

PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



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Finally, it has arrived

Robert Culyer Generous Giving Adviser

For many years parishes have been asking me if the diocese is going to join The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). Well, I am pleased to say that we have finally decided to go ahead. What is all the fuss about, I hear you say? Well, the advantages to your parish are immense.

- It gives the giver the opportunity to inflation proof their regular gift;
 It reduces the work for the treasurer. PGS handle the gift aid claim on the gift for the parish;
 It increases the cash flow of your parish by claiming the gift aid monthly;
- 4. Less time counting cash and banking and possibly reduced bank charges;
- 5. Helps protect a parish financially should we go into yet another lockdown;
- 6. Can increase the number of planned givers which helps budget planning;

What is this amazing resource? Very basically it is a mechanism to handle your gifts. So here is a bit of background. The PGS is a joint venture charitable trust established in 2009. Of the 42 dioceses in England, 33 are already members so we are quite late coming to the party.

How does the resource work?

Gifts can be made on a monthly. quarterly or annual basis. On the first working day of the month PGS receive the gift from the donor and these are paid back to the church on the 10th of that month. Any associated Gift Aid is automatically credited to your church once received from HM Revenue and Customs (monthly). Your Church Treasurer receives an online monthly report from the PGS Team, listing the giving and Gift Aid claimed. Tokens are available for church members to put on the offering plate at each service if they feel the need, but I think it is important to remember that what we give is only between two people: you and God.

Managing inflation

Your church, like our government and every household, is hit by inflation, which erodes the value of your gifts. The PGS tackles this problem by enabling church members to choose to increase their giving annually in line with inflation. This is totally optional. If financial circumstances change, they can increase or reduce their gift simply by calling the PGS. Givers receive a letter annually advising them of the amount that their giving could increase by in line with inflation and they can retain full control by opting to decline, increase or reduce the amount.



What do you need to do?

- The PCC first needs to pass a formal resolution agreeing to join the PGS. The resource is free for parishes to join.
- Next, the parish needs to be registered. The PCC Treasurer or the parish PGS lead can obtain a registration form from the Generous Giving Advisers at the Diocese of Norwich.
- Once the parish is registered, they will be ready to use the resource. We have found it works most effectively when launched alongside a giving campaign when everyone has a chance to look at their discipleship and review their giving. For supporting resources, please see the Diocesan website or contact the Generous Giving Team via the email
- address at the end of this article. The parish PGS lead should now provide information personally to each church member to promote the PGS.
- Donors wanting to join the PGS can do so via the PGS website, over the phone, or by completing and posting a Gift Form.
- PCC members should lead from the front and join this preferred method of giving, as it encourages others to do the same.

Why give in a new way?

- The priorities that flow from our diocesan vison call us to be Prayerful, Pastoral and Prophetic. Prayerfully we are called to live a life of generous stewardship in response to God's gifts to us.
- We need to make our giving

planned and the direct debit facility helps us achieve that.

■ We confirm ourselves as a committed member of our church and community.

If you sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme, more of your gifts and time can be devoted to God's mission and ministry across the Diocese of Norwich.

By making the resource work in our diocese we are supporting parishes that do not have the luxury of a Gift Aid Officer and also have issues with cash flow.

Please contact me with any questions or if you require further information. robert.culyer@ dioceseofnorwich.org 01603 882326.



Don't forget the 'Prayer' resources

www.DofN.org/transformed-by-christ-prayerful

Editorial

Robert Culyer Generous Giving Adviser 01603 882326 robert.culyer@ dioceseofnorwich.org

Spring is a time of new beginnings and new growth. That is not to say that we abandon all the good that we already have, but it is a time to consolidate and sometimes to focus on our fundamental beliefs and build on those basics. Very often this means a return to the message of what is at the core of our faith: a church that is Christ centred and a church that is shaped by Jesus's life and priorities. To focus on these priorities we need, as a diocese, a vision. This year, 2022, is the first year of our new Diocesan Vision and the focus is on us going prayerfully forward.

As disciples of Jesus we genuinely need to look at what the Vision is asking us to consider. Is it enough to just make a nodding acknowledgement or are we, as members of our church, called to carefully consider how we are going to grow spiritually, as individuals but also as a group? Surely we all have an individual responsibility to do this?

Individually we can deepen our own prayer life. I am not sure how many of you, like me, looked forward to the daily digital advent calendar postings. I was particularly interested to read how other people went about praying and the different stimuli in their lives to help them prepare themselves to pray. I found inspiration in the posts, as I do from articles in PCC



News that offer ideas. One of the advent posts that particularly stuck in my mind was the lady who lit a candle every day before she prayed. I feel this is a lovely way to prepare ourselves for daily prayer and I now find encouragement in following this practice.

Going forward as a church I think that you will all agree that we need to be invitational to others to join the life of their local church. This does not have to be a major step. It might be something as simple as actually inviting someone along to a church event or service or starting a new group within your church community. In this edition I have included many articles from the parishes that have started groups/activities from very small beginnings.

I appreciate that in many churches there is a shortage of manpower but please do not be afraid to ask people from outside your church community to help run groups or events. Quite often people are just waiting to be asked. Be sensible about what you are considering doing. Identify a need. Identify people in your community who can make it happen. And finally, identify how you are going to translate this into new people joining our Christian way of life. It might be as simple as closing an activity with a prayer to thank God for each other's friendship.

What does and doesn't require a faculty?

Caroline Rawlings Church Buildings Officer

It has now been nearly seven years since The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules (2015) came into force, bringing in one of the most significant changes to the way the faculty system has operated in years. The new rules introduced List A, List B and List C for the first time, making the permission for work specific to the type of work being planned. In many ways List A replaced the old de minimis list, but whereas these were often based on monetary sums, List A is work specific. Often, given the high listing grades of the majority of the churches within the Diocese, a large proportion of the work parishes would wish to undertake is not possible here because of this high listing. However, there are a few areas that are covered, and therefore it is always worth checking the list just in case.

With such high listed churches this therefore means List B permission has to be sought for most of the items listed. List B is a simplier form of faculty application, and although often the same level of supporting documents is needed as when a faculty was required for the work, there is little paperwork required and no requirement to display public notices. The forms are simple and straightforward, with all applications lodged through the Online Faculty System (OFS). They can also be submitted at any time, and a response and hopefully permission will be granted within days if not hours.

