

PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



‘This is my best church’ 3



Nuts and bolts of doing mission 4



A stable becomes an Easter Garden 9



Nurturing early growth 10

Woods of Hope

Mrs Helen McCarney
Executive Headteacher
Clover Hill VA Infant & Nursery School and
St Michael’s VA Junior School

In the spring term of 2021, we saw the full return to school after a second long period of absence due to the Covid lockdowns. After the lockdowns, we soon realised that children needed time to reconnect to friendships and relationships. Some members of the school community were likely not to have socialised or connected with anyone outside of their close family for many months and needed time and understanding to enable full reconnection.

Also, we knew that we must not underestimate the feeling of loss that our community may have experienced. Bustling classrooms and corridors, whole school assemblies, playing together, eating together, perusing the library, singing – so many

aspects of home and school life were reduced to bubbles and restrictions! Everything was now different. In fact, life moved on and none of us was in the same place that we were before school ended so abruptly and the lockdowns started.

As being outside and connecting with the environment is so important for wellbeing and emotional health, we decided that we would plant a “Wood of Hope” in each of the federation’s schools. In friendship groups, children across the schools planted a wide selection of trees, some saplings, some larger specimens. Wider members of our community came to plant a tree: our local vicar, church members, school governors, police and the Diocesan Director of Education. Together, the children will care for the trees and watch them grow. This project will be a legacy of this time and a reminder that we need to hold on to hope for the future, give ourselves something to look forward to

and celebrate our own resilience. These woods link us to what has happened in our past but also provide us with hope for the future.

“It was wonderful to join the children in planting the trees for the Wood of Hope – not only to have the opportunity to be outside doing activities with each other and connecting with the wider community again – but to know that for years to come, there will be something amazing they were part of, growing there, which future generations of children can enjoy,” says David Blake, School Governor and PCC member.

We are adding further trees to our school woods over the next academic year to commemorate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. This national project reinforces the benefits trees have on our environment, health and wellbeing and our school woods will also provide an important area for the children to play and learn in for years to come.



Vision at the heart of PCC meetings

Revd Canon Keith James
Director of Ministry

The Church of England spends a lot of time in PCC meetings – you may have noticed! One piece of research suggests that we spend 1,500,000 people-hours at them each year.

The health of PCC meetings ripples out into the wider church and the wider community. It’s important that they are fruitful, energising, and purposeful so that we can grow as people who are being Transformed by Christ to be prayerful, pastoral and prophetic.

The new diocesan vision provides us with a way to help shape our meeting in simple but effective ways.

There are some items which always need to be present – such as safeguarding and checking previous minutes. The content of agendas

“**It’s important that they are fruitful, energising, and purposeful so that we can grow as people who are being Transformed by Christ to be prayerful, pastoral and prophetic.**

will also depend on what time of year and what ‘season’ the church is in. But the content and shape of agendas can also be clarified and refreshed by noting the focus of the items; is this issue something that is prayerful, pastoral or prophetic? Or a combination?

Framing an agenda in this way can also show us where the gaps are – and where our energy and focus needs to move in the future.

PCC meetings matter, because people matter and God matters, so it’s important to craft them with care and to use limited time well. Meetings tend to settle at the lowest point if we are not careful.

Using the 3Ps – prayerful, pastoral, and prophetic – to shape the agenda can help us focus on the important things and to keep the meetings varied and engaging.

In all of this, let us hold on to the fact that this is God’s task, and that we are privileged to be part of God’s transforming work together.

Here is an example of what an agenda could look like.

1. Thought for the day – and then prayer – prayerful!
2. Apologies for absence – pastoral
3. Minutes of previous meeting – checking for accuracy
4. Safeguarding update (standing

- item) – pastoral
5. Finance & Parish Share update – (potentially!) prayerful, pastoral and prophetic
6. Messy Church – how to recruit new volunteers – pastoral
7. Lent groups – proposal to use the Connect! series – prayerful and prophetic
8. Eco-church – briefing and first steps – prophetic
9. Fabric update – prayerful and pastoral
10. Matters arising not already on the agenda
11. Closing prayers – giving thanks and praying for our churches – prayerful.

Editorial

Robert Culyer
Generous Giving Adviser
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The more observant of you will notice my new haircut. New haircut, new job!

Well not quite a new job. The role of the Parish Funding Support Officers has been refocused and our main role is now to support parishes with stewardship. This exciting new role, Generous Giving Adviser, has funding for the next five years from the Church of England.

I would just like to stress that this new role is not about money, so please do read on. The role of Generous Giving Adviser is to work with parishes and look at what small changes they can make to create a culture of generosity. There appears to be a strong correlation between a parish that has got its level of giving right and a successfully growing parish. We know only too well that our church pews are full of generous people. Many of you will already be aware that our giving is part of our discipleship so that we can live out our lives more like Jesus. My new role as Generous Giving Advisers is to facilitate the Bishop's priorities in the new vision: we will live a life of generous stewardship in response to God's gifts to us.

I hope to bring my personal experiences to the role. I come from quite a conservative family and we were brought up to respect money and I must admit that on Sundays we made a token gesture when the plate was passed along the pew. As I have progressed further along my journey with God, my faith has deepened, and I have a greater understanding about why we

give. This is the message that I want to help church members to embrace. Each parish across our Diocese is unique and different parishes will require varying levels of support. It might be that you just want a quick informal chat about what you can do to support members of your congregation or you may want assistance running a full review of giving. I will work with you to provide whatever level of help you require so please do contact me to discuss this further.

We also need to bear in mind that we are part of a much bigger organisation and therefore need to do our bit to support the expansion and development of our faith on a diocesan level. Our Christian faith is about responding to God's generosity and not other factors. Promoting stewardship is not a case of just asking congregational members to give more, it is about educating everyone about our personal responsibility, deepening our faith and enriching our lives.

We are obviously still feeling the effects of the pandemic in our churches, but we now need to move forward and have a positive vision to reform and grow The Kingdom. Many of you are going over and beyond the call of duty to hold your church community together. I hope that the articles in this edition of PCC News will enable you to achieve the aims that you are wanting to reach, but also to encourage you to think of new things that you could be doing in your church and develop your vision for the future.

Church grants

Franziska Callaghan
Executive Officer for Church
Buildings (DAC Secretary)

The Diocese of Norwich's new funding search engine is proving to be a big hit with parishes. The Diocese's subscription allows parishes to access 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 able 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: <https://norwich.churchgrants.co.uk>

You will need your Parish Share Number (your parish treasurer will

have this) and then simply select your church name. When inputting only use the numbers. If you do not know your Parish Share Number, please contact Robert Culyer on 01603 882326. If at any point you have questions about the Church Grants database, please email their support team who will be happy to help: info@churchgrants.co.uk

Are you claiming?

