

PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



**More than loaves
and fishes**

2



**Join WW1 Centenary
Commemoration**

3



**How to spend your
free £600**

4



**Starting with tea
and tissues**

5

2018 marks one hundred years of Remembrance. Read tips and stories from parishes in this issue to gain ideas in marking the commemorations. Don't forget grants of £3,000-£10,000 are available to fund events from HLF's 'First World War: Then and Now' scheme at www.hlf.org.uk

Planning for the Past

The Revd Canon Nick Garrard
Rector, Broadside Benefice

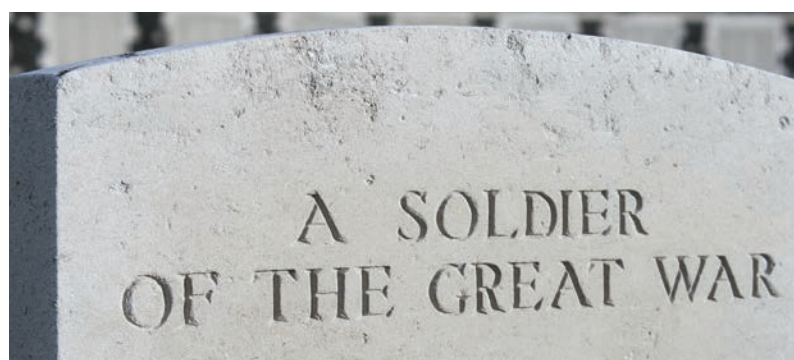
This year sees the conclusion of our World War One commemorations when we mark the centenary of the Armistice signed on 11 November 1918. As 11 November falls on a Sunday, we can expect more people than usual at our services and events. During 2018 resources and news will be posted on the Diocesan website, but the time to start preparing is NOW. Here are some suggestions:

■ **Look at local stories.** Every parish has a unique story to tell about how people reacted to news of the Armistice. Are there local historians who can help? What did the papers report? Were special services recorded in the registers? Have a hunt around in the vestry and dusty cupboards – you'll be amazed at what our ancestors

didn't throw away! If you make a display, it's another reason for people to visit your church

■ **Look out for national events and campaigns.** Look out for news in the media and the Royal Pageant Master's website for details of the 'Battle's Over' events at www.brunopeek.co.uk/battles-over.php

■ **Collaborate with others.** Community organisations such as schools and uniformed groups will also be preparing concerts, exhibitions and events. For example, South Walsham Guides are staging a musical production 'Keep the Home Fires Burning' which will link in with Remembrance in the parish. Small grants for centenary projects are available from the Norfolk Community Foundation www.norfolkfoundation.com/funds/norfolk-world-war-1-fund



■ **Prepare for Remembrance Sunday.** Start to think of how you wish to use this year's service to embrace the themes of remembrance, reconciliation and peace. Look out for liturgies from the Church of England or Royal British Legion websites which will be published during the year.

This centenary year is an important opportunity for the church to connect with our wider communities. We hope that your

PCC is already thinking about how we can welcome more people to special acts of worship and share the gospel of hope in a world that remains troubled and divided. The Tourism and Open Churches Mission Action Team (TOMAT) would love to hear of your plans and are happy to answer questions and offer advice if required.

For further information contact Caroline Rawlings **caroline.rawlings@dioceseofnorwich.org**

What's in a name?

Barnham Broom and Upper Yare Group of Parishes are marking the ending of WW1 with The Remembrance Project 2018.

Many men and women served and gave their lives in the two world wars so that future generations could live in freedom and peace. Within the benefice at least 150 names are carved on our war memorials and over time many of these people have been forgotten as their families have moved away. The Remembrance Project aims to bring their memory back to life, in finding out more about each individual: their lives, families, friends and death, often in a foreign field. Only a few of these stories have been recorded, but more needs to be done. Volunteers are needed to 'adopt a name' from one of the war memorials, find out about the person, and write a short story of their life. The intention is to preserve each life story, in time for the national centenary marking the end of the WW1.

Each village in the Group has its own Remembrance plans. This project does not aim to replace that, but to contribute to it, in collaboration with local Parish Councils

The stories will also be shared with the Norfolk in World War I Project, the National Remembrance Project, British Legion and Imperial War Museum.

A Stroll Down Memory Lane



Barbara Pilch
Events Co-ordinator,
St Andrew and St Peter, Blofield

The village history day on November 4 fulfilled our expectations when nearly 300 visitors came to see hundreds of old photos, maps and aerial views of the village as it once was. Many of the older residents met up with people they had grown up with, been to school with but perhaps not seen for many years. Newer residents saw what used to stand where their houses are now and learned something of our community's rich past and present.

The Paston Heritage Society

members who attended in medieval costume added to the scene by demonstrating aspects of life when Edward Paston and his family lived in this area in the 15th century. Visitors of all ages tried their hand at calligraphy with a quill pen and spinning and weaving were demonstrated using wool coloured with madder and other natural dyes. Medieval wise women explained old cures and remedies, using traditional medicinal herbs.

It was a fascinating insight into life in those times with more to come during the next three years as exciting events are planned to celebrate Blofield's Edward Paston, a remarkable man.

Could your parish or benefice embark on a similar project? It is a great way to integrate with the local community. Why not think about establishing a small history group at the same time?

Editorial

Robert Culyer
Parish Funding Support Officer
01603 882326
robert.culyer@dioceseofnorwich.org



The national press and media are full of stories about loneliness and the effects it has on us as individuals. It is reckoned that loneliness is as bad for your health as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. The fact that we have lonely people in our communities is a shameful indictment on us Christians.

Part of my job as parish funding support officer is to help parishes look at ways of growing their church. Having worked in a business environment for most of my life, I know only too well that the best way of getting new customers was through word of mouth.

So here comes a challenge!! Ask yourself - how many people have you personally introduced to church? You have probably attended church all your life, but how often have you said to someone, that you occasionally sit next to on the bus, or meet at another social club, would you like to come to church with me on Sunday? It is likely that the lonely person sat next to you is waiting for you to ask them to join you.