If the work is not listed on List A or B, then it is probable that the work will require a faculty. If,



though, you have any doubt as to what the right level of permission might be, please contact a member of the Care of Churches Team as we will be very happy to help you and will also try and make seeking permission as easy as possible for you. Likewise, if you are unable to access a computer, or have any difficulties, please contact a member of the Care of Churches Team. Please do not struggle as we are only too pleased to help you.

If the work does require a faculty, then again applications should be lodged through the OFS. Although the procedure is similar to that used in the past there are some significant differences. More stages have been introduced online, and there is more interaction with the Care of Churches Team, who through the system will guide you through the process. The most significant change though is in the consultations, with the main consultation period extended to 42 days. The consultations can be undertaken by parishes or by the DAC on your behalf, an

option most parishes are using. The degree of professionalism in presenting these cases has also increased significantly, especially in the case of major work, reordering or extensions. I know to some this may seem daunting, but the Care of Churches Team are here to help you and will gently guide you through the process to try and make it as painless as possible. The Care of Churches Team can be reached by contacting DAC@dioceseofnorwich.org, 01603 882351

A comprehensive list of what items relate to which permissions can be downloaded here: www.DofN.org/faculty.

The Online Faculty System can be found by following this link https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org

A further revision of the list is expected this year and is expected to incorporate more zero carbon initiatives. Details are not yet available but will be posted to all as soon as they come available, as I know this is an area many of you are interested in.

What is my charity number?

James South Senior Finance Officer

In the finance team, we regularly receive queries from parishes asking what their charity number is. This is a question that is normally asked when they are opening a new bank account or applying for a grant.

It is worth noting that fewer than 5% of the parishes in this Diocese are registered with the charity commission and only these parishes will have a charity number.

The majority of PCCs are "excepted from registration". This is due to legislation which exempts PCCs with regular income of less than £100,000* from registration

with the Charity Commission.

If the PCC is an excepted charity, we suggest using one, or both, of the following pieces of information when applying, either on the form itself or in a covering letter:

The HMRC charities number which is used for gift aid claims (this is different from a charity commission number) normally begins with an "X".

Note the parish is excepted from registration and quote "SI 1996 No. 180" (or the most recent amendment, being "SI 2021 No. 55"). This refers to the charities exemption from registration regulations which can be viewed at www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/55/contents/made

*The current legislation

excepting charities from registering if their regular income does not exceed £100,000 is not due to expire until the 31st March 2031. However, please ensure that you are subscribed to eNews, where changes to this and other relevant updates are shared.

If your PCC exceeds income of £100,000 in a particular year and this is deemed to be a one-off, you must write to the Charity Commission and templates for this are available from the finance team at Diocesan House.

Where you find an organisation such as a bank will not accept the above explanation, please contact us for further assistance. james.south@dioceseofnorwich.

james.south@dioceseofnorwich org, 01603 882347



'God, give me strength to provide for my family'

Janet Zirugo, Zimbabwe



From prayer sheets to sermon notes, we've got something for you. Download your worship resources now.

Pray with us at caweek.org/worship

Christian Aid Week 15-21 May



Following the unbelievable couple of years we have all experienced, it is important that we look after each other's mental health. On this page I have included articles and information about support groups. I hope that you find it useful.



Clergy care and wellbeing

Ordained ministry can be a most rewarding calling and role. At the same time, it can also contain many difficulties and demands.

The Church of England has recently committed itself to a Covenant for Clergy Care and Wellbeing and as a Diocese we are seeking to make clergy wellbeing an integral part of our life together.

In February 2021, Norwich Diocesan Synod called on churches to adopt the Covenant, put it into action and discuss how they can support clergy care and wellbeing.

PCCs are asked to report on their progress at their 2022 APCM and Deanery Synods are also asked to feedback to Diocesan Synod later on in 2022.

The Covenant starts from a belief that:

■ Ensuring clergy are supported enables the ministry of the whole church and care of others;

- Christian pastoral care is 'encouragement' rather than 'demand';
- Ministerial effectiveness depends on healthy, trusting relationships.

The Covenant also asks the local and wider church to have a "big conversation" on how best to support clergy wellbeing.

How we go about this will be as varied as our clergy and churches, but here are some questions for reflection, to begin:

- How do our clergy know that we care for them and value them?
- What are the demands they experience?
- What 'boundaries' do clergy

need to help them work and rest?
■ What support might their partner/family need?

Many of the issues connected to our wellbeing are deeply personal and so such questions need handling with great care, kindness and sensitivity – just as St Paul suggests, "As God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." (Col 3.12)

There is a series of resources on the Diocesan website for these sorts of conversations, together with the document 'Clergy care and wellbeing and the local church' which has been developed as a tool for reflection and a template to be adapted by parishes as appropriate:

www.DofN.org/clergycare

Advertorial

Vital help available for clergy and their families

Catherine Cashmore Head of External Relations

Clergy are called to serve others; Clergy Support Trust exists to serve them. The charity helps Anglican clergy and their families in the UK, Ireland and Diocese in Europe.

In 2020 over 1,300 households were helped. The majority of grants are non-means tested, including for emergencies and wellbeing.

Recent beneficiary, the Revd Dr Eliza Getman, said: "When Clergy Support Trust said they could give me a grant for a holiday, it felt life was possible again. To have the time away from the pressures in life, just meant the world."

The charity helps with mental and physical health, such as diagnostic tests and therapies, mobility aids and counselling. It can also fund holidays, retreats and respite breaks, fitness and leisure or sabbaticals. Emergency grants are available for unexpected household costs, like a large utility bill or a period of financial



difficulty. It can also help clergy tackle problem debt.

Another beneficiary, the Revd Shirley Murphy, said: "I'm the only earning family member and my role requires me to travel a lot in my car, and we had a huge problem when the air conditioning pump blew up. "The Trust were very kind and gave us enough to get my car sorted."

Clergy Support Trust is the largest charity focused on the wellbeing of Anglican clergy and their families. In 2020 it made nearly 2,500 grants and helped thousands of people through support services.

The Revd Ben Cahill-Nicholls, Chief Executive of Clergy Support Trust: "At this challenging time for so many clergy and their families, we are helping more people than ever: ordinands at the start of training, women and men in various ministerial contexts, and those in retirement.

"It is a great privilege to be there for those who do so much in their communities. I encourage clergy and their families to get in touch. My team and I are honoured to be there for those whose days are filled supporting the needs of others."

Clergy households can find out more via clergysupport.org.uk, calling 0800 389 5192 or by emailing grants@clergysupport.org.uk.

