

PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



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Overwhelmed by the generosity

Susan Bunting
Director of Finance

2021 was another exceptional year, continually bringing challenges but also opportunities for us all to share the Gospel and demonstrate God's love in the communities we serve.

We would like to say "thank you" for all that you have navigated during the pandemic. The Parish Share received for the year ending 31 December 2021 totalled £6.520 million (82.27 per cent of the total request). Whilst this is a decrease of £566,170 compared to pre-pandemic receipts of 2019, and £1.405 million less than the requested amount, it is an increase when compared to receipts in 2020 of £359,928 or 5.84 per cent, an extraordinary achievement.

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of parishes

towards the mission and ministry of the church: both your collective efforts as well as your individual contributions. We need to continue to encourage one another with God's faithfulness and generosity and remember what the parish share contributions pay for. Providing leadership for mission and ministry are our stipendiary clergy and, in common with most organisations, salaries (stipends in the Church of England) form the largest call on finance. In order to pay these stipends and housing costs across the diocese we make a request for parish share, being the net cost to the diocese after all other sources of income have been deducted.

As life begins for many to have a feel of greater normality we are also conscious of what we have lost during the pandemic. For us as a whole diocese this now

includes having less resources to support our parishes as we have reduced the Diocesan lay staff by 12 staff members through redundancy, restructuring roles and not replacing those who have left, and we have not replaced 15 stipendiary clergy. We have rightly made very significant procurement savings and have stopped various pieces of work. We are grateful for all who work at Easton but we are aware that there is no spare capacity and they are working at full stretch. This is really hard and impacts on how we serve the work of God's Kingdom in fulfilling our vision to be Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic.

We invite you to consider prayerfully whether you are able to make any additional contributions in 2022 to support the mission of the diocese and the life of other parishes who are struggling.

Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride

Elizabeth Humpries
Communications Manager

Put a date in your diaries for the Norfolk Churches Trust Bike Ride, back on Saturday 10 September 2022. Each year the event raises thousands of pounds for churches in Norfolk. In fact, since the event began in 1983, participants have raised over 4 million pounds. Any money raised is split between the church of your choice and the

Norfolk Churches Trust.

Even if you're not a keen cyclist, you can still take part. How about walking, running, driving or using a boat? The main aim is to enjoy your day visiting these beautiful places of worship, raising money as you go.

Why not pack a picnic, bring your family or get a group from church and make a day of it.

Look out for more information via www.dioceseofnorwich.org or www.norfolkchurchestrust.org.uk



Don't forget the 'Prayer' resources
www.DofN.org/transformed-by-christ-prayerful

Editorial

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



Are you a glass half full or a glass half empty person? I like to think that I am neither, but I would call myself a realist! This question has made me reflect that our mental attitude towards a situation genuinely affects its outcome.

When we consider our giving, we should try to focus on four elements; firstly, we should prayerfully consider our giving and then act on what we have decided to do. Secondly, our giving should be planned rather than a few odd coppers we have left at the end of the week. Thirdly, our giving should be proportionate and finally, and most importantly to me, our giving should be joyfully given. We read in the scriptures "The Lord loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 2:7).

If we are giving joyfully, we are also giving from the heart. Research shows that giving makes us happy. If we are happy, it is good for our health. Also, I don't know if you have personally noticed this, but giving is contagious. Have you noticed, when trying to run an event in your parish, as soon as one person volunteers to do something other people then also volunteer? As church leaders we need to lead by example. Be bold and lead.

Have you also noticed the lovely warm feeling that you get when you give? I give by standing order but on a Sunday when the gifts are presented during the service, I know that I have given to support the work of the church. Interestingly, I was in London a few weeks ago and went to a show which, incidentally, was not particularly

good. On the way out there were people collecting for charity at the exits. I popped a note in the bucket and the warm feeling that I got knowing that I had brought hope to someone less fortunate was so rewarding. It was the nicest feeling I had all night!

When we give it should be unconditional. Our generosity is in response to God's grace to us and not dependent upon other factors. Our giving also comes in many forms. It is not always exclusively financial. As a regular worshipper I am only too aware of all of the additional things my friends in the pews do to ensure that our church functions.

