

 Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens

1 Corinthians 1:4

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus.

It has been a joy to get to know many of you during my first 10 months as Archdeacon of Newark. While I acknowledge that we remain in unsettling and uncertain times, we can and should give thanks to God for all his good gifts, and for one another. Phil and I continue to be hugely thankful to all our Churchwardens who are crucial to the life and ministry of the church and for the continued energy and passion you show towards our work of sharing the good news of Jesus.

Last year, we set out to be better engaged with Churchwardens whose churches are in vacancy and have met with them on Zoom to share experiences, challenges and joys together. We have had very positive feedback that this is a useful space. **Further support is available from the email churchwardensquestions@southwell.anglican.org**, which provides a place to ask questions to the Archdeacons' office.

We are aware that there are many Churchwardens out there who have huge experience to share with those more recently elected and this year we will look at a way to provide a forum to share that learning more widely.

Last year, some of you will have had the blessing of a new incumbent after a period of vacancy and have been busy working with them on your plans for the next season in your parishes. We have seen the deployment of many of our own curates into their first incumbency posts across the diocese, which has been really exciting, as well as welcoming other new or returning clergy into the diocese. Clearly, recruitment to vacant parishes remains a priority for the Archdeacons and the Senior team.

Looking ahead to this year, we hope to further develop the training for Churchwardens, including a renewed induction process and modular training around specific topics.

There is no doubt that we continue to face big challenges in our parishes. For those who are in vacancy, we continue to pray

for wisdom and discernment around the shape, pattern and deployment of ministry to enable a healthy and flourishing future. However, all parishes are engaged in that work of discernment, to ensure that we build communities of faith that engage with those who have not yet encountered the good news of the gospel.

In all of this, we remain enormously thankful for you and the work that you do and look forward to celebrating and worshipping with you at the visitations on the 9th and 22nd June 2022.

Tors Ramsey
Archdeacon of Newark



Phil

The Venerable Phil Williams
Archdeacon of Nottingham



Tors

The Venerable Tors Ramsey
Archdeacon of Newark



Caring for Creation by Becoming an Eco Church

“The Earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.” Psalm 24:1



We recognise that we are facing a climate and ecological emergency as a result of human impact which is a crisis for the whole of God’s creation.

Are you aware that the Church of England has responded to this and is working towards becoming net zero carbon by 2030? This means reducing our energy consumption of carbon fuels which produce

greenhouse gases and moving to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind.

But Caring for Creation is much wider in scope and encompasses our worship, teaching, lifestyles and management of our land for sustainability and greater biodiversity.

The Caring for Creation Working Group, part of the Partnerships and Mission Department, will be working hard across the diocese, especially with churches, schools and offices, to progress this.

Already, over 50 churches are now registered as Eco Churches with A Rocha UK (the Christian environmental charity) and 14 have achieved at least a Bronze Award. The Minster is already a Bronze cathedral. The diocese has registered and is working towards Bronze, hopefully later on this year.

At the heart of Eco Church is a self-administered survey about how you are caring for God’s creation. The survey covers all areas of church life, Worship and Teaching, Church Buildings, Church Land, Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. There are three levels of Eco Church Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold. If your score doesn’t gain you an Award straightaway there are plenty of resources to help you improve.

Is your church an Eco Church? If not, consider appointing a Green Champion and registering now at www.arocha.org and starting on the next step of caring for God’s Creation.

For help or guidance, talk to one of your neighbouring churches who is already an Eco Church or contact Robert Cleave the Diocesan Environmental Officer, at robert.cleave@southwell.anglican.org

Churchwardens – unsung heroes!

Churchwardens are some of the most valuable volunteers in any church, bearing much of the responsibility of running and maintaining the building, not to mention the day-to-day functioning of the parish. The wide range of duties Churchwardens undertake makes the role one of the most varied in the church community. From rising damp to blocked drains, un-serviced boilers to crumbling stonework, they always have plenty on their plate!

Matthew Clements has written a book, *Rotas, Rules and Rectors*, to, “help the Churchwardens of the Anglican church to thrive, rather than merely survive in the role.”

With gentle humour based on solid experience and pragmatism, his book unravels what it is that Churchwardens actually do and what their job can entail. There are many pitfalls for the unwary... and just as many joys as well. Filled with practical wisdom and shrewd common sense, *Rotas, Rules and Rectors* has practical advice for Churchwardens and for those thinking of taking up the role or closely involved in parish work.

Copies of his book can be purchased online

www.beingachurchwarden.com and any proceeds go to the Re-Ordering Fund at St Edburg’s Church, Bicester.





Congratulations to our national winner!

Last year, we launched our 'Good News' competition – and now we're proud to announce the national winner.