Clergy Support Trust

Grants and Services for Anglican clergy and their families



We help serving (stipendiary and self-supporting) and retired Anglican clergy, and their families, including current and former spouses/partners. Confidential help for financial difficulties and wellbeing issues may be provided through:

- Wellbeing grants supporting your work/life balance with grants towards holidays, respite breaks, fitness and leisure, or sabbaticals
- Financial support grants for a specific need such as moving costs, furniture, or general living expenses at a time of financial stress
- Health grants to support counselling, occupational therapy assessments, mobility aids, rehabilitation and other therapies (physical and mental)
- Emergency grants such as replacing a broken appliance, fixing a car, school-related expenses or heating costs
- Debt support via partner organisations to help with personal unsecured debt
- Clergy Support Trust Library containing 1,000+ ebooks from SPCK/IVP for Anglican ordinands and curates in training

Check your eligibility and apply online www.clergysupport.org.uk e grants@clergysupport.org.uk t 0800 389 5192

Formerly known as Sons & Friends of the Clergy. Charity No. 207736, registered in England and Wales

You are not alone



RURAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Virginia Edgecombe YANA Trustee North Elmham PCC

Many PCC members live in rural parishes and are part of the farming community. YANA (You Are Not Alone) is a mental health charity that has been supporting people working in agriculture and related rural businesses locally for the last 13 years.

We work to improve mental health amongst those working in the sector through:

- Providing a confidential helpline & free counselling;
- Building a better understanding of mental health to reduce stigma and encourage conversations;
- Investing in Mental Health First Aid training;

■ Running a national suicide prevention campaign called '7 Tractor Facts to Save a Life'.

In 2021 we provided 204 hours of free counselling and received a staggering 80% more calls to our helpline than the previous year. The pressures that farmers and farmworkers are under are well documented and it is no surprise that support services are hearing increasingly about the struggles people face.

If you, or someone you know, feels unable to cope, is feeling down or having thoughts about self-harm or suicide, talking can really help. The helpline number is 0300 323 0400 or email helpline@yanahelp.org.

People often visit their church in times of trouble even if they are

not regular churchgoers. If you would like some leaflets or posters with details of YANA's helpline to put in your church, please email admin@yanahelp.org.

YANA will be running more Mental Health First Aid courses in 2022. These are ideal for people who have regular contact with those working in the sector; if you would like to find out more, please visit www.yanahelp.org.



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.

Here to help both at Christmas via a leaflet drop, through rural deaneries etc. and recently eNews, as we are keen to see an increase in applications. A straightforward applications.

John Brydon Chairman The Mrs R J Colman Trust

The Trust originated through the generosity of the late Mrs R J Colman. She was concerned about the welfare of Diocesan clergy and their wives who in retirement might find themselves, in certain circumstances, financially pressurised. Following her bequest the original trust named Cotman House Trust was set up to provide residential accommodation for ciergy who had served in the Diocese. Eventually and following the gradual shift towards housing needs being provided by the Church Commissioners, the cost of maintaining the property and ever increasing regulations, the property was sold, with the proceeds invested by The Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF). A new trust was then formed as named above with the DBF as custodian trustee. The actual running of the trust was placed into the hands of nine managing trustees drawn

The managing trustees have gradually expanded the objects of the trust so that it can provide grants and loans to assist retired clergy who have served in the Diocese, their widows, divorced

from various walks of life.

or legally separated spouses, as well as those who have had permission to officiate here. A further amendment to the trust deed to include current thinking on relationships will shortly be discussed by the trustees.

Over recent years the value of the invested monies (we follow the Church of England's policy on ethical investments), has grown along with our cash reserves. This is partly due to the original successful investment policy, but also because applications have failed to keep up with the returns on our investments. We have and continue to advertise extensively A straightforward application form is all that is required to start the process and if necessary we will help in its completion. The form and further information can be obtained via our secretary, Mrs Pauline Gray, 11 Cann's Lane, Hethersett, Norwich NR9 3JE, Tel: 01603 812610, e.mail: mandpgray@btinternet.com.

The trustees meet at least four times a year to consider applications but urgent cases can always be fast-tracked.

If you know of anyone who might require help please do put them in touch with us. We are here to help and all applications are dealt with on a confidential basis.



40 prayers for 40 days

Joanna Fisher Communications Officer

To support our 'Prayerful' focus in this first year of the new Diocesan Vision, the Revd Canon Susanna Gunner is offering a prayer a day throughout Lent. This digital resource will draw on a range of prayers from across the globe, centuries and traditions. Each prayer will be accompanied by a reflection, an image and often by a musical setting too.

40 Prayers offers an ideal basis for a Lent group. Simply gather

together people from your own community, virtually or on site, to discuss and reflect upon the previous week's offerings.

Or, you could join a Zoom group with people from across the Diocese on 5 Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm from 8th March onwards. Register before Friday 4 March through Eventbrite here www.eventbrite. co.uk/e/40-prayers-for-40-days-tickets-252048783697

The email sign up for 40prayers is www.DofN.org/40Prayers-signup For more information, see the Diocese of Norwich website.

The Queens Platinum Jubilee

As we are all aware, this year is the Platinum Jubilee for Her Majesty The Queen. We would love you to share what plans you have in place to celebrate this monumental event.

Please either email me at robert.culyer@ dioceseofnorwich.org

or write to me at Diocesan House so that we can tell other parishes what you are doing.

The Church of England have produced some liturgical resources to help you mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. You can view these here: www.DofN. org/jubilee-resources

Most great things in life start from small acorns. On this and the next couple of pages I have included articles which suggest and demonstrate ideas for starting new things in your church. I hope that it triggers some ideas.

A framework for starting something missional in your parish

Revd Tim YauPioneer Missioner

The Church is still facing the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. When we think about

the uncertain future of our churches we need to remember "nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Just as Gabriel announced to Mary, we need to remind ourselves that when we are faced with something enormous

and unprecedented God can birth something uniquely new in us. The Church is not supposed to be here for itself, but for God and the world. Often, we need to go to where the people are rather than expecting them to come to us. Here are three quotes for you to consider:

- "Mission goes out from God. Mission is God's way of loving and saving the world."
- "Mission is the fundamental reality of our Christian life... Our life in this world is life in mission."
- "Mission is the whole Church bringing the whole Christ to the whole world."