One of those additional roles has been to encourage our congregation back into church. We still do offer Zoom as we have some members with medical conditions who need to shield. But on my travels across our diocese I am hearing stories of some church members who are perfectly fit but who find worship at home 'more convenient'. I feel they are missing out on so much; firstly, they are missing out on the fellowship that being together instils, secondly, they are missing out on the special atmosphere of being in church, and finally they are missing out on the very special gift of receiving Holy Communion together. Hopefully like me, you will feel that you have a duty to encourage your fellow worshippers back into church as well encourage new people to join us. Together we can make our church strong again and be transformed by Christ: prayerful, pastoral, prophetic.

Introducing Colin Tomlin

Colin Tomlin
Generous Giving Adviser

On my second day of starting my role as Generous Giving Adviser, I came across a verse of scripture that is helping to shape my focus and attitude towards the role.

It's from 2nd Corinthians 8 v 2 (NLT), 'They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.'

We may not all be very poor, but the war in Ukraine, the emerging cost of living crisis and the lingering impacts of Covid, are just a few of the things that could be described as 'many troubles' that are testing all of us.

However, as someone who has fallen in love with and lived in Norfolk for the last 10 years, it is my prayer and sincere hope that I can play a part, along with my colleagues in the Generous Giving Team, to unlock a spirit of rich generosity which comes from the abundant joy of the Spirit of the



Living God being alive in us.

I look forward to meeting you and all the wonderful people of our parishes in the weeks and months to come.

Editor's note:

Colin's post (like my post) is partly funded by a grant from The Archbishop's council.

Safeguarding training update – Summer 2022

Ruth Walker
Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

The 2022 Safeguarding Training Plan is now well underway, and I would firstly like to thank all of those enthusiastic participants who have engaged in our Safeguarding Pathways to date, as well as shown such commitment to Safeguarding within our Church Communities. There really has been some tremendous participative interaction in many of the sessions we have facilitated, together with some positive feedback.

In addition to the introduction of the new 'Safeguarding Leadership Pathway' in 2021, in October 2021 we started to facilitate the new 'Permission to Officiate Pathway' for those valuable retired Clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers with PtO who greatly support our Church communities within the Diocese. The training sessions are undertaken via Zoom, with small groups led by the Diocesan Safeguarding Team, and we also have a very small number of planned PtO Pathways planned during the year, to take place in person at Diocesan House.

In January 2022, the first of the new 'Parish Safeguarding Officer Induction' sessions was facilitated. These were Saturday morning sessions planned to be held in person at Diocesan House, but due to further Covid restrictions, the sessions necessitated being held as morning and afternoon sessions via Zoom in January and February. The inductions have evaluated well, and it was recognised that PSO opportunities such as this had previously been lacking, so were now found to be a valuable source of support, information and sharing

of experience. From April 2022, these sessions are planned to be held in person at Diocesan House, and the continued very positive uptake has meant that bookings are being received months in advance!

Further details and forthcoming dates for the Safeguarding Leadership Pathway, Permission to Officiate Pathway and PSO Induction sessions are available on the Diocesan website: www.dioceseofnorwich.org/churches/safeguarding/training

When the Church of England's Safeguarding Learning & Development Framework was updated in April 2021, it provided the framework for safeguarding learning and development across all Church of England communities. As a result, the Basic Awareness and Safeguarding Foundations Pathways (previously known as Co and C1) underwent significant revision in their content and presentation, so that there are now online pathways hosted by the Safeguarding Training portal. Both modules continue to be accessed online via the Safeguarding Training Portal (cofeportal.org)

However, we are also mindful that there are those who either do not use a computer, or who do not feel themselves to be comfortable in the use of computers. That said, we have had some successful and creative work going on in many parishes. For example, in some cases there is the possibility of individuals seeking assistance from a family member or friend, and access through their computer, or with some support from their PSO, a Parish Administrator or computer at their Church. A further example is where a 'buddy' system has been initiated within their churches, where other church members who are comfortably computer literate

'adopt' an individual and guide those more nervous in the use of technology through the process.

