



Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham

# archdeacons' visitation news

## Watch out, there are visionaries about!

**Have you ever had difficulty with your eyesight? Have you ever had problems 'seeing' what other people can see? Have you ever talked to people who were making sense of their dreams?**

Scripture is full of people who had visions and it's not just the prophets of the Old Testament. In the New Testament Zechariah, Ananias, Saul, Peter and John all have visions which change the way that they understand God's purposes. The visions they had not only changed the future, but they also impacted their actions in the present. Zechariah breaks social convention and calls his son, John. Ananias is prepared to meet Saul, the persecutor of the fledgling church. Saul has a vision of Jesus that causes him to be blind and changes his life forever. Peter has a dream that transforms his understanding of God's perspective on rules and rituals and sees Gentiles as equals in sharing the good news of Jesus. Finally, John has a series of epic visions that shape his understanding of the risen and reigning Jesus ushering his kingdom and conquering Satan, death and all that is evil.

So, what about Churchwardens having visions? Churchwardens are often caricatured as people who are more interested in practical solutions than spiritual revival. This is very unfair and not true of many Churchwardens that Archdeacon Tors and I work closely with. Of course, there are practical issues that need to be addressed, but the motivation is often a deep Christian faith and a desire to be part of a church that is growing numerically and spiritually.

As Archdeacons, we are so grateful for all the Churchwardens and PCC members who contributed to the Parish Refresh process and for the prayerfulness and discussion that has gone into reflecting on the past seven years and imagining the next seven. Alongside the Parish Refresh, the diocesan staff are reflecting on how the lessons of the past and the learning of the present might shape the resources for the future. As we work through the implications of the vision and strategy review, our prayer is that Churchwardens will grow in confidence in their

role as leaders in mission and visionaries of a hopeful future for their churches. Like the New Testament visionaries, we will see things differently and be shaped by new encounters with the risen and reigning Christ.

But as we aim to 'see' the future with God's eyes, we continue to 'fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith', (Hebrews 12 verse 2).

**Phil Williams**

Archdeacon of Nottingham



**The Venerable Phil Williams**  
Archdeacon of Nottingham



**The Venerable Tors Ramsey**  
Archdeacon of Newark

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# I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly

John 10:10

**Generosity is at the heart of our faith; we believe in a generous God and our own generosity is a testament and hallmark of our discipleship in action.**

The ministry and mission of the Church of England is largely funded through the incredible generosity of those who give to it. We all need to participate in helping grow a culture of generous discipleship in our churches, deaneries and the diocese. A generous life is part of our faith and the more generous we are, the more we reflect our generous God!

A generous culture is essential for a church to develop a sustainable ministry. Generosity of our time, talents and money. By giving generously, we grow as disciples, reflecting our priorities in life. What we give to God, to and through our local church, will be some of the most important financial decisions we make.



When encouraging people to give, we need to provide the right mechanisms if they are to be generous. The easier it is to give, and the more ways we offer to give, the more likely people are to give. The way people use money is changing, and that means the way people give is changing too.

That might be as simple as making it easy to sign up for regular giving by **standing order** by having information freely available in church and online on the website. Do you regularly provide open opportunities to give as part of worship? How do you invite visitors to give financially to your church? Imagine you are new to church, how easy is it to start giving regularly? Who do people

need to speak to? Is it clear on your church website or AChurchNearYou page?

Investing in a contactless **card reader** is a great way to make it easy for people to give. You can also use these devices to take payment for fees, refreshments too. As a society, we're carrying less cash and most transactions are made electronically, so it is important that our congregations and visitors to our churches can too.



**Online giving** enables people to give to your church through your website, QR codes or social media pages, without having to visit your church building. It's important that we offer our congregations alternatives to enable them to give easily using cards or mobile phones.

Finally, thanking people for their gifts is hugely important. We need to thank everyone regularly and make it clear how their gift has been used. This makes givers feel valued, as well as giving you a chance to show the impact their gift has made on your church's mission and ministry. Make this an annual action, not asking for more, but laying the foundations for future generosity.