When we think about our purpose as churches, we have to think from a missional perspective, but where to start? Unfortunately, there isn't a "silver bullet" that will sort out falling church attendance, low giving and crumbling buildings; however there is a tried and tested 'Missional Journey' that can help

start afresh and it looks like this:

- 1. **Listen:** Through prayer and research, lovingly listen to God and to people round you in the parish.
- 2. Love and Serve: Through listening, you prayerfully discover a simple way to love the people around you.
- 3. **Grow Community:** You build community in the process of loving and serving your parish.
- 4. **Share Faith:** As trust deepens, you find natural opportunities to share Jesus together, and start to explore faith.
- 5. **Shape Church:** A new mission community with the character of church takes shape among those coming to faith, where they are.
- 6. **Repeat:** New believers repeat the missional journey in new places with new people in new ways.

While there is a natural progression from stage to stage this doesn't mean it's prescriptive. You can find yourself going



backwards and forwards, which is why the framework is centred on prayer, and underpinned by ongoing listening and a grace-filled relationship with the wider Church.

For help contact us through: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/churches/mission-enablers



Hive of spirituality

Geraldine Allen & Sarah Rodgers Cressingham Hive

The Hive in Great Cressingham, Norfolk, was launched in the middle of the pandemic just before the second lock down on 19 December 2020. It is a place of Creativity, Spirituality and Wellbeing

At The Hive, we are passionate about helping people to awaken to their spiritual selves and find pathways to God.

We are the lead on this project and are both members of the Pioneer Catalyst Network which is facilitated by the Diocese of Norwich Mission Enabler Tim Yau. The Hive has been created in a small Methodist Church in a beautiful rural setting as a place of peace and balance and spirituality. As we explore this spiritual landscape, we are drawn to fluidity, flexibility and fleetness. We have a strong sense of how the ephemeral pervades contemporary life and of the fragility of relationships.

Being supported by the Mission Enablers has been helpful in so many ways. Tim has introduced us to others who are on this same path to articulating a new language for sharing our faith, as well as providing opportunities to hear the thoughts and ideas of speakers who are at the forefront of new evangelism.

Tim also offered us a listening ear and listening is at the heart of faith for a new age – listening for where God is leading, listening to people who are gathering with us and listening to what is happening around us as people explore what it means to be Christian in today's world.

To find out more about The Hive at Great Cressingham, follow us on: www.facebook/GreatCressinghamHive

Wild Church, Norfolk

Charlie Houlder-Moat

For the last six months Wild Church has been running in an outdoor community space called Loch Neaton. As a Licensed Lay Minister, I head it up, and a new intergenerational community has been growing.

Loch Neaton is a beautiful green space in the small market town of Watton. It hosts a 2.5-acre lake and sits adjacent to the Sports Centre. It is looked after and manged by a team of Trustees and is a place of recreation for the community.

I have been supported by the Mission Enabler Team who have helped me to think through what could happen next and what could be done differently in a context to create a flourishing new Christian community.

The Mission Enabler Revd Deb Cousins has visited the space to walk and dream with me. Deb also attended one of the Wild Church gatherings and has offered me 1:1 coaching as I explored what might be possible.

I am licensed to Mission Enabler Revd Tim Yau who has been encouraging missional imagining and regularly poses questions to help me think about developing this new community. Prayer is at the heart of Wild Church and God's provision has been evident. Use of the space has been provided free of charge, the local supermarket and community have donated resources and funding has been provided by the Mission Enabler 'Pioneer Mission Micro-Grants' and more recently 'AlpKit'.

The Mission Enabler Team have encouraged me to not be afraid to 'fail', to join in with what is already happening and identify and work with people of peace. God has provided these in abundance.



PCC News



Starting from scratch again!

Revd Phil Rodd St Andrew's Eaton

Here at St Andrew's Eaton (in Norwich), we'd had several attempts at having a church away day, postponed each time by the pandemic.

Like many churches, we weren't in a particularly good place. We'd had twelve years of steady growth, but now it seemed that all that growth had been wiped out by the pandemic. And I, for one, was feeling quite dispirited.

Since before the first lockdown, I'd been in touch with the Revd Tim Yau about leading our away day. Tim is one of the diocesan Mission Enablers, and a near neighbour of ours, so he understood perfectly our "quiet suburban" context. We met several times. He was

great: rooted in the Word, seeing possibilities everywhere, and brimming with ideas.

Tim led the day itself brilliantly. He was confident without being "showy", giving us all the confidence to share our own ideas, as we began to tease out what the future might be for us here in Eaton.

There was some sadness at the things we discovered we'd lost as a church; but that sadness was lessened by realising that some of these things could be allowed to go permanently. Best of all, though, was identifying those things that we wanted to keep – such as the mixed economy of in-person and IT-supported services (and other meetings) – and an increased awareness of a wider community, in Eaton and beyond, that might yet indicate an exciting future, and growth that could go beyond the mere counting of numbers!

Prayer

O God of green-growing hope,
when so much seems old and tired and broken,
and when the steps we take towards you seem despairingly small,
remind us of your mustard-seed kingdom;
remind us of seed growing secretly, deep in the damp and the dark;
remind us of the merest pinch of yeast turning flour to bubbling life.
Then may we take new joy in small beginnings
and once again trust in your transforming power
and in the holy miracle of growth.
Amen

Matthew 13.31-2 Mark 4.26-29 Matthew 13.33

Susanna Gunner Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality and Discipleship



Let it grow

The Revd Janet Wyer St Francis. Heartsease

St Francis Church, Heartsease, has long been committed to proclaiming the Gospel of Christ through offering loving support and practical assistance to the parish we have been called to serve.

Over the years, and especially more recently, the church has been exploring projects that work with the local community in living sustainably and helping those experiencing food poverty to access, with dignity, the provisions they need.

The "Let it Grow" initiative



began soon after a Community Fridge was opened in 2018 on St Francis Church premises. The idea was that as well as accessing food that would have otherwise headed for landfill, interested folk could also get involved in growing their own produce.

Jim Green was the original founder of the project, and with the help of several willing volunteers, a small growing area was established in the field that lay behind St Francis Church.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 intervened and in 2020 lockdown the Community Fridge was forced to close; it was only through Jim's determination that the Let it Grow growing project was kept alive.

Throughout that difficult summer a small amount of fresh produce was grown on the small plot and was given away, as were a number of surplus plants and seedlings that were donated by local gardeners. Although we were pleased the veg patch was surviving – it was not quite what we had hoped for!

