

# PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church

LIFE  
EVENTS  
DIARY

MANAGE LIFE EVENTS  
ALL IN ONE PLACE

Life Events Diary  
launched

2



Wildlife attracts  
community

4-5



Acts of loving  
service

7



Making time to  
reflect and plan

8

## A ministry of fun is for all God’s people



Many of our churches already have a diary of social events in their community, but if you don’t already have one Graham Kirk-Spriggs explains how they went about it in Norwich.

**The Revd Graham Kirk-Spriggs**  
Curate  
St Peter Mancroft

St Peter Mancroft is a strange church, not the people, of course - they’re lovely! We are a city-centre parish with very few residents; more pigeons live in our patch than people. Our parish is extremely small and is mostly Norwich Market. How can you be a community in a parish like this?

One of the things I noticed when taking up my position at Mancroft was that the social life of the church was quite sparse. There were lots of very good events, and long-

established socials such as a harvest lunch, but there was no cohesive or regular social club for members of the church to be involved with. Add to this mix that our congregation is gathered from all over the place, there wasn’t a sense of geographical community that you would get in most parishes.

Part of Christian life is having fun. If we are vibrant, friendly and social, then people from outside our community are more likely to be attracted and will want to be involved. The Mancroft Ministry of Fun is designed to bind our community together in the bonds of love and fellowship, getting to know each other more, not just seeing each other on a Sunday, but also as a non-threatening and easy

way Christians can invite people to church events, so that people outside our community can feel part of the church and socialise with Christians.

The organising group meets over dinner, and we plan the social events for the year and produce a brochure. We try to make sure there’s at least one

**If we are vibrant, friendly and social, then people from outside our community are more likely to be attracted and will want to be involved.**

event a month, and that there is a wide variety of different things, from a Ceilidh to Parish Lunches, so that everyone can be involved. Since its inception we’ve had loads of fun together, and it has built us up as a community, because Church isn’t the building but the people within it, and if we enjoy spending social time together, then the church is flourishing.

## Giving through QR Codes



**James South**  
Senior Finance Officer

The Diocese has been working with a local company, Thyngs, to offer parishes the opportunity to capture donations using QR codes. This has been picked up by the National Church who, by the time of going to press, should have opened up the scheme for parishes to sign up to at [www.parishbuying.org.uk/](http://www.parishbuying.org.uk/)

**categories/contactless-donations/mobile-phone-giving**

The benefits of using QR codes, as with text codes before them, is that it gives an easier way to allow donors to give using their phone. A QR code can be easily reproduced and shared on various materials (such as leaflets, posters and envelopes). You can contact James on **01603 882347** or **james.south@dioceseofnorwich.org**

## Editorial

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



**There is much speculation about what our new Bishop will bring to our Diocese. One thing I do know is that he will be bringing his seven bee hives with him.**

As a beekeeper (and I use the term loosely!) I have two types of bee hive: A national hive and a WBC hive. The national hive is a modern hive which takes little maintenance whereas the more traditional-looking hive has to be continually painted and maintained. The older traditional hives attract more attention from visitors to my garden, and this made me think about an evening that the Diocese put on called 'PCC tonight'. Many of those attending complained about their annoyance with their old church building and the associated maintenance. But one lady said that she was surprised that people viewed our great buildings as a source of annoyance rather than as a great opportunity for outreach.

I do wonder how many people visit our churches week-in week-out across the Diocese, but more importantly whilst they are visiting I wonder what do we do to encourage those visitors to join us for worship in our churches? It is good that there is usually a list of services displayed in the church, but we need to actually engage with these people by talking to them and encouraging them to come along and see what our church is all about. I appreciate that for many of us we are stepping outside of our comfort zone,

but we have to do it if we are going to grow The Kingdom. As I have mentioned in previous columns, think about the service or event that you are going to ask them to join. Try and choose a busier service such as a benefice service where there is likely to be more people present. People want to belong to something that is growing and successful. Whilst talking to visitors it may be necessary to try and dispel several misconceptions about going to church. For example, misconceptions such as you have to pay, you must wear a suit, you need to be always good before you can go to church, and finally you have to be a committed Christian.

Seeing our buildings as tools of outreach enforces the idea of our churches being viewed as community buildings. As community buildings we need to think of ways of using them to encourage people to come over our threshold. Churches across our Diocese have been used for flower festivals, art exhibitions, markets and many other things. I appreciate that the Christmas period seems a long way off, but we really need to start planning now because, as we all know, this is the time when we have the greatest footfall to our churches. I genuinely hope that you enjoy this edition of your newspaper, and find ideas and articles of interest to you. Finally thank you to everyone who takes the trouble to give feedback. I really do appreciate it.

# Introducing Anastasia Moskvina, your Historic Church Building Support Officer



**Anastasia Moskvina**  
Historic Church Building Support Officer

My job is a hybrid of care for churches and their congregations, knowledge of their history and architectural significance, understanding of their fabric, passion about securing funds, and ideas about how church buildings can open doors to more visitors and be more coherent elements of surrounding communities. In

short, it is an awesome job! My background is in architecture and art history; I have also published on relationships between architecture and liturgy, have been a Verger in a huge church and am currently trying to finish a PhD in Anglo-Saxon archaeology.

Too many churches feel the pressure of having to complete substantial and often urgent repairs, whilst not having any money and relying on a very small number of people to take any work forward. All this is often accompanied by another fairly painful process of writing grant applications, followed by waiting and frequent rejections. This looks quite grim, but I think hope and resilience are incredibly important and are the way forward. If any of you reading this now have had the bitter experience of having a grant application rejected, please have faith and do not get discouraged! I will do my best to help you write competitive applications, figure

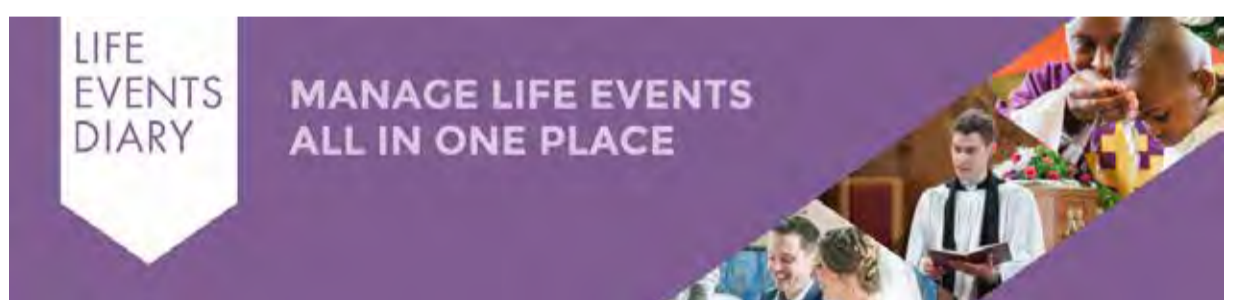
out strategies, and suggest ideas for community engagement to explore.

