

# EBBSFLEET NEWS

Supporting Churches in Gospel Ministry

## The Dynamism of God

I wonder whether you celebrated Trinity Sunday a couple of weeks ago? Or do you make much of this longest season of our liturgical calendar—the season of Trinity?

It's not a trick question, as I know many of us in our carefully crafted sermon series probably never have to focus of this most profound of God's self-revelations—that in the unity of His being and will— His substance, there is a diversity in the subsistences of His being—a Trinity in Unity. After all, the Trinity as a term isn't in the Bible, despite the irrefutable evidences to the truth of it. It's enough to say, the Father is God, the Son is God, the Spirit is God, yet they are not three Gods, but One God! [\(Athanasian Creed\)](#)

Yet God's self-revelation as Trinity is profoundly relevant to our day, not only that it is in the dynamic of the interpersonal relations of the Trinity that we find the source of a complementarian perspective on our humanity in God's image. *1 Corinthians 11:3* *But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.* The 'headship' of God as Father does not diminish the divinity or honour of Christ as Son of God. Indeed, the very nature of humanity as male and female, both together and separately, being in God's image (Genesis 1:27), has profound implications for a culture that reduces authority to power rather than service, and defines identity in individualist self-awareness rather than in interpersonal dynamics of relationship. There is a reason that Genesis is full of genealogies— in God's Word your identity is most established not by personal success or achievements, but primarily by your family relationships—who your parents or children are. Just as God's identity is not truly knowable apart from the dynamics of the relationships in His being, neither are we!



Picture: The Triune Pattern of Reality from Steve Thomason

**June  
2026**

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**Rt Rev Rob Munro  
Bishop of Ebbsfleet**

<sup>14</sup> For this reason I kneel before the **Father**, <sup>15</sup> from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup> I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his **Spirit** in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that **Christ** may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of **all the fullness of God**. <sup>20</sup> Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

But while the intricate theological complexities that help us describe how God has revealed Himself as Trinity are worthy of far more of our humble reflection than we often give, it is one aspect of this truth that I believe gives us a particular challenge in our English churches. It was Augustine's insight in his book [On the Trinity Book IX](#) that the analogy of love helps us: *"When I, who make this inquiry, love anything, there are three things concerned — myself, and that which I love, and love itself. For I do not love love, except I love a lover; for there is no love where nothing is loved. Therefore there are three things — he who loves, and that which is loved, and love. (Ch.2)* A lover, their beloved and the love between them form a necessary Trinity for love not to be narcissistic. Without the Trinity, to say "God is Love" (1 John 4:16) would make loving yourself in solitary existence, the supreme love of our world—except because of the Trinity, it isn't! The supreme Love, which shapes who we are called to be, and in whose image we are, is in an eternal dynamic of Love—always loving the other even in Himself. The selfless, self-giving love of our God is His very essence.

So what? This profound truth about God has to shape us, both in our ministry and our churches.

The solitary priest, expressing authority in some ecclesiastical hierarchy is embodying a heresy.

First, it makes complementarian ministry a necessity not a luxury! Communicating the interpersonal dynamics of God's love is intended, by his common grace, to be reflected in marriage, and by extension in our ministry. The solitary priest, expressing authority in some ecclesiastical hierarchy is embodying a heresy. And that is just as true of isolated strong charactered bible teachers as it is of more catholicly-shaped priesthoods. Expressing the dynamics of our differences in unity, male and female- equal but ordered, indispensable but not interchangeable—becomes vital for faithfully living the Trinitarian truth we are proclaiming. When churches become hierarchy of power instead of a family of love, we undermine our gospel. Loving and honouring the differences of our unity is profoundly godly!

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But second, this Trinitarian truth transforms our understanding of the dynamics of church life. Sometimes we can give the impression that our goal is to create a unity in church that feels like uniformity—we aim to have everyone 'on the same page' - especially if we are the ones choosing that page. Yet love is more dynamic than that! Families are more messy than that! Our God is Unity in Diversity, and Diversity in Unity. That is why church is a body of parts (1 Cor.12), a vine of branches (John 15), living stones differently shaped to for one building (1Peter 2). We look together most like our God in the very diversity of our parts united by His Spirit. Nowhere else in our culture gathers people of every sex, race, background, education, wealth, or physical ability, willingly sharing and serving together. It is a powerful witness to the reality and presence of God when we are able to evidence and express that diversity in unity under Him.

