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Apply for £10k award says Norfolk Deacon

A Deacon of the Open Episcopal Church in Swaffham is encouraging caring young people aged 10-18 from Norfolk to apply for a life changing award of up to £10,000.

Rev Daniel Gibbins (pictured), a **Deacon of the Parish of St David, Swaffham** is keen to encourage young people in **Norfolk** to apply for the **Open Episcopal Church's Kind Intent Towards Everyone (KITE) Awards** – a new award scheme that offers young people up to £10,000 plus additional support.

The KITE Awards are open to young people of all faiths and none, who are working hard to make a positive difference on issues such as justice, caring for the poor and vulnerable, caring for animals and the environment and discrimination.

Rev Daniel Gibbins said: "For me I would love to see our Archbishop present awards to young people from Norfolk.

"There can be an expectation that young people between the ages of 10 and 18 don't do very much, or they hang around on street corners and look grumpy all the time, whereas that is the minority. The Open Episcopal Church want to try to shine a light on some of the excellent and outstanding things that young people are already doing in their communities, as well as encourage others who feel they have something to contribute."

Daniel, who began his role as a Community Chaplain in March following a career as a teacher, is keen to promote the award as widely as possible within Norfolk and is eager to access schools and community groups who would be interested in promoting the initiative to their young people.

"We've already had applications in from other parts of the country. This is something that I really want to get behind because I believe this can make a real difference to our communities, as well as nurture and support our young people.

"The KITE Awards are not about bringing people into our church buildings, because we don't have any. It's not about converting people to a way of thinking. It is about one of the most basic Christian messages: love one another. This is our way of encouraging young people to do just that in a contemporary and authentic way, with initiatives that will make a difference to people's lives."

Recipients will receive an award towards the work or project for which they are responsible. Young people can either nominate themselves or be nominated by others. The Archbishops Council of the Open Episcopal Church has the final decision and value of the award will depend on the age of the applicant and the work with which they are involved.

The deadline for applications is in the autumn, with awards presented on **Remembrance Sunday** in November.

For additional information please go to www.openepiscopalchurch.org/organisation/kite.html. If you would like to chat through the process with Rev Daniel Gibbins before nominating yourself or someone else, he would be very happy to hear from you.

If you would like to invite Daniel to promote the KITE Awards to young people either through a school or community group, he would appreciate that opportunity.

Daniel can be contacted at revdaniel@stdavidoec.org.uk with more information on his website www.stdavidoec.org.uk.

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