In order to register additional users with the same email address, the Training Portal eLearning Helpdesk should be contacted via email by the 'buddy assistant', and a request made for an additional user(s). The email address is: elarning@safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org

Within our Diocese, we continue working on a journey towards ensuring a church which is safer for everyone. Active engagement in safeguarding training is essential 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 promote and implement best safeguarding practice. As a Safeguarding team, we remain committed to supporting you, so that we all may continue to work together to ensure that the culture of safeguarding is integral throughout all of our church communities.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing cooperation, participation and engagement.

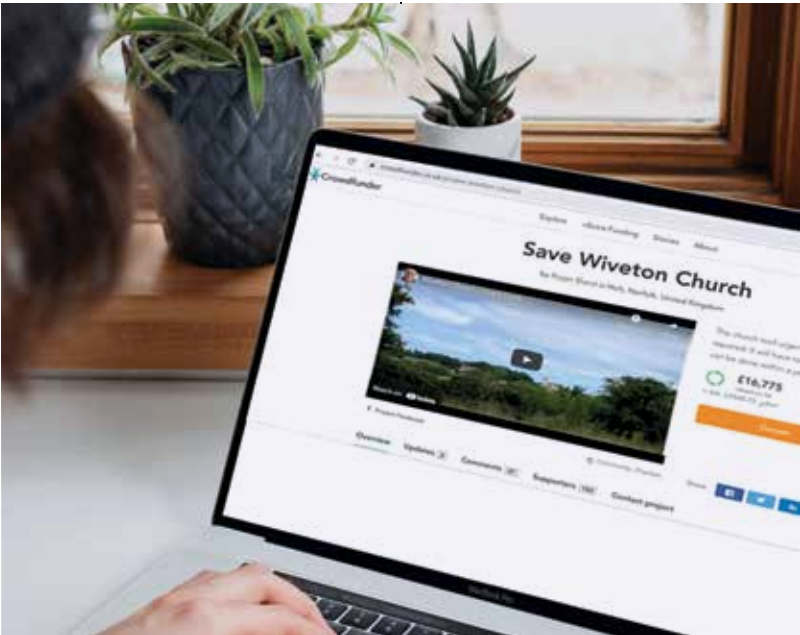


Bower Organ Tuning

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

bowerorgans@gmail.com
07376 055198 or 01603 881189
to arrange your visit.

Successful crowdfunding



Roger Bland
Lay Minister
Glaven Valley benefice

In August 2019 disaster struck St Mary's when a large roof beam in the chancel fell down without warning, causing damage to the altar, so that this much-loved church had to be closed for several months that autumn. Although temporary repairs were carried out so that the church could be open again by Christmas, full repairs had to be carried out within two years if the church were not to be closed permanently. That was unthinkable, but the cost was going to be over £150,000, a

huge amount for a village with a population of only 127 to raise. Many people prayed for a solution and it is clear that God did not want St Mary's to close. The PCC's strategy has been to put in requests to lots of funders, along with a major bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which is now ready to be submitted. The Friends of Wiveton have also been very active in fundraising and we now have a good matching sum for the lottery bid. One of the most successful parts of the fundraising campaign, which many churches may not think of doing, has been to launch a campaign on www.crowdfunder.co.uk. A local film-maker, Barney Broom, generously offered to

shoot a short film for us, and local landowner Desmond McCarthy (of 'Normal for Norfolk' fame) and his cousin Emma Bridgewater, who has made a special mug for the project, kindly recorded an interview. The crowdfunding campaign was launched in November and ran for two months. A total of £19,300 was raised through the site with donations from 150 people based all over the country, including many with happy memories of holidaying in the area. Some of the comments we received were lovely and will definitely strengthen the lottery bid. Other generous donors gave a further £4,000 offline while the campaign was running. Setting up a crowdfunding campaign is not difficult technically (the site takes a small percentage of the donations), if you can find someone to shoot a video for you, and the publicity it generates for your project is really valuable. We didn't know how much affection there was for our lovely church! I would definitely recommend trying it.