So maybe it's not so crazy to make Trinity the longest of our lectionary seasons after all!

Yours in His love!



## Bishop's Diary

### April

- 5 Confirmations & Baptisms St John's, Downshire Hill & Moulton Parish Church
- 8 Ecumenical Fellowship of St Barnabas Zoom
- 13 Ebbsfleet planning mtg x3  
FWS council on Zoom  
Licensing St Thomas, Kilnhurst
- 14 Manchester Bps leadership mtg
- 15 Ministry Zooms  
Chester Association  
Civic mtg  
Ministry call  
Licensing St John, Lindow
- 16 Alliance mtg in London
- 19 Confirmations & PCC lunch  
All Saints, Laleham  
Confirmations & Baptisms  
St Michael, Fulwell
- 21 Orthodox Bps Zoom  
Ebbsfleet social media mtg
- 23 Ministry mtg  
Bp Hull Zoom
- 26 St Mary, Doncaster  
St Paul, Little Eaton
- 27 Ministry mtg x2  
CEEC summit
- 28 Orthodox Bps Zoom  
Virtual Coffeetime  
Ordination, Man. Cathedral
- 29 Ebbsfleet planning mtgs  
Ministry mtg
- 30 Consecration York Minster

### May

- 1-9 Family Holiday
- 10 Confirmations & Baptisms  
St Paul, Harringay  
St Peter, Harold Wood
- 11 Ebbsfleet team mtg  
Ministry mtg x3
- 12 Orthodox Bps Zoom  
Ebbsfleet Regional mtg 1
- 13 Ebbsfleet Regional mtg 2
- 14 Ministry Zoom  
Church Soc council Zoom
- 17 Confirmations & Baptisms  
St Thomas, Kidsgrove &  
St Andrew, Ashton-on  
Ribble
- 18 Ministry Zoom  
Makin T & F group Zoom
- 19-21 House of Bps  
Ministry call  
Safeguarding training
- 24 Confirmations Terrington St  
Clement
- 26 Virtual coffeetime
- 27 Ministry Zoom
- 28 Ministry call
- 31 Confirmations St Mary, Bletsoe  
All Saints. Riseley  
Confirmations St Michael,  
Braintree

### June

- 1 & 2 Ebbsfleet Regional mtg 3 & 4
- 1 Ministry mtgs x2
- 3 Ministry mtg
- 4 Ministry mtgs x2  
Bp Barking mtg

## Women in Complementarian Ministry / Women's Workers Chat & Pray

Join us for prayer & encouragement on Zoom

*(prayer requests welcome)*

**10am Monday 15 June**, then  
2pm Tuesday 14 July  
2pm Monday 14 September  
10am Wednesday 14 October  
2pm Tuesday 17 November

**Use this zoom link  
to join the chat**

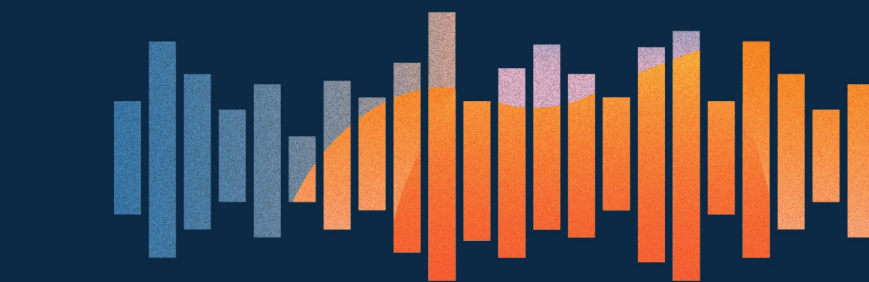
**The importance of connection** - we have been reminded of the importance of connecting with others in ministry, and are aware that while some women are already part of a group that meets and prays for one another, others might like to consider starting a new group. The meetings are not necessarily very frequent and may often be online, with occasional meetings in person. The relationships then develop over time. If this could be of interest to you, please get in touch with Annabel or Eleanor (details on back page), and maybe we could make some connections.