Robert Culyer
Generous Giving Adviser

The Listed Places of Worship (LPW) Grant Scheme enables churches to reclaim VAT incurred in making repairs to listed buildings used as places of worship. The money is paid back to the church in the form of a grant, so if you are doing a funding application and need match funding you could have up to 20% of your funding from this grant. The scheme covers repairs to the fabric of the building, along with associated professional fees, plus repairs to items such as turret clocks, pews, bells and pipe organs. The fund repays the VAT element of building repairs but also on professional fees such as:

- Architects
- Architectural technologists
- Surveyors
- Conservation advisors
- Structural engineers
- Bat inspectors
- Archaeologists for work necessary for eligible building projects (current or planned)
- Planning supervisors
- Health and safety advisors
- Maintenance plans
- Accredited conservationists



Have a good look at everything that is eligible and what is not eligible at www.lpwscheme.org.uk/eligibility_checklist.html

If you have not claimed VAT, you have 12 months from the date of invoice. This is extra money for your church so have a look at the list and see what claims you can make.

- You can claim the VAT on invoices

received over the past 12 months

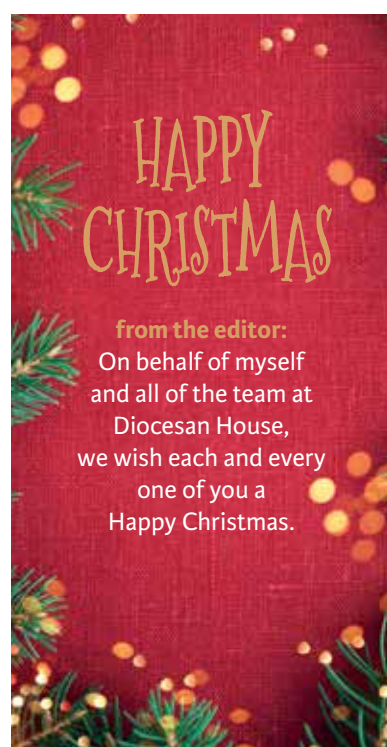
- No need to register for the scheme
- There is no limit to the number of claims
- Some church hall repairs are valid

For more information look at their website www.lpwscheme.org.uk or telephone 0800 500 3009. (N.B. The scheme is administered by a company called Topmark!)



We would like to thank all the advertisers who advertise in PCC News as they keep costs neutral.

Please mention to advertisers that you have seen their advert in your newspaper PCC News.



It is really encouraging that so many of our churches now offer contactless giving. During a visit to a church outside of our Diocese I noticed that the church had the contactless box on a side table but no information that you could use it to give to the church or how to use it.

Do you have information by your box explaining to visitors the need to support your church and how to give?



Grant funding available now



Do you have a project in your church that you cannot get off the ground because you don't have the funding?

The Diocese has a fund called The Sharing Good News Fund which could help.

The Sharing Good News Fund is designed to get things started. It is a simple, straightforward application form.

■ Parishes, benefices, deaneries and Churches Together groups can all apply

■ Up to £600 is available under this scheme (and limited to a maximum of 75% of the cost for the project) for projects that demonstrate local commitment; it is remarkable what a relatively small sum can help achieve, especially if it also helps to

unlock other resources.

■ The key criterion is that your proposal should help you express more effectively God's mission in your community

■ Your parish should have a development plan.

Your grant can be a significant amount to help start some new initiative, assist with a one-off project or contribute to something larger. It might, for example, help a parish, benefice or other group to...

■ Run a children's club during school holidays

■ Buy equipment for a toddlers' group

■ Produce good quality leaflets, signs, displays or prayer aids for people who visit your church building

■ Buy materials to offer "Godly Play" in your local school

■ Run a mission weekend, musical or arts event or other special activity to draw in those with whom you have contact in your community

■ Run Alpha, Emmaus or Credo courses

■ Provide special gift parcels for housebound or other needy people

■ Distribute gospels or other literature to homes in your community

■ Set up a church-run community news-leaflet or similar

■ Buy a piece of equipment that you will go on using as a resource for mission.

As you plan...

■ Find out what ideas others in your area have: it may be that by working with others (e.g. neighbouring parishes) you would all end up doing something better.

■ Be sure that you have thought through issues like insurance and DBS requirements; if anybody is to be employed (even if short term or for few hours) make sure you act according to the law.

■ Ask for advice if you need it from your Bishop, Archdeacon or the Diocesan Secretary.

And finally...

■ If you are awarded a grant you will need to send us a brief report (please send via the Diocesan Secretary within six months), letting us know how your mission project went; is it achieving what you hoped? To encourage others, we may feature your project in diocesan publications or on the diocesan website or even in the local media. If appropriate, please include photographs in your report.

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.

Simple set of 10 questions

Revd Canon Edward Carter
St Peter Mancroft Benefice

When churches were closed during the 2020 lockdown, we had to find a way of transmitting services to our congregation using whatever modern technology was available to us. At

St Peter Mancroft the ministers took it in turns to stream services from their own homes, with varying degrees of success. It was nerve wracking, and something usually went wrong. So, in a project led by Michael Winter and Lorna Allies, we installed the equipment needed to stream our services to our YouTube channel.

Due to the importance and suddenness of this project the PCC agreed to underwrite the costs, which were substantial. To reduce the burden, we sought funding, and were awarded grants from the Sharing Good News Fund and Allchurches Trust, together totalling about half of the total project cost.

The Sharing Good News fund application consisted of a simple set of 10 questions which we were quickly able to complete, with the award letter following within two weeks. Allchurches Trust had a more complex form, but it was made easier because of their 'Hope Beyond' fund (specifically for responses to

the pandemic) and they also responded quickly.

We now use our streaming system for Sunday worship, special services, choir and musical events. Our streaming service is available for weddings, funerals and for the different groups using our church for their own events.

It seemed daunting initially, but the Sharing Good News Fund gave us the early encouragement we needed to go forward and we are very grateful for that.



'This is my best church'

Revd Lydia Avery
Upper Tas Valley Benefice

I've always thought that to be a welcoming church, the welcome needs to be present throughout the week as much as on Sunday. Upper Tas Valley Benefice agrees.

Like many rural benefices, we don't have a lot of money to spare and so when the PCC heard about the Sharing Good News Fund we made an application for financial help to update what had become tired provision for children. This was straightforward and very easy

to do. We heard that our funding bid was successful quite quickly, and, together with the Benefice's contribution, it has made a positive difference to what we can provide for children.