We asked for stories about your church community – written in the style of a newspaper article, and accompanied by a photograph and a suitable headline. We were looking for uplifting tales – of battling to achieve something special for the parish, perhaps, or tireless volunteering, or dedication to your congregation or wider locality. And we were inundated with amazing entries.

Our judges worked hard to select five regional winners from the huge list, and we announced this at the end of last year, giving each regional winner £1,500 towards church funds as part of Ecclesiastical's aim to donate profits to transform lives and communities.

Now – with the help of the public, through a show of support for their online story – the overall winner, who will receive a further £6,000, has been chosen.

A big congratulations to the national winner

Penlee Cluster Churches, down in the far west of Cornwall – St John's and St Mary's in Penzance, St Peter's in Newlyn, and St Pol de Leon in the village of Paul.

Determined to bring their community together during those difficult months, they launched a fantastic 'Never Alone' initiative. This multi-faceted campaign saw church members team up with local businesses to take pub meals, Cornish pasties, and fish and chip suppers to elderly and vulnerable people. Read their story and those of the other regional winners at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp



Meet your Church Insurance Consultants

Our Church Insurance Consultants are a friendly and approachable team of highly knowledgeable insurance experts who are right on your doorstep and ready to offer guidance and help with any insurance or risk-related issues you might have.

From a simple explanation of the basics of your policy, to guidance on how to combat thieves and vandals, guard against fire, and improve general health and safety, they are there for you, free of charge.



The team – (from top left) Chris, Rebecca, Heather, Lynne, Peter, Nicky, Kay and Derek – are all deeply passionate about customer service, and our country's amazing churches.

Amongst them are theologians, choristers, regular churchgoers, and people who have worked with Christian charities here and abroad, so they really understand your specific needs. And because they're based at regional locations all over the UK, they're also able to tailor their advice to your local requirements.

They have decades of combined industry experience – and standing behind them is Ecclesiastical's 135 years of unrivalled expertise and insight in dealing with everything life might throw at you.



Where possible, the Church Insurance Consultants love to meet customers and talk face-to-face, and are happy to host networking events where you can get to know people from other parishes and share experiences, ideas – and smiles.

If you are unable to meet them in person, they're still there, offering exactly the same services online or over the telephone.

To find out more about the team, and how they could help you and your church, please visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/cic or email meetus@ecclesiastical.com (please include your contact details, the name of your church and parish, and policy number if possible), or call them on **0345 777 3322**.

Contains promotional material

Café raises funds – and spirits

When lockdowns led to a dramatic fall in revenue, one church came up with a way to raise funds and create a much needed local community space.



Christ Church in Lofthouse (near Leeds) was struggling for funding, and the village itself had been cut in half by the arrival of the M26 motorway many years ago, leaving its people without a proper place to meet. So the Reverend Mandy Rhodes and others put their heads together and decided to open the TLC Café in the basement of their church.

“Villagers still talk fondly about the old cricket club which was lost when the motorway came through,” said Mandy. “That was where people would meet up for parties and get-togethers. But since it went there hasn’t been anywhere suitable. Like most churches, we were hit really hard by the lockdowns – and we still are, with quite a few of our elderly parishioners now in the habit of joining services online. So we wondered if there was a way we could address both problems, and the café was born.”

They teamed up with CLO Coffee – a Leeds-based Christian coffee shop and roastery – to source a machine and barista training, and redecorated the basement hall, which is the former crypt. In November 2021, they opened the café – and it has gone from strength to strength.

“There’s a lovely, relaxed atmosphere,” said Mandy. “We’re seeing a real group of regulars building – people just like having somewhere to meet up again. After paying off our original outlay we’re now turning a profit, which means we can be more confident about paying our Parish Share. “We have local artists displaying their work here – our current exhibition is of art produced by a local head injury charity – and we take a small 5% cut of any sales, which helps. We have a charity shop and our food bank too. We’re running mother-and-baby drop-ins, and I’m looking at starting baby massage sessions. I’d say the future is bright!”

Especially in rural communities, church buildings are much more than just bricks and mortar. They offer vital spaces for quiet time, reflection and connection, as the TLC Café demonstrates.

From listening to customer feedback, we know that it’s not always easy to pay for the upkeep and care of rural churches, or for the ministry that happens in them.

We asked for your feedback on our printed toolkit – Fundraising in a Box – that was sent to all church customers in January 2021. You told us you liked the toolkit style, but guidance especially for rural parishes would be a helpful addition to our support. That’s why we’ve created a fundraising toolkit for rural churches, full of useful links and expert advice. **You can find it on our Church Fundraising Hub at www.ecclesiastical.com/rural-parishes**

More fundraising support

There are plenty of useful resources and handy templates for all types of churches on our Church Fundraising Hub at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising

Our Movement for Good Awards open for entry



Charitable giving is at the heart of what we do – and has been for over 135 years. For the past three years, Ecclesiastical Insurance has run the Movement for Good Awards programme, giving away £3 million to great causes.