*Lord,  
teach us  
to pray*

**RENEW ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE 2026**

[more info here](#)

28th-29th  
September 2026  
*Trent Conference Centre*



2026



latimertrust.org

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June - 9:30 to 15:30 hrs

**THE LATIMER TRUST CONFERENCE**

Resilience in Ministry

This conference will aim to equip, encourage and enable conversations about Resilience in Ministry

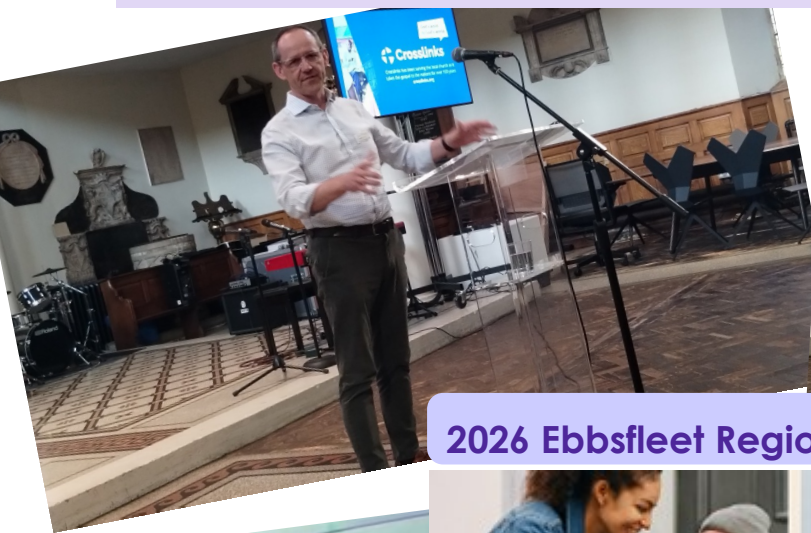
St. Alkmund's Church, Duffield, DE56 4BA  
£25 - lunch included



Book today

latimertrust.org/latimerconference2026

# Scenes from the Regional Conferences



## 2026 Ebbsfleet Regional Conferences



## 21st Century DISCIPLESHIP

Showing, Sharing and Serving Christ



It's not too late to join us! - Christ Church, Cambridge 22 June  
- St Leonard's, Exeter 7 Sept  
- St John's Houghton, Carlisle 19 Oct

[Book here](#)

Booking not required, contact the Ebbsfleet office

[More info here](#)

2026-2027

## Incumbents' Leadership Programme

A programme to equip incumbent ministers to develop thriving children's and youth ministry within their parishes, helping churches 'grow younger' through sustainable, biblically grounded approaches to intergenerational mission and discipleship.

## Grab a coffee & join us at one of our monthly online drop-ins with Bishop Rob Munro:

For anyone interested in ministry, mutual support or with questions, or just for fellowship.

**Tuesday 23 June**

*then after the summer usually (but not always) the last Thursday of the month:*

**10 September**

**1 October**

**5 November**

**3 December**

(always 10am - noon)

[Use this zoom link](#)



## Attention Incumbents!

## Ebbsfleet Return

Once again we will shortly (in July) be sending incumbents of all churches on our mailing list (both Resolution churches, & others we are in relationship with) our '**Ebbsfleet Return**'. This is our annual check that the information we hold for you is up to date. There is no other formal procedure for you to tell us of changes to personnel, contact info or even that you have passed (or indeed rescinded) a Resolution.

We ask you to complete this Return at your convenience over the summer - think of it as similar to the annual return required by your diocese - though we trust much simpler.

It will:

- Contain the information we currently hold for your church, & will ask you to correct errors & fill in any blanks.
- Ask you to invite appropriate members of your team to join our mailing list, if they aren't already.
- In particular, ask for information on your Churchwardens.

