

Your monthly update from the Diocese of Rochester

GROW ENRICH RESOURCE



NEWS IN BRIEF

'CHILD FRIENDLY CHURCH AWARD FOR BROMLEY CHURCH



St John's, Bromley is the latest of a handful of churches in the Diocese to receive a Child Friendly Church Award.

The national scheme recognises churches which are going out of their way to attract children and families in their local communities.

Among the activities on offer at St John's for younger church members, are a Sunday School, Crèche, and a monthly Family Service.

Their children's corner was recently brought into a more focal position and re-decorated to make it more welcoming.

Rev Andrew McClellan hopes others will be inspired to apply: "The process was very straightforward, and we were given loads of support along the way."

For more details, contact Laura Webster Children and Young People Advisor on 01634 560000.



'USE LENT TO REFLECT ON OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT' - BISHOP JAMES

Bishop James has shared a message for the season of Lent.

In a video message to the Diocese, he encourages us to use this time to consider our shared responsibility to the environment.

Endorsing the national church, '#LiveLent - Care for God's Creation' materials - which focus on the Creation story in Genesis chapter one - Bishop James says:

"The Creation, which is so central to Christian thought, teaches us, not just about God's hand as it were in creation, but about our responsibility for the care and the nurture of creation."

He adds that, the challenges facing the environment can seem overwhelming, but this is not a reason not to act:

"I realise that every day, I fall short. I make mistakes, I do things which I perhaps don't have to do. I consume things that I don't have to consume. Let's use this period of Lent to reflect on these matters."

Watch the Bishop's message in full, as well as series of films for Lent highlighting local church environmental projects at:

www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/environment/

CORONAVIRUS: GUIDANCE FOR PARISHES



The concern about the Coronavirus at national and international levels has understandably led to people becoming anxious.

The national church is regularly reviewing its guidance for parishes and is updating it as necessary on their website: www.churchofengland.org/

Churches are already encouraged to follow best-hygiene practices, which include:

- Having hand-sanitisers available for parishioners to use.
- Advising parishioners **with** coughs and sneezes, to refrain from handshaking during The Peace and to receive Communion in one kind only.
- Intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) is not recommended, as this represents an infection transmission route, as well as a risk to those with certain allergies.

At present, there is no Government advice that suggests the use of the Common Cup should be suspended.

If anyone is concerned about receiving the Common Cup, they are advised to receive communion in one kind.

If you wish to exchange The Peace without contact, simply cross your hands over your chest.

You can find more advice on the websites of the Church of England (www.churchofengland.org) and the Diocese of Rochester (www.rochester.anglican.org).

We pray

For all those infected by the Coronavirus in the UK and around the world. For those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combating the spread of infection, and for all who at this time are feeling anxious.

TRAINING & EVENTS

WILBERFORCE WALK

Saturday 14 March, 9.30am
Keston Parish Church

Join this 4.5 mile pilgrim walk to raise awareness of Modern Slavery. Walking through Downe to the Wilberforce Oak. All ages and abilities welcome. The day will begin with a talk and blessing by the Bishop of Tonbridge. Please e-mail: caroline.clarke@rochester.anglican.org

MESSY FIESTA

Saturday 21 March, 9.30am to 15.30
St John's Church Centre, Meopham
DA13 0AA.

A day of inspiration, celebration, conversation, creation and learning for everyone involved in Messy Church. Tickets £5.

For further details and booking, contact:
carol.kitchener@messychurch.org.uk

INSPIRE AND EQUIP

23, 26, 28 March - 2pm to 4pm
Various locations

Join us for one of these free, two-hour session that will explore simple and creative prayer activities for everyone, and to suit a wide variety of styles of worship or prayer.

Find out how you can get involved in Thy Kingdom Come in 2020.

To book visit:
www.rochester.anglican.org/diocese/thy-kingdom-come/

Get in touch



Diocesan Office
St. Nicholas Church
Boley Hill
Rochester,
ME1 1SL
01634 560000