**If you would like to know more about any of the above, arrange a visit to your Deanery Synod, PCC or Finance Committee or discuss and pray for your parish's giving needs one to one, please contact our Diocesan Giving Adviser, Tony Brown, on 07879 424590 or [tonybrown@southwell.anglican.org](mailto:tonybrown@southwell.anglican.org)**







## Fundraising hub to support your church

Fundraising has always been vital for churches, from the traditional, well-loved flower festivals and cake sales to the world of digital fundraising opportunities that the internet has opened up. But it can be daunting to know where to start, so Ecclesiastical's easy-to-use online fundraising hub is here to help with great ideas and simple advice.

Drawing on the advice of experts and our own 135 years' experience in working with churches, we've pulled together a range of top tips to help you boost existing income streams and develop new ones. There's help with researching sources of funding and writing professional grant applications that can make all the difference to the answer you receive. There are great video webinars with fundraising specialists offering their insights into key fundraising issues.

Other guidance includes fundraising in less affluent areas, fundraising in rural parishes, how to build a fundraising team and more to keep your congregation and the wider community informed and engaged.

**There are plenty of useful resources and handy templates for all types of churches on our Church Fundraising Hub at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising)**

## Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good giving programme is back with awards of £1,000 to give to charities helping those in need. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, and together they are giving away over **£1 million** to charities in the 2023 Movement for Good Awards.

### £1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your favourite charity or church at any time for the £1,000 draw.
- It's one nomination per charity, per person, so if you have more than one favourite, get them in the running today!
- There are three £1,000 draws this year giving away between £120,000 and £150,000 in each.
- Once you've nominated, share your nomination and get your network to support too.

**Get nominating and find out more at [www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical](http://www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical)**

### Did you know?

**In 2022, 15 churches each won a £1,000 grant.**

There were thousands of nominations for these churches. The more nominations received, the greater their chance of winning.



Contains promotional material



# Rebuilding the historic Church of the Ascension in Salford

**In February 2017, a fire broke out at the Grade-II listed Church of the Ascension in Lower Broughton, Salford, Greater Manchester. Six crews from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service battled for hours to contain the blaze, which ultimately devastated the building.**



Many members of the local community gathered outside the church building to survey the damage, some reduced to tears. Much used and loved by young and old, the building plays an important role in both spiritual and social terms as an inclusive community space accessible to all. The church had recently undergone a £250,000 restoration project which people in the community had helped to fund.

Immediately following the fire, Ecclesiastical carefully assembled the right team of experts to attend the site as soon as the fire service authorised it.

Repair work began in October 2018 with teams of carefully selected experts appointed to complete the works. Phase one included reinstatement of the structural elements of the building,



such as columns, roof structures and slate coverings; stone and brick repairs; stained glass window and window guard replacements; and ceiling finishes.

Phase two began in September 2021, focusing on preserving the historical features of the church. As part of the restoration, Ecclesiastical worked with customers to build in modernisations to enable them to make the space better serve the requirements of today's use.

Restoration of the building was completed by the end of September 2022.

In November 2022, the church and community came together to mark the completion of the £5m restoration project with a rededication ceremony.

**Read the story in full and see more pictures at**  
[www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension)

// It has been a long five and a half years since the fire... we can now look forward to the future with a beautifully restored church which is fit for the 21st century. //

**Shirley Kehoe**, PCC Secretary at the Church of the Ascension



## Take our advice – for a brighter future

Ecclesiastical is well-known as a leading insurer of churches and other heritage buildings. But many people aren't aware that we also have a stand-alone financial advice arm here to help you make the most of your money.

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



You don't have to be an insurance customer to use the service – we're happy to help anyone – but we obviously have specialist knowledge of the church sector, as IFA Kieran Harper explains.

'I've been in the industry for seventeen years and with Ecclesiastical for all but two of those,' said Kieran, who's based in our Gloucester office. 'When it comes to

providing regulated financial advice to the clergy and the wider church community, that experience helps.