My post is funded by Historic England but I work for the Diocese, and although I will be working mostly with the churches on the Heritage at Risk register (please get in touch if you think you should be on it) and those facing the most substantial and expensive repairs, I will make sure to promote success stories and good practice advice for every church that faces a NLHF (HLF) grant application or would like to do more with the community to attract funding. My colleagues Robert Culyer and Michele O'Keefe are, as always, happy to advise on fundraising and grant application with the DAC are here to provide help and guidance on building projects and alterations to fabric!

I am confident that with a bit of work, all, of course, shall be well.

You can contact Anastasia on **01603 882336** or **anastasia.moskvina@dioceseofnorwich.org**

## Life Events Diary



The Church of England have launched the Life Events Diary to help parishes and benefices streamline the administration for baptisms, weddings and funerals and build lasting relationships with new contacts through these events.

The custom-built online software is the successor to the Pastoral Services Diary and is provided for free by the Church of England to all churches.

Using the Life Events Diary your church(es) can:

- Record legal and personal data of families safely and securely
- Reduce duplication of data-collection and data-entry
- Print out key information about a service in relevant formats
- Customise, record, and track service fees
- Never forget a significant date for pastoral care, or an opportunity

for follow-up after a service, with email reminders

- Share data, tasks and messages with others in the church to help you direct, delegate and coordinate from wherever you are.

It has been built with the combined experience and expertise of

the Church of England's Life Events Team and iKnow Church, specialists in church IT and administration systems. They have developed a number of video tutorials to communicate what's possible using the software and practical step-by-step guides to using it. You can find out more at **www.lifeeventsdiary.org**



## Archbishops encourage churches to sign up to digital charter

The Church of England has published social media advice aimed at tackling online abuse, misleading content and encouraging a positive atmosphere for online conversations.

The Diocese has signed up to the voluntary digital charter and is encouraging both individuals and churches to do so. The charter is centred on the five principles of: truth, kindness, welcome, inspiration and togetherness.

Speaking at the launch, Archbishop Justin Welby said: "Social media has transformed

the way we live our lives. As Christians we are called to engage in a way which is shaped by the example of Jesus. As we respond to the call on each of us to be witnesses to Jesus Christ, I encourage all of us to consider how we live our lives as witnesses online. Each time we interact online we have the opportunity either to add to currents of cynicism and abuse or to choose instead to share light and grace."

Find out more at **www.DofN.org/charter**

# Resourcing your parishes

## RESOURCING YOUR PARISH

Two years ago the Diocese provided a series of workshops to provide extra support to you as PCC members to carry out your tasks within your parish. PCC members attending the sessions gave us the following feedback:-

- Good to share experiences and hear other people's stories
- Interesting, good and very worthwhile
- Excellent workshops, great networking opportunity and excellent exhibition stands
- Very useful evening with plenty of ideas to take back. I think it helped to refresh and motivate me
- This was the first event I have attended and was very impressed by the information available. Well worth attending.

You will see on this page that on several different dates and at various locations across the Diocese, we are running another selection of workshops to provide you with ideas and advice and also to give you the opportunity to engage with the team at Diocesan House who are here to support you. In the past we have found it very

beneficial to put a name to a face and build lasting relationships with all the parishes. It is also nice when you have a query because you know the person that you need to contact at Diocesan House to help you.

Hopefully, a few representatives from each parish will attend one of the evenings, but more importantly it would be great if you all attend different workshops at the event and then share the information that you have gained with your fellow PCC members.

The exhibition space will be an opportunity to speak to our staff and other exhibitors, all of whom have been specially picked as we think they are a valuable source of support and information for your parish.

Choose from a number of different workshops which will focus on particular areas of interest. Please encourage as many as possible from your parish to attend to ensure your church gets the maximum benefit from this event.

The event is scheduled to run three times at three different venues across the Diocese.

**Cromer Academy, NR27 0EX**  
**Tuesday 17 September**  
**6.30pm - 9pm**

**Open Academy, Norwich, NR7 9DL**  
**Wednesday 18 September**  
**6.30pm - 9pm**

**Old Buckenham High School, NR17 1RL**  
**Saturday 5 October**  
**9.30am - 12.30pm**

Workshops running across the venues are listed below but please note not all workshops run at every event.

### Integrated Communications within the benefice

Led by members of the communications team.

### Money Matters

Led by our Parish Funding Support Officers giving a general view of their areas of support.

### Treasurers' Workshop

Led by members of the Finance Team.

### Care of Church Buildings

Led by Matthew McDade, Executive Officer for Church Buildings.

### Ask the Archdeacon

An opportunity to ask the duty archdeacon a question on any church-related matter in a one-to-one slot.

### Capital Fundraising Projects

Led by our Parish Funding Support Officers giving a structured plan of the process.



### Community Engagement

Led by our Parish Funding Support Officers focusing on community relations. (Available Cromer 17 September)

### Not just for Sunday, how spiritual styles can help people connect faith and everyday life

Led by Martin Adams, editor of ROOTS Adult and All Age. (Available Cromer 17 September and Norwich 18 September)

### Faith Sharing Tips,

Led by Tim Yau, Pioneer Missioner in Cringleford. (Available Norwich 18 September)

and Old Buckenham 5 October)

### Being a Dementia Friendly Church

Led by Canon Keith James, Continuing Ministerial Development Officer. (Available Old Buckenham 5 October only)

### How to have Better Meetings

Led by Canon Keith James, Continuing Ministerial Development Officer. (Available Old Buckenham, 5 October only)

Booking can be made online at [www.DofN.org/RYP](http://www.DofN.org/RYP) or by contacting Angela George **01603 881724**

# Parish Safeguarding Handbook

## Sue Brice Bishop's Adviser for Safeguarding

You will all now hopefully have received the Parish Safeguarding packs from your Rural Dean. The Parish Safeguarding Handbook summarises the safeguarding responsibilities of parishes, as outlined in the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policies and Practice Guidance. It includes a basic parish

safeguarding policy and a guide to roles and responsibilities, as well as advice on:

- Safe recruitment
- Safeguarding training requirements
- How to respond promptly to safeguarding concerns
- How to run safe groups for children
- Confidentiality and data protection

- How to manage those that may pose a risk to others
- Pastoral care of victims and alleged abusers
- Displaying Safeguarding arrangements on parish websites
- Hire arrangements for church premises.