Did you know?

In 2021, we were delighted to award £25,000 to church-related charities. Please take a look at our winners’ map to see which charities and churches we have helped in your local area:

winnersmap.benefactgroup.com

The Awards are back and this year we have over £1 million to donate, but we cannot do it without you. This year, you’ll find information on the awards on our parent company’s website.

Visit: www.benefactgroup.com/movement-for-good to find out more.





Have you heard the e-news?

E-news is a monthly email full of tips and information and monthly risk reminders for all of our customers and anyone in your church community. To receive it is easy – **all you need to do is register on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/signup** and if at any time you decide you no longer want to receive it, you can click the 'unsubscribe' button at the bottom of the email. Feel free to pass on the sign-up link to anyone you think might like it.

'Made Simple' guides



We know that understanding the insurance responsibilities for your church can be complicated, that's why we've created our 'Made Simple' guides.

These guides take you through potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches, as well as activities and projects that PCCs are often involved in.

They cover topics such as administration, events, community outreach, people on church premises, church property, building works and legal expenses. **You can find them all on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/church**

Information at your fingertips

The Ecclesiastical website is largely an online library of guidance and support for you and your church community. You'll find information about church and home insurance, risk management, fundraising and grants and lots more. 'Church Matters' newsletter is also on the website, making it really easy to share with others.

Visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/church

Ministry Bursary Awards

Financial support for 2023 sabbaticals

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community. Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) provide financial support to members of the clergy planning to take extended study leave. Applications are open now until the end of September.

Established in 1987 to celebrate Ecclesiastical's centenary year, the Awards have supported almost 1,400 clergy members from Anglican Christian faiths. The sabbatical breaks and projects have varied greatly over the years – from traditional and modern-day pilgrimages to study visits, spiritual retreats and pursuits of lifelong dreams and hobbies.

Like Rev'd James Radcliffe from Lincoln, who worked in sports-based ministry in South Africa, or Rev'd Rachel Dale, who studied dementia and also worked with vulnerable children. One of our most recent MBA recipients, Rev'd Canon Imogen Nay, spent her sabbatical in 2021 looking at rewilding and green churches.

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards are open for applications until 30 September 2022. Judging of the applications will take place in November and awards will be made during December 2022.

If you would like to read more about James, Rachel or Imogen's experiences and find out more about the Awards including eligibility criteria and application details, **please visit our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba**



Financial services

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides expert, independent financial advice including on pensions, investments, life assurance and mortgages for the clergy, church people and PCCs.

☎ **0800 107 0190**
✉ **getadvice@ecclesiastical.com**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice**

WINNERS of the **NatWest Mortgage Awards 2022, South West and Wales** for putting the customer and local community at the heart of everything we do.



Car insurance

Our Clergy Motor Insurance is tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, no admin charges and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹

☎ **0345 450 9396**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance**

¹ Subject to terms and conditions.



Award-winning home insurance that supports your church



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its profits to good causes, one of the ways in which we do this is through our Trust130 Home

Insurance offer. For every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offer to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Originally launched in 2017 to celebrate our 130th anniversary, we have since donated more than £460,000, helping to support over 2,500 churches. A donation of £130 may not sound much, but churches and congregations have used the donations in many creative ways to fund all sorts of things:

St Mary and Bartholomew Solihull are using their grant to introduce contactless donations to support the church and raise valuable funds for charitable causes.

"This is important for both the church to enable us to continue to raise funds, for the parishioners to enable them to continue to donate in church without having to touch cash/the collection plate and finally to the local (and national) charities we support each year through our charitable giving which is only possible from the kind donations our parishioners make." **Duncan Watson**, Treasurer

St Albans West Leigh, which is located in a growing community, with a new housing development opposite the church and a further development close by in the planning stages, are using the money to welcome the new residents.

"We have decided to use the money to assist in funding welcome packs – which will be a booklet about our church and the locale along with some nice biscuits. The booklet and biscuits enable us to make personal contact with people as they move into our community, and to offer them a warm welcome." **The Rev'd Canon Karina Green**, Priest in Charge St Alban's West Leigh

Most trusted home insurance provider with the happiest customers

As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining the most trusted home insurance provider with the happiest customers. April 2022 saw Ecclesiastical top the Fairer Finance league table for home insurance for a record 15th consecutive time, retaining our gold ribbon status.²

And don't forget, we offer a discount to members of the clergy.