Lift high the cross



Dr Mary Fewster
AWA Yelverton

Faced with the closure of churches just before Holy Week and Easter in 2020, at St Mary's Church in Yelverton, we came up with the idea of putting a cross in the churchyard, so that the villagers would at least be aware of the season. Liz Bloomfield, churchwarden and organiser of the flower team, enlisted her husband Paul to fashion a cross from odd pieces of wood and this was fixed to the base of a dovecot and positioned near the main gate. On Good Friday it was decorated

with a crown of thorns, and this was replaced on Easter Sunday by a wreath of flowers. More people started to comment on how lovely the flowers were and how they raised the spirits. As the temperature climbed and the cut flowers became unsustainable, Liz provided two troughs hung from the cross-piece with bright red geraniums, and the comments continued. **The cross was noticed!** We realised how much this all meant to people in those difficult times, and the temporary cross and its flowers stayed. Liz decorated it with lights at Christmas, and then the troughs held pansies in the spring. By summer 2021 the cross was showing its age, and the PCC decided that this witness should continue and applied for permission to erect a more substantial cross in the churchyard. Our new oak cross, made and installed by Charlie, a local craftsman, is now in place. It, too, is 'temporary' in that it can be taken out of its socket, but hopefully it will remain as a witness to the role of our parish church in the community, not least in times of difficulty.

You see it in its Lenten plainness, but Liz has already planned for new containers to hold bright summer flowers to lift the soul. This underlines, too, the relationship between the parish church and the village. Although we are a small congregation, the wider community is supportive both of the building and the church's place in community life. For 12 years we have had a thriving Friends of St Mary's, and raised thousands of pounds for restoration projects. Most of the members are not churchgoers, or belong to other churches, but the Friends keeps them in 'the loop'. The Parish Council does all it can to support us as an important community facility, and is helping us to improve the church paths for wheelchair access. We hope that more people will be able to access the church or tend graves and be able to sit and enjoy this tranquil space in the centre of the village. This might all seem far distant from a simple cross of witness, but the cross is a sign that Jesus is there for all of us, and we – churchgoers or not – are there for each other. What better focal point could you have?

Prayer

Bishop's Prayer for Platinum Jubilee

Christ our King,
we come in gratitude for our Queen
whose long, extraordinary reign
has deliberately mirrored your service
through a life of visible self-giving.

As we thank you for Elizabeth,
- our beloved Servant Queen -
we acknowledge her tireless devotion
to country and to Commonwealth,
while rejoicing at the special place
which Norfolk has in her heart.
Thank you for her calm and constancy,
her humour and humanity,
her steadying words and unifying signs,
her grace and strength and resilience.

Protect her, we pray, O Christ,
and enfold her with your enduring love
for, prized above the rubies in her crown,
she is more precious to us than platinum itself.

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

When we decided to do a feature about churches being welcoming we had plenty to choose from. So many of you are doing great things across our diocese in making visitors feel welcome. Hopefully you will read something in one of the articles that you are not doing that you can consider in the future. Or you may be doing something in your church that we haven't mentioned. If so, please drop me a line so that we can share it with other churches. As you know your paper PCC News is here to share good practice across our diocese.



Open doors and smiling faces

Revd Canon Edward Carter
St Peter Mancroft

St Peter Mancroft Church is in the heart of Norwich and a steady stream of visitors arrives every day. Sometimes people visit because of a specific event or exhibition, for example the Luke Jerram 'Gaia' installation last October, which drew some 45,000 visitors, or the Makers Festival this March. However, many simply want to enjoy being in a beautiful and uplifting place, or to light a candle and say a quiet prayer.

The welcome at Mancroft begins with the open doors and the smiling faces of the two Welcomers on duty that day. Experience has shown it's best to be fairly 'light touch' – often visitors don't want to get into a long conversation. However, some do want to chat or even share their burdens, so a listening ear is usually more important than a well-polished description of the church. Nonetheless, there is an up-to-date

Guidebook available, as well as a copy of the weekly Newsletter. One pitfall is to use 'in-house' language or descriptions which only regular congregation members will understand, so this is avoided as much as possible.

The simple act of saying, 'Of course you can bring your dog in' goes a long way to making for a heartfelt welcome. Being as inclusive as possible is really important. Speaking about the approach taken at Mancroft, the Vicar, Canon Edward Carter, said: "So many visitors say to me they've not been into a church for years, and a good welcome will bear this in mind. A smiling face at the door helps overcome any hesitations or fears. I love asking people whether they're local or not, and that simple question often opens up a very warm conversation. Although we have tens of thousands of visitors every year, a genuine desire to make sure people know they can treat the church as their home applies anywhere. It's all about putting the amazing hospitality of God into practice."