Also within the pack is the A3 'Promoting a Safer Church' policy poster and the 'Safeguarding Pocket

guide'. The Diocese still has a number of old-style Pocket Guides which we can send out to you. If you need these, please contact [info@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:info@dioceseofnorwich.org)

You may order more of all these resources here:

[www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/safeguarding](http://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/safeguarding)

You can find the online versions in the Templates and Resources section of the Safeguarding part of

the Church of England's website along with many other safeguarding resources: [www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding)

If you need any safeguarding advice which isn't addressed on our web pages, please contact me at [sue.brice@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:sue.brice@dioceseofnorwich.org) or Sian at [sian.griffiths@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:sian.griffiths@dioceseofnorwich.org) **01603 629001**

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**ISCE**  
The Institute of Sound and Communications Engineers

Yet again we have a resource that we can use as a form of outreach. Our churchyards are rich in wildlife and this is a great way to engage with schools and children. Why not find a family or several families in your community to lead on this?



# Norfolk Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Scheme

**Rebecca Evans**  
Assistant Conservation Officer

Norfolk was historically rich in lowland meadows and the beautiful and diverse displays of wildflowers that this ancient habitat supports. This was at a time before agricultural intensification, with meadows being managed in traditional ways such as for grazing or hay cutting, allowing wildflowers to flourish. However, since the Second World War this low-intensity, sympathetic management has been replaced by widespread application of fertilisers, herbicides and large scale reseeded and ploughing up of meadowland. It is estimated that since 1945, 98 percent of our wildflower meadows once widespread in the countryside have now vanished.

Nowadays, churchyards often form the only remaining fragments of old wildlife-rich meadow in a parish, serving as

island refuges for local wildlife, including birds, butterflies, bees, hedgehogs and slow-worms to name a few. There are six species of meadow plant that are now deemed dependent on churchyards for their survival in Norfolk and a number of churchyards even support orchid populations if allowed to survive the spring and summer months.

Recognising this, The Norfolk Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Scheme was set-up over 30 years ago with the aim of encouraging and supporting churches to manage their churchyards with wildlife in mind so that they may continue to offer sanctuary in our ever fragmented and degraded landscapes.

Under the scheme, we have surveyed and given free advice to hundreds of churches in Norfolk. Each year a team of dedicated volunteer churchyard surveyors visit dozens of churchyards to survey them and identify the best areas for wildflowers and other

wildlife. We then provide a report giving detailed results, along with some basic and clear advice on how parts of the churchyard could be managed for wildlife (such as establishing a Conservation Area), whilst ensuring the churchyard remains cared-for, accessible and able to perform its primary purpose, promoting the area as a place of refuge for both people and wildlife. If a church would like to manage a part (or in some cases all!) of their churchyard for wildlife, then they can become part of the scheme and display a Norfolk Wildlife Trust Churchyard Conservation Scheme plaque.

The service is free and more information can be found at: [www.DofN.org/ccs](http://www.DofN.org/ccs)

If you would like to be added to the list of churchyards to be surveyed next year, receive an information pack or have any questions, please email [churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:churchyards@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk) or call **01603 625540**.

## Managing churchyards for wildlife - Do's and Don'ts

DOs	Why?
Leave areas of the oldest graves uncut from April until end July/early August. Then cut and REMOVE the grass cuttings. Repeat in October if resources allow.	This will allow any meadow plants in the seedbank to grow, flower and set-seed. Sometimes species can come up that have been dormant for decades.
Leave a strip of vegetation along one side uncut until October each year.	This strip can act as a refuge and food source for a range of invertebrates, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians.
Leave a few holes in walls or fences, as well as any 'untidy corners'.	It will allow access to and from the churchyard, as well as refuge/hibernation opportunities for hedgehogs.
Pile any dead wood/branches into an undisturbed corner.	An often overlooked habitat that supports a huge array on invertebrates.
Put up bird and bat boxes in churchyard trees.	To provide a safe nesting / roosting.
Keep grass paths and areas of tended graves mown regularly. Mow a neat edge to gravel paths and any conservation areas.	It will maintain access, neatness and signals intentionality rather than neglect.
Put up signs telling visitors why an area is being left.	Will raise awareness of the importance of the churchyard for local wildlife and encourage visitors.

DON'Ts	Why Not?
Spray herbicides and pesticides.	It may kill native wild flora and/or pollinators and invertebrates that are food e.g. for hedgehogs.
Scrub tombstones to remove lichen.	Churchyards are a haven for lichen in Norfolk, due to the lack of natural rocky outcrops.
Remove ferns and other stonework plants from walls.	Again these are a refuge to these plants, some of which almost their entire populations are confined to churchyards in Norfolk.
Cut trees and hedges every year, and especially not during the bird breeding season (March – August).	Hedgerows support numerous species of invertebrate, small mammal and bird amongst other groups. They provide shelter, food and a safe place to nest. Try to cut only every three years.

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## Engaging with our local school through wildlife survey



**John Dugdale**  
Stibbard

In common with most country churchyards, All Saints' in Stibbard has its fair share of wildlife. Church burial grounds are usually quiet and peaceful places, undisturbed by noise and, with only the occasional visitor, just what birds and butterflies like. Wild flowers are particularly abundant because the land has remained undisturbed for many years, maybe centuries. It has not been cultivated or ploughed, and not 'improved' with the use of weedkillers or fertilisers, so wild flowers can remain with their roots intact for many years.

In 2016, our PCC was approached by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, (NWT) asking if we would like to take part in a survey of the wild flowers that were growing in our graveyard.