In some cases, I admit that they will join just for the fellowship rather than belief, but once they join you at church and feel God's love they will believe. How often have you thought that you would like to go to something but have no one to go with? They might not be ready to come to church yet, so it might be a case of inviting them to a church run event.

I appreciate that you might feel that you would be out of your comfort zone doing this, but I hope, like me, come your day of judgement, you are able to say - 'Yes Lord, I have done your work to the best of my ability'.

We are all disciples and we hear in the bible how Andrew took people to Jesus. In Matthew we are told that Jesus said 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations'.

I realise that we have 'back to church Sunday', but it is not always easy to find that person on that Sunday!

I would also ask you to consider what church activity or service you are inviting someone to attend with you. Ideally you need to be thinking along the lines of a benefice service, where there are more people attending and hopefully music. People want to belong to something that is growing. When inviting somebody tell them why you go. For example, I sometimes say 'it is a great opportunity for me to have a few moments for quiet reflection, and a chance to meet other people'. Or I might say that I go to church because I enjoy hearing the readings from the bible, or the music.

Also it is important to leave the door open. If they say 'no they can't come at the moment', I always say that the offer stands anytime.

So my challenge to you is to never miss an opportunity to bring someone along to church. The growth of your church is in your hands.



Photo credits: Rebecca Elkins

Food & fun in school holidays

Anna Walker
Children, Youth & Families
Administrator

FISH (Food (and Fun) In School Holidays) is a project facilitated by Norwich Foodbank to support families in need with meals during the school holidays.

It was started in the summer holidays of 2014 after a rise in the number of families - and therefore children - being referred to the foodbank for support. Children - and in some clubs parents too - are invited to attend a local FISH club where they are given a free hot meal, dessert and then some free fun activities which have included crafts and games, Kiddy Cook led cookery workshops, drumming workshops, puppet making with Norwich Puppet Theatre, as well as trips out to the Tesco Farm to Fork trails, the panto etc. The aim is to give the children attending a great time and the opportunity to experience and take part in activities they otherwise wouldn't be able to do or afford. All the clubs are run by volunteers, including the cooks, and vary as to how often they run depending on volunteer and venue availability. Norwich Foodbank provides as much of the food as possible, but has also received charitable grants and generous donations and support from local suppliers.

One FISH club hosted by The Christian Fellowship, Norwich, operates in Lakenham with the support of other local churches. Clare Elkins from the church explains: "We had a fantastic FISH club in summer 2017 partnering with four local churches including St Mark's and St John's in Lakenham. It was based at the Lakenham Primary School and we worked with those who were identified by the school pastoral team. The food was provided by the Norwich Foodbank and a team of cooks came from One Church. Our volunteers were amazing and the ecumenical team was a joy to work with."

Peter and Marguerite Phillips who volunteered from St Mark's Church, Lakenham comment: "This project highlights the ever present need for local churches to address food poverty in our city and county and it's a great way to network in the community." The team in Lakenham have committed with Norwich Foodbank to run another FISH club in 2018.

Hannah Worsley, Project Manager at Norwich Foodbank says, "FISH has become a significant part of our work within Norwich Foodbank highlighting how the needs of those in low income situations is changing. Similar holiday provision is now available across the UK, many in association

with the local foodbank, as we respond proactively to the needs of those who access our service." FISH is one way to support and be involved in outreach to the local community and churches can make a valid and important contribution whether they choose to:

- Raise awareness
- Collect food provisions for a foodbank or a specific FISH club
- Take a monetary collection to donate to the cause
- Volunteer time and expertise to help support an existing group
- Offer a suitable venue for a FISH club to meet.

Speak to a foodbank about setting up and hosting a new FISH group. To find out more visit:
www.norwichfoodbank.co.uk

Sometimes in life we are put off from doing something because we feel that it is an insurmountable task.

As we see from the article about feeding children in the school holidays, anything is achievable by going into partnership with other organisations. Have you any projects that you could do in partnership with another organisation?

I feel like PCC Tonight

The Revd David Owen
Rector, Chet Valley Benefice

A small group of us from the Chet Valley benefice attended the last session of PCC Tonight. Graham Archer of CPAS (The Church Pastoral Aid Society) led the evening and started by asking, "Who jumps out of bed in the morning when the alarm clock rings and thinks yippee I have a PCC meeting tonight?" Sadly very few, if any, of us do which is why we came along to the presentation to see what we could do to invigorate our meetings. Graham Archer gave some practical advice

with regard to making the meeting welcoming with such things as having tea/coffee and biscuits/cake at the meetings. He pointed to the importance of creating helpful agendas and ensuring that the meetings are time managed. He also advocated a place for creative 'conflict' in the discussions.

He took us through the 12 common dysfunctions of PCC meetings that leaders need to be aware of and he introduced the valuable resources which are available from CPAS.

It was a beneficial evening and we hope to adopt some of the ideas suggested in our PCC meetings.

Book now

We never stop learning, so why not get a group of you together and go along to the next evening on Monday 18 June 2018.

It is in Swaffham, and it's free! To book places visit **www.dofn.org/tonight** or contact Liz Dawes on 01603 882335 or **liz.dawes@dioceseofnorwich.org**



A-peel for bell ringers to join unique WW1 Centenary Commemoration

Bruno Peek
Pageant Master

The organisers of Battle's Over have put out an appeal to church bell ringers around Britain to join in a major event to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1, and to be a moving tribute to the 1,400 or so bell ringers who lost their lives during World War 1.

They are looking for over a 1,000 churches to ring their bells simultaneously at 7.05pm on the night of Sunday 11 November 2018. Bruno Peek, the Pageant master said 'The stirring sound of church and cathedral bells will provide a fitting conclusion to a day of contemplation, commemoration and, ultimately, celebration as the United Kingdom and other nations reflect on events a century ago, on the battlefields of Europe and at home in our factories and farms'.