The heart of the local community

Tricia Temple-Crowe
PCC Secretary, Blakeney

Last year the PCC invested in some new church notice boards located at the north and west gates providing contact details and information of services and events and giving a very warm welcome to all.

We have an 'open door' policy at St Nicholas. By ensuring the large wooden church door is fixed wide open we hope this encourages all visitors to enter the church; even the outer porch door is fixed open wide in the winter months whenever the north wind allows.

Following the easing of the pandemic we have been able to reintroduce our 'Welcome Table' which provides our visitors with a selection of teas/coffees and biscuits and a place to sit and rest awhile, no payment required.

At long last, after nearly two years of waiting, we have been able to restart the monthly Blakeney Breakfast on the first Wednesday, 8am to 11am, and the Blakeney Lunch, 12noon to 2pm. There are no set charges but donations are welcome. These monthly events provide a wonderful opportunity for us to demonstrate to the local community, the surrounding villages and visitors to the area that our beautiful church building is

not just a place of worship but is at the heart of our local community and there for everyone.

Before the pandemic, St Nicholas had not only become a welcome place for those who live alone and in need of someone just to talk to, it became somewhere for young families to get together for a meal and where the frail or elderly could be collected and brought to church for a hot meal and company. It became a place for everyone to share a meal and have a chat with the stranger sitting next to them and a place where all visitors were assured of a very warm welcome. It will be again.

St Nicholas has a space designated for quiet private prayer and an opportunity for visitors to fill in a prayer card and light a candle.

An excellent selection of cards and secondhand books are available to purchase. A Visitors Guide is also available which enables visitors to read about the history of our beautiful church.

An area of comfy chairs around a coffee table is provided for visitors to sit and relax.

The church tower is tremendously popular with

visitors and is open from 10am to 5pm 3 days a week while the office is open. To make it affordable for everyone, there is no fixed charge but donations no matter how small are very welcome and bring in additional income.

Throughout the year concerts

and a variety of events take place; these are well publicised around the villages to ensure visitors to the area are also informed. Our services and events are available on YouTube which ensures those who cannot get to the church are not forgotten.



The vision grew

Revd Margaret McPhee
Horsford Benefice

It is always wonderful to hear visitors feel welcome when they come into our churches. When I was approached to share what makes Felthorpe and Horsford so special in their welcome, I was surprised. Not because the church buildings and the people aren't welcoming, but because what we do is usual.

Welcome became a focus of our Mission Strategy in 2018 following the Leading Your Church into Growth (LYCiG) course. The PCCs embraced the aim: a welcome for all, everyday. This was summarised in our 2019 Mission Strategy as Welcome and Hospitality by God and His people with Welcome to our buildings; being a welcoming people and having Welcome teams for Sunday and all our life event services. The congregations became engaged through the

"Everybody Welcome" sermon series in 2019, including one Sunday when we all attended a service at a church where we "hoped" we wouldn't be known to others to experience how we were welcomed and offered hospitality. The vision grew...

Unlocking and locking the churches has become easy: I heartily recommend the automated locking unlocking system we have, set for daylight hours.

Welcome signs stand alone at the entrance as well as replacement noticeboards at St Margaret's, Felthorpe, and All Saints, Horsford. They are bright, professional and a result of a successful Sharing Good News Grant from the Diocese. People now know where the churches are, rather than being hidden away and, with Horsford, there are colourful posters on the notice board visible from the road.

We also ensure the entrance to the church (the porch) is clean and tidy, sometimes with flowers.

There are clear notices in this space with service times and weekly news. Both churches have a light in the porch and in Horsford there's bollard lighting along the path ensuring welcome during hours of darkness.

Welcome notices are inside the churches with a visitors book and cards with Revd Margaret McPhee's contact details, information leaflets on the church history and on life events which can be taken away.

The churches are clean and well ordered and in Horsford we're able to maintain the temperature at "comfortable". Visitors can help themselves to drinks – hot and cold, and we're introducing individually wrapped biscuits too. Fresh flower arrangements are displayed (except for Lent and Advent). In Horsford church, there is a small children's area with toys, books and colouring activities with plans to develop this area further.