Three of us volunteered. We had to attend a short training course to help us identify and record

correctly what we found. In total, seventy species of wild plants were recorded and nine species of butterfly. The following year 2017, NWT asked if we would like to host an open day, when the public would be invited to come and see the flora and fauna that was present among the gravestones. The NWT arranged several demonstrations in which children could take part, and guided walks identifying butterflies, insects, plants and trees. The day was a great success; warm sunny weather, refreshments were provided and almost 100 people attended.

We have now started our fourth summer of surveying, watching for any new species that might appear. Our local primary school now brings groups of children to see what they can find among the gravestones. We also have a very large ash tree in one of the boundary hedges, and we watch it carefully for signs of ash dieback disease.

## Diversity and abundance for visitors to explore

**Peter Nicholls**  
Churchwarden  
All Saints Church, Hethel

The churchyard of All Saints, Hethel, is a remnant of the ancient meadows, flower-rich grasslands, which were once widespread but are now disappearing at an alarming rate due to development, overgrazing, ploughing or by herbicide and fertiliser usage.

Although the prime purpose of a churchyard is not wildlife conservation, efforts to conserve the habitat are very worthwhile and much can be achieved. Hethel churchyard is kept as a Conservation Area (while allowing relatives to keep areas of recent graves short, if they wish). The grassland management is aimed at maintaining and enhancing the churchyard's wildflower diversity and abundance, while a central path and mown swathe allow visitors to explore, look for invertebrates and see the smaller, sometimes overlooked plants.

If the grass was mown regularly, delicate wildflowers could not survive, so the churchyard is mown in the manner of a traditional hay meadow: once a year at the end of summer. The cuttings are raked off to maintain the nutrient-poor environment preferred by wildflowers and to discourage coarser grasses and plants such as nettles and hogweed. Herbage removal also prevents early flowering species from being suppressed by a mat of dead grass from the previous year.

Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG) are enthusiastic



partners in the management of the churchyard. Fuelled by tea and cakes, WyNG and church volunteers spend several afternoons each August raking and carting. Over 25 years, this regime has facilitated an increase in the number of pyramidal orchids from around six to over four hundred, indicating what can be achieved on a local scale to promote biodiversity. In recognition, the church won the churchyards category of the Norfolk Community Biodiversity Awards in 2014. With the help of Norfolk Wildlife Trust's designer and the generosity of a parishioner, the PCC has just installed an interpretation board to help visitors identify flowers and other wildlife and to learn

about the scheme and its benefits.

The quiet location of the church makes it and the churchyard a place of peace and contemplation, enjoyed by occasional and regular visitors alike, with the additional benefit of a magnificent array of flowers, lichens, butterflies and other wildlife and the promotion of biodiversity.



## Conservation at Hemblington

**Joyce Burtenshaw**  
Hemblington

Churchyards are a sanctuary for our hard-pressed wildlife. Many flowers now seen rarely in hedgerows flourish by graves long forgotten.

Over the last ten years Hemblington Churchyard has been managed to conserve and promote wildlife by several groups of volunteers.

Our first work party included parishioners well into their 80s working with secateurs and others who provided the much-needed refreshments. It brought everyone together. From this beginning, someone started to research laying the hedges and spent a winter bringing down the overgrown hawthorn hedges.



A conference of the Caring for God's Acre group gave us the tools to write a management plan to control the rank vegetation and encourage wildflowers.

We have worked with many local people to carry out tasks in the churchyard and used it to help others to increase their appreciation of God's creation. Moth surveys have coincided with our summer family workshops so that the children can get really close to nature. Work parties are held during the winter months when brambles and hedges are cut back. Local farmers trim the hedges adjoining their land and one cuts the large area where there are no graves. Two local conservation groups help with the cutting and raking of the churchyard. Brownies have planted wildflowers and

scouts have tidied brambles.

The basis of all good management is to know what exists and is worthy of conservation. To this end, we survey the churchyard every month through the summer. We now have a band of eight people who are learning the skills needed to identify the plants and wildlife that frequent the churchyard. The information gained is sent into national and international databases to be used for future scientific research. Each survey brings new discoveries.

When we embarked on this project we knew very little but our knowledge and confidence have grown with the years. We got started with help from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and [caringforgodsacre.org.uk](http://caringforgodsacre.org.uk).

## Grants for community outreach

With the Mission Strategy in mind we are urged to do more than we can imagine, and some of our parishes have really come up trumps and achieved some amazing outcomes. It is so easy in life to say that a task could be too much for us to undertake but some of our parishes have really stepped up. They have identified a need in their locality and found solutions for it. Occasionally they are quite big commitments but with drive and determination they can be achieved. Other projects start as small acorns and then grow. The Diocese provides a facility called Grant Finder and when we look at its usage by the parishes, 95% of enquiries are for church building repairs, but the search engine has a much greater use and that is for finding funding for these community projects. There are plenty of grant-making bodies who are looking to fund community projects.

- Have you identified a need in your local area?
- Why not have a look at Grant Finder: [www.DofN.org/gf](http://www.DofN.org/gf)

to see what funds you could attract.

The benefits are manifold. We are constantly trying to engage with our local community and show them how relevant our churches are, not only from a worship side. By providing these extra services, whether transport or the library, it is a great opportunity for outreach which will hopefully lead to people joining us for worship in our churches. The other day, I was talking to the vicar from a city centre church where they have a focus on helping the homeless and she was explaining to me the joy that everyone gets when they manage to rehouse a homeless person. This church identified a need in the area and are trying to make things better. We only need to look at society and there are so many issues that need addressing; mental health, isolation, homelessness, drug and alcohol dependency, loneliness, youth issues. The list is endless. Is this something your church could help address?

## Yare Valley Churches tackles social isolation



**Paul Smith**  
St Lawrence Church, Brundall

Over recent years in Broadland there have been improvements to the provision that many communities offer for the elderly, particularly those who are living alone. Within the Brundall area, there is now a good range of activities and opportunities which have evolved and are designed to combat the feelings of loneliness and isolation. What hasn't improved at the same pace as these developments is the ability to transport those who attend, or might attend but cannot drive themselves there. A good number of residents have mobility issues

since activities in this elongated village are dispersed across different venues which, depending on where a person lives, can mean a long walk in order to attend the group or event. The recent arrival of a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle aims to rectify this shortcoming. Although this is a church innovation, the WAV is available for the whole community. In particular, the adapted vehicle is now being used to transport disabled, infirm and elderly residents to various activities around the village including medical appointments and the fortnightly luncheon club for senior citizens living alone.

