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## Vision and priorities for our life together



**The Rt Revd Graham Usher** Bishop of Norwich

We are called to listen ever more attentively to the God who seeks to bring transformation in Christ to us. God in Jesus longs for us to be a prayerful people, a pastoral people, and a prophetic people. Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Any vision should help the local church to flourish and grow in confidence that we are loved by God.

Jesus also said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). The heart of our mission is about being open to, and enabling others to discover, a life transformed by Christ. ministry of the whole people of God after Jesus the good shepherd. We will respond with loving service to the needs of the communities where we live and work; and teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

We will prophetically speak out and act, with the fire of the Holy Spirit, challenging injustice, confronting violence, and working for peace and reconciliation. We will seek to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. Being open to all of this will enable God in Jesus to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20). If we allow the Holy Spirit to breathe God's divine life into our human plans, much more will be made of them, for God can bring abundance from scarcity. We are called to be faithful, as God is always faithful to us. By prayerfully placing the life of the diocese where our sails can best catch the wind of the Holy Spirit, God will take us where God wills.

**Transform us, O Christ, to be more** *prayerful* listening, open and responsive, yearning for God's kingdom come as **The Revd Canon Keith James** Director of Ministry

Our new diocesan vision commits us to being a people who are being Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic.

It's all-embracing, it's memorable and it helps us know where to put the focus.

If we were wondering what our priorities need to be as a church, we find them here – and there is such a lot to discover within them...

So we are bring invited to have a special focus on each of those three Ps, over the next three years – starting with Prayerful and beginning this Advent Sunday 27 November.

Over the following 12 months we want to learn, discover and share together the riches of prayer that exist in this diocese – and beyond.

There will be resources available for local churches this Advent - and throughout the year – as we deepen our prayer life together. One example is a diocesan Advent Calendar 2021. Behind each day's digital door will be someone from across our diocese ready to share a way of praying which brings them specially close to God – gazing at an icon perhaps, walking by the sea or praying as they paint. The hope is that we'll all be enriched by the sheer variety (27 different ways!) and by the invitation to try something new.

Although any vision is incomplete because it's just a reflection, a fraction of God's desire for us, my hope is that we will listen out for the wind of the Holy Spirt filling the sails of this vision, to guide our boat (the Church) into the future. I commend it to you and look forward to journeying with you to discover all the God has in store for us in the adventure ahead.

We see the ministry of the whole of the Diocese of Norwich as being about how we live our life together for the flourishing of every person in every place. **Transformed by Christ: prayerful, pastoral and prophetic.** 

Imagining the future

We join in Christ's mission, conscious of the five marks of mission of the Anglican Communion, through responding to God and the world.

We will prayerfully proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, rooting ourselves in Scripture and the sacraments. We will wait upon God in stillness, contemplation and intercession. Our corporate prayer, an ongoing conversation with God, will embrace traditional, fresh expressions, online and evolving models of being Church. We will pastorally model the

#### you taught us;

#### to be more *pastoral*

reaching out to those in need, shepherds, like you, of the lost and the lonely;

#### to be more *prophetic*

heeding the signs of the times, challenging injustice, mirroring your radical inclusivity.

Amen

Watch this and other spaces for more details as Advent gets closer – and with it a doorway to a prayerful adventure.

### Editorial

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

On a day like today, looking out of my study window at fields bathed in glorious sunshine, it makes me realise how wonderful God is. It also drives home the responsibility that we all have to worship God, protect the resources that he has provided, and to spread his word and grow his kingdom.

As part of our shared vision we all have a personal responsibility to be good disciples but also a group responsibility to drive this forward. As a group, we should consider the vision priorities on every PCC meeting agenda. Why not arrange a strategy meeting to plan how you as a church are going to best achieve this? Is your church really doing its best to serve our Lord? If not, what can you do to address this? It might be the smallest of tweaks or you might be looking at a major rethink.

How important is it that now life is returning to some normality that you don't drift into old habits that possibly saw no or very little growth? The importance of a plan cannot be overestimated. It would be like setting off on a car journey and not having planned the route. You could be travelling for hours in the wrong direction!

None of us like being told what to do but we all need to be honest about where we are going and sometimes this might not be palatable. For a planning meeting you might find it beneficial to invite someone from outside your community, such as a mission enabler, to help you look at what your church was offering and what it might offer in the future. As Christians we all feel



passionately about our own parish churches and it is likely passions will run high as we review the future of Church in our diocese. As chair of governors at two schools I am constantly reminding my fellow governors that the underlying criteria on any decision that we make has to be what serves the education of our children in the best way, and not what suits our head teacher or governing body. So, as church members we need to consider what decisions we make going forward will grow our church and serve God.

Some benefices are worshiping as one unit on a weekly basis, and some congregations possibly only meet once a month. Perhaps we should consider a mass marketing campaign to really push our service in a particular church in all of the benefice's villages. For example, most parishes have a village Facebook page so why not advertise your services on all of the village's Facebook pages in your benefice stressing the point that everyone is welcome? Some people may like the opportunity to meet people from other villages, and it may attract people who might not normally attend church.

Please be assured that I am not underestimating the challenges that we all face in our churches. Being editor of your publication, I know only too well of all the added responsibilities that our church members face. I genuinely hope that the stories and articles that appear in this publication encourage and help you to carry out these duties as well as stimulate debate in your community.

## Positives of lockdown

#### **Revd Canon Edward Carter** Vicar, St Peter Mancroft

As a city-centre church it has always been something of a challenge for the Ministry Team to run well-attended evening study groups at St Peter Mancroft in Norwich, especially in the winter months. These had to stop completely in March 2020, with the first lockdown. However, since last September a very successful Zoom study group has been meeting on Thursday evenings using mostly the 'Pilgrim' materials, and numbers have grown steadily. This was begun by Ben Almond, who is on a ministry experience year at the church.

Although there are some disadvantages to meeting online, these have been outweighed by the fact that many new people have been able to take part. Some live quite a distance from the



church but connecting up using Zoom is easy wherever you are. It's also meant that parents with young children can participate much more easily, as well as those who don't find it easy to come out on darker evenings during the winter months.

During Lent 2021 the group used a specially written course that I created called "Face to Face". It used various stories from the lockdown as a way of reflecting on God's presence with us. Although I've led many courses like this in the past, I was nervous about doing

#### so on Zoom. But, in fact, it worked really well, and the depth of engagement was amazing. People really had to listen carefully, and it was lovely to welcome some who'd never been able to attend our Lent group before. It was also possible to use an image each week, which displayed really well on Zoom.