Margaret, or the relevant churchwardens are often in the church during the week with a warm welcome; it is extraordinary just how many visitors do come in.

People notice the churchyard; is it well maintained and managed? We have posters and information

on the flowers and trees in Horsford churchyard which people can use to explore further. In both Felthorpe and Horsford there are benches to rest and contemplate; courtesy of local residents (and list B / faculty).

What is paramount to us all is whoever and whenever people come into our church buildings, whether anyone is there or not, they find a place of interest, history, care, love and peace – Welcome.



Up to 8,000* visitors to your church each year?

Lt Colonel Ken Grapes
Churchwarden Ludham

Is this a good thing? In Ludham we think so – because we are proud of our fine village church and love to share it with others. Besides, visitors are generous donors, especially where they are made truly welcome. It has to be admitted that Ludham is a popular village in the centre of Broadland and St Catherine's Church is right in the middle, so it is relatively easy to attract visitors. But it is the warm welcome they receive that

makes a memorable visit.

It starts at the smartly painted gates – open all day and every day and where there are signs inviting them to come on in. A netted iron gate keeps the birds out and gives way to a neat porch, complete with a dog water bowl. Inside, the first view never fails to impress and we know from the visitors' book that they appreciate a well cared for church, here thanks to Maria, our housekeeper par excellence. Various free guides are a given. We try hard to make our church feel comfortable as a place of worship, where visitors can quietly pray or just be still, with helpful materials

at hand. A clergy friend said that a good test is – would one like to be married in this church? An affirmative response indicates that the PCC is on the right track.

Perhaps the best way to complete a visitor's good impression is to offer some simple refreshment and a comfortable place to sit. Also, people may have travelled some distance, so the availability of an accessible loo is a welcome facility.

Most visitors understand that a large and ancient church building needs funds to keep it in order and are more than happy to make a donation at the end of their visit. A discreet notice by the exit helps, together with a simple collection box. In Ludham, a heavy green safe serves this purpose and has a slot on top for donations. A supply of gift aid envelopes and pens is on top of the safe. For modern-day visitors, the Goodbox machine offers a speedy way to donate a fiver and, as its accompanying notice says, this helps to keep the church as a much-loved house of worship, open to all and to hold its place in the centre of village affairs. All this works well for us!

**We have a counting machine at the door.*



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How can you use Mission Hub?

Mission Hub is a tool for your church, school, or community group to use to engage with a range of topics or even consider trying something new in your neighbourhood! You can search the library for something new or,

if there is a resource you've already used, leave a comment on a resource page and let others know what worked (or didn't) in your situation.

If you have a great resource that we don't, we would love to hear

about it! There is a form at the bottom of the main Mission Hub page where you can recommend something to us. We are eager to spread things that will help you in your ministry across the Diocese.

www.DofN.org/MissionHub

In the next few weeks...

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Churches Count on Nature, and Refugee Week are right around the corner, have a look at some of these you could use to get involved.



Platinum Jubilee prayer

Bishop Graham offers this prayer on the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Please feel free to use this in your services celebrating the Queen's Jubilee, there are versions for services, print and social media.



Liturgical Resources for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This downloadable pack is designed to help churches and faith communities mark HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year in 2022.



Platinum Jubilee Norfolk

How is Norfolk celebrating the Queen's Jubilee? Find out what's happening near you, including events, Jubilee trails, beacons, services and more.



Love Your Burial Ground Week/ Churches Count on Nature

On this page you will find ideas, activities and more for your whole church to enjoy as part of Love Your Burial Ground Week/Churches Count on Nature (Sat 4 to Sun 12 June).



Shuffle: Green Edition

42 challenges, 42 days. *Shuffle: Green Edition* invites young people to engage with the climate crisis and empowers them to make a difference.



Outdoor Church ideas page from Engage Worship

Not sure where to start when taking church outdoors? Have a look at this list of ideas and resources to get started! Including worship, prayer and activities.



Focus on Refugees

Focus on Refugees is a programme of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland which aims to inform and encourage faith communities in supporting refugees.