For more information see www.bigideascompany.org/project/ringingremembers/



Why not be part of this great event. The opportunities here are immense. Perhaps this will inspire you to:

- set up a group of bell ringers in your parish
- visit a church across our Diocese taking part in the Ring Out 2018
- make your church available to bell ringers.

A competitive sport?

Mark Hibbard
Tower Captain, St Mary's Church, Gressenhall

Bells have been ringing from churches around the world for many centuries, but the 'change-ringing' that we are familiar with became popular in England in the 17th century. In the early days it was a secular activity, becoming popular as a means of gentle exercise and even a competitive 'sport'. Reforms in Victorian times discouraged ringing other than as part of Christian worship, but since then the secular/non-secular boundaries have again become blurred, and most ringers today consider themselves to provide a service to both the church and the wider community.

For the church: Ringing is still a part of Sunday services, celebrating weddings, mourning the passing of loved ones, and marking festivals like Easter and Christmas. Ringing also provides an opportunity to engage local people with Church activities, and to attract visitors from further afield. An active band of ringers is usually able to take care of (and self-fund) the day-to-day maintenance of the bells.

For the community: Ringing provides an opportunity for



people of all ages and ability to socialise and enjoy a challenging/rewarding hobby. The health and wellbeing benefits, for both young and old, have been studied in detail and are well documented. Bells are often rung to help mark national occasions which this year will include the Royal Wedding on 19 May and the Centenary of

Armistice Day on 11 November. Last summer at Gressenhall we hosted a bell ringing competition and this saw teams of bells ringers from far and wide travel to our church. It also brought quite a few spectators to see the event.

To find out more, visit: www.bigideascompany.org/project/ringingremembers/

Transforming your church building for mission

Tim Bennett
Overstrand, North Norfolk

I have returned from the session that I attended inspired, 'educated' and with a much better understanding of the challenges which lie ahead.

The presentation was excellent - very clear, amusing at times and also it sent us away with the challenge of what has to be done, when and how. Also, I was told where help is available. Thanks to Nigel Walter (Founding Director, Archangel Architects) and the Diocesan Training Team for organising this opportunity.

Welcome and refreshments were good - but the pews were hard after three hours and feet were cold!

I was so involved in the session I did not notice how cold my feet were until the end! I have just written up my notes for feedback to the PCC next month. The presentation style was very engaging and the way you made what is a complex and time consuming process now seems so possible was excellent.

Our situation at Overstrand is quite complex as we have a medieval building which fell into ruins and was restored and



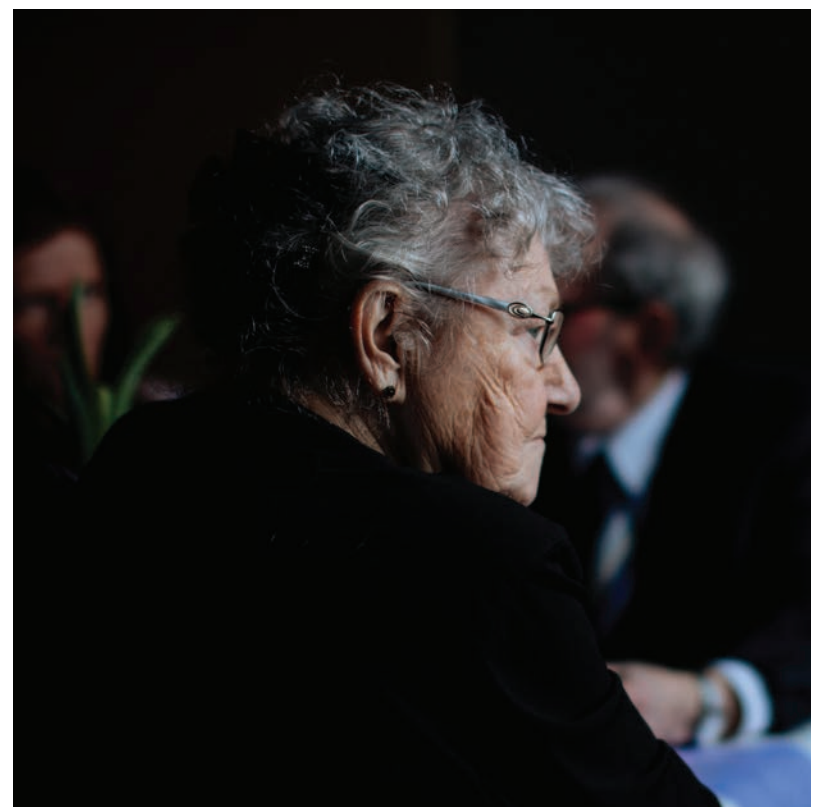
re-dedicated in 1914 so it is a big mixture of styles. As I explained to Matthew, the DAC Secretary, when the 'new' building was opened it had chairs not pews! What a pity they changed! When I showed our new Rector a photograph of the church interior from 1914 he thought that I had digitally enhanced it for a 'New Plan'!

We have initial ideas to use the church as a space for our village community which does not have an easily accessible and usable village hall.

The next session for Transforming your church building for mission is on Monday 21 May, 10am - 1pm (with light refreshments) at St Nicholas Church, Blakeney.

To book places visit www.dofn.org/transforming or contact Angela George on 01603 881724.

Loneliness



Continuing with the idea of loneliness (see editor's column), have you thought about the following:

You could invite people from surrounding villages. Remember loneliness affects all ages. It does not have to be just your church or village. Why not start a -

- Knitting group
- Reading group
- Singing group

- Rambling group
- Gardening group to tidy the churchyards.

The list is endless. Notify all the local doctor's surgery about your group, as they might be able to recommend you to patients. Once you have a little group going ask members if they would like to join you at church on Sunday, and invite members along to other church activities. As a family let's stamp out loneliness.

The reports on this page show how parishes have used money from the Sharing Good News Fund to help them do amazing things in their community. It is a simple application form, and you could receive up to £600 towards an £800 project (75%). What's stopping you from applying?

Popcorn at the ready!