'Many of our customers are clergy – we understand their pension scheme, we know about the issues with living in tied accommodation such as vicarages – so when it comes to retirement planning, we're already ahead of the game. We also have a deep understanding of ethical and sustainable investing – as you would expect of a company with such strong links to the church – and this area is getting ever more popular with a lot of our customers.'

Please get in touch to find out how Kieran and his colleagues could help you.



0800 107 0190



[getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)



[www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice)

## Have you signed up for Ecclesiastical's monthly e-news?



This monthly email is full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical's church customers and anyone in your church community. Signing up is easy 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 the sign-up link to anyone you think would like it.

Sign up at [www.ecclesiastical.com/signup](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/signup)

## Support for your 2024 sabbatical

### Are you planning on taking a sabbatical in 2024?

Did you know that there may be support available for you through Ministry Bursary Awards? Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2024.

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community.

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards have supported over 1,400 members of the clergy to finance a wide range of extended leave projects and plans. The application window runs between April and September. Judging will take place in November 2023, with the awards made in December 2023.

**If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/mba](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/mba)**



## Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently?

It's full of information to help you run your church, such as the **Made Simple Guides**, which cover these key topics:

- Church insurance made simple
- Administering your church insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Community outreach
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises

You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. **Explore the website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/church](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church)**



# Protect your home and support your church with £130 donation



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its available profits to good causes, one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical do this is through the 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.<sup>1</sup>

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

In the **Parish of Harpenden**, the donation will be used to support Cornelia's Coffee Shop, which is a community resource that enables them to engage with local people, offering fellowship and raising funds for charity.

It needs some new equipment – not least, a new freezer – and the donation will help in this general regard. It does great work to benefit the community and other great causes. One of our recent events at Cornelia's was to help our local Ukrainian arrivals.

**Kevin Featherstone**, Parish Warden

**St Mary's Church, Wythall**, used their donations to offer a weekly hot meal to families struggling with the increase in the cost of living.

This happens directly after school and includes activities for children and a Bible story or video. £130 will pay for meals for about 20 families, funding the food for about two weeks, which is a great boost financially, but also to the step of faith which this venture is.

**Pam Miller**, Treasurer

## Award-winning home insurance



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.

Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in spring 2023 for home insurance for a record 17th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status.<sup>2</sup> Ecclesiastical was also voted the best home insurance provider in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

For more information about Trust130 and Home Insurance, visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130)

Call us for a home insurance quote on **0345 777 3322** and mention code **TRUSTPA**.

<sup>1</sup> Terms and conditions apply. <sup>2</sup> [www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance](http://www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance) <sup>3</sup> [www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners)



## 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.<sup>1</sup>



**0345 450 9396**



[www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance)

<sup>1</sup> Subject to terms and conditions.



## Funeral planning

Ecclesiastical can help you make financial provision for your funeral, reducing the worry for your family and ensuring your wishes are provided for. Terms and conditions apply.



**0800 055 6503**



[info@epsfunerals.com](mailto:info@epsfunerals.com)



[www.funeralplans.co.uk](http://www.funeralplans.co.uk)

# Fundraising support for your church



Fundraising has always been vital for churches – while there will always be a place for traditional, well-loved flower festivals and cake sales, there is a new world of fundraising opportunities out there that the Internet has opened up.

But it can be daunting to know where to

start, so Ecclesiastical's easy-to-use online fundraising hub is here to help with great ideas and simple advice.

Drawing on the advice of experts, and Ecclesiastical's own 135 years' plus experience in working with churches, they've pulled together a range of guidance to help your church thrive. On this fundraising hub, you will find:

- **Articles, blogs and help sheets on a variety of topics**  
From building a fundraising team to a checklist for grant applications.
- **List of church funders**  
A list of the top funders that are currently offering grants to support churches.
- **Webinars**  
Expert speakers share their insights in recorded webinars.
- **Toolkit for rural churches**  
Top tips and guidance specifically tailored to support small rural churches with fundraising.