Moving stories: the Bible and migration

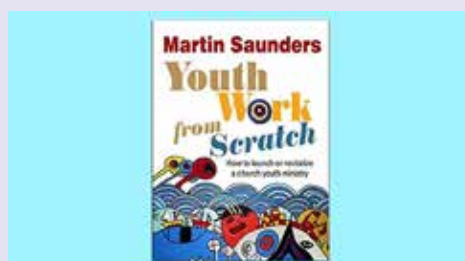
These nine studies aim to enable individuals and groups of people within churches to think about contemporary and historic migration in the light of the word of God in the Bible.

Don't miss these!



Connect! booklet series

One of the six booklets that form this thought-provoking series focuses on the Refugee Crisis in an effort to provoke reflection, conversation and action in supporting those fleeing dangerous situations.



Youth Work from Scratch

With case studies and principles which address both new projects and those which require a 'jumpstart', this book aims to help such youth ministries change direction for the better.



Activities for both school and parish to do together

Our wonderful Children, Youth and Families team have put together a list of ideas and tips for you to foster strong relationships between your local school and parish through fun activities and events.



Creationtide resources

A range of resources from different dioceses in the Church of England to help you and your church celebrate Creationtide in September.

Many categories to explore, including:

Our Vision

Transformed by Christ

Prayerful Pastoral Prophetic

Accessible church



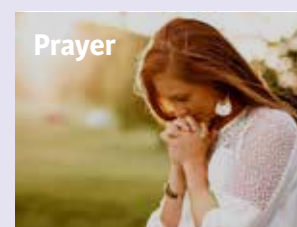
Outdoor church



Schools



Prayer



Wellbeing



GDPR is still with us

Barbara Kirk
IT and Data Coordinator

It feels like a long time since the start of GDPR back in 2018. Life feels very different; with Brexit and the Covid pandemic, it is hard to remember that far back. GDPR is now UK GDPR but thankfully it is not too dissimilar, and the major changes do not affect the diocese. Most churches will have done what was needed back in 2018, but it is worth bringing data protection back into focus again as it's really important we look after people's personal data correctly.

One of the best sources of information is still the Parish Resources website: www.parishresources.org.uk/gdpr

Every point below is covered on this website with other useful information.

At your next PCC meeting it would be good to go through the

essential components required if you haven't done so recently. Some things to consider:

1. Make sure your data privacy notice and data retention policy are still up to date and relevant
2. Revisit your lawful basis of data processing. You may be able to use 'legitimate interest' as well as informed consent. This needs to be clearly indicated within your privacy notice.
3. Undertake a data audit. You may have undertaken a data audit before, but it is good practice to conduct an audit every couple of years to ensure you do not have personal data held incorrectly or insecurely. You might be surprised by how much personal data people have within their emails, computer files and on printed documents (all of this counts).
4. Check that you are protecting people and their personal data by following the guidance below:
 - a) Always use bcc (blind copy)



when sending an email to multiple people

- b) Never store unprotected digital documents with personal data on them. Always password protect/encrypt them or store securely and delete them when no longer needed
- c) Always document your reasoning behind holding personal

data and state why and where it is being held. It is not enough now just to say you comply; you need to have it documented

It may help you to consider using a software package that collates and holds your personal data, for example iKnow from Church edit. It can help you to keep people's data secure.

Lastly it would very helpful if you could also ensure that the Parish Persons Dashboard on the Diocesan database and all Data Protection Forms are up to date as this helps us as a Diocese comply with our UK GDPR. Do contact us on data@dioceseofnorwich.org or 01603 880853 if you need any further information.



Towards a sustainable future

Elizabeth Humpries
Communications Manager

PCC members are asked to look out for a new survey due to arrive soon from the Church Buildings Commission team.

The survey will only be available to complete online, so if you have any difficulty with this, please ask someone in your church or your benefice to help you.

By filling in the survey, you are helping to inform the work of the Church Buildings Commission. It should take less than 30 minutes to complete.

The Church Buildings Commission is an independent body, set up at the instigation of the Diocese of Norwich. It launched at the beginning of 2022 with the purpose of providing analysis on the current situation regarding the use and sustainability of church buildings across Norfolk and Waveney.

The Diocese of Norwich has more medieval churches than almost any other Diocese. 95 per cent are listed and 50 are located in populations with fewer than 50 people.

