

Welcome to the **December** edition of **Grapevine**, the monthly e-bulletin for clergy and parish teams, put together by comms@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Diocese of Guildford Becomes a Bronze Level Eco-Diocese

Guildford has become the second diocese to receive an Eco Diocese award from A Rocha UK two months after launching a push to become an Eco Diocese.

The bronze award is a demonstration of the Diocese's commitment to caring for God's earth in five key areas of church life: worship and teaching, management of church buildings, management of church land, community/global engagement and lifestyle.

Commenting on the award, the Bishop of Guildford, Andrew Watson, said:

"Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our generation, and it's been great to see churches getting on board with the Eco Church movement as a very practical step towards reducing their carbon footprints. The bronze award is only the beginning, of course, and I'd strongly encourage other dioceses to follow suit!"

[Read the story](#)



Are you ready to Follow the Star?



#FollowTheStar is the Church of England's 2018 Christmas campaign to share the Christmas message of love and hope to those who may not be familiar with Church.

In addition to some daily reflections for church congregations and individuals the campaign is designed to draw attention to the range of church services available to those wishing to go to church over the festive period.

How can churches get involved?

Advertise your services

The most important thing for churches to do is to ensure that your Christmas services are listed on the A Church Near You website which is the central hub for those interested in, but not affiliated with, a local church.

[Read the story](#)

Bishop joins Angels to raise funds "Be an Angel" Sponsored relay tower climb

Bishop Andrew took part in a sponsored relay climb of the tower of Guildford Cathedral to raise much needed funds for Guildford Town Centre Chaplaincy. The Chaplaincy is celebrating its tenth anniversary of serving the people of the town through its Street Angels, Community Angels and Volunteer Chaplains community projects.

Bishop Andrew said:

"I was delighted to join in with the 50,000 Steps initiative on behalf of the Town Centre Chaplaincy and the Guildford Street Angels. I was privileged to spend part of a night with the Street Angels a little while back, and saw at first hand their incredible work, bringing compassion, protection, hope and practical care to the streets of our wonderful town".



[Read the story](#)

The Chaplaincies Supporting our Prisons

Prison chaplaincy work has a huge potential for changing lives, but it can be difficult to explain because it looks different in every prison and for each individual prisoner, and volunteers fill many different roles. A chaplain's role in prison is primarily to care for the spiritual and emotional well-being of prisoners, and also to help with some aspects of prisoner rehabilitation.

Multi-faith chaplaincy teams work together to create a space where prisoners have the right to practise their faith, and where it is recognised that faith can play a positive role in someone's life. Chaplaincy services can be a lifeline for prisoners, who often have limited opportunities to spend time in meaningful activities outside their cells.

At HMP Send, the Revd Lesley Mason leads the team of Surrey prison chaplains and says,

“Love starts with listening, and then responding to their individual needs as best we can. What never fails to surprise me is the raw honesty and openness of the prisoners I listen to.”

[Read the story](#)



All the latest news stories from around the Diocese of Guildford are [live on our website](#).

BGF grant helps young Woking families in need

The Woking-based Jigsaw project, which provides clothing, toys and equipment, as part of its role to support families with pre-school children in financial need, has received a £4,000 grant from the Bishop of Guildford's Foundation. The grant will be used to part-fund the cost of a co-ordinator and help with operational costs to meet the growing need for the services provided.

According to the Borough Council's figures 11% of children in Woking are living 'below the headline' and across Surrey it is believed that 23,000 children and young people are living in poverty. Jigsaw provides immediate, non-judgemental support to families in crisis. Referrals are made through social services, health visitors, charity Your Sanctuary and other sources. Jigsaw also works closely with the Borough Council assisting those arriving under the Government's Syrian refugee resettlement scheme. The project collects high quality pre-owned children's clothing, toys and equipment (buggies, car seats, cots etc.) and provides them free of charge to families in need. Jigsaw has grown from operating once a month to three times a week and in 2017 supported 474 children.

[Read the story](#)



The Diocese of Guildford commits to Armed Forces Covenant

In a county-wide Remembrance Day service marking the end of the First World War at Guildford Cathedral on Sunday 11 November, the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt Revd Andrew Watson, pledged on behalf of the people and parishes of the Diocese of Guildford to support to the Armed Forces Community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

[Read the story](#)

All upcoming events for the Diocese of Guildford are available in the events section on our website – [visit it regularly](#) to stay up to date. Some of our featured events are included below.

Staying in touch

There's a lot more happening around the diocese than we can fit into *Grapevine* so visit our [website](#) for all the latest stories. If you want help publicising a news story or event please get in touch at comms@cofeguildford.org.uk.