The Revd Alex Irving
Assistant Curate,
St Stephen's Church, Norwich

Just over a year ago, St Stephen's was given permission to occupy the Chapel of the old Norwich and Norfolk Hospital to serve the local community at Fellowes Plain. After conducting a survey of the local area it was clear that one way that this building could be put to use to serve the local community was by establishing a film club for people to gather. We show films monthly and we already have a solid core of members made up of church goers and non-church goers. We are only three months in but the Film Club is showing real potential to draw people together, providing an occasion for people who don't know Jesus to meet those who do.

We applied to the Good News Fund to finance the purchase of two high quality speakers, one high quality screen and a new DVD Player. The process of applying was very easy. It is a short form requiring a demonstration of costs



and a short description of the project we were hoping to run. The Diocesan staff were helpful at every stage and we received the full amount requested in a very short amount of time.

This money has been essential to establishing this project which is enabling us to involve more people in the local community in the life of the church and provide the context within which friendships can be established. We are just coming to the end of our first series of films (which have fallen under the genre of British Comedy) and we are due to start our second series of films in February (the genre of which will be 'Road Movies').

Party! Party! Party!

Donna Dodson
Authorised Worship Assistant,
St Mary Magdalene, Gorleston

Like many churches we find ourselves with just a few active members and very little money in a parish full of need and opportunities. But a grant from the Good News Fund is making a real difference. The grant was easy to apply for, with a very straightforward application form and flexibility around what it can be used for.

Our church, St Mary Magdalene, Gorleston, is at the heart of a large housing estate, but there are very few places left on the estate for the community to use. Three pubs have all been knocked down and replaced with housing. We had already started a fresh expressions community, meeting monthly at 4pm on a Sunday, known as Tea Time Together. This was successfully reaching about 40 people many of whom were not coming to church previously. But we wanted to use the Good News



Fund grant to build on this work.

We want the local community to see the church as their place and a positive place to be. So we have planned a series of "outreach parties" and used the grant to fund resources. To date this has included a Super-Hero party in October, and a Christingle making workshop and Lantern Parade with Carol singing in December and a new year's party in early January. We are currently planning an Easter Day event and are hoping to host a families

fun day in the summer. The grant has also been used to help with publicity, including funding some targeted campaigns on Facebook.

And its working! We've had good numbers at all the events so far and they have helped in making new contacts. Our reputation in the community is growing and we are praying that the church will be seen as a place of welcome that offers friendship. We have also seen an increase in community groups using our building.

Giggles, Chuckles and Laughs!



Susan Garrod
Open the Book Co-ordinator,
St Margaret's Church, Lowestoft

We formed our Open the Book Team, last July 2017 after three of us went to a Open the Book Initial Team Training Day, with Mrs Irene Nickerson. This was such a great day and so inspiring that we went back to our church St Margarets in Lowestoft, and with the support of our Rector and church family, and a presentation from St Andrews Open the Book team we set up a team of 14 people, this allows us to be flexible and cover for work shifts, holidays and sickness.

In August we started to rehearse the first story. It soon became apparent that costs of costumes, props, books etc. could become a problem so to help fund the setting up and running we contacted the Diocese. All the staff at Diocesan House have been so helpful with

any questions we had, and we applied to the Sharing Good News Fund. The application was very easy and straight forward and funds were in the church bank account within three weeks. This has been such a great help which has allowed us to purchase the necessary materials for costumes, scenery, books, bibles and identity badges and DBS checks. We are fortunate that groups within our church have helped us with their different skills, and so become part of spreading God's Word to the children.

We were very fortunate in that the Open the Book Training Officer Mrs Irene Nickerson was able to come and give the team a training session in our own church, this was a great help to us all.

Our team is now going into two schools, St Margaret's Primary Academy and Northfield St Nicholas Primary Academy at moment we are going into each one

once a month as we have to work with the schools time tables. We are only ordinary people, not actors or professional stage people, and it was a bit daunting for the first couple of times standing in front of 200 plus children and teachers and acting out the story. But to see their attentive faces, while the story is being told, and the smiling faces and positive comments at the end of the story as they file out is so fantastic. The children are now looking forward to the next story and asking when we will be back. They also remember the last story as we ask in lead up to this new presentation, to try to show the links from story to story. For the first presentations we only used team members, but in the Noah's Ark story we used the children to make the sound of rain. In the Abraham story they did the giggles, chuckles and laughs. We have involved the whole school and

it has been very successful; children love to make a noise! From the story of Joseph we are just going to have a small number of children as brothers and be part of the story under an adult team member as lead brother.

The response from the teachers has also been very positive, we are learning from each presentation, and gaining in confidence and experience with each story.

The team also get so much enjoyment from seeing the Bible stories in a new light as we engage with the children. We are indeed very lucky to be able to be part of spreading God's Word to the children.

With the benefit of the Sharing Good News Fund we are able to gradually build up a store of multi-use costumes and props. We go forward with our trust in our Lord Jesus to guide us to spread his light.

What would you do?

Help me! Please advise me as to which path the following church should take:- The Church of Faith and Hope has been left an unrestricted legacy which means that they are free to spend the money wisely. They have a choice of two paths. Which one should they follow?

Path A: Use the money to develop their church rooms to be a community hub, which hopefully will then ensure that they are able to pay their parish share in years to come

Or Path B: Pay their parish share which pays for our clergy and retired clergy to do their work of mission and ministry in our communities, and at the same time apply to grant making trusts that will fund projects to develop venues for community use. Once the project is completed they will hopefully be able to pay their parish share in years to come.

Which route would your parish follow? Always think carefully about all the options before you embark on your project.

Child's Play

The Revd Canon David Roper
Rector, Poppyland Benefice

In our efforts to increase our interaction with the local community, I felt there was a need to have a pre-school toddler group at Southrepps. The problem was where to start! I had heard of the Diocesan PlayVan, so I contacted them.

Lesley Gurney, the PlayVan Development worker, accompanied by a couple of trustees came to see me to discuss how we could achieve this aim.