### The project has been financed by generous donations from:

- The Mission Strategy Fund 2021
  - Norwich Freeman's Charity
  - Co-op Local Community Fund
  - Brundall Cancer Community Chest
  - Shelroy Charitable Trust Fund
  - RC Snelling Charitable Trust
  - Paul Bassham Charitable Trust
  - The Hilary Critten Fund
- and boosted by generous anonymous donations from

several individuals from within the Benefice.

The year long project was entitled 'Connecting Our Community'. Prior to the Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle taking to the road, it was blessed by the Bishop of Thetford, the Rt Revd Alan Winton. Tom Upton, a wheelchair dependent worshipper at Brundall Church, got the VIP treatment when he was the first to ascend the ramp in this specially adapted car. Tom hopes to be a regular passenger and said: "I was thrilled to be collected by Bishop Alan and this project will help me and others get about more and socialise."

The WAV is driven by a team of volunteer drivers from the Brundall community, all have had specialist wheelchair handling training. The Revd Peter Leech of Yare Valley Churches says "We are still on a steep learning curve on this exciting project. Nevertheless, we are keen to share our experience with other voluntary organisations."

Enquiries should be made via Yare Valley Churches website at [www.yarevalleychurches.org.uk](http://www.yarevalleychurches.org.uk)



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# Village Car Scheme is a 'God Send'



**Ken Grapes**  
Ludham

The Ludham Village Car Scheme (LVCS), suggested by a previous incumbent, is now in its 8th year. The objectives are set out in a brief set of rules as 'to provide a transport service for villagers of Ludham, of any age, who are without transport and who are unable to use public transport, so that they may attend medical or medical-related appointments.' The scheme also provides for the collection and delivery of doctor's prescriptions. Management is by a small committee chosen from the Parochial Church Council of St Catherine's Church, Ludham and the Church Council of High Street Methodist Church, Ludham. The members of the committee are the Trustees of the Scheme. This committee produced the Scheme Rules, a volunteer's handbook and a small number of forms. It decided at the outset that the Scheme would be a subsidised service. Drivers are eligible for recompense for the use of their vehicles at the HMRC authorised rate of 45p/mile.

Users of the Scheme are charged £1 for the collection of a prescription, £2 for journeys

within 5 miles and £5 for journeys within a 10-mile radius of Ludham. Hospital trips cost £10. The latter compares very favourably with the cost and inconvenience of using the official hospital car scheme.

**Funding:** The trustees include an Hon Treasurer and the Scheme has its own bank account. As a subsidised scheme, it is necessary to arrange a funding stream. Regular donations are made by the Parish Council, the PCC and the Methodist Council and occasional grants are sought from appropriate bodies. Funding LVCS has never proved a problem. The Scheme costs between £800 to £1,000 a year in subsidy.

**Recruiting volunteers:** This has proved to be easily accomplished in Ludham, where there is a particularly good community spirit. Each volunteer is required to produce details of vehicle, insurance and road fund tax and to undergo a DBS check (the old CRB check). The latter are done using a free service provided by Norfolk County Council. Currently LVCS has 32 volunteer drivers, six prescription collectors and the all-important Scheme Co-ordinator, who has two deputies for when she is away. The number of volunteers is maintained by regular notes in

the Parish News and by pouncing on new residents as they arrive!

**Insurance:** Public Liability is covered by the PCC's insurance. The Association of British Insurers has a scheme whereby driver volunteers are fully covered under their own insurance with no additional premium. LVCS provides drivers with a draft letter to send to their insurers.

## How the scheme operates

Villagers telephone the co-ordinator with details of their appointment. The co-ordinator tasks a volunteer and informs the villager of their transport. Easy! Last year, the Scheme carried out 356 'missions' to 23 different medical locations. 141 of these were, unsurprisingly, to the local surgeries, but 107 were to hospitals. Since its inception in 2012, this Scheme has completed 2,615 missions and has just one annual meeting each year for volunteers.

## Benefits

Apart from the obvious access to medical appointments, the Scheme has other not insignificant benefits:

- Elderly and frail persons can continue live in their own homes as opposed to going into care
- Public transport is increasingly infrequent and, without the Scheme villagers would be unable to attend appointments outside the village
- The prescription delivering service can sometimes spot when a villager needs some additional care or service. A cup of tea and a chat are also welcomed by the lonely. As an elderly lady recently told a driver – "The Car Scheme is a Godsend!"

You can watch a brilliant short video called Acts of Loving Service in the Community which features Ludham's Car Scheme on the Diocese of Norwich's YouTube channel at [www.DofN.org/loving](http://www.DofN.org/loving)

# Community Library in a Nissen Hut



**Mary Vacca**  
Sea Palling

In 2005 the church here in Sea Palling decided to upgrade a WW2 Nissen Hut to use for all manner of events. It provides a venue for sales and exhibitions, children's parties, strawberry teas for the local residential home, Harvest lunches and United PCC suppers etc.

For some time we have felt that as we were given so many beautiful books we should put them to better use than just selling them. Sea Palling is four-and-a-half miles from the nearest public library and the transport system is not very frequent. The mobile library visits once a month but only stays for twenty minutes. It was felt that a community library would be the very thing to make the best use of all these gifts and hopefully enhance the lives of the residents. We have been very lucky in that a

member of the congregation has taken on the task of arranging something in the region of 4,000 books. Donations of numerous book cases and other pieces of furniture, armchairs and rugs, make for a welcoming atmosphere. Coffee and biscuits are available and there are plans to start serving breakfasts on a trial basis. This is turning into quite a sociable meeting place. The library is open every Saturday morning and one other day during the month.

There is a rota of "librarians" and also willing hands to help when we need to rearrange the library to accommodate other events.

There is a small charge to borrow the books and this income goes towards maintaining the building.

As with everything here, things start off slowly but the number of borrowers is gradually increasing. We hope that this small community will enjoy this new facility.

# Wave your youth goodbye!

As a church community we are always looking for opportunities to support the Christian youth in our communities so as editor when I come across these opportunities I like to flag them up for you. Do you have anyone you could suggest this Christian holiday to?