We are very aware that our records need updating. We ask you to take just a few minutes (hopefully) to help us with your church's information & in so doing, help us to serve our constituency well.

Thank you so much - the Ebbsfleet team.

Watch for the email  
in July



# the fridge door!

~~Jesus~~

## PLEASE NOTE

+Rob loves to keep in touch annually with all complementarian candidates in training for ministry—but he isn't always told who has been sent, beyond those he sponsors. Can you let us know if you have candidates in training. Thanks!

[chaplain@bishopsofbbbsfleet.org](mailto:chaplain@bishopsofbbbsfleet.org)

Video Recordings from the Ebbsfleet Regional Events will be available in July on the website after the Cambridge event— watch the Facebook feed for news of when

EBBSFLEET

## CHECK IT OUT!

A useful article by Fran Kirby & Graham Nicholls, "Stop Apologising for being a Complementarian!" Follow the [LINK](#)

## EVANGELISM TODAY

Peaching Europe for Christ

**GAFCON EUROPE  
EVANGELISM CONFERENCE 2026**  
12-15 November 2026  
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Join believers from across Europe for a unique gathering focused on evangelism, gospel confidence, worship, teaching, prayer, and fellowship.

Hosted at the Stormont Hotel Belfast, the conference will include keynote Bible teaching, practical seminars, worship, ministry encouragement, and special theatre performances by Searchlight.

Optional visits include Belfast's Titanic Quarter and Sunday worship at Down Cathedral.

Full details, speakers, and booking information coming soon.

Save the date and begin planning to join us in Belfast this November.

Ctrl-Click this Pic for a link

**gafcon**  
europe

**GAFCON**  
GLOBAL ANGLICANS

REMEMBER  
Gafcon Sunday 28th June 2026

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENTS CONFERENCE

# CONNECTED

GOD'S DESIGN FOR GRANDPARENTING

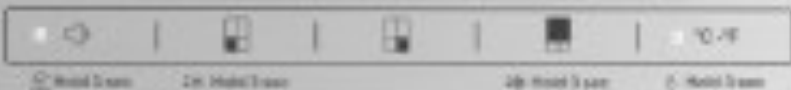
[Click here for new web link for](#)

**gafcon**  
europe

Join us:  
Saturday  
3rd October  
in Milton Keynes

Find out more: [www.christiangrandparents.co.uk](http://www.christiangrandparents.co.uk)

BRF  
children can  
Hand in Hand



Wood Burner | Hot Water | Light | Defrost | 10:4

# Vacancies June 2026

We are happy to publicise vacancies here and on our [website](#).

If you'd like us to do so, please complete the appropriate form via these links:

VACANCY

SITUATION WANTED

Find us:



## Current Vacancies

- Grace Church, Greenwich** ▪ [Pastoral or Youth & Children's Worker](#)  
▪ [Congregation Leader](#)
- St Andrew's, Leyland** ▪ [Associate Minister \(Women\)](#)
- Emmanuel, Wimbledon** ▪ [Associate Pastor \(Children & Youth\)](#)
- St John's, Tunbridge Wells** ▪ [Associate Vicar](#)
- St John's, Wimborne** ▪ [Youth Worker](#)
- St Andrew the Great, Cambridge** ▪ [Female Student Worker](#)
- St Peter's, Tunbridge Wells** ▪ [Vicar](#)
- St George's, Dagenham** ▪ [Assistant Minister](#)
- St Andrew's, Frimley Green & Mytchett** ▪ [Vicar](#)

## Ebbsfleet Contact Information

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### Rev'd Michael Hayden

Bishop's Chaplain (part-time)

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### Eleanor Hayden

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### Will Stileman

*[focus on Church Development]*

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[Click here to join the Ebbsfleet Network](#)

Sign up for our bi-monthly free newsletters and to access support and advice from the Ebbsfleet Team

To **unsubscribe** from our newsletter, please email

[admin@bishopofebbsfleet.org](mailto:admin@bishopofebbsfleet.org)