We are lucky at the church of St James at Southrepps, because we have a great, recently built, facility that would lend itself to this sort of event. At the meeting the trustees checked that there was no other provision in the area, and said that I needed to identify two volunteers who could help run the event. The trustees explained that in other villages, when the church has not been a suitable venue that they have established the group in the local school, or village hall.

The PlayVan now arrives with a selection of toys on board, especially designed to help children with co-ordination and communication, and also engages the children in craft activities. The children are also provided with a healthy snack. The



parents and carers have a chance to socialise with each other, and I understand that at other groups the PlayVan, in conjunction with the Children's Centres, is organising sessions designed to help parents. The PlayVan also arranges for health visitors to visit the sessions and give advice as and when required.

We are now getting to the stage where Lesley, the development worker, is preparing to hand the session over to our volunteers. This means that she can go on to help another parish to establish a pre-school session. As part of the hand over we are given a folder with all the policies set out and are told that there will be continued support as and when we need it.

So far this has been an excellent way for us to offer service to our community. It is also bringing young families into our church.

Many of you will know that the PlayVan is part of the Diocesan family, but it is a charity in its own right, and therefore have to seek funding from many different trusts.

The PlayVan establishes pre-school sessions in isolated, rural villages where there is no other provision. The data the PlayVan trustees use comes from the Children's Centres and helps them to identify villages where there is an educational need, but they need you, our Diocesan PCC members, to help them to identify areas where there is a social need. So if you think there is a need for a pre-school session in your parish please contact Lesley Gurney, PlayVan Development Worker on **07918 027092** or email **playvan@dioceseofnorwich.org**

Also in the past some churches have very kindly given the proceeds from a Sunday service's retiring collection - could you do the same and help the PlayVan to continue its good works?



Tea and Tissues

The Revd Mark Capron
Rector, Dersingham Benefice

Dropping children off for the first day at school can be an emotional time for children as well as parents and grandparents; frequently with a tear shed. With the support of the Mothers' Union (St Nicholas Church) we created a simple, yet effective event for the benefit of parents and grandparents, suitably entitled 'Tea and Tissues'. Held on the first day that the children started in their new classes, the 'Tea and Tissues' event offered tea, cake and tissues in abundance for parents, carers and grandparents along with an opportunity to talk with people who had been through it before.

We also had the aim to use 'Tea and Tissues' as the spring board to begin a new baby and toddler group and it became the

catalyst for the formation of 'Little Nippers' which, within six months, had a waiting list.

'Tea and Tissues' is another way that we can work well with and support the local school and community. Even though 'Little Nippers' is now well established, the school is keen for us to keep offering 'Tea and Tissues' each year. What began as an opportunity to serve people has now also resulted in a much loved and enjoyed baby and toddler group run by young parents with the support of members of the church.

The children are used to coming into the church and are excited to be there. They begin their lives with wonderful memories of being in a place of worship and enjoying being part of the Bible stories and prayer, all thanks to 'Tea and Tissues' (and cake!).



DEVLIN PLUMMER
STAINED GLASS



SPECIALISTS IN ALL TYPES OF STAINED AND LEADED GLASS

We work on glass dating from the early 14th century to the present day, the repair of casements and ferramenta, supply and installation of window protection. Many of our commissions come direct from PCC's whilst many others are initiated by architects.

To discuss conservation, repair, protection or commissions of stained glass to church windows please contact our studio **01379 677111** www.devlinplummer.co.uk

£2,000 – a Walk in the Park!

Adel MacNicol
Stody

Like so many parishes across the Diocese we, at Stody, are always looking for ways to raise funds. We are only a small group of parishioners, like so many of our Norfolk churches, but I thought that maybe I should have a go. Unfortunately others from the parish who might have joined me were either away or incapacitated so I set about seeing how much I could raise – and tried to do a little about my fitness too, although this was hampered by a rather severe bout of flu.

Not being in the first flush of youth, I had originally intended to do the first section, or maximum of five miles only. However my friends and associates turned out to be so incredibly generous with their sponsorship that I felt honour bound to try to go the whole way – which I am pleased to say I managed in not a bad time (walking not running!).

Walking on one's own allows you to slot in alongside all sorts of very different people and I had some fun, and one fairly strange conversation.



It also allows considerable time for contemplation and, it may sound a little trite, but I felt very privileged to be walking in such beautiful surroundings, to enable me to make a contribution to two extremely deserving causes. That was what kept me going when the toes at the end of the boots became seriously painful and I was wondering whether I could possibly keep the pace up for yet another lap, although in the end I actually ran the final 500 yards.

It was an experience I would thoroughly recommend. The age spread of those taking part was much greater than I had expected (at various stages I walked

alongside a wonderful 80 year old lady and later a very chatty nine year old). The course is set up so that entrants only have to do just as much or as little as they can - but they are all there for one purpose – to raise funds for their parish church and the Air Ambulance and that gives a great sense of camaraderie and achievement. It is nothing like running a marathon I know, but then that would be beyond the wildest dreams of most of the participants there, so this is a very good substitute.

- I raised £2,000!
- Improved my fitness
- Met some lovely people
- Had a great day out.

Archdeacon's Charge

Monday 7 May 2018
Holkham Hall, NR23 1AB

You will see from the two articles on this page from two of the parishes who took part in last year's Archdeacon's charge, what a fun day they had.

Not only was it fun, but it helped them raise much needed funds for their churches, and the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

So this year why not take the initiative and enter yourselves? All you need to do is:-

- Find someone in your village who will do the walk/run for your church
 - Get everyone in the locality to sponsor that person
 - Get local people to come along and support your team
- Why not split the task? Have someone to do the activity and someone to organise the sponsorship?

Also, this year your parish has the added chance to raise even more funds. In the craft tent there is the chance to have a parish stall. This is a great opportunity to display and

sell your crafts to a much wider audience, whether it be:-

- cake making
- toy making
- jam making
- knitting etc.