The church now plans to continue the online study group even when all the lockdown restrictions have ended, while reintroducing "in person" meetings on a Sunday, either before or after services.

## Have you got kerb appeal?

#### Anna Main Children, Youth and Families

**Project Advisor** 

As people begin to return through our church doors, especially those who may come over the next few months for specific celebrations and festivals such as weddings, Harvest and Advent, it's a good time to look again with fresh eyes and constructive comments at the welcome your church is offering.

A place we feel welcome is a place that can lead to belonging – something I hope we all want people to feel in our churches. There are many things to consider when thinking about how we as individuals feel welcome and how an environment appears the approach well cared for, giving maximum accessibility?

■ Up to date: Have a look at your notice boards and leaflet stands. Is all the information relevant and up to date? Does it contain the details of those who visitors may need to contact? If posters are sun-faded, print off new copies to refresh the display.

**Tidy up:** Are there items that are no longer needed that you can clear out? Are there other items not regularly used that could be stored away? Are items on display well organised or could this be improved in some way? If needed, you could regularly rotate display items. If you have children's resources, make sure they are clean, complete and have a system to keep things tidy. You can label boxes or shelves if that is helpful. ■ Clean: Are the things people touch and places they sit clean and available? Have a look around to see if there are soft furnishings such as cushions that need washing or refilling and that floor spaces where children and babies might go are clean and comfortable. **Signage:** Visitors might not know what is in the church environment or understand church etiquette. Do you have welcome/notice sheet visitors can take away with them, short descriptors for key items in the church, and simple signage indicating where people can go, what can be used, taken home, purchased etc. We have some signs available to order for free at www.



dioceseofnorwich.org/resource/ building-understanding if you would like.

■ Greeting: Do you have individuals on the door during opening hours or at the start of services who can give a warm welcome? Helping visitors identify a seat, indicating where amenities are in the building and being available to answer questions or lend assistance during a service can be a big help to someone unfamiliar with the setting. For a simple questionnaire of things to consider visit: www.nationalchurchestrust. org/how-welcoming-yourchurch-questionnaire or for more comprehensive resources, your church could use the Everybody Welcome course www.chpublishing.co.uk/ features/everybody-welcome and supporting checklist resource www.chpublishing.co.uk/ media/33633/checklists.pdf (particularly Session 2).

### Supported by standing order

#### Susan Cross Churchwarden and Treasurer The Church of All Saints, Welborne

I am treasurer of the Church of All Saints, Welborne, which is a little country church. We have a small but faithful congregation who kept us going financially through this pandemic. This enabled us to pay all our expenses including our parish share.

Several years ago the congregation were encouraged

to pledge their collection either monthly SO (Standing Order) or weekly on the plate

I think, if this method of giving was widely recommended it may help the diocese by bringing in a constant income.

This might also help places like the North Norfolk churches. If people with holiday homes were encouraged to give a small amount monthly by SO it would help these churches survive financially. Once the SO is made out it is just part of their monthly expenses. welcoming.

Think about what makes you feel welcome when you visit a new place. Perhaps you could do this with a small group of people from your church and consider some of the common ideas and make sure they are present in your church. Familiarity often brings comfort but can lead to us overlooking what needs changing, repairing or refreshing. Take your time to really look carefully and consider what people might see and feel as they come to your church, perhaps for the first time. Consider: **Kerb appeal:** Walk the approach to the church, is there clear indication of what is happening and when in the life of the church,

where the entrance is and other amenities such as car parking? Is

## **Relationship-building**



#### **Lucy Stone** Children and Families Worker

Back in Summer 2020, the team at Christ Church and St Andrews Eaton wondered what they could

do instead of the holiday club they usually ran. The idea was born to create 'Activity Packs'. These packs were full of crafts and baking ideas and some simple biblical truths. They were very popular, so the

minimum at the other end.

From the outset we realised we

about forging alliances with what

we call 'the forces for good'. We

also realised that we should try

to do their bit.

to be enablers; encouraging every

man, woman and child in Norfolk

We would love to work with every

could not do this alone and set

Harvest, then again at Christmas and then at Easter. At Easter there were 158 sent out to families in Eaton and the surrounding areas.

That is 158 new connections the church has made in the community. We are really excited about what God could do from these connections. We believe that the packs have sown a seed, a seed of relationship – not just with us as the church but also with Jesus. For some that seed will be watered and cared for by others further down the line, but we hope and trust that for some, we will be able to go on the journey of growth with them.

We will continue to do the packs but are also offering a 'workshop' with each pack, where the children can come and do some crafts with us in person. We hope this will be a chance for us to grow those connections into relationships and show these children that coming into a church building is fun. Our holiday club this year is also aimed at these relationships so there will be similarity between the packs, workshop and holiday club. Each of these steps will include more about Jesus and hopefully start to develop the children's relationship with Jesus and the church. This is just the beginning and everything we do will be with the aim to water the seeds that have been sown. Is this something that you could do in your church?

### Prayer

### **Transformed by Christ** to become more **PRAYERFUL**

Transform us, O Christ, that, deeply rooted in prayer, we may be fully alive to you and your purposes for us and for all people.

#### Amen

We will deepen our prayer life and learning and provide a sense of belonging within worship offered in a range of styles for all ages.

We will equip people in evangelism to find ways to share their faith during the week and be invitational to others to join the life of their local church, recognising the particular need to engage with children, young people and families.

We will live a life of generous stewardship in response to God's gifts to us.

## **Our wellbeing** initiative

#### John Pennell Chairman of the Wellbeing Initiative

Joining up the "Forces for Good" Norfolk Association of Local Councils was formed in 1946 to help all 500 or so town and parish councils throughout Norfolk with team decided to do them again at

climate change, where we need not only to save the planet from the worst of the likely ravages brought on by human selfishness, but – as importantly – make sure the weak among us are protected.

Our Climate Action project is a huge part of the initiative, and we publish a monthly newsletter on Climate Change, various specialist articles each week on topics of interest, run open in-depth webinars on all sorts of issues and give advice to the many activists around the county, as well as maintaining national and international links with similar organisations.

If you would like to find out more about us, visit www. norfolkalc.gov.uk/norfolkassociation-of-local-cou.html or email us at Wellbeing@ NorfolkALC.gov.uk where, inter alia, you can ask to be put on our mailing list for newsletters etc. Please also join our Cut a Tonne in '21 campaign where we are working closely with one of our Partners: GIKI ZERO - the best and most helpful CO2e calculator on the planet.