Since that time, we have refurbished the children's areas in all eight churches with new furniture; now have freestanding display boards for children's art, prayers and reflections in place in the four churches that are closely connected with a primary school (there are four Church of England primaries here); we've updated books and have bought

new Christian-themed games; have increased art materials for Baptisms and Messy Church; have introduced children's visitors' books; and, finally, we now have a huge and unmissable banner for Messy Church.

How has all this gone down with children? The children's visitors' books tell us "this is my best church", "it's a friendly place". A parent has recorded that "it's a wonderful children's area" and one child told their teacher, after a church visit, that "the church makes me feel welcome"!

Leading your Church into Growth: online March 2022

Revd Canon Keith James
Director of Ministry

Anyone who has tried to growing flowers, fruit and vegetables know that growth is not simply something that just “happens”. It needs careful preparation, focused attention and thoughtful nurturing.

For over 25 years, Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) has been an important tool in helping many churches to grow, through its course and resources.

The Diocese of Norwich has arranged for the National LyCiG team to lead an online conference for us from Friday 4 to Sunday 6 March 2022.

‘Leading your Church into Growth’ works with clergy, lay leaders and teams, enabling them to lead their church into the three key dimensions of growth: more people, becoming more like Jesus, having more impact on the community.

There are seven steps presented that are practical, do-able, with encouragement to help our churches grow and flourish.

This course has proved to be very popular and greatly appreciated by many churches in the UK of all traditions and shapes – suburban and town parishes, deep rural and urban contexts, single church and multi-parish benefices. The

presenters of LyCiG represent all church traditions, and contexts too – but the one thing they all have in common is first-hand experience of leading ‘ordinary’ local churches into growth.

This conference takes place online on Zoom and happens on a Friday evening between 6.30 and 9.30pm, Saturday morning between 9am and 1pm and Sunday afternoon between 1 and 3.30pm.

If that sounds like a lot of time to be sat looking at a screen, don't panic! Each delegate receives their own conference book that they can write in and refer to again – and the conference is also highly interactive with exercises and questions to consider in either

virtual small groups, or as parish groups that have gathered around 'one screen' to Zoom together.

The Diocese is subsidising this conference so that there is no cost to you – but once you commit to attending, please ink the date firmly in your diary.

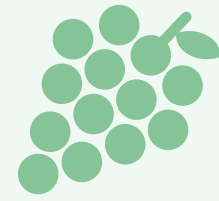
LyCiG is a significant event in the life and ministry of our Diocese and an important part of our diocesan vision and we hope that you will be part of it.

To book a place, email Marleen Madinda, Ministry Team administrator, marleen.madinda@dioceseofnorwich.org
Tel: 01603 882338

If you have any questions, then contact Revd Peter Leech peter.leech@dioceseofnorwich.org or Canon Keith James keith.james@dioceseofnorwich.org

“In a church culture which is too easily besotted and beguiled by all that is shiny and new, ‘Leading your Church into Growth’ concentrates on the tried and tested, putting parish and people, evangelism and service front and centre. This is extraordinary help for ordinary churches.”

– Archbishop Stephen Cottrell, The Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of York



Leading your Church
into Growth

Nuts and bolts of doing mission

Revd Damon Rogers
Lowestoft St Andrew Benefice

We know that God grows God's Church, but we all have a part to play in that! But growing the Church is where we often feel ill equipped and inadequate. It is not that we don't want to do mission and evangelism, it is just that we struggle to know how. The Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) programme can really help.

LyCiG is about helping us to deal with the practical stuff – the nuts and bolts of doing mission. It doesn't do the work for you, but gives you a tool kit that any church, of any size, and in any context can use. The LyCiG

method encourages us to start where we are and create missional connections in the context of what is already going on in our parish and community. But it is one thing creating a missional activity, but what next? The LyCiG team have already thought this through and there are tried and tested materials for that next step as well.

Saint Andrews Church, Lowestoft, sent a team to a LyCiG conference to engage with and learn about the process. We realised that we were not engaging with people who already used our church, in fact we already had a mission field and had opportunities to engage that we had not realised were there. This changed our outlook and refocused our efforts.

Not everything we tried has worked how we would have liked it to, but LyCiG gave us the confidence to try; and where we have not had huge success, we have learned, changed and tried again. Going to LyCiG helped to change our mindset and our attitude to doing mission and evangelism. Since attending LyCiG the idea of doing things to help grow the Church has become a part of our everyday thinking and something that it frequently prayed for and discussed by all parts of church fellowship. In short, then:

- The LyCiG programme can benefit any church, of any size, in any context.
- The programme will give your church the confidence to try. Finally – if you want to grow – go!



Responding to the call of Jesus

Revd Canon Madeline Light
St Stephen Norwich Benefice

When Keith James brought the LyCiG conference to the diocese it coincided with key changes at St Stephen's with new people having recently taken on new responsibilities as churchwardens and ordinand. Four of us attended the course together. We spent a lot of time talking together. It was very encouraging and helped us build our connections as a team. We brought back to the PCC what we had learned. It started building our courage to look beyond our

four walls and encouraged us that small steps were significant. We did not have to do it all at once, but we did need to start praying for growth, in numbers, spiritual commitment, and service. As a result, we printed the “LyCiG prayer” on bookmarks which were distributed throughout the church. A number of us were already praying every weekday morning and we added this prayer to our prayer pattern. We have prayed that prayer every weekday now for many years.

Apart from the prayer I think the lasting impact was in changing our attitudes. This may well have

contributed to the willingness of the PCC to welcome an exhibition by secular artists in the church called “After the storm?” This came about because during lockdown I joined the HeartEdge community, an ecumenical community connected with St Martin in the Fields, London. These artists responded to a proposal that contained many verses of scripture and agreed that as a church we could interpret their work for ourselves using Biblical narrative. This has formed close friendships outside the church, enriched our cafe space, given people an opportunity to

reflect on the last 18 months and so much more. If we had not talked about the LyCiG principles with the PCC they might not have been prepared to engage with people outside the church in such a positive way.

LyCiG is a great course and can have multiple spin-offs. We have found that it helped us respond to the call of Jesus to take the gospel into the world. Anglican churches who are in every community in the land have a particular challenge at this time, but it is essential that we step up to the challenge, LyCiG helps show you how you might do this.





Arrival of your new Diocesan Secretary

Tim Sweeting
Diocesan Secretary

As a fellow PCC member, it gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Diocesan Secretary. As lay leaders in our parishes, I know from experience that your passion to serve, leadership and commitment underpin so much of the good that we see our churches deliver across the Diocese.