However, in the late Spring of 2021, St Francis was contacted by FarmShare and we were asked if we might be interested in joining with them in their vision to grow seasonal, organic produce to enable poorly served communities to gain better access to healthy food.

Based in Whitlingham,
FarmShare is all about encouraging
people of all ages and abilities
to volunteer to help manage
their own smallholding in
Whitlingham, to sustainably grow
organic produce, and eventually
to share their expertise and
experience with local communities
throughout the city.

With the help of FarmShare, St Francis has been able to literally expand and broaden the scope of the Let it Grow project – the veg plot is now much bigger with a huge variety of produce being grown and given away; and, following on from the PCC offering up the whole field to be managed by the Let it Grow team in association with the St Francis EcoChurch Group, the whole area is becoming a beautiful, prayerful, fertile and productive space that is a joy to behold.

Every Wednesday morning between 9am and 11.30am the field is now literally buzzing with activity – we are delighted with how Let it Grow has blossomed and incredibly thankful that we have been so blessed. From tiny seeds, wonderful things, indeed, will grow!

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PCC News

Parable of wise and foolish builders



Photo from Scientists in Congregations awardees event in September

Revd Helen LynchAssistant Curate Gt Yarmouth Team Ministry

The Climate Crisis can seem far away and not something which will affect us here in Norfolk and Waveney very much. However, for those of us living on the coast and in the Broads area, recent projections of rises in sea levels have made many of us realise the impact it could have. The town of Great Yarmouth in particular is caught between the sea and the River Bure, and much work is being done to try and protect the town's residents and businesses from flooding.

Taking inspiration from the parable of the wise and foolish builders, Great Yarmouth Parish Council are planning an event at the Minster this summer

thinking about the ways we have built society and industry on the sandy ground of profit above all else. Having won a grant from ECLAS (Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science) the event will draw in local groups and organisations to investigate how we can stop exploiting and damaging the environment, and begin building on the rock by working with our planet.

Good mission and ministry is grounded in the community in which it is based, and so this project will look at one of the growing industries in the Yarmouth area: renewable energy. The Scroby Sands wind farm is just off the coast, and key players in the off shore renewable energy sector are based in the town. One of the local colleges even has an Offshore Wind Centre, providing training for the

sector. By bringing together the theology and the science of care for creation through alternative sources of energy, we hope to inspire and educate people from the local area, and further afield. Great Yarmouth has its problems, and it is good to have an opportunity to highlight what is good, and growing in the area, bringing skills and jobs to the Borough.

The Scientists in Congregations project run by ECLAS has been very straightforward to access, and the support they have given through the application process, and continuing as we plan and deliver the project, has been really good. Now that the Climate Crisis is rightly on more people's minds than ever, it's worth exploring what grants and support might be available to educate and/or effect change in your community.

New life for waste land

Nikki Ward Felmingham Church

Following major repair works to St Andrew's Church at Felmingham, situated in a beautiful rural village in North Norfolk, it was a positive time for the Friends of the Church to explore a more ecological approach in the maintenance of the Church and its environment.

The initial aim was to develop the waste land from the works and update the light fittings to LED. The friends explored how to tidy the areas of wasteland with minimum expense, especially as we had not been able to raise funds throughout the pandemic. Our bell captain of the tower has recycled old materials, and things that would otherwise maybe end in landfill, into wonderful natural homes to welcome God's creatures. It became a project of hope in difficult times.

The area of land to the rear of the church that was used by the contractors carrying out the work has been turned into a fabulous wildlife area with two hedgehog houses, large bug hotels and an old bedette turned into a water source for the wildlife. We also planted crab apple trees and buddleia, together with beautiful wild flowers and nettles too.

All external flood lighting and internal safety lighting to the belfry and ringing gallery has been upgraded to LED which is up to 50% more efficient. Since the project started we have now also updated the light fittings to the church altar, font and nave to LED, which will benefit the annual running costs of the church.



I believe that by working hard with our project, we have brought joy to our community.

For those people outside our community, who visit when cycling through, or out on a ramble, they can sit outside and enjoy this peaceful place. There are three benches around the churchyard.

It brought our small village community together in a way where people could be safe and distanced. It also meant at this crucial time of needing to make climate changes, we as a church were setting green examples of how to make simple and effective changes.

We would encourage other churches that when looking at repairs, you take the opportunity to improve the set up/installation for an improved and sustainable system. Also you could look to improve the churchyard areas with regards to wildlife.

Ask around in your community to find out if there are skilled people to support you. We have enjoyed great fun and laughter, and it has given us time to engage in conversation over a coffee whilst we work. This supports mental and physical wellbeing, which is so important at any time, but especially within this time that can challenge us all. It may also encourage your wider community to be more involved, which in turn brings them closer to God.

Is this special person you?

Robert Culyer Generous Giving Adviser

Could this "Special Person" be you? As a major way forward for our churches I cannot emphasise enough how important it is that we get a Legacy Officer on each PCC. Some may argue that we have a very small congregation and don't need one, but legacies can quite often come from people outside of our church communities. As the Parish Legacy Officer, it would be your responsibility to promote legacies to people in your local community who don't necessarily come to church on a regular basis, if at all, but who love the fact that there is a church in their local community. For example, this may involve an article in the parish magazine, a piece on your church's

website/ Facebook page or a leaflet drop in your town or village. There is not a massive amount of work involved, and there is plenty of support. Please read the following to see if you are the person to take on this important task. The role of a Parish Legacy Officer is to provide a friendly, supportive, and confidential ear to church members and others regarding will writing and leaving a gift in their will. You do not need to have specialist legal or financial knowledge because your role is not to give advice, but to sign post individuals to further information and appropriate professionals.

The core role requires you to:

- Encourage the PCC to make and communicate a PCC Legacy Policy (sample policy available)
- Understand the church's history

of encouraging and receiving gifts in wills;

- Promote legacies within the parish through circulating leaflets, producing magazine articles, resourcing clergy and Licenced Lay Ministers etc.;
- Encourage those who preach to talk on the importance of gifts in wills:
- Talking with an individual about a gift in their will;
- Act as the main point of contact in the parish for all legacy enquiries;
- Organising an annual event or occasion to celebrate gifts in wills;
- Ensuring the church honours and thanks the family of any legacies received;
- Being a point of contact for the parish with the Diocesan Parish Funding Support Officers and attending training when organised by the Diocese.