It is easy to register on the Diocesan website (www.dioceseofnorwich.org/charge), and sponsor forms are prepared for you.

Registration is £5 per adult; under 18s go free. The day starts at 10am and there will be loads of events going on. There will be:-

- a children's play area
- activities for teenagers
- classic cars
- a craft market
- refreshments (or you can bring your own picnic).

There is no excuse for not taking part! If you cannot find anyone to represent your parish you can sponsor the Archdeacon on behalf of your own parish; half of the money will be credited to your Parish Share and this will help to keep your vicar. See you there!

St John Ambulance on standby!

The Revd Clive Wylie
Rector, South Creake Benefice

My first experience of The Archdeacon's Charge was in 2012 at Sandringham. I remember it as a cold, wet, miserable day as we tramped around the course having been promised that we would see parts of the estate not open to the public. I now know why... but this was not to put me off. I registered again the following year this time coming home with badly sunburnt legs. Again I was undeterred and have participated every year since and have seen what was initially a sponsored walk/run metamorphize into a fantastic fun

filled family day out.

Last year fourteen of us from the Creakes Benefice took part. It was a great opportunity for us to spend time together, to get to know one another better, and to support and encourage each other around the course. The course is always a number of laps. Some walked while others ran. Some did the full 10 miles while others did what they were able. But what was important was that we were together having fun.

Together we raised an amazing £1,149, 50% of which goes toward paying the Parish Share with the remainder being donated to the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

This is an excellent way to show our support and appreciation for the extraordinary work they do. It is also the perfect way to increase fitness.

Participating in the Archdeacon's Charge ignited a passion for running that has contributed to me, at 53 years old, being in the best shape of my life!

Having registered for the Archdeacon's Charge again this year, I can say it's easy and hassle free to do online. I have also reserved a table for my benefice in the Craft Marquee where we will be selling jams and cakes for parish funds. Don't delay... register now. See you in May.

FAMILY DAY & FUN RUN

THE ARCHDEACON'S CHARGE & PICNIC 2018

Bank Holiday Monday 7 May 2018
10am - 3pm at Holkham Hall
(South Lodge entrance, NR23 1RX)

Get sponsored and raise money for your
Parish Church & the East Anglian Air Ambulance
5km course

Bring-your-own picnic • Refreshments & cake stalls • Craft market
Live band • Children & youth activities • Classic cars

Photocopiers and printers for your church

- Dramatically reduce spend associated with all type of Parish printing & Copying
- Produce high quality output quickly and efficiently
- Rental and Service Agreements you can enter into with confidence
- Free initial visit to audit your current costs associated with printing and copying



Contact: John Rowe 01603 484656
jrowe@ebs-copiers.co.uk

Or visit
www.ebs-copiers.co.uk

AED

AUDIO ELECTRONIC DESIGN

Specialising in the supply & installation of high quality, discreet, sound reinforcement, induction loop and audio visual systems for houses of worship since 1989.

Audio Electronic Design, Old Field Barn, Abbey Road,
Old Buckenham, Norfolk NR17 1QA. Tel: 01953 860074

Contact: Darren Butler MinstSCE
darren@churchsoundengineer.co.uk

ISCE
The Institute of Sound and
Communications Engineers

School Governors



Robert Culyer
School Governor, Tacolneston & Morley Church of England VA Primary Schools

I appreciate that many PCC members will feel that they don't have enough time to do their PCC member duties, so the thought of taking on another role is not worth contemplating, but please think again. Being a governor of a school or academy is one of the most rewarding roles that you can take on. During visits you have the pleasure of seeing how the children

thrive in the safe, Christian, caring and learning environment that you have helped to develop. Yes, it carries responsibilities and can involve giving up quite a bit of time, but like everything in life, the rewards are tenfold. By working with the school or academy it will help create a rewarding two way relationship, which is ideal when you are planning child or family activities at church. If you are unable to take on the role yourself, you may know someone who would. For further information please visit www.dofn.org/governor

Granting the 'Seeds for Growth'

Anna Walker
Children, Youth & Families Administrator

In November 2016, St Laurence's Church in Brundall, part of the Yare Valley Churches, applied to the Children, Youth and Families Task Force for a £100 'Seeds for Growth' grant. The grant was to help establish a Toddler Café as a new weekly outreach initiative, providing a place for local people to come and have a coffee, cake and conversation - with toys to engage the toddlers. Paula-Marie Leech who was involved in setting up the project says: "It was intended that the initiative would be able to enhance the under five provision within our community and as a church enable a connection with young families that previously we didn't have. The funding from the 'Seeds for Growth' grant together with the PCC match funding was spent on the purchase of toys for the café, which enabled us to start the new initiative. The Toddler Café has continued

to run weekly in term time and we have been able to do occasional school holiday specials. As the project is run as a café we do not always see the same families every week, however there are a core of families who come and, since starting, we have welcomed many local families. It is a very intentional part of our mission as a church - enabling us to connect with families and personally invite them to our weekly all age service called 'Patchwork'. We have had some really positive feedback. One grandparent said, "It's so wonderful to have somewhere to go with my granddaughter that is really relaxed and has such a great atmosphere, we both really enjoy coming." And a mother new to the village commented "it's been great to be able to get to know some people in the village." It was also really special that one of the leaders of the group was invited by a mother to attend the baptism of her child in the church. The project was born out of the church growth plan, which was


discussed and devised at the PCC away day, and is intentionally 'mission through relationship'. Subsequently the church community has been involved in receiving and realising the growth plan which has been great to see."

'Seeds for Growth' grants, administered by the Children, Youth and Families Task Force, can be used by churches to significantly develop an existing project or launch a new initiative which has a primary missional aim of reaching out regularly to young people and their families beyond the existing congregation, with the hope of sharing the Gospel with them. A grant of up to £100 can be applied for and must be match funded by the PCC or another source. Further information can be found at www.dioceseofnorwich.org/cyfgiants


Classifieds - Helping you find useful suppliers and organisations

PCC News is published three times a year, has a print run of 5,000 copies, and is posted to every PCC member. This issue we've begun a new Classifieds section to help promote local businesses and organisations across the Diocese. We charge just £25 per issue for an advert (minimum 3 placements). Contact Sally Finn today on 01603 882322 or sally.finn@dioceseofnorwich.org to discuss placing your advert.