Find out more at [ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising](https://ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising)

## Support from your Church Insurance Consultant

Your local Church Insurance Consultant can also support you with Ecclesiastical's fundraising resources. Based around the UK, the team work closely with dioceses, Archdeacons and Area Deans – so look out for events near you. **Find out who your local Church Insurance Consultant is at [ecclesiastical.com/cic](https://ecclesiastical.com/cic)**



## Open churches

There is much churches can do to unlock their visitor potential! Should churches be kept locked at all times? The answer is no, provided suitable precautions are taken.

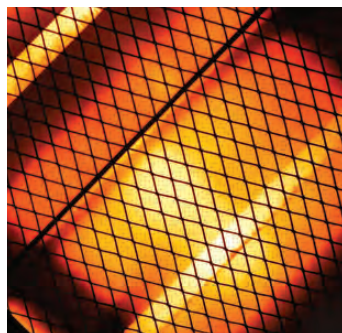
Here are top tips for being open and secure:

- Carry out a full risk assessment. You can find this on the Ecclesiastical website at [ecclesiastical.com/churchriskassessment](https://ecclesiastical.com/churchriskassessment).
- Ensure local residents know that the church is operating an open-door policy so that they can observe suspicious activity.
- Encourage local people to visit the church while passing by.
- If possible, create a rota of volunteer stewards to be present in church – but don't forget to consider their personal safety if, for example, they might be alone in a church at any time.
- Create a secure storage area in which all valuables can be locked.

There is no impact on the church insurance premiums if a church is open during daylight hours. If you have any concerns, speak with Ecclesiastical's Customer Services team on **0345 777 3322**.







## Managing energy costs

**As churches look to lower energy use costs, they may unknowingly increase the risk of damage to church property or people, and extra precautions may be required. These recommendations help protect your property and keep people safe.**

The rise in energy costs is of great concern to many and you may be looking into lower-cost ways to heat and light your church. By planning ahead and taking sensible precautions, it is possible to reduce energy costs and minimise risks to your property and its occupants, avoiding the enormous inconvenience and financial impact of property damage.

### Central heating

If you're planning on reducing your heating output to just a few areas of the building, it's worth considering that reduced heating can cause damp and mould to form in unused areas.

Many radiators are fitted with thermostatic valves that control the heat output giving better energy efficiency. We recommend turning the valve down to a lower setting in unused areas to help keep the area damp free rather than turning heating off. This will also significantly reduce the risk of water pipes bursting. Water leaks can cause major property damage and enormous inconvenience. Radiators in occupied areas can be set at higher temperatures, as desired for comfort.

Important items such as paintings and rugs may be susceptible to damage in colder conditions. These items should be relocated to warmer parts of the property or suitably protected by appropriate coverings where there is a risk of damage.

### Portable heaters

The use of portable heaters may be considered as an alternative. If you are considering using portable heaters, we recommend the following checks before usage:

- Before purchase, check the heater is not included on published recall lists. Defective heaters are a known common cause of fires and even death.
- Use of portable gas, paraffin and other flammable liquid heaters should be avoided. They significantly increase the risk of fire.
- Ensure heaters are maintained as recommended by the manufacturer and kept in good working order. Only a competent person should undertake servicing or repairs.
- Heaters must be kept away from combustible items including timber furniture and altar frontals.
- Before moving any heater, ensure it is turned off and has cooled down.
- Do not leave portable heaters operating unsupervised.

### Candles

Candles are not recommended as an alternative form of lighting. Battery-powered torches or candles that are pre-charged should be considered as an alternative. If candles are used, they should be kept in holders designed for purpose and sited well away from furnishings, especially curtains. They must be extinguished before leaving a room.



By planning ahead and taking sensible precautions, it is possible to reduce energy costs and minimise risks to your property and its occupants, avoiding the enormous inconvenience and financial impact of property damage. **Find out more at [ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/energy-savings-guidance](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/energy-savings-guidance)**

### For more information

**Call:** 0345 777 3322 **Email:** [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)  
**Facebook:** Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters



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