Ideal personal qualities:

- Sensitive to people and able to maintain total personal confidentiality;
- A good listener;
- A well-organised individual, used to dealing with official paperwork;
- Well respected and well liked within the church and community;
- Enthusiastic and able to motivate other people to give to God;
- Knowledge of legal and financial matters is beneficial, but not required;
- Preferably has made their own will including a charitable legacy.

Please email me to let me know if you are interested and I will arrange some training. If you would like training and ongoing support at robert.culyer@dioceseofnorwich.org or telephone 01603 882326

Giving in Grace



- We give in response to God's love for us
- Everything we have belongs to God and we need to decide how much we are going to keep and how much we are going to give back
- Is your giving a true reflection of the value you put on God's love for you?

ISSUE 24 - SPRING 2022

PCC News

TABLE OF PAROCHIAL FEES FROM 1 JANUARY 2022

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES AND MARRIAGES

This table sets out the fees prescribed by the Parochial Fees Order 2019 (a Statutory Instrument) and summarises other relevant information. For legal purposes reference should be made to the Order itself. There is a separate table for fees for funerals, burials, and monuments

Fee payable Fee payable **Total Fee** For further information about fees refer to the Guide to Church of England Diocesan **Parochial Payable** Parochial Fees and Frequently Asked Questions which are a available on Church Board of the Church of England website. Finance Council £ **BAPTISMS** Certificate issued at time of baptism (See Note AI) 16 16 Short certificate of baptism given under section 2, Baptismal Registers Measure 1961 16 16 **MARRIAGES** 32 Publication of banns of marriage 32 Certificate of banns issued at time of publication 218 480 262 Marriage Service in Church (See Note A3) **SEARCHES IN CHURCH REGISTERS** Searching registers of marriages for period before I July 1837 (See Note A2) 32 (for up to one hour) for each subsequent hour or part of an hour 32 32 Searching registers of baptism or burials (See Note A2) (including the provision of one copy 32 32 of any entry therein) for up to one hour for each subsequent hour or part of an hour 32 Each additional copy of an entry in a register of baptism 16 16 Inspection of instrument of apportionment or agreement for exchange of land for tithes deposited under the Tithe Act 1836 Furnishing copies of above (for every 72 words) 16 16

EXTRAS

The fees shown in the table do not include charges for heating, the services of a verger, music (e.g. organist, choir), bells, and flowers, which are fixed by the Parochial Church Council. In the case of a marriage service or a funeral service in church, any costs and expenses incurred in respect of routine administration (including arranging dates and times and the making of entries in registers), making the church available and lighting it are included in the fee prescribed as payable to the Parochial Church Council.

Statutory fees are only prescribed for matters in respect of which parishioners have a legal right. Not all services come into this category, for example funerals where there is a period of more than 48 hours between the funeral service and the cremation and between the cremation and the disposal of ashes. This also applies to special services such as memorial services and services of blessing and dedication following a civil marriage. The Archbishops' Council recommends that, where a memorial service on a similar scale to a funeral service, or a service of blessing and dedication following a civil marriage or a renewal of marriage vows is on a scale equivalent to a wedding service, the PCC fee should be based on the statutory fee for the service, with the PCC receiving the equivalent of the combined DBF and PCC fee.

NOTES:

A1. Certificates of Baptism

The fee for a certificate issued at the time of baptism is for a certified copy of the entry in the register book of baptisms giving the particulars required in Form No 1 in Schedule 1 to the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978. The fees payable for a certified copy of the full entry issued at any other time are the fees prescribed for searching registers of baptisms and burials and, if applicable, for each additional copy of an entry in such a register.

A2. Searches in Church Registers

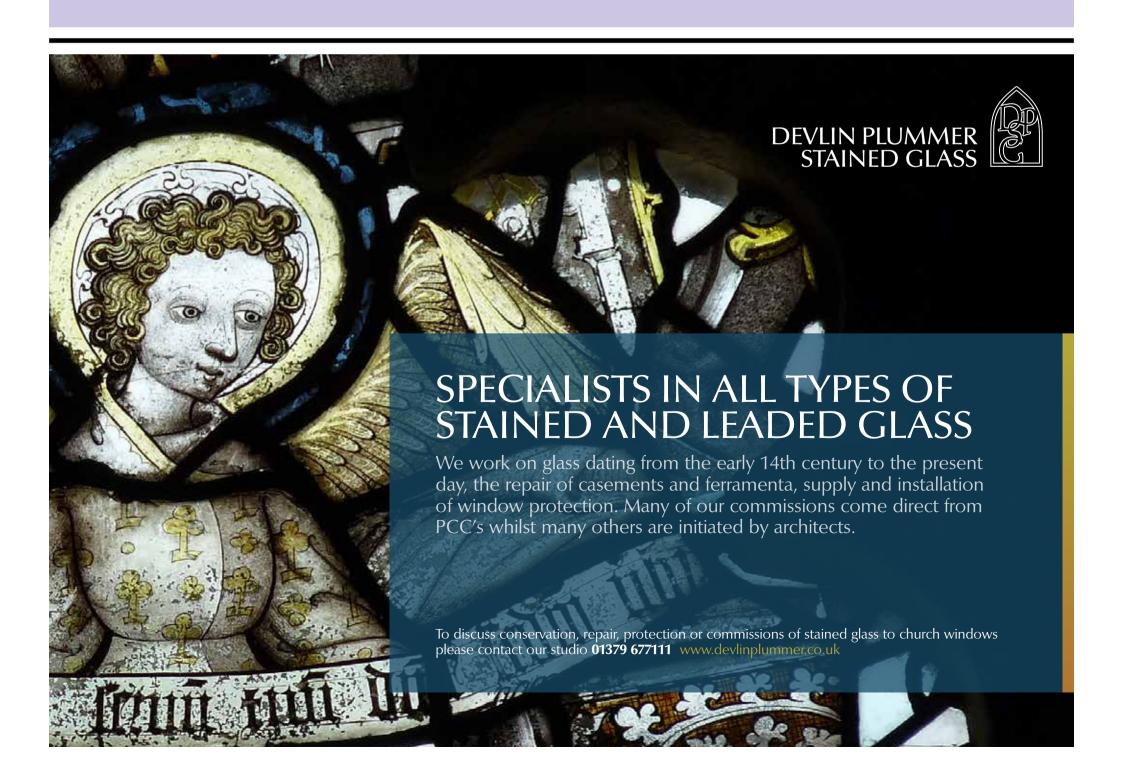
The search fee relates to a particular search where the approximate date of the baptism or marriage is known. The fee for a more general search of a church register is negotiable.