**The Revd Canon David Roper**  
Cormorants Leader

Although October half term is

still some way off, planning and preparation is well underway for Cormorants Sailing Holiday 2019. Sailing with approximately 25 teenagers and a strong group of leaders each year, Cormorants Sailing Holiday has run for over 30 years on the Norfolk Broads providing an opportunity for young people to experience living onboard a boat, living in close quarters with others and learning to get on well for a week, preparing their own food and working together as a team to sail or motor

the boat from one place to the next. Some evenings boat crews double up for activities and Bible studies and on other evenings we go to a church hall for games and worship.

If you know any young people who would value a sailing holiday on the Norfolk Broads, please contact David Roper on [cormorants@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:cormorants@dioceseofnorwich.org) or additional information can be found at [www.cormorants.org.uk](http://www.cormorants.org.uk) or call 01603 882335. The cost is £295 per person, although some bursaries may be available.



# PCC Away Days – Time to take the long view

**The Revd Canon Keith James**  
Continuing Ministerial  
Development Officer

John F Kennedy, visiting the NASA space centre, needed a comfort break – and then got lost. As he was wandering the corridors he came across a cleaner who was finishing his shift. JFK asked for the way to the bathroom – and then asked him what he was doing at the centre. The cleaner replied: "I am helping to send a man to the moon."

NASA had a mission – a vision – and it was one that all its employees knew and bought into... They were there to send a man to the moon.

Ask Jesus what he was doing in Nazareth or Capernaum or anywhere else and he would point to Isaiah, where the prophet declares "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release



to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Isaiah

61:1 and Luke 4:18-19)

Of course, it's not a detailed plan. It's a dream – vision – it's a rule of thumb – but it shapes Jesus' time,

action and words.

It's his version of sending a man to the moon. It asks a question of us and about what vision shapes

our life – personally and as a community of faith.

It is easy to get absorbed and even lost in the details of life and church life. And details matter, but it is useful from time to time, to stand back, and take the long view.

And that's what happens on a PCC Away Day or Vision Day (other names are available); through spending time on Scripture, noticing the gifts God has given us, and exploring what God's dream for us might be – we begin to discern what the next year or more could look like – and what steps we need to take to get there.

The sage of Proverbs tells us that 'Without vision, the people perish' (29:18)

PCC Away Days are a way through which, we allow God's vision for our patch of God's Kingdom, to become clearer and to direct our details, decisions and life together.

## Contactless giving trial

**James South**  
Senior Finance Officer

As you may be aware, the National Church, through the Parish Buying website have now sourced cost effective contactless donation units from a supplier called Goodbox.

These units include two types of unit which may be of benefit to parishes and benefices who wish to capture donations from occasional visitors.

These units vary in terms of functionality. However, both allow contactless donations to be taken even if you do not have a wifi or mobile phone signal. The two devices which would be of greatest benefit to parishes are as follows: GBx mini – this is a mobile unit which would mainly be used for contactless donations but can also be used as a standard card reader when required. This can also be inserted into a Goodplate to provide

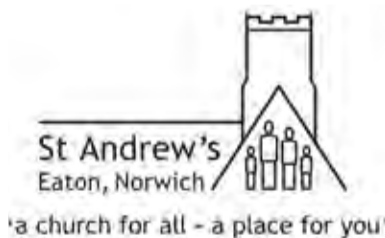
a contactless collection plate.

GBx core – is designed to be a static unit to be used in churches which may receive a larger number of visitors. It has a colour screen and can display messages on the screen to interact with donors.

It is also worth noting that any donations for £30 or less which are given via contactless giving are also eligible for the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) meaning if a parish has any of their £8,000 annual allowance available, contactless donations can be uplifted by another 25%.

Card Readers are definitely the future as society becomes cashless. We recognise this and to support you in your parishes the Diocese is currently running a free trial of these units. If your benefice is not part of this trial, you can find further information at [www.goodbox.com/parish-buying-2019](http://www.goodbox.com/parish-buying-2019) or call **0800 368 0887**.

## Going for Growth in Eaton



**The Revd Phil Rodd**  
St Andrew's Eaton

Last year, 2018, was a very special year for St Andrew's Eaton: the 25th Anniversary of the consecration of our new church building, and also the 700th Anniversary of the arrival of the first known vicar. We marked the year our 'Year of Celebration' – a planned programme of special services, exhibitions, concerts; events for young and old alike. It came together really well – especially the midweek community café in St Andrew's Church Hall. But as the year progressed, in various quarters the question began

to be raised, 'What next?'

An email arrived from Keith James, the Diocesan Continuing Ministerial Development Officer, inviting church leaders, both lay and ordained, to a residential training course: Leading Your Church into Growth. It sounded just right for us, so I took a small team, and for three days we were challenged, motivated and equipped to become more intentional about growth – to prioritise it, to plan for it, and to get people involved.

The course was practical and inspiring. It also included further 'local' sessions to be run back in the home setting with the PCC – and with the whole church membership. We ran these during Lent – and as a result more people got the bug and started coming up with further ideas for facilitating the growth of St Andrew's. We're looking forward to a further follow-up day for the whole Diocese taking place in September.

There's still a lot to be done to work through all the suggestions which have been made; but whereas before it seemed like an uphill struggle, it all now feels somehow more 'natural'. The community café continues reaching out to many on the fringes of church life. We're looking forward to running a further Christian basics course in the autumn, and to repeating last year's Christmas innovation – a special carol service aimed at the local business community.

I realise that we'll never 'arrive' – we'll never be experts in how to do church growth. But it's not really about that so much, as about taking a few risks for the gospel and being ready to try out new ideas. That way, I'm convinced we'll remain fresh in the way we are church – and it'll be worthwhile! And at the end of the day, church growth is God's responsibility (1 Corinthians 3:6), not our burden.



# Win, win!

These competitions are both an opportunity to raise money for your parish and more importantly an opportunity for outreach. Why not run your own competition giving locals the opportunity to submit a photograph of what makes your church special; the winner's entry being entered into Ecclesiastical's competition?

Parish Pixels is a new national photography competition, launched by Ecclesiastical Insurance, calling on budding photographers to capture the essence of their church in a single snapshot.

Churches will need to submit a single photograph and a one-sentence caption to accompany it.

The image can be of people, places, features, artefacts or anything that highlights the uniqueness of the church or its importance to its local community. Ecclesiastical will showcase some of the best entries on its website and social media channels. A panel of judges, which will include representatives from the regions, will select eight winners from across the UK who will each receive a prize of £1,500 for their church.