I have worked in the charity sector for the last 22 years, the last 12 of which I have spent leading a local Christian charity called YMCA Norfolk. Over this time, I have sought to empower people to make decisions that will see their lives transformed so they have hope for this life and the next. I

am looking forward to working towards the same outcomes in this new role and hope I can apply the skills and experience that I gained to good effect so that I might make a positive contribution.

I certainly look forward to working with you to support our churches to thrive so they can continue to be at the heart of their communities, in the way we have seen so powerfully through the pandemic.

I have inherited a wonderful team at the Diocesan Board of Finance, who, although much reduced in number going forwards due to the recent financial pressures, are working extremely hard to ensure PCCs, clergy and congregations have the resources, advice and support they need.

PCC news is a great example of this as it ensures that those PCC members who have no internet access are still able to feel informed about matters that are vital to their role. Even better is that, thanks to the organisations that advertise in the paper, PCC News has very little cost implication to the Diocesan Board of Finance. I look forward to sharing more about other initiatives to help our parishes in future editions.

There is much for our PCCs to be considering as we seek to emerge from the pandemic, and many challenges to face. I hope that together we can not only overcome the challenges, but in God's strength, take the opportunities he provides to be a beacon of hope in our communities.

Safeguarding training update – Autumn 2021



Ruth Walker
Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

The Diocese of Norwich continues to work toward ensuring a church which is safer for everyone. Active engagement with safeguarding training is instrumental in shaping the culture, as well as supporting all those who have a role within the Church to effectively recognise and respond to possible situations of abuse, as well as implement best safeguarding practice.

The Church of England's **Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Training & Development**, was updated in April 2021, and provides the framework for safeguarding learning and development across all Church of England communities. This also sets out the core safeguarding learning pathway training modules which are a mandatory requirement determined for particular church roles and responsibilities.

The coronavirus has meant that both nationally and locally there have had to be changes in the way

that safeguarding training is offered and, therefore, for the foreseeable future all training will continue to take place online. The National Safeguarding Team have updated some of the training modules, and this work is ongoing for all learning pathway levels. For example, Co and C1 are now 'Safeguarding Basic Awareness' and 'Safeguarding Foundations' respectively, and both modules continue to be accessed online via the **Safeguarding Training Portal (cofeportal.org)**

Significant changes which will be apparent, are in relation to the 'Safeguarding Leadership Pathway,' and in addition, there is a new 'Permission to Officiate Pathway' for those whose work does not involve a high level of activity within the Diocese. Both these modules are undertaken via Zoom, with small groups led by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team. In early 2022, we will also be facilitating 'Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction' sessions for those new to taking on the role of the Parish Safeguarding

Officer. Further details on each of the above modules may be found on the training section of the safeguarding page of the diocesan website: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/about/safeguarding

Dates for the Safeguarding Leadership Pathway and the new Permission to Officiate Pathway modules being facilitated for the remainder of this year are already available on the diocesan website (as above), and a training plan with dates for 2022 will also be made available on the diocesan website later this year.

As your newly appointed Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer, I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that we all, as a team, remain committed to supporting you, such that we all may continue to work together to ensure that the culture of safeguarding is integral throughout all of our church communities.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation, participation and understanding.



Do you send a Christmas card to everyone in your local community?

Christmas is the time when non-regular church goers are more likely to cross your threshold. An ideal opportunity to inform them of services coming up to Christmas is to print them on a Christmas card. Don't forget to also advertise all your services on social media.





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Easier than you may think



Churches complete the unique online Eco Survey about how they are caring for God’s Earth in different areas of their life and work. The answers a church provides will collect points towards an Eco Church Award – the more your church does, the more points you get!

If your score doesn’t gain you an Eco Church Award straight away don’t worry – the idea is to complete further actions in order to gain the points necessary for an award. For example, you can switch to a green energy company or start using Fairtrade tea and coffee supplies to gain Eco Church

- Award points.
- The survey takes you through five key areas of church life:
- Worship and teaching
 - Management of church buildings
 - Management of church land
 - Community and global engagement
 - Lifestyle
- It takes into account whether or not your church has buildings or land, and you can save your survey responses at any point and return to update them as your church completes additional actions.
- Our free Eco Church resources give lots of support and advice

about how to make the changes your church needs to become an Eco Church. There are three levels of Eco Church Award – bronze, silver and gold. In order to qualify for an award, you must attain the required standard in each of the areas covered by the Eco Survey that apply to your church (some churches do not have buildings or land). You can see when you have gained sufficient points in each Eco Survey category by looking at the coloured lines that appear on screen with the Eco Survey questions. The lines will change colour as your points accumulate to reflect the level of award you

have achieved in that category.

If all categories have turned bronze, you have reached the standard to qualify for a bronze award; if they all turn silver you have reached the standard to qualify for a silver award, and so on. However, if just some of your categories turn silver while the others turn bronze, for example, you have achieved a bronze (rather than a silver) award because that is the level you have achieved in all the relevant areas.

Once all the categories on your Eco Survey indicate that you have enough points for an award, you will be asked whether you want

to apply for an award. For bronze and silver awards, we will require confirmation from your church leader that they have seen and approved the Eco Survey responses provided on behalf of your church. This will be done electronically, within the survey app. Additionally, for gold awards we will arrange for an Eco Church Assessor to visit your church to see and hear for themselves of all that you’ve been doing to care for God’s Earth across the areas covered by the Eco Survey.

Once your award is confirmed, you will receive a certificate and (optional) plaque from A Rocha UK to mark your achievement.



Continuing the journey

Revd Alison Ball
Curate, Chet Valley Benefice

This spring, our PCC and congregation at All Saints, Chedgrave, were delighted to discover that they had achieved a bronze eco-award. This is a stage in a continuing journey of our small rural church, which started about three-and-a-half years ago.

In response to a statement: “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children and our children’s children”, we asked ourselves two questions: “What is it that God is asking me to do today?” and “What is it that God is asking us, the Church, to do today?”

A variety of prayer prompts to do with the environment (covering churchyard, energy and atmospheric pollution, food production, our wonderful (local) world, world environment, plastic pollution and reducing plastic) led us to lament and acknowledge the problems, the scale of which we had not been really aware. It was difficult not just to throw up our hands with the enormity of the issue and despair.

Where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

We encouraged ourselves to think about what we can do individually and collectively, rather than what we can’t.