A3. Costs and Expenses

In the case of a marriage service in church, any costs and expenses incurred in respect of routine administration (including arranging dates and times and the making of entries in registers), making the church available and lighting it are included in the fee prescribed as payable to the parochial church council.



Published by The Archbishops' Council, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SWIP 3AZ



Before engagement comes motivation



Come and explore with your team what it means to develop a culture of discipleship across generations and abilities. Our keynote speaker on the day will be Lauren Sheath from Parenting for Faith.

Organised in association with the regional New Wine Network we will have a market place and seminars led by a wide range of other organisations – this is one day not to be missed.

Northgate High School, Dereham NR19 2EU

Full Price: £15 per person which includes all sessions and refreshments for the day

For further information and booking visit: www.DofN.org/One-Big-Day

Anna Main

Children, Youth & Families Project Adviser

It can be an age old dilemma, how do we get children and young people through the doors of church?

The less than favourable answer is there is no silver bullet, but it can be done; with intention, commitment and a passionate hope. You may not end up with a youth group of twenty but you might just find you encourage and influence the lives of one or two young people. That in itself may seem discouragingly small, but from Luke 13:18-19 we know that God's Kingdom, can be like a tiny mustard seed that is planted which then grows into a great tree.

The older we get the more out of touch we can feel with the youngest generations, their interests, language and technology. But time after time different research by the Church of England, Youthscape and Youth for Christ, amongst others shows, that the fundamentals never really change. Universally young people want to be accepted; they fear loneliness and rejection and long for relationship, which is authentic, where they are seen, understood and respected.

In the Diocese of Norwich itself, based on population statistics, the smallest number of children and young people in any one parish is approximately 50. This means that where you live there are some families with young people you could be engaging with.

But before engagement comes motivation. Why do you want to reach out to young people in the first place? There are a whole host of legitimate reasons we want to see our churches congregations strengthened in number, but the primary focus must be on sharing the good news of Jesus. Ask yourself the question and learn to articulate "What

is the good news or gospel, and what does it mean to me?" What difference does it make to your life, that you would want to communicate to others?

Leading Your Church into Growth is an organisation that offers training and resources to support churches – they have a framework based on four P's.

Prayer – develop a heart for those your wish to reach by praying for them, by name, regularly.

Presence – find a way to be present with young people, go where they are or start a simple drop in or event such as a film night.

Proclamation – present the Gospel as good news – learn to talk about your faith.

Persuasion – you proclaim the Gospel...some are not interested...but some are. How do you help those who are interested and want to know more?

Can you develop a space where young people can discover:

- Authentic relationships
- A place to belong
- A place to ask questions
- A place to hear how the good news of Jesus has made a difference to people in your community?

To explore some of these ideas further you may like to join us at our One Big Day Conference on 30 April 2022. For more information, visit www.DofN.org/One-Big-Day or contact Jonathan Richardson, Children, Youth and Families Develop Officer Jonathan.richardson@ dioceseofnorwich.org 01603 882354.

Seeds of ministry sown

Gaye Hailstone & Peta Cunnane Anna Chaplains Yare Valley **Churches Benefice**

Our journeys to becoming Anna Chapiains were similar yet different. At a young age Peta realised, through her grandfather's ministerial work in a retirement village, how important it was to support those with additional needs and older people on their spiritual journey. For Gaye is was as much later stage in her life when, her mother, a regular Churchgoer, had to move to a residential care home for the last 18 months of her life, and during that time no representative from any Church visited the home. It made her aware of the need to take God's love to those who can no longer come to Church. God had sown the seeds of ministry for the elderly in both our hearts and for the last few years Gaye has been involved in taking worship into residential care homes and Peta has helped with our Forget Me Not Café and their monthly church service.

Three years ago we heard about Anna Chaplaincy. It's a relatively new ministry for the elderly and those on the dementia pathway, which operates under the Bible Reading Fellowship umbrella. Anna Chaplaincy gives definition and identity to ministry for the elderly and those on the dementia pathway. Their ethos and vision resonated with our own calling and we initially joined the network as members. We knew that this was where we were being called to help us grow our own ministry. We were commissioned as Anna Chaplains by Bishop Jane in September 2021. We attended an Anna Chaplain training course and are now growing in our new roles. Anna Chaplaincy is all about nurturing spirituality in its broadest sense, as an ecumenical, non-judgemental, person centred, community based spiritual care for older people, and



those on the dementia pathway, of all faiths and no faith. What we offer as Anna Chaplains varies according to local needs: it includes one-to-one support, end of life support, prayer ministry, leading

care homes worship, leading Forget Me Not worship, supporting dementia activities, advocating for people with dementia and supporting carers.

As we write this we pray that

whether or not you sense that Anna Chaplaincy is right for your Church and community, you will find ways to nurture and encourage faith and spirituality in older people.

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PCC News

My journey

Margaret Blackshaw Anna Chaplain St Stephen's Norwich

I feel very privileged to be a participant on the Anna Chaplain Training Course and am grateful for our PCC's support and blessing.

The aim of this course is to explore Anna Chaplaincy for Older People, its origins, its development and some of the ways that Anna Chaplains practice. It also aims to further our understanding of what Anna Chaplaincy offers and how this ministry contributes to the church's mission and ministry.

Topics explored were: Introducing Anna Chaplaincy; Living the second half of life; The spirituality of ageing; Spiritual care for people living with dementia; Chaplaincy skills in working with older people; Looking forward – the next steps.



Anna Chaplaincy is a model of ministry that encompasses all that promotes the value and worth of older people. It takes place wherever people are, the focus being to offer spiritual care and support. It is an ecumenical and church/community-based ministry, is person-centred, non-judgemental and for people of faith or no faith at all.

Spiritual care may express itself in helping people to reflect on their life's journey, the joys, sorrows and difficulties. Our role is

to build relationship and trust with people, to walk alongside them, to listen attentively to their thoughts and feelings, and to allow them to tell their stories.

We looked at the ways in which spiritual care can be adapted to include people with dementia, and how to practically ensure that our churches are accessible for older people, taking into account their needs and disabilities. There is a case to be made for providing people with dementia with opportunities to grow in their faith.

We spent a session on listening and conversation skills which looked at what qualities, attitudes and techniques make for effective listening, and what the blocks are to good listening.