<u>Reuben Anstey</u> <u>Lipe Organ</u> Stoke Holy Gross, Norwich We Offer Tuning and maintenance visits at competitive rates **Traditional restoration Imaginative re-building** 

their work as the first tier of local government.

Over time, more rules and regulations were imposed centrally, forcing Norfolk ALC to focus on 'process' and 'procedure'. So, two years ago it launched its wellbeing initiative which aimed to concentrate on the two essential tasks of this most local arm of government, namely, to look after all their residents - especially those disadvantaged in any way – and to make sure the place in which they all lived was well looked after and could be enjoyed by our successors in perpetuity.

So, we have a wide spectrum of things to tackle – ranging from the pastoral care of people at one end to making sure that the effects of climate change are kept to a

PCC in Norfolk because we share the same values and are very willing to share the work we have done and the expertise of the many partners who have joined up with us on this journey. Sadly, an unintended consequence of the 1894 Local Government Act was to place a divide between the PC and the PCC. We believe we are all 'stronger

together' and we can achieve much more if we work together; particularly when it comes to

> Norfolk Association of **Local Councils**

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Developing the community engagement in our parishes is an ideal way to grow our congregations. I think that we all agree we want more families in our churches. You will see from the articles here that there is a strong bond between churches and their local schools. It is even better if you can engage with a non-church school. Links can be made by clergy visits or volunteering to be a school governor.

## Who's got egg on their face now?



#### **The Revd Mathew Price** St Mary Magdalene, Gorleston

Cracking a raw egg on my head in collective worship has been perhaps the oddest moment (so far!) in my relationship with Peterhouse Church of England Primary Academy, but I have so appreciated the special relationship between the school and our church since I arrived at St Mary Magdalene in Gorleston.

Whether it is in governor meetings, talking to children, helping with collective worship or RE lessons, or supporting the headteacher and other staff, it has been a privilege to be involved in the life of the school. And it is far from a oneway street! The relationship with the school has also helped me in my ministry in the local community. Insights gained through the school community - and the challenges that the young people and their families face in our community – have been invaluable in shaping our ministry at St Mary Magdalene. Of course, during the last 18 months we have had to think creatively about how we continue to foster and build the relationship. Collective worship has gone online - pre-recorded and live - and we

have sought to work closely with the school in order to support the wider community through the pandemic. The school has donated excess food to our foodbank and we have supported families who needed it with food parcels. Together we partnered on pancake packs which were sent to families in the run up to Shrove Tuesday and we have worked together in providing support – both food and wider support – to families in school holidays and lockdowns.

These are just a few examples, but school and church are working together to be (as the school vision puts it) "the rock for our community".



## You only have to ask

#### Alan Thorp

#### Churchwarden, Pulham Market

Our church is eight miles from Diss in South Norfolk and is definitely a rural church. The congregation varies from 35-55 week by week with numbers increasing to 100 at festivals.

We were perhaps a little slow off the mark when the PCC realised that if you do not have any live Sunday services during lockdown then the weekly giving just stops. Many of our congregation prefer to give weekly, which is of course fine, but what was not fine was the growing hole in the budget.

I've long been a fan of the "Nudge Theory", a concept in behavioural economics which is widely used in Government and Business, and is very effective in achieving a change in behaviour. We had this very much in mind when formulating an action plan to address the situation. to do, but when you are facing real problems doing something seems quite the best alternative. The PCC decided to write to everyone in the church family and tell them of the situation and the consequences if we did nothing. At the same time we put a case to convert weekly giving into a regular standing order, and made it as easy to do as we could.

Like most families, when things get tough they rally to the cause and what a result:

■ 25% increase in people giving by standing order;

■ 8 (one-off) donations equivalent to more than 30% of our annual giving.

I suppose it only goes to prove, "you only have to ask", but the way you ask is very important. Thanks to the generosity of our great church community here in Pulham Market we are now back in the black and paying our way – and importantly we are still able to give 10% of our annual income to worthy causes.

## **Clypping**?

Jane Gardener Executive Headteacher Sandringham and West Newton Primary Academy, part of DNEAT

Sandringham Federation group of schools is very lucky to be served by none other than the Reverend Canon Jonathan Riviere, or Father Jonathan to us, who is not only our incumbent and school vicar, but also the Vicar of Her Majesty The Queen at Sandringham. Father Jonathan visits both our schools weekly to conduct

services within the school grounds, and the schools also attend the local churches in the village for family communion services once a half term, in the beautiful villages of Flitcham and West Newton on the Sandringham Estate. We also have wonderful local traditions, where Father Jonathan leads us in celebration of the Christian faith outside. In May, we have the Rogation service in the grounds of the Sandringham Estate, where we learn all about nature, conservation and the

seasons. We also celebrate the service of Clypping, for Mothering Sunday, where we literally hug the church, with all children, staff and parents forming a circle around the building to appreciate it, as the centre of our community. On some occasions we have walked through the Sandringham Estate park land to visit the church of Her Majesty, St Mary Magdalene, and Father Jonathan conducts a service of friendship in the church following a wholefederation picnic to kick off the school year in September. Father Jonathan is also an active school governor and leads our Ethos Committee, which creates a much appreciated link between church and school.

Asking people for money is never top of the list of favourite things



## **Relationship maintained**

#### Nicola Kaye Headteacher Swaffham Church of England Primary Academy, part of DNEAT

We have a very close relationship with Swaffham Church, St Peter and St Paul Swaffham. The Revd Janet Allan has visited our school many times pre-Covid to deliver Collective Worship to our whole school, and we have walked all our children and staff up through Swaffham to St Peter and St Paul for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and end-of-summerterm services where parents and family members have joined us.

St Peter and St Paul is a beautiful church and the children love going there. They find the space awe-inspiring, often commenting on the size of the stained-glass windows and the intricate detail of the carvings on the ends of the pews and on the church ceiling. Revd Janet shared this comment with me recently, "The children do sense something of the mystery of our church as somewhere they are particularly aware of God's presence – there's a bit of hush often amidst the excitement."

We have managed to keep this important relationship going through Covid. Although the children and staff have not able to go to the church and Revd Janet has not been able to visit our school, we have been able to enjoy services delivered by video by Revd Janet and also Revd Hilary De Lyon, Assistant Priest in the parish. For Remembrance, the children made wreaths with the names of soldiers who had died in World War I and World War II. The wreaths were displayed in the church and then the children could see their work on display in the video service made by Revd Janet which we watched as a school.