Acorn is moving



Through training, service and resources Acorn Christian Healing Foundation provides a safe and effective Christian context in which people can experience personal and community wholeness, through exploring healing, reconciliation and listening.

The Trustees of Acorn have been looking at ways for the Foundation to be more accessible to the wider church. Managing the facilities at Whitehill Chase took up much time and resource that could be redirected to the core ministry of ministry and training. Acorn's move will give them time and energy to implement a different way of working.

For more information about the future work of Acorn, [read the official announcement](#).

Diocesan Day on Prayer - What Can New Monasticism Teach Us?

Join us at Guildford Cathedral for the next diocesan day on prayer featuring a key note speaker followed by workshops on modern communities of prayer.

Open to all, the day promises to be richly rewarding as we listen and learn from Ian Mobsby, workshop leaders and one another.

Aim of the day:

- to engage with where prayer and spirituality are growing on the edges of church life
- to explore fresh rhythms of prayer in daily life
- to build on Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Festival 2018



Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, GU2 7UP
Saturday 2 February 10:00 – 15:00

[Book your place.](#)

Young Preacher of the Year



Young Preacher of the Year, the Diocese of Guildford's competition to encourage young people to give preaching a go, is back and ready for applications.

The competition is open to anyone in school years 10 – 13 who live or worship within the diocese. The winner will receive a trophy and the opportunity to preach their sermon at a service in Guildford Cathedral.

Entry is simple with just a short 2-5 minute recording of you preaching needed before Friday 11 January 2019. The entry form and further details are available on the [young preacher of the year website](#).

Local Ministry Programme

Looking for something more from your Bible studies?

Join us for a module with the Local Ministry Programme to broaden your understanding of the Christian faith and explore new areas of knowledge.

There are still a few places left for our Spring term modules starting in January:

- Introduction to the Bible
- Mission and Evangelism

Christ's College, Larch Avenue, Guildford GU1 1JY

Sessions start with a service of Evening Prayer at 19.30

Cost: £80 per module, including all course materials

For course dates or to book, contact 01483 790351
paulette.withycombe@cofeguildford.org.uk.

[More information](#) about the LMP Course.



Online Faculty System Training



The Online Faculty System is to be introduced in the Diocese in the New Year. All parishes will be able to apply for faculties and List B permissions through this online portal.

Open to anyone in the parish who will be involved in applying for faculties this important training will provide an overview of the new online faculty system.

Come along and ensure you are ready for the new system!

Camberley - Wednesday 12 December 9:30 – 13:00

Dorking – Saturday 26 January 9:30 – 13:00

Book your place for the [Camberley session](#) or [Dorking session](#)

Riding Lights Christmas Resources

Want to get a bit of Christmas preparation crossed off the 'to do' list? We've got just the thing with our newly available selection of Christmas scripts for 2018.

These are nine classic Riding Lights sketches, plus three carol service templates, highlighting the Christmas story from various angles. They're humorous, punchy and give a few unexpected perspectives on the familiar gospel events.

All these pieces are tried, tested and easy to stage with a few enthusiastic actors and readers.



[More information.](#)

Do you take card?

You can take your church collection by contactless card this Christmas!

As fewer and fewer people carry cash, it's becoming increasingly important for parishes to look at alternative ways to receive donations.

Alongside small hand-held card readers (which cost as little as £19 each) there now are more sophisticated self-service donation units available for churches to buy through the Parish Buying service.

The parish buying system also offer reduced rates on transaction fees.



[Find out more](#)

National Churches Trust Grants

GRANT PROGRAMMES

2019 - 2023



For people who love church buildings

Preventative Maintenance Micro-Grants are now available to churches booking the following services through the MaintenanceBooker site:

- Rainwater Goods Maintenance
- Lightning Protection System Repairs
- Asbestos Removal
- Masonry repairs and High Level Maintenance (from March 2019)

Grants of either £250 for services costing between £500 and £1000 - or - £500 for services costing over £1000 are available. [Find full details and how to apply.](#)



Open The Book Initial Training



Ever felt that your church should be connecting more with your local primary school? Thought that children in schools might be missing out on what the Bible has to show them?

Open the Book offers a programme of themed Bible stories, each around 10 minutes long for assembly times at school.

Open the Book training is aimed at those setting up a new team and those on existing teams who still require training.