I found the course enormously valuable and look forward to implementing what I have learnt in my ministry. I will be line managed by my Vicar and supported by a designated supervisor. The first task is for a Working Agreement to be drawn up and to discover where the gaps in supporting older people are.

An out of the blue moment

Sue Moore St Laurence's Church Brundall

I first became interested in the Anna Chaplaincy movement when my husband and I were studying for a certificate in 'Older People's Ministry' at Cliff College, led by Debbie Thrower, the pioneer of this ministry. In my previous existence as a Methodist layworker, the emphasis was always on family and youth work, perhaps often ignoring the contribution of older members of the church, and their evangelistic potential in reaching out to others of the same age. After reflecting on my own experience with Age UK, Cruse, hospital chaplaincy and my work with older people within the church and community, I started to think and pray about the possibility of becoming an Anna Chaplain myself. When I got home, I asked whether there were any Anna Chaplains in the Norwich diocese but no one seemed to know anything about them, so I almost forgot about it, moved house and got on with the lock down and endless zoom meetings.

It was during one of these that I mentioned that I was interested in



Photo credit: BRF Anna Chaplaincy

becoming an Anna Chaplain and somehow my name was passed to the Revd Peter Leech who had been tasked with forming the first group of Anna Chaplains in the Norwich Diocese! It was an "out of the blue" moment that leaves me in no doubt that God often works by himself when he wants something done. The opening words of the commissioning service (which have followed me around for the past 20 years) seemed to confirm both this and my call to this ministry:

'I am about to do a new thing, now it springs forth. I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert' (Isaiah 43:19).

Church Buildings Commission

Elizabeth Humphries Communications Manager

A new Church Buildings Commission has launched with the purpose of looking at the church buildings across Norfolk and Waveney in terms of their use and sustainability.

You may know that the Diocese of Norwich has more medieval churches than almost any other Diocese. There are a total of 658 church buildings and 95% are listed buildings, with 50 located in populations of less than 50 people.

Often, the responsibility of looking after these heritage assets falls to just a few people. Therefore, the long term sustainability of this very large

number of churches needs positive and workable solutions.

The Right Reverend Graham Usher, Bishop of Norwich, says; "The Diocese of Norwich has an amazing selection of parish churches, each a treasure trove of memories for their local community, often architectural gems as well as places of prayerful experience.

"Whilst many churches are thriving, some don't have the people or the financial resources to help maintain them. This means that there may be some tough decisions for this and future generations to make, as well as creative possibilities that we need to trial."

The Commission will consult widely and make recommendations on its findings

in a report to the Bishop of Norwich and the Bishop's Council. There is no exact end date, but it's likely that the work will take around a year with the recommendations going forward in 2023.

You can find an FAQ section and a full quote from Bishop Graham on the Diocese website at www.dioceseofnorwich.org
Anyone with an interest in the church buildings is welcome to contribute their comments to a dedicated email address to ensure that their comments are put forward. Please email churchbuildingscommission@dioceseoforwich.org or write to Church Buildings Commission, Diocesan House, 109 Dereham Road, Easton, Norwich, NR9 5ES.

Introducing Liz Humphries

Elizabeth HumphriesCommunications Manager

My name is Elizabeth Humphries (also known as Liz) and I am the Communications Manager for the Diocese of Norwich. I started my role in December 2021 so it's all very new and I look forward to working with you as my time here progresses.

I am a former broadcast journalist. I moved to Norwich just over 20 years ago to start my first job at ITV Anglia after completing a journalism degree. It was very interesting working in an environment with people you have watched on TV as a child! During my broadcast career, I also worked for regional BBC and commercial radio stations.

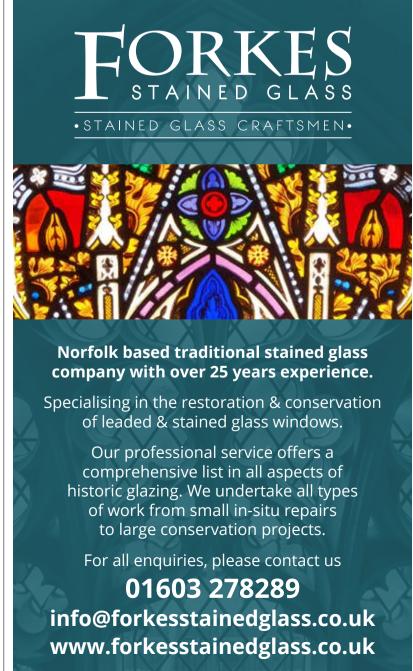
I diversified my career into communications so I could get a regular pattern of work to fit around my family. I have enjoyed providing communications support to Essex police, Ormiston Academies Trust and the J's Hospice among others in the past.

As a Christian, I believe that I can now use my career skills and background to provide



communications as part of the Diocese of Norwich parish support services team.

At home, I live with my husband Marc and 3 children: Joshua is 13, Madeleine is 10 and Nathaniel is 3, so it's always busy and noisy. I'm thankful though that I'm no longer home schooling during a pandemic. My main hobby is listening to and playing music. I am a keen violinist and also play bass guitar and piano.





Listed Places Of Worship Grant Scheme

Some good news – The Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme has been extended for another three years until 31 March 2025 (this is the scheme that gives a grant to cover the cost of VAT on repairs etc to listed places of worship).

Church grants

Andrew Clark Church Grants

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

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.

Mission Hub

Don't forget the amazing library of resources at your fingertips in our Mission Hub! Find books, websites, ideas and more to support your church and community.



Prayer resources

Download specially designed prayer resources to get all ages engaged in our first year of the Diocesan Vision: Prayerful.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Liturgical resources

These resources are designed to help churches and faith communities mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year in 2022.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations!

Find out how you can get involved with the celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – as a church or in schools and small groups!



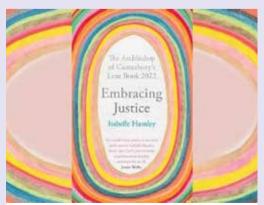
Mapping the Gospels

A unique way to explore the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John through sets of Bible study "maps"; perfect for small groups or individual reflection.



Wild Church Toolkit

The Wild Church Toolkit has been produced by the Diocese of Norwich Mission Enablers Team to explore the basics of Christian spirituality, church and mission in the natural world.



Embracing Justice

Isabelle Hamley invites us on an exhilarating journey through Scripture to discover how we, as churches, communities and individual Christians, can seek and practice justice even when enmeshed in such a fractured world.