that we need a more trustworthy decade:

'A new social covenant is needed. And those who trust in Christ will know reform always starts at home.'

Read his message in full at: www.simonburton-jones.com/

Past Cases Review

Anyone who needs to come forward with information or to make any disclosures regarding church related abuse, are encouraged to make direct contact with the Diocese of Rochester's Safeguarding team on **01634 560 000**

Recognising that this may not feel safe for those with a lived experience of abuse from within the Church, a dedicated telephone helpline operated independently from the church, by the NSPCC, has been set up.

Calls can be made free to: 0800 80 20 20

Anyone can use the helpline to provide information or to raise concerns regarding abuse within the Church of England context; whether they are reporting issues relating to children, adults or seeking to whistle blow about poor safeguarding practice. Your concerns will be taken seriously.

www.rochester.anglican.org/safeguarding/past-cases-review/

TRAINING & EVENTS

IT'S YOUR CALLING

8 February, 9.15am to 3.45pm
St Andrew's, Paddock Wood

Everyone has a calling find yours.

Join this day to explore how God may be calling you.

Meet others on a similar quest and to take time to think where God could be calling.

For details and booking visit:
www.rochester.anglican.org/ministry/vocations/its-your-calling/

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/

DR RUTH VALERIO LECTURE

Saturday 23 February
4.30pm, Rochester Cathedral

A lecture by environmentalist, theologian and social activist, Dr Ruth Valerio, and newly appointed Canon Theologian at Rochester Cathedral. Free. All welcome.

Get in touch



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