Inspired by an Icelandic glacier, we took an imaginary journey 100 years into the future and wrote two different postcards to ourselves from a young person in 2119: One from the perspective of what we thought the world might be like; one from what we hoped it might be like. We wondered how we would ensure that the latter was



more likely.

John 10.10 “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly”. We wondered what abundant life might look like for us as individuals, as a church and as people across the world and what each group might need in order to flourish. We asked ourselves: “How does my flourishing affect that of other people?”

Two quotes from Greta Thunberg helped to focus our minds: “You say you love your children above all else, and yet you are stealing their future in front of their very eyes” (2018); “I don’t want your hope. I don’t want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic... and act as if the house were on fire” (2019).

So what did we do in response? We put the information out there: assemblies, sermons, village magazines, Facebook posts.

We put ourselves out there: worship outside using Sensio Divina, a New Year’s walk and

reflection, Rogation Sunday prayer walks, Pet Service.

We worked on the churchyard: with youngsters from the community to make bird boxes, bee bank, hedgehog houses; with Chet Valley B-line and South Yare Conservation Trust to plant wildflower plugs. We planted free saplings from The Woodland Trust to fill gaps in our boundary hedge.

We led EcoWarriors, our holiday club, and an eco-café.

We looked at the energy footprint of our church.

We challenged ourselves and the community with eco-checklists.

We support charities with environmental interests.

All of these different actions let to us achieving the bronze Eco Church award from A Rocha. We are continuing our journey, but we’re using the eco-award to celebrate our achievement, rather than drive what we do. Our next thoughts are to look at solar panels for the roof.

Bronze award pursued

Michele Witting
PCC Treasurer Kelling

St Mary’s Church, Kelling, is a Grade II listed building set in a large churchyard in an area of outstanding natural beauty on the North Norfolk coast. Walking among the wildflowers, watching dragonflies hover, mindful of the hen pheasant who is protecting her young in the undergrowth, it takes a consciously prolonged blink to focus on the reality of a global crisis.

Three years ago, I came across Katharine Hayhoe’s 2017 John Stott Lecture – an extraordinary breath of optimism – sponsored by A Rocha, the international organization responsible for Eco Church.

At our next PCC meeting we looked at the survey and felt that, over the decades, numerous

challenges had been achieved. Encouraged, we decided to pursue a bronze award. Mostly we had to explore the last two of the five categories – Community and Global Engagement and Lifestyle. So, for instance, we undertook a Plastic Challenge for Lent and later, an Eco Quiz – with the first prize being a vegan meal which no one much wanted to win!

The most inspiring aspect of Eco Church is the structure it gives for conversations – from the trickier challenges such as ‘a commitment to ethical investment’ and ‘engagement with local leaders’, to practical issues such as – is it okay to use oasis? A silver award will be tougher, and we have taken a short break to re-clad the roof. In the meantime, with hymns and sermons, and intercessions, we are managing to maintain gold in the Worship and Teaching category.

Opportunities to enrich your regular routine

Peter Nicholls
Churchwarden, Hethel

‘Becoming’ is a process; it takes time, and the process itself is the key benefit.

Here at Hethel, the journey began – unwittingly – several decades ago when the churchyard was first mown once in late summer, then cleared of herbage. Wildflowers have since proliferated and the grasses teem with life. Doing less achieves more – we don’t have to cut grass every week, biodiversity goes up and we can claim 40 points. We cut a meandering swathe and during the pandemic dotted it with small lecterns with pictures and quotations. Scores of people and their children came and were blessed by the beauty of nature and the apposite text. Another 10 points.

The Eco Church questionnaire is an excellent audit tool that helps you feel positive about what you’ve already done and prompts what’s next. Having an Eco Church “champion” makes a big difference – someone or a small committee to take the lead and prod the PCC; it’s that journey: someone needs to drive. In our case, back in 2018 I ran our church through the survey with no idea of the outcome. I was surprised that we were close to silver in several of the five areas. I then did some exploring: ticking boxes and seeing the effect on the score and what we needed to do to get over each line.



The great thing is that there’s so much beneficial that can be done without much sweat. Switching to 100% renewable electricity is a bit of a faff but scores 20 points. The questionnaire prompted a bike rack. £60 and we have another 10 points. Using recycled printer paper is cheaper – five points. Use both sides? Another five points. Swap the fluorescent tubes for LEDs, get instant ‘striking’ and a warmer ambience to the church. £50 and up to 20 points. Then there’s kairos: God’s moment to do things. In 2017, shaped by a commitment to a low-carbon solution, I researched possible heating solutions, concluding that air-source heat pumps were the best way forward. Our system cost less than many, is cheap to run and scores 30 points in the survey. Using ‘renewable’ electricity means a truly zero carbon footprint and 20 more points. It’s an example of doing what you’re going to do anyway with a sharp eye on sustainability.

The worship and teaching

section suggests opportunities to enrich your regular routine, to connect faith with issues that may be preoccupying congregational minds and to take seriously the fifth mark of God’s mission.

The lifestyle section is, in my view, the most challenging and the area in which Hethel will need to work hard to encourage members to make changes. I know, too, that we need a formal policy that enshrines what we do and keeps us on track when the carbon champion retires. It will help to ensure that activities and events are regular rather than occasional, tick the ‘targets’ box and nudge us towards gold.

The Eco Church survey is very fair to small churches (Hethel is tiny): numerous questions, for example about church halls, or youthwork, can be answered “not applicable” and scoring is adjusted accordingly. I’d urge everyone to see how many boxes they can tick now, remembering that bronze requires just 25% of the maximum points in each section. Your church – and the planet – can only benefit.

Prayer

I am no longer my own but yours.

Put me to prayer.

Put me to deepening my life with you by deepening my life of prayer.

Put me to the faithful setting aside of time; put me to listening;

put me to wonder;

put me to holding a broken world in your love; put me to trusting.

I willingly expect to be changed by prayer:

I freely and wholeheartedly yield to being transformed by Christ.

Let me be changed by you and so change the world for you.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours.

So be it.

And this covenant now made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen

Adapted from the Methodist Covenant Prayer.

The Diocese has produced new resources for prayer and worship to support us. You’ll find them on the diocesan website: www.DofN.org/prayerful

Thinking about heating?



Franziska Callaghan
DAC Secretary

Before you go any further with a heating project, you should carefully review your current situation. You can download and use the very useful Church Buildings Council heating checklist to record your information, and then discuss the results with your PCC. The checklist covers:

■ People: what do users need, now and in the future? What causes discomfort?

■ System: what do we have now and what needs changing? How long will it last?

■ Building fabric: where is the heat loss and can we reduce it?