For our Christmas service, the children wrote prayers and these were displayed in the church and could be seen by the children through the Christmas service video which Revd Janet recorded for us. For Holy Week and Easter, the children made paintings and wrote songs and poems themed well for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, which were displayed in the church until the end of the Easter season at Pentecost.

I was delighted to attend the Service of Commemoration for HRH Prince Philip which was held at St Peter St Paul on Friday 16 April.

We feel so lucky to have such a wonderful church on our doorstep and we are looking forward to a time when we can return as a whole school again.

### Now is the time



### GENEROSITY WEEK

Discover the joy of generosity

"We have received overwhelmingly, so let us give generously," Archbishop Justin Welby

### National Generosity Week

#### **Francesca Geach** The Giving Team & Parish Buying, Church House

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

Every day we see generosity in our churches and Christian communities, reflecting the generous God we believe in.

It takes time, support and above all prayer to grow a generous culture. This Harvest we are launching Generosity Week to give us the time and space to reflect on and celebrate God's generosity within our Church's ministry and mission.

We hope that by the end of

#### org/generosity-week

You may wish to use all the resources available or just a selection. Resources for churches include:

■ A Generosity Service: worship materials for two Sundays at the beginning and end of Generosity Week.

 Guidance showing how to engage the wider community with Generosity Week.
Activities to help your

church discover and share its generous stories.

■ A social media and marketing toolkit to help you promote your church's Generosity Week.

Generosity can be shown through everyday acts of kindness that make a huge difference to people's lives. To encourage these acts of generosity we're also encouraging people to take part in the Generosity Week Challenge. This includes: Eight podcasts exploring generosity stories from different churches across the country. Daily reflections on a



I think that we will all agree that we have just been through the most unusual of times. A lot of people have felt that it would have been insensitive or inappropriate for churches to talk about legacies during Covid but every other advert on television recently has been one charity or another asking for a bequest. Interestingly enough Anglicans are three times more likely to leave a legacy to a charity other than their church. Surely, this is a situation that we need to address?

Leaving a legacy is an important part of our Christian stewardship, and they are a great financial opportunity for our churches because they enable us to support our clergy, start new projects, repair our churches or even create new facilities. Quite often they are that all-important catalyst that puts things into motion. However small our legacy to our church, wouldn't it be nice to be fondly remembered? The recent Church of England survey showed that only 15% of Anglicans had been asked to leave a legacy to their church. Now is the time for you to start promoting legacies in your church and the Parish Funding Support Officers are here to help guide you through the very simple process. Please contact me and ask for more information. **robert.culyer@ dioceseofnorwich.org**  Generosity Week you'll have a deeper understanding of God's generosity towards us and how we can live more generously in our daily lives.

How can you get involved? You can run Generosity Week in your church to coincide with your Harvest Festival. As churches celebrate Harvest at different times this could be at any time between August to October. Don't hesitate to look into it now and plan in readiness. The national stewardship team have resources available now, and we will be hosting webinars during the summer to offer guidance on running a Generosity Week at your church. Further information can be found at: www.churchofengland.

generosity theme.

■ A daily generosity activity to complete each day of Generosity Week.

■ You can complete the Generosity Week Challenge by yourself or you might want to share the experience with your friends, family, work colleagues or other members of your church. The Generosity Challenge will be available from August.

In future editions of PCC News, I would like to follow up with some churches that have taken part. Please email me and let me know if you are thinking of taking part. **robert.culyer@ dioceseofnorwich.org** 



## Introducing Franziska Callaghan

#### **Franziska Callaghan** Executive Officer for Church Buildings (DAC Secretary)

I am a heritage professional, who has run my own heritage consultancy for many years and have worked as a conservation and design officer for various local authorities. I also have a background in practical conservation with an MSc in Architectural Materials Conservation. I have worked as an art and architectural conservator for some years, both in the UK and in Germany. My knowledge is also underpinned by qualifications in history of art and architecture as well as interior design.

I am looking forward to bringing my skills and experience to the existing Care of Churches team and to working across the diocese with the many parishes. (This is a position that the

diocese has to have by law).

## Are you prepared?

**Franziska Callaghan** Executive Officer for Church Buildings (DAC Secretary)

August marks a break from church work, but after such an unusual year, many of you might be wanting to catch up with projects previously placed on hold.

With autumn fast approaching, it is also a time to consider what maintenance will be needed now and in the coming few months. Below are some simple and practical ways to maintain your building and stave off deterioration.

#### September

Replace any broken bulbs including outside and security lights.Test the boiler and check the

heating system. ■ If your church is heated using

oil or Calor Gas make sure you will have adequate fuel for the winter.

■ Does the organ need tuning? Clear out any rubbish accumulating round the organ. October

■ Treat the snowboards with creosote or similar and repair any which have broken. Put them in place.

■ Check that all exposed water tanks, water pipes, heating pipes and oil feed pipes are protected

against severe frost.

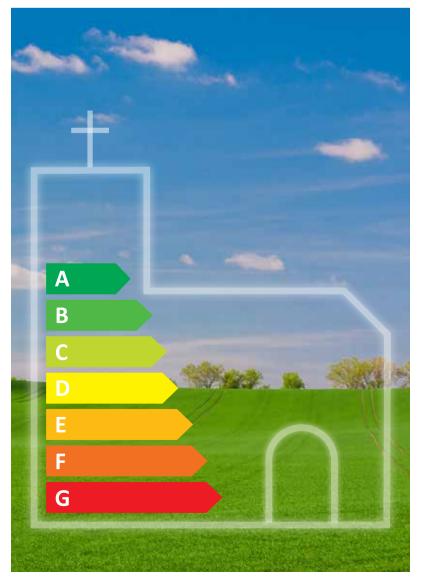
 Cut the grass for the final time and service the lawn mower.
When Daylight Saving Time finishes at the end of the month take the opportunity to check your turret clock.
November

■ Clear fallen leaves from gutters, downspouts and drains.

You might find further useful information on the Church Buildings Council website at www.churchofengland.org/ resources/churchcare/churchbuildings-council.

You can contact the Care of Churches team on **01603 882350.** 





## **Eco Heating Systems**

#### Susan Logan Ecoteric Ltd, Sustainability Consultants, Worcester

We all need some form of heat to make us comfortable and in our churches, we often need to offer a welcoming warmth. At the same time, we need to address the climate change emergency and consume as little energy as we can. This short article won't give you the perfect solution but will set out some steps needed to get to the best solution for your church. Then you need to work out how to supply the heat so that demand is matched as closely as possible. That doesn't mean under-sizing a system necessarily, just making sure you deliver heat just when and where it is needed. You can heat people, not source for the next 15 years by replacing an oil boiler like for like. It could mean planning a replacement heating system which could take a lower carbon heat source such as a heat pump in the future. Heat pumps are most efficient generating heat at lower temperatures, typically 35-50°C. Conventional boiler systems are often sized for 80°C so clearly the design will be different for the heat emitters. Funding is always an issue – look out for Church of England seminars coming up in September on funding

The principles for low carbon heating are:

- Demand should be reduced.
- Supply should equal demand.
- Lowest possible carbon source.