Following this, the public will be given the chance to vote for their favourite image. The overall winner will receive a £5,000 prize

for the church.

The deadline for entries is 31 October 2019.

More information can be found at [www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels)

Another opportunity to win money for your church is this year's Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride on Saturday 14 September.

Last year over 500 people took part visiting 2,808 churches and raising £91,496. The money is divided between the church of the participant's choice and the Norfolk Churches Trust, which gives grants to hundreds of churches for repairs, renovation and the conservation of their buildings.

This year, a prize of £1,000 is being given to the church that raises the most money compared to last year.

Some interesting facts from the 2017 Bike ride were:

- the most churches visited by a participant was 64 by bike and 35 on foot;
- 207 new participants took part for the first time;
- St Andrew's Church in Norwich saw the highest number of visitors - 75 in total; and
- 312 churches and chapels were nominated to receive a share of the sponsorship money.

To find out more visit [www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride](http://www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride)



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A fun day out for all, stopping off at as many Churches and Chapels as you can!

Pump up your tyres, dust off your walking boots, pack a picnic and plan a route from your own door to visit as many of the most beautiful churches in Norfolk as you can. **\*PLUS** you can join with others in your parish to win £1,000 for your church by becoming the parish with the most improved amount of money raised. Simply get sponsored for each building you visit or make a donation - find out more at [norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride](http://norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk/bike-ride)

**The NORFOLK CHURCHES TRUST**

**Saturday 14th September 2019**  
**9.00 am - 5.00 pm**

Supported by the **Eastern Daily Press**

## Benefices recognised

**Amaris Cole**  
Digital Communications Manager,  
Church of England

Over the past few months we've been working to deliver changes suggested by editors to make A Church Near You quicker and easier to edit. Thank you to all those who submitted suggestions!

We're thrilled to announce these are now live and ready for you to explore on the website. Visit A Church Near You today and find:

- The new Benefice homepage. If you are the editor of multiple churches in a Benefice, you can now edit a home page for these churches, with a friendly name of the Benefice, cover image and welcome message. This will have tiles to link visitors to all the churches in your Benefice.
- You can now copy events to the pages of other churches you edit.
- Regular events that don't follow a weekly pattern can now be added using a custom form.
- Videos can now be embedded in pages.

Visit [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

We know hundreds of churches in our Diocese are using A Church Near You. This new ability to promote benefices and group ministries is a great step forward and worth exploring.

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## Finding solutions for bats and church buildings

So many of our churches have resident bats, so I felt that an article explaining the situation would be a massive benefit to so many of our PCC readers.

**Diana Spencer**  
Engagement Officer  
Bats in Churches Project

Bats can be found in most historic churches in England, often in such small numbers that they go unnoticed. In some cases, however, the roosts can become a problem, causing damage to church interiors and putting additional pressure on the volunteers looking after these churches.

The newly-launched 'Bats in Churches' project will offer support to project churches struggling to find peace with their bats. Engagement, heritage and volunteer training experts, together with bat and conservation specialists, will work to find locally appropriate and sustainable solutions to help

churches and communities to thrive alongside their bats. The five-year project has been made possible by a £3.8 million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and is working with 102 of the worst affected churches across the country, just under a third of which are in the Diocese of Norwich.

Each church provides a unique set of challenges and the project will be using Natural England's specially-created 'Bats in Churches Class Licence' to come up with a range of new approaches for dealing with bats in churches.

Project ecologists and local builders have already installed rafter bat boxes at Swanton Morley Church, including cameras to monitor how bats are using the new roosts. Professional surveys at seven other churches will design bespoke solutions creating alternative roosts or access for bats and installing protection for wall paintings and monuments.

The project is also helping churches to host fundraising and

community events, and providing training, including specialist cleaning workshops. The project will also bolster links between churches and local bat groups and help support the dedicated volunteers whose work is often made harder by the presence of bats.

The most successful approaches will be shared with other churches nationwide. A range of interpretation, advice and engagement activities will also be available to all other churches in the Diocese via the project website.

For more information please visit the Bats and Churches website [www.batsandchurches.org.uk](http://www.batsandchurches.org.uk)

Churches looking for advice on their bat population can contact the free Bat Conservation Trust helpline on **0345 1300 228**.



# WORLD HOMELESS WEEK

6-13 October 2019

## Do you want to help homeless people?

Your church can take part in World Homeless Week.

To take part or donate, use the form below or visit [www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk/world-homeless-week](http://www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk/world-homeless-week)

### ☐ Please send a World Homeless Week pack to the address below

Pack includes: How to Help Homeless People booklet; How to Help poster; World Homeless Week poster; Service Sheet; Worship Guide; Fundraising Ideas; Activities for Schools & Youth Groups; Gift Aid envelope

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Church / Organisation Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

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or charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ CharityCard ☐ Maestro

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**We always send receipts for donations.** We will never sell or share your data, and we promise to keep your details safe and secure. Further details of how your data is used and stored are available on [www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.churchhomelesstrust.org.uk/privacy-policy)  
We'd also like to send you information about our work up to three times a year. **If you would prefer not to receive this tick here** ☐  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_

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☐ **Gift Aid. I want to Gift Aid my donation today, and any future donations I make to Church Homeless Trust.**

I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your form to: Church Homeless Trust, Can Mezzanine, 49-51 East Road, London N1 6AH

RCN 802801

PNW19

# The goose is getting fat. Are you prepared?

**Michele O'Keefe**  
Parish Funding Support Officer

Christmas time encourages more than double the regular number of people to attend services in our churches, so why do we need to do anymore to reach out to the community?

Just think how many more people you could meet if you did things a little differently and took the church to the people, rather than just hope they come through the door.

By thinking about offering one or two extra events or gatherings either inside your church or at alternative locations that are important within your community, you could bring new faces into your church and make them feel part of your wider church community.