BUILDING MAINTENANCE


**Spire Property Consultants**
Providing Property Services with Christian Values, A Diocese of Norwich Trading Subsidiary. Regulated by RICS
01603 882333
www.spirepropertyconsultants.co.uk


Philip Parker Associates Ltd

**Philip Parker Associates Ltd**
Ecologists experienced in bat surveys at over 250 churches in Norfolk
01553 630842
admin@philipparkerassociates.co.uk


SOUND


**dmMUSIC**
Specialist Church Sound & Audio Visual Installation
01582 761122
www.dmmusic.com

**iKnow Church Software**
iKnow Church can help with your church admin and GDPR Compliance
0121 651 11 25
www.iknowchurch.co.uk


**churchedit**
The easiest way to create a parish website - used by over 1,000 churches
0121 651 11 20
www.churchedit.co.uk


Nicola Kantorowicz


**Nicola Kantorowicz**
Stained Glass Artist Commissions welcome for new stained glass windows. Fellow of the B.S.M.G.P
0118 972 4746
www.nicolakantorowicz.com

**Alzheimer's Society**
Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading dementia charity here for anyone affected
National Dementia Helpline: 0300 222 1122
alzheimers.org.uk


Cookes Pianos


**Cookes Pianos**
Range of Viscount Organs and expertise in our Norwich showroom
01603 625970
www.cookespianos.co.uk

**churchinsight**
Church Websites and Church Management System
01229 790222
www.churchinsight.com


**B&H**
B&H Clergy Shirts and Collars, the online shop for quality Clergy Shirts and Cloth Clergy Collars and more
01603 871 911
www.bandhshirts.com

CLIVEDEN CONSERVATION


**CLIVEDEN CONSERVATION**
Conservation of stone masonry, terracotta, plaster, wall-paintings and the decorative arts
01485 528970
www.clivedenconservation.com


**Quiet Waters**
We offer a peaceful and quiet atmosphere for worn-out and tired Christians
01986 893201
www.quietwaters.org.uk


Holmes & Swift Organbuilders


**Holmes & Swift Organbuilders**
Organ tuning, repairs and restoration projects of all sizes Established 40 years
07767 754743
www.organrestoration.co.uk

Parish Resources


**Parish Resources**
The Church of England's website to support all aspects of stewardship, administration and management in the local church
www.parishresources.org.uk


**kevin mayhew**
Theological & Devotional Books, Music, Church Supplies & more. Proudly serving the Christian community!
01449 737978
www.kevinmayhew.com


**CHRISTOPHER DUNPHY ECCLESIASTICAL**
Specialists in design and installation of bespoke heating systems exclusively for churches
01706 522702
www.dunphychurchheating

**Christian Endeavour Holiday Centre**
Family and individual holidays, groups, retreats, conferences, church weekends, special events
01263 579212
www.cehc.org.uk

Grant Finder

**Grant Finder**
A free online funding website to help you find grants and funding
01603 882326
www.DofN.org/grantfinder

**BRIGHT MAP**
Promote your local church groups & activities by adding them to Bright Map.
01603 882322
www.brightmap.org

**the churchnotice boardcompany**
Manufacturers of aluminium and oak church noticeboards
01606 871188
www.churchnoticeboards.co.uk

Fake News! Finance FAQs & myths

Susan Bunting
Diocesan Director of Finance

At the recent Benefice support meetings held in November 2017, we discovered that there were some recurring questions, so we thought it might be helpful to share these and the answers with you.

1. Does the Norwich Diocesan Board of Finance (NDBF) own Norwich Cathedral and The Close?

No. The finances of the Cathedral and the houses in The Close are run and managed by the Dean and Chapter.

2. Does the Government pay for our Clergy?

No. The NDBF receives no government funding. All of the stipendiary clergy are funded by NDBF and the payroll is administered by the Church of England payroll team. The Diocesan Bishop and Suffragan Bishops are not paid by NDBF.

3. Does the Central Church pay for Curates?

No. Stipendiary curates are funded by NDBF and the payroll is administered by the Church of England payroll team.

4. Are Trustees of NDBF paid for their work or helping at the support meetings?

No. Out of pocket expenses only. Our non-ordained trustees consist of professionals or retired professionals who give up their time and expertise on a voluntary basis. This is also true for internal boards such as the Property Committee, Glebe Committee and

Investment Policy Group etc.

5. Can I claim VAT back on PCC expenses?

In some circumstances, PCCs can claim back VAT on works carried out under the Listed Places of Worship grant scheme. For more information visit www.lpwscheme.org.uk
HANDY HINT – charities should be charged 5% VAT on utility bills covering charitable buildings – check your bill and ask to amend if this is 20% VAT, also ask for a refund of overcharges on previous bills.

6. Now that we use the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) we don't use envelopes?

No! In order to use GASDS you must have a history of claims using the envelope system. This is also important to maximise the amount that can be claimed under both schemes. GASDS is not a replacement for the envelope scheme but should run alongside it. For Information, claims can be made on cash donations of £20 or less up to £8,000 per church per annum.

7. What is the difference between Designated and Restricted funds?

Restricted funds are given for a particular purpose from the outset. These are generally restricted by the donor(s) when they give a gift/legacy or if a fundraising event is held for a particular purpose. The PCC cannot choose to restrict unrestricted funds. These funds may include endowment funds with the stipulation that the capital must be retained and

only the interest can be spent (permanent endowment). In some circumstances the capital could become expendable (expendable endowment). Designated funds are unrestricted funds, set aside by the PCC for a particular purpose. These can be undesignated at a later date if the purpose is fulfilled or no longer exists.