For more information about Trust130 and Home Insurance, visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

¹ Terms may apply. ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance

A churchwarden's checklist



The specific duties of a Churchwarden vary from parish to parish. To help them – and your church – the leading church insurer Ecclesiastical has put together some guidance on key tasks and responsibilities. If the answer to any of the questions below is 'no', it's a good idea to speak to your churchwarden and work out a plan of action.



Your church and churchyard

1. At the last annual meeting of the PCC, did anyone present a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church?
2. (a) Are any essential works for the church building, as noted on the last quinquennial report, in hand or planned?
(b) Do you have proper arrangements in place for routine maintenance, including the regular clearance of gutters and down-pipes to prevent blockages?
(c) Are arrangements in hand for proper maintenance of the churchyard?

3. Do you arrange for the electrical installation to be checked every five years?
4. If the church has a lightning protection system, do you arrange for periodic inspection of the system?
5. Do you review your health and safety arrangements periodically?
6. Do you review your fire risk assessment regularly and whenever there are any changes to the premises that may affect fire safety?

Presentation and care of church records

7. (a) Are your service book records and registers for burials, baptisms and marriages up to date?
(b) Are all your church registers, records and books in a satisfactory condition and properly stored or deposited within the archives?
8. (a) Are your external and internal noticeboards in good order and up to date?
(b) Is the current Table of Parochial Fees displayed clearly in the church?
(c) Is the Churchyard Directive displayed prominently and publicly?
9. Are you satisfied with arrangements for the care and cleaning of the church's interior, church linen and other ornaments and vessels?
10. Do you have up-to-date church guidebooks available and, if appropriate, are they available in other languages?
11. Is there a logbook for your church and is it up to date?
12. Is there a plan of your churchyard and is it up to date?

Finances

13. Did you pay your clergy expenses in full last year?
14. Is your church insurance regularly reviewed and does it give you the appropriate cover you need?

If you'd like to know more about the role of the Churchwarden, your diocese can provide you with a guide, and you'll find a number of books available commercially too. If you'd like to raise an issue with your Archdeacon, please contact them directly.



Harnessing the Power of Church Volunteers

According to the Church of England, (www.churchofengland.org), over 80,000 Anglican Church volunteers help provide support and activities for children, young people and families each year in England alone. As the saying goes, 'Volunteers are unpaid – not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.' They make a vital contribution to churches across the country. Without these generous people who are willing to commit their time to maintain church buildings, attend meetings and raise funds, churches simply could not function in the way they do.

Encouraging volunteers

So what can churches do to encourage people in their communities to organise a prize draw or have a charity bake-off? Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical has put together six key points that could help your church inspire people to volunteer their time and skills.

1. Be clear about what you're trying to achieve and what the benefits will be

If you're holding a fundraising event and need people to help, make sure to put the event into context. Explain the state of the church's funds, how much you're hoping to raise and how the money will be spent. An event to raise £1,000 to repair a much-loved stained-glass window will probably get more support than the annual autumn fair.

2. Make sure your volunteers feel appreciated

If someone volunteers to arrange flowers in the church every year without fail, it can be all too easy to take their contribution for granted. So make sure to thank everyone and make them feel that their work is appreciated. Why not give them a special thank you in the parish newsletter?

3. Try not to link volunteering to set times

Many people struggle to attend at a specific time each week. Flexibility is often the key for would-be volunteers, particularly for people who are working every day or who have growing families. If a task could be carried out at any time during the week, let the volunteer choose when they do it.

4. Be clear right from the start about the level of commitment you're hoping for

People who volunteer for one hour a week and find they're actually giving five will soon become unhappy with the situation. They might even withdraw their support.

5. Make the most of social media

Online communication channels like Facebook, Twitter, blogs and your church's own website can be great places to ask for help and to engage with the local community. Don't forget more traditional forms of communication too, like newsletters, posters and even the local paper.

6. Approach local businesses

A number of companies will often donate money to good causes, but many also now encourage their staff to volunteer. If you have a specific project in mind, a business may be very willing to help.

Your volunteers are protected

Once you've found your volunteers, you won't need to worry about insuring them. Ecclesiastical's church insurance policy treats authorised volunteers as if they were employees, offering protection against injury and what is known as third-party liability – damage or harm they might cause during their work for the church.

As Marcus Booth of Ecclesiastical explains: "Don't let risk stand in the way of recruiting new volunteers. They're the lifeblood of the church, and Ecclesiastical gives you the cover to protect both them and the church."



For further information

You can find a useful video on Ecclesiastical's 'inspiring volunteers' webpage at www.ecclesiastical.com/latest-news/inspiring-volunteers/

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc, nor its subsidiaries or parent company can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

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