To reduce demand, work out what is needed in terms of heat, where and when is it needed?

Reducing demand could mean heating a smaller space, heating for less time, sharing spaces. It could mean insulating and stopping draughts. good where use is infrequent. Sometimes a steady heat is good where use is high, or buildings have a need for conservation. Good controls are recommended.

Then you need to consider how you supply that heat. In the future, more and more of our electricity will be generated from renewable energy such as wind and solar power. You can generate electricity through photovoltaic panels and get some "free" heat, power and light.

You can benefit now from low carbon electricity by choosing a true "green" tariff.

The main thing is to be forwardthinking and plan for a low-carbon future. That might mean not locking yourself into a high carbon for environmental projects.

Where to get more help? 1. DAC heating Adviser, if your diocese has one. 2. www.churchofengland.org/ resources/churchcare/adviceand-guidance-church-buildings/ heating 2. https://ecochurch.arocha.org

3. https://ecochurch.arocha.org. uk/resources

So, in conclusion, what is eco heating? It is whatever uses the least carbon for the required effect.

## Plant a tree for the Jubilee!



#### **Barbara Bryant Bishop's Press Officer**

Faith Leaders from across the UK, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Revd Justin Welby, are urging faith communities to plant trees in honour of Her Majesty's lifetime of service to the nation, through The Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Bishop Graham encourages everyone to be involved in this initiative: "Join me in planting a tree to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Let them unfold next year, let them blossom, let the leaves come out to celebrate this remarkable anniversary."

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) initiative is a unique, UKwide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is Patron of the QGC and planted a tree in the grounds of Windsor Castle with Her Majesty earlier in the year to

mark the start of the project.

In a special video message, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the leaders from the Buddhist Society, the Interfaith Council for Wales, Al-Khoei Foundation, Nishkam Centre, the Church of Scotland, the United Hebrew Congregations of Great Britain and the Commonwealth, the Hindu Council UK, the Moravian Church of Northern Ireland, and the Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board, encouraged people to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" in 2022.

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. The countdown to planting season begins now, giving people time to plan their planting projects.

Canopy will highlight and showcase 70 irreplaceable ancient woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 ancient trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

The QGC project will also create a pilot training programme for unemployed young people aged between 16-24 through Capel Manor College, London's only specialist environmental college, of which The Queen Mother was Patron, to plant and manage trees.

The Faith Leaders in their message to the interfaith community urged everyone to get involved with the QGC and highlighted the benefits of trees and green spaces for communities and mental health, and the importance of creating a legacy that will benefit future generations.

Find out all you need to get involved at: www.queensgreencanopy.org View Bishop Graham's video

### Prayer

### **Transformed by Christ** to become more **PASTORAL**

Transform us O Christ, that, like Peter, we may hear you charging us to shepherd your sheep: may we too respond for love of you by feeding the hungry and tending the vulnerable.

#### Amen

We will promote and equip the variety of lay and ordained ministries, knowing that all are invited to hear God's call and selflessly respond in loving service.

We will have honest conversations leading to decisions about the mission potential, viability and ways to ease the burden of our church buildings, many of which are treasured places of holiness, stillness and memory, whilst also exploring new possibilities for planting and nurturing Christian communities.

We will encourage every church community and church school to be engaged somehow, often in partnership, in loving service to its local, diocesan and world neighbours.

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As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green

message here: www.DofN.org/green-canopy

## Planting

Franziska Callaghan **Executive Officer for Church** Buildings (DAC Secretary)

A well-considered scheme is needed for any new tree planting. In choosing species, consideration should be given to their mature height, span and root growth. Deciduous trees express the passing of the seasons (but

need a lot of work in autumn). If possible, indigenous species should be planted. Recent weather trends may suggest choosing more drought resistant species, but they may have to tolerate periodic downpours as well.

Deciduous trees and shrubs help other wildlife to flourish. Yew trees eventually grow very large, needing lots of space to develop their form. Flowering

trees are more appropriate to a garden setting but can be used sparingly.

An appropriate location should take account of the minimum distance from structures, and also any effect on wildlife.

After planting, the young tree will need protection and cherishing, to ensure security and healthy growth. This may include staking and protective barriers. These should remain long enough but not too long, to avoid restricting the girth of the trunk. www.DofN.org/Trees-in-Churchyards



In life we are always learning about new things. They say that we never stop learning. The articles on this page will, I hope, stimulate debate and hopefully give you some ideas about what you could possibly try in your church. It is quite interesting that we set up groups such as Messy Church or a social club, but we then don't move those participants further along their Christian journey and actually move them into our pews. Is this because we don't go that extra step and actually invite them? In many cases people are waiting to just be invited. Have you thought about a service of thanksgiving for your Messy Church or social club (at a time that suits that particular group) and invite your regular congregation to come along as well?

## A cha(lle)nging perspective on Church

#### Anna Main Children, Youth & Families Project Adviser

The recent "Faith in the Nexus" report is a piece of research by NICER examining the intersection of children's exploration of faith in the home in relation to church and school. It brought forth an interesting insight that for some people there was "a sense of belonging to a wider church community through a variety of activities that took place in school and in the church building."

Termed "occasional belongers" they defined themselves as Christians and felt a sense of belonging but did not attend traditional Sunday church; too often, we view a sense of belonging solely through this lens of church attendance. The research also reported that "Many parents and pupils interpreted going to Messy Church or going to activities run by parachurch organisations as 'going to church'." A local example being of a lad from a mid-week youth group who asked the leader when church would next be. The leader, assuming he meant the church where the youth group rented a room, began to describe when she thought the services took place, only to be corrected that he meant "church" as the youth group itself.