■ Performance: how well do the people, systems, and building interact?

■ Listing and interiors: what fragile or precious objects/

materials do we have and what needs special care?

■ Energy use: what is our current energy use, utility cost, and carbon footprint?

■ Money: what budget do we have for up-front capital, for maintenance over time, for running costs every year, and for future replacement?

■ Constraints: what connection do we have to utilities? What space constraints are there?

■ Advice: who can we ask or commission for advice?

■ Consultation: who do we need to involve and when?

When using the checklist, only answer those questions which are relevant to you. If you don’t know the answer to something, keep going and complete the parts you can, then revisit the more difficult parts.

When you commission advice, from a heating advisor or the DAC, show them your completed heating checklist, so they quickly understand your situation, and can give you tailored advice.

The full heating checklist can be found online here: www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Heating_checklist.pdf

The following section might also be of interest: www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/Heating_Pitfalls.pdf

Funding help

Norfolk Community Foundation have a scheme called Funding Plus.

Funding Plus is our programme of free information, advice and resources that adds value to finding funding, and helps charities such as our churches access the help they need to overcome organisational challenges, build networks and plan for the future. Through their partnership with Norfolk ProHelp and wider cross sector relationships, they can ensure Norfolk charities have access to a comprehensive learning and development programme.

More information can be found at www.norfolkfoundation.com or 01603 623958.

Thinking ahead

I appreciate that it seems a bit early but as we all know Easter is probably the most important date in our Christian calendar. The past two years have been very disappointing because of restrictions placed on us during worship in our churches, so let's push the boat out next year and really worship in style. By planning ahead, you have time really to plan and have the opportunity to involve other organisations. Why not invite

children from a local school even if it is not a Church of England school to come and perform at a service? Why not drop a note through everyone's letter box in the parish advertising services? Or why not do something like Great Yarmouth minster and go out to your local community? You may also consider doing a series of events across your benefice. There are plenty of resources available, and don't forget the Lent appeal.

Faithful band of pilgrims at Easter



Revd Helen Lynch
Great Yarmouth Team Ministry

Great Yarmouth Minster is blessed with a set of Stations of the Cross paintings set in our town. Created by John Dashwood, the images are beautiful and harrowing all at the same time. Last year we puzzled about how to hold our usual Stations of the Cross worship in our three churches – the Minster, St Paul's, and St Mary's – without moving around or singing, since both are key features! Once again, the pandemic forced us to think creatively and we planned a 'Holy Week Pilgrimage', using the Dashwood paintings as inspiration. Starting at St Mary's in Southtown, we wove our way through the town, stopping on the way to read scripture and pray at each station – sometimes at the places depicted in the paintings. We walked via the Minster and ended up at St Paul's

in Newtown.

To accompany the walk, we had a booklet, with reflections and pictures of all the stations, as well as suggestions of other resources people might like to look at. We organised group walks – one long and one short, but we also made the booklet available online – this was during the 'rule of six'. This meant that people could pray the Stations in their own way, time and place, moving around the town, or from their own homes. On the day, we were small and faithful bands of pilgrims, but it was no less meaningful a pilgrimage for that. We really felt that sense of connection with our town in those paintings of Christ's passion, rooted in the streets and buildings so familiar to us. We expanded on that tradition we had in our churches of moving around the stations and as we travelled, we were reminded that the journey is as important as the destination.



The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2022

Revd Susan Martin
Volunteer chaplain to
Norfolk Hospice

Near the western tip of New Britain Island in Papua New Guinea, on the edge of the South Pacific, lies the very remote community of Sag Sag. Although small, it is central to the lives of many people living remotely in the rainforest which surrounds the town.

Sag Sag Health Centre needs our help! It has a building, and it has people, but it has no beds and no equipment.

In our 2022 Lent Appeal we want to provide much needed beds, for young children and mothers-to-be. The most vulnerable targeted groups will be children under one year old and mothers-to-

be attending ante natal clinics, although many other vulnerable groups will also be able to use the centre. All the help we can give is needed now.

Right now, mothers and children lie on their own blankets on the bare floorboards when they arrive for treatment. Sometimes, they will have canoed along the coast for a day to arrive at Sag Sag.

Through our PNG Link Group, the Diocese of Norwich is in regular contact with all five Papua New Guinea dioceses and, with your support, can get help directly to the people in Sag Sag.

In recent years we have raised money to provide a 4x4 vehicle for the remote community of Alotau in Dogura Diocese; learning resources for ordinands in Popondetta Diocese; a new church

building at Simbai in Aipo-Rongo Diocese; classrooms at a school in a settlement in Port Moresby Diocese and resources to empower women across the province.

Resources to support your involvement in the 2022 project will include printed prayer bookmarks and downloadable posters and Bible study materials, available in January on the diocesan website. Each Bible study session, which will also have materials for schools, will comprise background notes, Bible readings, discussion topics and photographs of PNG life in a convenient format designed for two sides of A4.

Please support our 2022 Lent Appeal and help to bring much-needed hospital beds to our brothers and sisters in Papua New Guinea.

The stable which became an Easter Garden

The Revd James Stewart
Thorpe St Andrew Benefice

They are many of us saying this – but it is true: ‘We have tried new things because of the pandemic – and there are some things that we want to keep.’ When it was clear in 2020 that Christmas was going to look quite different, one of our servers, Graham Rowland, with a lifetime of carpentry experience, offered to make us a 6ft high, 6ft wide stable into which we placed an illuminated nativity. The local Town Council in Thorpe St Andrew had arranged a ‘Light-up Thorpe’ initiative to encourage households to light up their houses and we wanted to join in. Our illuminated stable was very popular, and it stayed until Candlemas!

We had got quite used to the stable and we wondered what we could use it for next. With a little bit of ingenuity, we realised we could turn it into an Easter Garden – and so the journey continued: someone painted a board for the sky behind, someone sourced the artificial grass, someone made the three crosses to sit in a green hill (far away) and so on... We could have just obtained the plants for the garden from our local garden centres, but we realised that it was

another Covid-19 safe opportunity to offer to our community. We advertised on our social media, in our parish magazine and in our weekly newsletters that we were inviting people to bring potted spring plants and place them in the Easter Garden which was positioned at the front of our churchyard for all to see as people walked to and from the beautiful River Green, to which the church

is close. The plants kept arriving through Holy Week and it was a beautiful scene. People have told me that they brought plants in many instances to remember loved ones in this season of resurrection when we remember that Christ gave us all the gift of eternal life.

As the year has gone on we have used the stable to advertise our Summer Fete, our Harvest, Remembrance – this list goes on!