St John's Church, The Furrows, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 3JQ
Wednesday 16 January 10:00 – 15:00

[Book Your Place](#)

Living & Sharing a Jesus-Shaped Life Worldwide

In 2016 the whole Anglican Communion began a nine year Season of Intentional Discipleship. Come along to be:

- Part of a major shift in the culture of the Anglican Church worldwide and engage your Church in Living & Sharing A Jesus-Shaped Life.
- Discover new resources to help foster a disciple-making culture in your local church.
- Preview this central element in the agenda for Lambeth 2020 and consider bringing this focus into our Diocesan links and International Mission Partnerships



Guildford – Wednesday 23 January 19:45 - 21:45

Oxshott – Monday 28 January 12:00 – 14:00

Book your place for the [Guildford](#) or [Oxshott Session](#)

We have a Church Development Plan - What Next?

Training for Incumbents, Churchwardens and PCC Members to help unlock the potential of your Church Development Plan as a tool for promoting healthy change and creating active participation. It'll look at:

- How to keep your Church Development Plan at the front and centre of what you do
- How to continue to listen to God and adapt to changing circumstances
- How to do the above in the midst of busy lives!



Emmanuel Church, Shepherds Lane, Guildford, GU2 9SJ
Wednesday 30 January 14:00 – 16:00

[Book Your Place](#)

Set my People Free! Forming and Releasing Whole-Life Disciples



How can we form whole-life disciples and equip out congregations for their Monday to Saturday ministry?

Come and learn about the resources available through the Church of England's [Setting God's People Free](#) programme and join with other church leaders to share experiences and encourage each other as we seek to make confident, prayerful, disciples of Jesus in daily life.

We will also be exploring online, group and individual resources and discussing how to create a culture of discipleship across ages.

Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Road, GU2 7YF
Thursday 28 February 14:00 – 16:00

[Book Your Place](#)



Help Tackle Modern Slavery

"Through the Safe Car Wash App we now have a chance to help tackle this scourge which is damaging so many people's lives." **The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby**

Modern slavery is hidden in plain sight on our high streets. The National Crime Agency thinks there are tens of thousands of people being exploited in the UK, forced to work long hours, for little or no pay, and under threat of violence.

Some of those people are being exploited in hand car washes - download the Safe Car Wash app and help stop modern slavery.

Further information and resources are available from the diocesan website. The page will be kept updated with the latest support to tackle modern slavery, check it regularly and get involved.

[More information.](#)



Christmas Outreach/Community Events Directory



Christmas is a busy time of year, celebrating and spending time with family and friends. However, we know that this time of year can be difficult for some people. They may be lonely – separated from family and friends, or vulnerable for other reasons.

The Diocese of Guildford have compiled a directory of support available over the Christmas period in Surrey and North East Hampshire for those who may be on their own at Christmas and those who may be looking for volunteering opportunities.

The resource will be constantly updated throughout the weeks leading to Christmas.

[More information.](#)

Clergy Reflective Walk



All members of clergy in the Diocese of Guildford are invited to join the Archdeacon of Surrey, Paul Davies, for a prayerful, reflective and enjoyable walk.

Further information, starting point and walking route to be confirmed.

Limited spaces available, book your place to avoid missing out.

Tuesday 19 March 10:00 – 16:00

[Book your place.](#)

Mindfulness Course

Mindfulness simply means paying attention to our experience in the present moment, on purpose and with an attitude of kindly acceptance.

This course, based on Mindfulness based stress reduction, will explore Mindfulness within a Christian perspective, explaining the concept and exploring how it can be used in our daily lives, our prayer life, with or without meditation, a time of stillness.

All are welcome regardless of faith or none.



Church House Guildford, 20 Alan Turing Rd, GU2 7YF
Thursdays from 24 January 19:00 – 21:00

Register your interest - Suzette.jones@cofeguildford.org.uk



Good people wanted – great opportunities

For all the latest clergy and non-clergy vacancies in the Diocese of Guildford, please visit [our vacancies page](#). You'll also find [Church of England job opportunities on the national website](#).

Accounts Assistant

Closing Date – Monday 10 December 12:00

The Diocese of Guildford is looking for an Accounts Assistant to work as part of the Finance team to cover a period of maternity leave from January – October 2019. We are looking for an enthusiastic, flexible and motivated candidate experienced in finance department procedures to join our team.

[Find out more](#)

Diocesan Stewardship Adviser

Closing Date – Monday 17 December 12:00

We need a team player, ready to play a key role in facilitating change among our church leadership - and ultimately our congregations - as we work to encourage people in recognising the generosity at the heart of God's character and to create a culture of generosity among followers of Christ.

[Find out more](#)

Independent Chair of the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel

Closing Date – Friday 14 December 12:00

Reflecting our commitment to safeguarding within all aspects of our work, we are seeking to appoint an Independent Chair of our Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Panel. Your role will be to ensure that the Panel has an independent voice and provides challenge and scrutiny to our safeguarding policies and practices, as well as holding us to account on their implementation.

[Find out more](#)