Fresh Expressions such as Messy Church and Café Church are already quite well established with Outdoor or ECO (Exploring Creation Outside) Church, another form growing in strength. ECO Church has been running at St Mary's, Newton Flotman, since August 2020. Lesley Cox, Licensed Lay Minister in the Tas

Valley Team Ministry says, "I had been running Café Church on a monthly basis in the school hall for about two and a half years. The vision was that it would be a seeker service and draw in families from the school community. which it did as many visited on an occasional basis. This was no longer possible when lockdown happened, I therefore decided to 'move it outside', though with a different format and an environmental emphasis." Lesley continues, "ECO Church runs from 4-5pm on the first Sunday of the month and is on the monthly rota of services. We get between 16 and 24 people, including children – approximately one third are part of our other congregations, a few are more loosely connected with church (so that this might be the only service they come to) and perhaps one or two families have

been from the wider community of the village. I have seen members of the church congregation who were not previously involved in Café Church get behind this vision. I think it is special to engage with God in and through the realm of his creation and its relevance in terms of environmental concerns in society in general, and the desire to appreciate nature more."

Susie Bratby is a Sports Minister and has been working with schools within the Thetford Team Ministry. Does she feel those participating in her outreach activities see themselves as belonging to church?

"Yes I think so," says Susie, "At our Holiday club 'Legacy' we have had really good engagement with young people aged 5-11 years. It includes nearly all the 'traditional' elements for church and it opens up a whole new opportunity amongst those who wouldn't choose or be able to attend a Sunday service. I think children and young people are starting to see that church isn't just the

building and it doesn't need to be on a Sunday and it's beginning to impact the parents too." Current research such as "Faith in the Nexus" presents an even greater rationale for engagement with families through the nexus of home, school and church as is also encouraged through the national Church of England "Growing Faith" Adventure. It also deeply challenges us as churches to consider how we become radically inclusive to prevent ourselves from disconnecting from people who may consider themselves to be part of the Christian family, and build on this wider sense of church community and belonging which forms a foundation for faith development.

For further information: https://nicer.org.uk/ faith-in-the-nexus Wild Church Hub (East Anglia) www.facebook.com/ groups/4844215565618442 www.churchofengland. org/about/renewalreform/growing-faith

## Anna Chaplaincy emerging across the Diocese of Norwich



**The Revd Peter Leech** Rector, Yare Valley Churches Benefice

Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury) is quoted as saying – "mission is seeing what God is doing and joining in". Luke's Gospel – both are good role models of faithful older people. Anna Chaplaincy is a personcentred ministry for people of strong, little or no faith at all. It involves visiting older people wherever they may be living, whether in residential and nursing homes, sheltered housing, retirement complexes or other private homes. The emphasis is on spiritual support but, clearly. people's practical struggles will also play a part in their overall wellbeing. Anna Chaplaincy is intended to complement and run alongside, rather than replicate or replace, ministry already being done in churches. Anna Chaplains are licensed to the local parish and are locally focused. Over the past few months, we have seen a growing number of parishes engage with Anna Chaplaincy and we have identified an opportunity to create a

diocese-wide network. An Anna

formed to lead the local initiative.

Chaplaincy steering group has

For more information or to explore Anna Chaplaincy further, please contact Peter Leech (chair of the steering group) **peter. leech@dioceseofnorwich.org** St Stephen's has been exploring how Anna Chaplaincy can complement the range of ministry they offer. The Revd Madeline Light writes:



For many years, parishes have faithfully ministered to the elderly in the parish. The Covid pandemic saw churches develop creative ways of supporting those who were isolated, alone and anxious. One of the things we are realising is that the local church has a crucial post-pandemic role to play in supporting the elderly in every community. Anna Chaplaincy is one way that we can continue to minister to the elderly.

Anna Chaplaincy is a nationwide initiative which works in partnership with the Bible Reading Fellowship. Anna Chaplains are named after the widow, Anna, who appears with Simeon in

"Margaret Blackshaw, a member of the St Stephen's congregation, was aware of many people caring for family with dementia with very little understanding of the condition. She arranged a couple of workshops with a well-qualified speaker. However, the pandemic stopped the workshops from happening. When the possibility of becoming an Anna Chaplain with a special concern for the spiritual care for older people came to our attention earlier this year it seemed an obvious way forward for her and St Stephen's. We look forward to the training the Anna Chaplaincy offers to equip us to serve our city centre community better."

## Learn to listen

#### **Jonathan Richardson** Children, Youth & Families Development Officer

It has been said that the Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members, and not a mutual benefit society organised by its own members for their own collective advantage<sup>1</sup>.

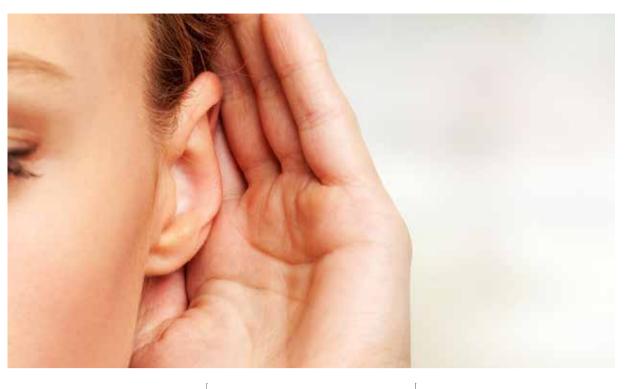
As we seek to set new direction, vision, and strategies in our churches I have been challenged about the need to hear more voices. There is a danger we will base our decisions on what we think people need and not on what they say they need or desire.

In reflecting on this I am reminded of the example set by Jesus – he was a master at connecting with the disconnected and challenging the religious elite. Whether it was connecting with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:4-26), challenging his disciples in relation to children (Matthew 19:13-15) or the accusations made against him about those he spent his time with (see Matthew 9:9-13), a significant part of his ministry was spent out in the countryside, not in the synagogues and temple or speaking with the religious leaders. This should challenge us to

reach out to those we don't know and listen more. But it is not just about hearing the voice of those we seek to reach outside the Church that is important, we must also hear the voices of those inside the Church. My own particular focus is on hearing the voices of young people, but this could apply equally to any unrepresented group in your congregation or community.

In relation to listening to young people in church, it is important that we include them in discussions but more importantly in decisions – ask yourself how diverse is your PCC? Is it representative of your community? The legal requirements for membership of a PCC is that you are baptised, on the electoral roll and over 16! I have witnessed several young people serving in this way - and experienced for myself having a young person on a church leadership team. Young people can be quite direct and cut through repetitive and difficult conversations. I recall one young person saying, "Does this really matter? - why don't we just..." It would be easy to argue that adults have more experience and wisdom, but we should be challenged by the Apostle Paul's words to Timothy:

"Don't let anyone look down on



you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Young people have a unique and challenging role in society – they are often the ones who change the direction of society - look at the impact of Greta Thunberg. In a recent survey by TearFund and Youthscape entitled "Burning Down the House" 9 out of 10 churchgoing young people didn't feel the church was doing enough about the environment. This is just one current issue! We have to seek out voices and perspectives different from our own, make friends with those who move outside our natural communities

and listen when we would rather argue.