Do something different both inside and outside of your building:

■ **Nativity Scene Event** – engaging with local youth groups and schools to create a scene, then hold a celebration service inviting all the entrants and their families

■ **Alternative Christmas Tree Festival** – use the parish newsletter or local community magazine to invite local societies, interest groups and local businesses as well as the congregation to decorate a small

Christmas tree in a way to share a message and then have a coffee morning or evening get-together to view the entries, explore the messages and spend time together at an informal gathering

■ **Beer & Carols at the pub** – everyone likes to have a sing-song and Christmas Carols are a great way to get people to join in. Make sure you have a song sheet and use taped music if there is no opportunity for live accompaniment

■ **Christmas "Bake Off"** – following on from the success of the TV series, host a competition and invite entries for best decorated cake (that they take home again) and best mince pies, that are shared with everyone who attends the event

■ **New Year Service in an alternative location** – by promoting a New Year Service at all your December events, you can capitalise on the new contacts that have been made.

By holding alternative events and using alternative venues, it gives a chance for the community to join in and find God in a different place.

You can contact Michele on **01603 882325** or **michele.okeefe@dioceseofnorwich.org**



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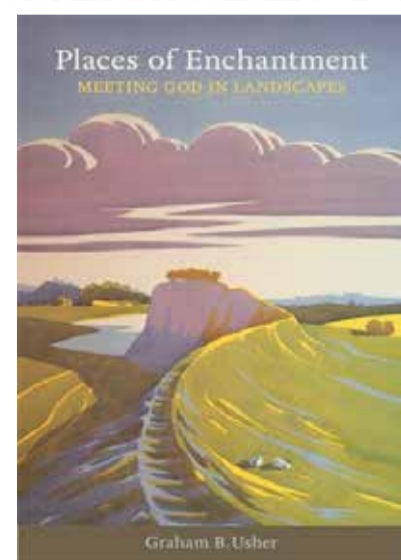
PCC News is published three times a year, has a print run of 5,000 copies, and is posted to every PCC member. We charge just £25 per issue for an advert (minimum 3 placements).

Contact Barbara Kirk on  
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## REVELATION

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Many who have given up on church appreciate the spiritual benefits they gain from climbing a mountain or walking in nature. But how and why do we encounter God in land, forest, river, mountain, desert, garden, sea and sky? Drawing on material from biblical and church history traditions, scientific research and contemporary art, Graham Usher explores these themes in this captivating volume, taking the reader from the giant Redwoods of the Californian Sierra Nevada to the jagged New York skyline; from the wilds of the ancient Scottish Highlands to the rolling pastures of English Shropshire, seeking to ascertain how such encounters support our Christian pilgrimage and challenge our assumption.

Available from Revelation Resource Centre  
St Michael-at-Plea Church, Redwell Street, Norwich  
Offer Price £9.90 (£10.99 rrp)  
email: [enquiry@revelation-norwich.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@revelation-norwich.co.uk) or telephone 01603 619731

I hope that this flow chart gives you a rough idea of the stages to carry out a project. If you have any questions, however silly you feel they are, please do not hesitate to contact the team at Diocesan House who are here to help you.

## Planning a church building project



## New grant schemes to help fund your church repairs or projects



**Michele O'Keefe**  
Parish Funding Support Officer

Undertaking any project can be daunting, but Robert Culyer and I are here to support your search for funders for all your church projects. Give us a ring or drop us an email and we will be more than happy to work with you and our services are free of charge.

In this edition, I am looking at another of our major funders.

The National Churches Trust ([www.nationalchurchestrust.org](http://www.nationalchurchestrust.org)) exists to support church buildings from all Christian denominations, of all ages and listing status if the structure was built as a place of worship more than 30 years ago. The caveat to this being you must offer at least six services per year and be open to the public for a minimum of 100 days per year beyond worship use.

The National Churches Trust has three levels of grant to support their objectives of: Preserving History, Promoting Sustainability and Inspiring Support.

**FOUNDATION GRANT** - offers grants of between £500 and £3,000

towards urgent maintenance works and small Quinquennial Inspection repairs. 50% of the total cost of the project must already be raised and the total cost of the works must not exceed £10,000 (excluding VAT).

Next deadline: 26 September for a decision in November 2019.

**GATEWAY GRANT** - offers grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 towards project development and investigative work to support churches preparing for a major project, and in developing their project to the point at which they can approach a major grant funder. Grants will never exceed 50% of the project costs for this phase.

Next deadline: 12 September for a decision in November 2019.

**CORNERSTONE GRANT** - offers grants between £10,000 and £50,000 towards the cost of urgent structural repairs costing at more than £100,000 (including VAT and fees). The Trust will also consider projects that introduce kitchens and accessible toilets to enable increased community use where they are costing more than

£30,000 (including VAT). In all cases grants will never exceed 50% of the project cost. Next deadline: November (exact date TBC) for a decision in early 2020.

Applications must be made and agreed before starting work.

### What is generally funded:

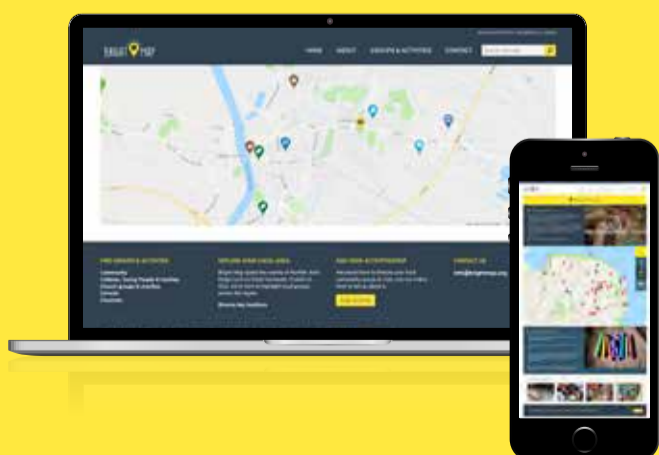
- Urgent Structural Repairs
- Installation of Kitchens\*
- Installation of Toilets\*
- Maintenance Works
- Project Development Works

\*with the aim of enabling more wide use by the community

### What is not funded:

- Works to Ancillary buildings
- Bells, Clocks or Organs
- Furnishings including Re-ordering
- Fixtures and Fittings
- Heating
- Lighting
- Monuments

You can contact Michele on **01603 882325** or **michele.okeefe@dioceseofnorwich.org**



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**Add your church groups & activities to the map**

Be more visible to your local community by adding your regular groups and activities to **[www.brightmap.org](http://www.brightmap.org)** for free!

**BRIGHTMAP**

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 **[data@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:data@dioceseofnorwich.org)** or **01603 882322**.