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Transformed by Christ: **Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic**

A year of living more prayerfully

Revd Canon Keith James
Director of Ministry

Our diocesan vision invites us to be transformed by Christ – and that happens in prayer. It's the most important thing we do.

Sometimes in life, it feels like we are running on empty, for all sorts of reasons. But St Augustine wrote that prayer is like taking a cup to a fountain to be filled. God's love and kindness is always flowing, and prayer is whatever we do to bring ourselves to receive that overflow.

This Advent we are invited to set out on a year of living more prayerfully. Of course, we

will already be praying. It is the most natural thing – gratitude, wonder, longing – we all know what they look like.

Prayer is when those instincts are directed to God – that's when transformation happens!

So if the most important thing we do is praying – where does prayer happen in our lives and our life together?

There are no right or wrong ways to pray – what does your way of praying look like? And what might it look like if it really was the most important thing we do as a church? "Lord, teach us to pray" the disciples asked Jesus (Lk 13.1), and Jesus began to do that by praying. We learn to pray by praying.

So, let's make a start this Advent, to live more prayerfully and let it flow into the year ahead.

The diocese has produced new resources for prayer and worship to support us – including an Advent online calendar of prayer, a sonnet, a new hymn, and creative prayer activities. You'll find them on the diocesan website: www.DofN.org/prayerful and you can see a couple of them on pages 3, 7 and 11 of this edition of PCC News.

And let us know at PCC News what you are doing to be more prayerful – so that we can be encouraged in our praying, and so that our lives and our world might be transformed by Christ.

Vision hymn for Year 1: Prayerful

Transform, O Christ, your people assembled in this place;
our longing to be prayerful is gathering depth and pace:
just as those first disciples, we too make our request –
"Teach us to pray, Lord Jesus, and lead us on our quest."

We glimpse you in the gospels before the break of day,
alone there in the shadows and making time to pray:
inspired by your example, give us the grace to dare
to deepen our discipleship through deepening times of prayer.

Who knows how this will change us? What challenges await?
Who knows where prayer might lead us? What love might come from hate?
So light the fire within us, stir us afresh to pray;
we're frail but long for faithfulness: transform us, Christ, today!

We long for peace and plenty where all we see is war;
we long to feed the hungry, to change the global law
which keeps the poor from thriving and elevates the rich;
we long for holy justice: teach us to pray for this.

We long to heal the forests, protect the suffering seas,
to halt the melting ice-caps, increase the hum of bees;
we know our need for wisdom (so close to the abyss),
for unity, humility: teach us to pray for this.

Transform, O Christ, your people assembled in this place,
attune us to your presence, still us in your embrace:
then grace us as we listen, hearts opening until,
with boldness and with vision, we're nerved to do your will.

Susanna Gunner
November 2021

N.B. Can be sung to any of the tunes used for *O Jesus I have promised*
eg Wolvercote, Thornbury or Hatherop Castle

Nurturing early growth

Jonathan Richardson
Children Youth and Families
Development worker

Where are the spaces in your community that enable faith conversation to flourish?

During lockdown young people were the key players in terms of connecting with one another – how can we realise the potential of young people to share the Good News?

Across the country there are early signs of a new type of growth in youth and children's ministry. In part as a result of the recent pandemic, but also picking up on a movement which was already underway, there is a growing recognition of the need to engage with people where they are. At the same time, we have seen restrictions in access

to those places. According to Dan Randall, from Hope Together UK, young people are saying, "we're the ones going into schools – we are the ones that need equipping" – something we call peer to peer evangelism or chaplaincy. A critical part of nurturing early growth in Christians of all ages is equipping them to be secure in talking about their own faith and be confident in describing their own understanding in relation to the questions their peers may throw at them.

Peer to peer evangelism can happen quite naturally in an environment where people are safe and encouraged. Therefore, it's important to create opportunities for mission and provide space for people to practise communicating their faith. It is not about expecting young people to do



everything but journeying with them and standing beside them; work with leaders to enable opportunities to try it out so they can gain experience and confidence.

Peer to peer does not mean expecting each age group to look after itself – we are all peers of one another and need to take the role of both learner and teacher. As we are reminded by the apostle Paul writing 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.

In many ways there is not much new in this, as it mirrors well the learning and recommendations of the 'Rooted in the Church' report from 2018 see dofn.org/rooted.

You might like to:

- Create a space where young people can post things online about their faith, using a church account rather than their own, so they can try it out without fear of social media shaming.
- Approach the local school to see

if you can help facilitate some faith discussions.

■ Create opportunities in church to discuss difficult questions and learn to articulate your faith and beliefs.

■ Get a group together to attend the Youth Evangelism Conference see theyec.uk

The encouraging thing is that, although through lockdown we have seen people leave, the young people that are left are more determined to still be attached to church, and they may be more fearless...

VAT is a grey area... but let us add a little colour!



Susan Bunting
Director of Finance

Parochial Church Councils come within the scope of registration for VAT. Whether they do so in practice depends on the extent to which they supply items which are taxable. In most cases, the taxable turnover will not be great enough to call for registration.

Some expenditure that most of our PCCs have are listed below, some of which attract reduced or zero-rated VAT.

Fuel and power

Charges for the supply of fuel and power are subject to a reduced rate of 5%, provided that any business activities of the church, e.g. admission to premises for a charge or the letting of church buildings, represent no more than 40% of the total usage of the building. Where business use is 40% or more, supplies are apportioned, e.g. business use is 55% then 45% of the fuel can be supplied at the 5% rate and the remainder at the standard rate. Also, the 5% rate is applicable on a de minimis basis where the supplies do not exceed 2,300 litres of fuel oil, gas oil, or kerosene, or 1,000 kwh of

electricity per month. If you are being charged the incorrect rate, contact your supplier as soon as possible, also request that they amend past bills.

Pre-printed envelopes etc. used for fund raising: the following items are zero-rated:

- Collecting-boxes, regardless of the material from which they are constructed;
- Printed collecting envelopes appealing for money (usually hand-delivered to domestic premises: envelopes used in the operation of planned giving schemes are not included);
- Pre-printed letters appealing solely for money for the charity;
- Pre-printed planned giving envelopes;
- Envelopes used in conjunction with appeal letters and for forwarding donations, provided they are over-printed with an appeal request related to that contained in the letter;
- Lapel badges of a nominal value given as a token in return for a donation, whatever the material of the badge.

Buildings

The VAT position about building work relating to churches is as follows:

Construction works

The following are zero-rated (so that the builder/supplier doing the work should not charge VAT).