How many voices are you hearing?

#### Resources

Learn to Listen

www.learn-to-listen.org.uk offers a wide variety of resources, ideas, suggestions and practical advice to help you take the first steps towards listening to the children and young people in your church community and beyond.

#### Talking Jesus

https://talkingjesus.org is a resource of six encouraging, video-based sessions with short films, inspirational, short testimonies, real-life examples from people who are talking Jesus, and a short, easy-to-follow course book.

#### Godsend

https://freshexpressions.org. uk/2018/10/25/godsend has been designed as a toolkit to help you grow new Christian communities with those exploring faith. It uses animations, questions and real-life examples to explore topics such as listening to the community and what emerging church looks like.

<sup>1</sup>This quote may very well be a simplification of a text from Church and Nation by William Temple.



### 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

### Five top tips for contactless giving

#### 1.

Plan ahead for events Think about what events your church has coming up over the summer: are you holding weddings, baptisms, summer fetes and so on? Make sure that those coming into your building know how to make a gift via contactless if they would like to.

#### 2.

**Try QR codes & online giving** QR codes are a great way of inviting people to give online to your church. They can be printed on things like pew cards, service sheets, posters, making it easy for lots of people to give at the same time using their smartphone.

#### 3.

Make the fundraising ask well Simply having a contactless device will not generate lots of donations on its own. It's important that we talk about the impact of people's giving, the need for people to give, and build trust by showing how a person's gift will be used wisely. Take a look at: www.churchofengland.org/ resources/building-generouschurch/enabling-giving for suggestions for how to think this through for your church.

#### 4. Don't forget GASDS

Remember that you can claim Gift Aid through the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme on contactless donations under £30, just like with cash. If most of the donations you take via your contactless device are under £30, you may find it's best to switch off any on-screen Gift Aid.

#### 5.

#### Nominate a champion

As with anything new, it can take a bit of time to get to grips with your contactless device. Consider appointing a 'contactless champion' in your church – someone who can take responsibility for knowing how to use the device, training others, thinking about when to use it, and understanding how to access reporting through the supplier's portal. It seems strange to be thinking about Christmas when many of us have not had a summer holiday. Success comes from careful planning, so we need to start now. There are loads of activities that you can do for your community at Christmas. I have included a couple of stories about activities here to give you inspiration. When planning, try and choose something that a neighbouring parish is not doing as this will defeat the object. Why not put on a series of events in your benefice that complement each other?

## Tree festival - our way



road from church, chatted to the shopkeepers and got to know them a bit. I asked them if they would be willing to decorate a 40cm high tree for a windowsill in the church and I would provide a poster displaying the name and a photo of their business. It was one of those ideas that popped into my head and it actually worked well; in fact, we have done it for two years now and I think it is here to stay.

What made us smile was the fun that some of the shop workers had obviously had: LED lights inside empty pill bottles from the pharmacy, colourful capsules used as decorations from the vape shop and biscuits from the Co-op strung together across the tree. Also helping us to celebrate were the ones more traditionally decorated with flashing lights and colour schemes and the ones without any scheme at all, just a cheerful dash of colours here and there. The congregation enjoyed them and visitors to the church were intrigued, including some of the very shopkeepers who had contributed so wonderfully. Some of them had never noticed St Anne's before, even though it is just across the road (albeit a very busy one).

The short-term result was the involvement of local business people in the life of the church and the long-term results are immeasurable, in both senses. People were prayed for, chats were had, relationships were started – one shop and its employees are getting involved in the garden around the church; partly to contribute to the community and partly for their own wellbeing.

One of the trees and their poster can be seen in the photograph and the common sense of purpose is indicated: 'Serving the community of Earlham together'.

## **Mission Hub**

As you look towards preparation for winter activities and leading in to Christmas, do not forget to have a look at Mission Hub for resources and inspiration to support your festive celebrations.

**The Revd Carol Pritchard** 

Some churches have a large Christmas tree that dominates the

nave, others have tree festivals

with magnificent displays filling

the best. St Anne's Earlham can give you a different version of a

large spaces and competitions for

Assistant Priest, Earlham Parish



A guide to Christingle The Children's Society are here to support you with

an array of resources to help you hold a Christingle Service this year – online, offline, or both. Spread the light this Christmas!



#### The Christmas Connection

A small 6o-page booklet by J. John to give out at Christmas services and events which explains who God is and how he feels about us.



**God Became Like Me** A poetic retelling of why Jesus came, how much he loves us and how he is always there for us. It features stunning line illustrations for children to colour in while reflecting on the words.



#### **Build a Jesse Tree**

Use as a group, family or individual; this guide helps you to spot the many connections between scripture and the world around us and highlights "the richness of the connection between creation and worship."



#### **Advent Calendar**

We will once again be offering a digital Advent Calendar featuring voices from across our diocese, giving a reflection for each day of Advent.



#### At the Heart of Christmas

Keep an eye on Mission Hub for this suite of resources from the Church of England to support your church this Christmas.

## Barn in village saves fair



#### **James Lilwall** Friends of Bawdeswell

The Friends of All Saints Bawdeswell was established some 18 years ago to raise funds for the general upkeep and enhancement of All Saints. One of the important factors, like most Friends organisations, was that our fundraising during the year should pull the community together in a variety of ways and we should try to use the church as much as possible. When planning events for the year, apart from the usual, we try to do something a little bit different.

Christmas-time fundraising brings its own set of challenges; it's such a busy time for everyone and there is always so much fundraising competition. Trying to find something that little bit different that doesn't compete head-on with other

local events is a challenge. We are fortunate that we have a very gifted and active flower arranging team in the village and it was through their help and support that we were able to establish our annual 'Christmas Wreath Fair'.

The fair has now become a popular event with many returning customers year on year pre-ordering their wreaths in advance. To help with the making of the wreaths a class is held on the day before where interested volunteers come together under supervision to help make the numbers required.

Over the years we've been able to add in seasonal produce, a few craft like stalls and the usual refreshments and a hamper raffle. These have all added to the occasion and brought in extra revenue.

With COVID-19, like most, our fundraising was decimated and

all tastes.

VOCKING

it was impossible to stage any of our normal events. The one opportunity that did arise was to stage our Wreath Fair, although it needed careful planning and a suitable venue to meet with all the restrictions and to make the event as Covid-secure as possible. As the church couldn't be used under the restrictions, we were able to move the event to a nearby barn in the village. This made a perfect venue that enabled us also to extend the craft stalls and sell stall pitches. The making of the wreaths was completed over two days with many making them up at home and a small group making them on site.