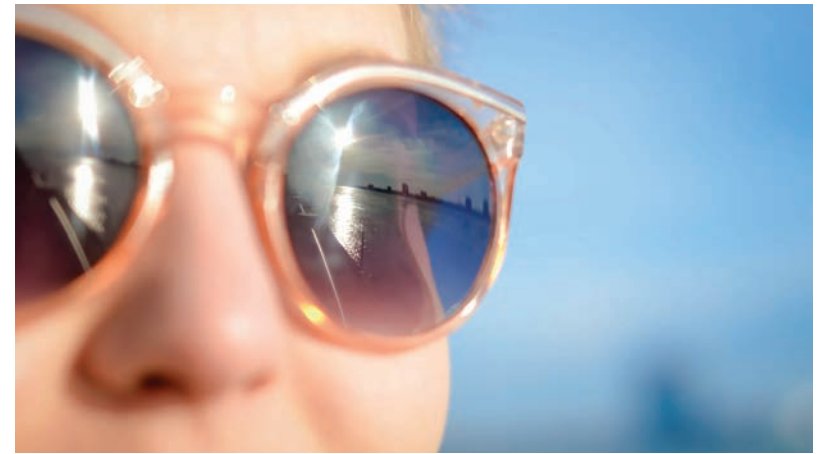
HANDY HINT – the majority of the insurance premium covers the building and therefore you may be able to pay this from Fabric funds.

8. Why does the Diocese of Norwich ask for money when I read in the newspaper that the Church of England is so rich?

Where newspaper articles refer to the Church of England's finances, they are referring to the Church Commissioners, which is an independent charity. It is the third largest giver in the UK, giving over £200 million to the Church of England every year, within this, funding is provided towards mission projects, cathedrals, bishops' running costs, and clergy pensions earned pre-1998. In 2016, it received income totalling £154.7 million and spent £386.9 million. The Diocese of Norwich is an independent charity and needs to raise funds locally via the Parish Share to pay for the ministry and mission costs in the Diocese of Norwich.

The above are just a snapshot of the questions and the answers to them. If you would like to explore any of these further or have some more questions of your own, please contact the finance team: susan.bunting@dioceseofnorwich.org

Summertime and the upkeep is easy



Marleen Madinda
Care of Church Buildings Team

With the summer approaching and the days being longer and lighter, we want our churches to look their best. Here are some practical and useful steps for you to keep your church safe, welcoming and looking good for the regular worshipping community and for people who come and visit.

■ Rainwater goods - make sure the gutters, downpipes and gullies are clear for the occasional summer storm, so that water discharges freely. Try also to check for leaks, both on the gutters outside and on the roof covering inside. Use this time to overhaul rainwater goods where needed, with a lick of paint or to fasten a bracket

■ Everything grows a little faster in the summer, so make sure you keep any plant growth near and around the base of the walls within limits and keep the drainage channel free from plants

■ Inspect your windows, replace broken glass, add putty if needed, check lead comes and wire ties for signs of damage. Also make sure the condensation drainage channels and holes for the windows are cleaned

■ Now is the time to have the boiler serviced, radiators checked and make sure everything is working

■ On dry and sunny days ventilate your church, using ventilators which are in the church and make sure that any airbricks or under floor ventilators are free from dirt and clean if necessary

■ Check your woodwork in windows, doors, fascias and bargeboards for cracks or rotten wood, and redecorate if required

■ Lubricate door and window hinges and check if locks are still smoothly operable

■ Check roof and floor voids for any debris and/or dead animals and remove those. But make sure you won't disturb a possible bat population

■ Safety first, make sure that when you maintain your building you do it safely. Ladders, lofts and roofs can present dangerous situations. Don't work alone, but work together keeping one another safe. Follow safety instructions and involve more people from your church to share the load and use one another's expertise in maintaining your church in good condition.

Cooking up some fantastic 'outcomes'

Rodney Back, Churchwarden and John Richens, Treasurer of St Cuthbert's Church, Thetford

The parish church of St Cuthbert's in Thetford is a lovely Grade II* Listed building, basically 13th century, but with Victorian and 20th century additions, in the town centre. We recognise that the changes in society mean that the church buildings need to adapt to better serve the community's needs. We started with a two stage development plan which will create a flexible interior, suitable for both worship and community use, making it a hub of Christian life in Thetford and securing its future.

There will be improved kitchen facilities, new toilets and improved access. Stage 1, the biggest part, involves installing a fully equipped catering kitchen, redesigning the toilets and improving the access for disabled people. The development plan includes two new income streams in addition to the normal income from church giving and activities.



It was really important for us to demonstrate strong benefits for the community (Outcomes).

The second stream involves the setting up of a new social enterprise business, in conjunction with an experienced social enterprise partner providing meaningful occupation, training and work experience placements for local people in the catering/events business. It will provide disadvantaged groups, such as people in recovery from substance misuse and those experiencing difficulty in getting back into

employment, an opportunity to experience work in the growing food sector business, providing specialist training in food preparation, food hygiene and health & safety. This work experience and training could provide employment for some 20 volunteers per week.

Stage 1 will cost £235,000, of which we have raised £168,000. After the completion of this stage, we will look to reorder some aspects of the church to make the building more flexible, for example, levelling the floor.

This plan allows us to fulfil our mission in Thetford: "To love and to serve the community in the name of Jesus Christ". It is an exciting opportunity for the church to engage with the wider community of Thetford, to fulfil its outreach aims and to secure the continued use of this historic building.

When applying to trusts for funding, churches need to show what they are doing for the local community. The church of St Cuthbert has really gone all out. You cannot help but be enthused about this project and that is why the funding has started to come in. We need more applications like these. The reason I have chosen this church is because it shows how churches can work in partnership with other organisations to fulfil their dream.

Why am I receiving PCC News?

PCC News is sent to all PCC members in the Diocese of Norwich. In addition to stories and top tips from parishes, it highlights information you need to be aware of in your role as a church charity trustee. The cost of postage is paid for by advertising revenue. You can unsubscribe at any time by contacting sally.finn@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882322.