Construction of a new church

This is subject to the issue of the appropriate certificate to the builder. A church building is regarded as new for this purpose if:

- there was no building on the area of construction before, OR;

- the previous building was demolished to ground level, OR;
- all that remains of the previous building is a single facade or when on a corner site, a double facade. In both cases, retention of the facades must be a condition of the planning consent.

Construction of a new annex to a church

Where:

- the annex is capable of functioning independently from the existing building
- the main access to the annex is not through the existing building or converse.

In cases where what is constructed does not meet the conditions above, it will not be zero-rated for VAT purposes and is likely to be an extension to the building. As such, it would therefore be eligible for the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

Construction of a new church hall

This is subject to the issue of the appropriate certificate, provided that the hall is to be used for the provision of social or recreational facilities for the good of the local community.

Demolition

Where the work is in the course of construction or re-construction which will itself be zero rated, and the demolition is down to ground level (but leaving foundations or leaving a single facade wall).

Repairs, maintenance and alterations

These are standard rated but in the case of listed buildings mainly used for public worship

Prayer

Prayerful Sonnet-Prayer

'Pray to your Father in the secret place
And from his mystery, he'll answer you.
Be still in the simplicity of grace,
A single word suffices, if it's true.'
O Lord you call me deeper into prayer
And bid me welcome to an inner room,
To close the outer door, be centred there,
And bid my wandering thoughts to keep at home.

You call me out of all hypocrisy,
Call me away from empty language games,
Oh help me hear that call, the mystery
That's masked for now by trivia and memes.
Open that door for me, Lord, make that space,
And then transform me in the secret place.

Malcolm Guite

November 2021

The Diocese has produced new resources for prayer and worship to support us. You'll find them on the diocesan website: www.DofN.org/prayerful

the VAT can be recovered under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme. The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme makes grants towards the VAT incurred in making repairs and carrying out necessary alterations to listed buildings mainly used for public worship. The grant is paid to you after the work has been done and paid for. You need to retain original copies of all receipted repair invoices. Details of the scheme are available on a helpline: 0845 013 6601. There is also a Memorials grant scheme.

Aids for people with disabilities on church premises

The following are zero rated:

- the supply of the service of the construction of ramps and widening of doorways and passages in any building for the purpose of facilitating a disabled person's entry and movement therein.
- the supply of the service of providing, extending or adapting a bathroom or toilet for use by a disabled person in a building used mainly for charitable purposes. If you have any questions on the article above, please do call or email the Diocesan Finance team.

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Welcoming new residents



Revd Margaret McPhee
Horsford, Felthorpe and
Hevingham Benefice

Housing developments are happening everywhere, Horsford is no exception. Just six miles north from the centre of Norwich, it is a place to which couples and young families are keen to move. With almost 200 new homes in the past 18 months and another 200 currently being built, the question we had was how can we, the church community, welcome these new residents?

Three people from our

congregation worked together on producing a welcome card which includes a short 'welcome to Horsford' message from me, information including our church activities, toddler group, contact details, website, and social media. The front cover of the card was drawn by one of the children to create more impact and to give a clear message that we are a welcoming community for everyone.

The next question: what does everyone receive when they buy a new home? New keys! So, the idea of a key ring to every household as a gift from the church was created.

The key rings are so popular the congregation wanted to buy them for presents!

Our Benefice Mission Fund covered the costs of production of the cards and key rings. One couple who are new to our congregation and new to Horsford, moved onto the major development and have delivered to over 125 homes, meeting many of the new residents. The three smaller estates have also all had the gifts delivered.

As well as being a practical gift, this has enabled us to pray specifically for the new areas in the village and to extend our mission of welcome.

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

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.

Funding awarded

Robert Culyer
Generous Giving Adviser

Two churches in the Diocese are set for a major cash boost as the recipients of the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund.

St Mary Magdalene Church in Gorleston has been awarded just over £38,000 for work towards a new kitchen, chairs, and accessible toilets to expand their community offer.

The Revd Matthew Price, Vicar of St Mary Magdalene, said: "We

were absolutely delighted to hear that we had been awarded a grant. When we re-opened the church after the initial lockdown, we received temporary permission to remove our pews, primarily to enable social distancing. But it also opened up new opportunities for our work in the wider community – we have already launched a new baby and toddler group using the space, our community lunch has expanded into it and it gets used as a games space for our Friday evening youth club. The grant will

enable our worship space to be properly developed into a multi-function space, including a new kitchenette to provide hospitality and a cafe area. The grant will also enable the long-overdue refurbishment and updating of our toilets and the creation of a fully accessible toilet. Mindful of the General Synod's target that all parts of the Church be 'net zero carbon' by 2030, we are also taking the opportunity to introduce some insulation into our building. We are so grateful to the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund for enabling this work."

All Saints North Church, North Runcton has also been awarded nearly £8000 for much needed modernisation works.

Churchwarden Ken Matthews said:

"Fundraising has been hampered by the pandemic so we are very pleased to be granted this excellent award to take us close to the position where work can commence. The project includes connecting the church to a mains water supply, the provision of an accessible toilet plus a kitchenette. They will not only provide an enhanced environment for worship but also open up the opportunity to hold social and educational events such as classes for local schools under the 'Inspired Classrooms' initiative. All Saints' is steeped in history and the plan is to make this known on a wide scale to firmly put North Runcton on a 'must visit' list."

Mission Hub

Don't miss out on these great resources for you to use throughout Easter, Holy Week and Lent 2022.



Easter resources for family and outreach

These packs for Easter, Holy Week and Lent are designed for you to get young families engaged in the Easter Story – including trails, discussion points, and more.



Family Lent ideas

A compilation of prayerful, creative, and mindful activities for children. They encourage children to engage with the Easter story and apply forgiveness and thankfulness in their daily lives.



Easter activities for students

Check out these ideas to involve students in your Easter celebrations – able to be done online or in person.



A Journey through Lent and Easter

Explore how Lent and Easter is celebrated by Christians around the world with Janet Marshall. This experience is offered on film, Zoom or in your school.



Lent & Easter resources from Christian Aid

Educate, engage and give to support Christian Aid's work this Lent and Easter. There are resources for your church and your local school to get involved.



The Bishop's Lent Appeal materials

Keep an eye out for our printed prayer bookmarks, downloadable posters and Bible study materials, available in January 2022.

Recommend a resource...

If there is something your church has found particularly helpful, please tell us about it! We love to spread the word about great

resources to enable and support the flourishing of our local churches. Go to www.DofN.org/MissionHub and scroll to the bottom of the page to tell us about your favourite resources!