The whole event proved to us what you can do in such restricted times, being adaptable, pulling on your ingenuity and capitalising on the situation ahead of you. We learnt a lot and we know we can take those learnings in to the event for future years.

### Prayer

### **Transformed by Christ** to become more **PROPHETIC**

Transform us, O Christ, that, inspired by your example, we may find our voice to challenge injustice and stand up for the oppressed

#### Amen

We will ensure an active priestly or lay worker/enabler presence in our lowest economic communities as we seek to address the growing inequalities in our society.

We will seek to become a safe Church for all and one that embraces diversity and radical Christian inclusion.

We will work to ensure that ecological concerns are integral to our life together as we care for our single island planet home.

### **Bower Organ Tuning**

**Richard Bower as ever** tunes and repairs pipe organs throughout the Diocese and beyond. - no contracts necessary -

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to arrange your visit.

### 11

### Looking to raise funds for your church?







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## **Covering all bases**

#### **Robert Culyer** Parish Funding Support Officer

Many parishes now have their unique giving QR codes and URLs as well as the physical resources such as business cards and posters to promote the diocesan online facility.

Like everything in life, the more effort you put in the more you get out. Some of our parishes are seeing good returns and are receiving regular income from the diocesan donate button.

It is important to emphasise that this does not replace the methods you already have of giving to support the church, but is here to run alongside these existing methods. I think that everyone will agree that we are now moving increasingly towards a cashless society. As a parish you need to be prepared for this.

The important thing now is to have a strategy to ensure that you promote it. What is the point of having this information if you then don't use it to your church's advantage?

A strategy going forward would be: 1. Put it on your next PCC agenda – promotion of online giving.2. At the PCC meeting set up a list of action points for both the online and physical resources.

Certain members on your PCC will have different areas of strength. Those with IT skills can be responsible for its promotion: 1. Make sure the link is on your Facebook/social media and website. 2. Not only ensure that the giving link is included with the zoom link that you are sending out to viewers, but also include a message to say that the viewer might like to support the work of your church by making a donation. Ideally, when the collection is being taken or the offertory is being presented during the service the person leading the service can speak directly to camera to those at home and say that they can also be part of the service and make their donation online using the link. 3. When printing a pew sheet include the QR code and beside the QR code print the message 'some people may like to make a donation to support the work of the church by using the online facility' (especially good for those who don't carry cash as we move towards a cashless society).

4. When writing an article for a parish magazine include the QR code and suggest that the church is part of the local community and is there for the community, and you, the reader, might like to support this work by making a donation using the code.

5. When sending out your church's Christmas card, with the Christmas services information printed inside the card, include the QR code and ask for support for the work of the church.

Other people can be responsible for displaying the physical resources.

#### Ensure that the poster:

1. Is displayed on the noticeboard in the church.

2. Is displayed on the noticeboard in the porch.

3. Is displayed on community noticeboards throughout your village or town.

4. Is displayed in libraries, doctors' and dentists' surgeries.

Our churches are self-funding charities and need to compete with all of the other charities asking for financial support. It is vital that we resource our churches sufficiently to develop and grow what we have.



### Here to help...

To speak to a member of the Diocesan staff team contact:

01603 880853

info@dioceseofnorwich.org

### Useful websites

Church of England COVID-19, guidance Read the regularly updated guidance for all churches including links to resources, liturgy and prayers www.DofN.org/coronavirus

### Previous editions of PCC News

Download and read previous editions in PDF format www.DofN.org/pccnews

#### **Church Grants**

A free online funding website for local parishes to help you find grants and funding www.DofN.org/churchgrants

#### **Diocesan Registry**

For advice on legal matters www.DofN.org/registry

#### ChurchCare

Lots of information on caring for church buildings, contents, churchyards, and developing your church building www.churchcare.co.uk

#### **Church Legacy**

Quick and easy access to essential information for individuals considering leaving a gift in their Will to their local church www.churchlegacy.org.uk

#### **Parish Resources**

Information from the National Stewardship & Resources team: resources to support all aspects of stewardship, administration and church management www.parishresources.org.uk

## Free online funding for you

The Diocese of Norwich is excited to announce that we have subscribed to an online database of hundreds of funding sources specifically for churches and other Christian causes provided by Church Grants.

Church Grants list funding opportunities covering both capital and social outreach campaigns with many different thematic search options available. You will be able to search and save tailored searches and keep these on your personal church login.

You will be to access the database free of charge for the next three years, up until June 2024.

The Church Grants team will also be running various online training for the diocese over this period so watch out for more details on that.

To access the database please visit this link: www.DofN.org/ churchgrants You will need your Parish Share number (your parish treasurer will have this) and then simply select your church name.

If you do not know your Parish Share number, please contact Robert Culyer **01603 882326** 

At any point you had questions about the Church Grants database please email their support team who will be happy to help: info@churchgrants.co.uk



### Culture recovery fund saves Tunstall



**Robert More and Graham Cann** Tunstall (Norfolk) Church Preservation Trust

I am pleased to say that our church, St Peter and St Paul, Tunstall, Norfolk, has received a financial boost from the government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund to fund roof repairs during the coronavirus pandemic.

We were awarded nearly £24,000 for essential re-roofing work which will stop water penetration and more harm to the interior – especially erosion of the interior walls and plasterwork. The grant arrived at a crucial point because, if left much longer, damage to our much-loved church would have been beyond repair.

The grants of up to £25,000 were awarded to cherished heritage sites, like St Peter and St Paul, across the country to cover urgently needed maintenance and repairs.

St Peter and St Paul's church is a listed building which dates from the early 14th century and continues to hold a valued place in our community. While the tower and nave have been a picturesque ruin for some 300 years, the chancel and vestry – the area to benefit from the repair and restoration work – have remained in constant use for services, latterly on traditional dates in the rural calendar and for occasional weddings and baptisms. Relatives of generations of local people buried in the graveyard (which is maintained by Halvergate PCC), plus regular walkers and those travelling the Weavers' Way make for a steady stream of visitors to this landmark site.

I was absolutely delighted to receive this funding from the Culture Recovery Fund. It makes possible the work needed, using a local contractor, to preserve the church – a place of worship held dear in the community and a place of history attracting many to it from far and wide. We are able also now to consider additional uses of the building and further extend its reach. 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. To unsubscribe contact data@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 882322.