The Church Buildings Commission team is led by Laura

McGillivray (MBE), an independent chair and formerly Chief Executive of Norwich City Council. It is also made up of a variety of stakeholders who guide the work, including support from the Diocese, members of the clergy and heritage experts. You can see the full list of members and the terms of reference on the website here: www.DofN.org/CBC

The Bishop of Norwich, The Right Revd Graham Usher, said this about the Commission;

"The Diocese of Norwich has an amazing selection of parish churches, each a treasure trove of memories for their local community, often architectural and aesthetic gems, and places of prayerful waiting. Whilst many churches are thriving, others need to adapt to support the mission of today's Church, and 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.

"I hope that the Commission will seek innovative solutions and build a consensus about a future."

You can also email the team here: churchbuildingscommission@dioceseofnorwich.org



Simpler regulations

James Halsall
Care & Development of Church
Buildings, Interim DAC Secretary

PCC members may be aware of the Queen's Green Canopy (www.queensgreencanopy.org) initiative encouraging individuals and organisations to plant trees to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The diocesan chancellor has agreed a diocesan-wide faculty for the planting of a tree to commemorate the jubilee. This can now be carried out without recourse to a List B application on condition that:

- A single tree is planted;
- A native species is chosen;
- Consideration is given to the tree's mature state (height, span plus root depth and spread).

The tree should be planted away from the church building, boundary wall and memorials or tombs. It is recommended the tree should be more than 11 metres from the church building and, if poisonous, more than 8 metres from the boundary.

■ The tree is planted before the end of December 2022.

■ In the case of a closed churchyard the local authority is informed of the tree.

PCCs are permitted to erect a free-standing commemorative plaque no larger than A5 following the Queen's Green Canopy guidance.

A separate List B application will be required if the PCC wishes to plant more than one tree or deviate from the conditions above.

Please contact james.halsall@dioceseofnorwich.org for more information.

Net Zero

James Halsall
Care & Development of Church
Building, Interim DAC Secretary

Churchwardens, fabric officers and PCC members will be familiar with Lists A and B as well as faculties for works to church buildings. As a reminder, items on List A can be carried out without any diocesan permission, List B works require the archdeacon's approval, and practically everything else needs a full faculty.

At its sitting in February, the General Synod agreed changes to the faculty system to make it easier for PCCs to respond to the Church of England's target of being net zero carbon by 2030. If agreed by Parliament, the changes will take effect on 1 July 2022.

Bishop Graham, who is the Church of England's lead bishop on environmental issues, said "Our parish churches can be exemplars, leading the way in communities, for sustainable living. Yes, it is going to be a challenge, but so is any aspect of living the Gospel. It's a challenge we must step up to. The new rules offer encouragement to parishes to rise to this challenge by de-regulating a range of actions, some small, some bigger, all of

which can help us move in the right direction."

When approved, the revised Lists will be added to the diocesan website. The changes will include making it easier for PCCs to insulate pipes, draft-proof doors and windows, add electric pew heaters, electric car charging points and install new non-fossil fuel boilers. Like-for-like fossil-fuel boilers and new oil tanks, previously on List B, will now require a full faculty.

The Norwich DAC is ready to engage with PCCs looking to change their existing heating system. Adam Simpson has recently been appointed as a heating specialist to advise the DAC on proposals submitted by PCCs.

Please contact the interim DAC secretary at james.halsall@dioceseofnorwich.org for more information.



All Saint's Necton plant a tree for The Queen



Francesca Shearcroft
PCC Secretary, Necton All Saints

On a perfect sunny morning in January, with blue skies above, we gathered in the churchyard after a United Benefice Service. The occasion? To plant a tree as part of The Queen's Green Canopy project for Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. Our Rector, The Revd Stephen Thorp, said a few opening words and a prayer before taking hold of the spade and "planting" the tree (a *fagus sylvatica* dawyc, a beech with an upright rather than outwards canopy). Once planted, he inserted an official commemorative plaque, which reads, "The Queen's Green Canopy – The Platinum Jubilee 2022". We sang the National Anthem and raised three hearty cheers for Her Majesty. The tree has since been recorded on the Queen's Green Canopy map.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the cost of the tree, and those who helped plant it. The heavy work of digging the hole and securing a support stake was done the day before, in appalling

weather! Further thanks to the villager with extensive knowledge of trees who advised us on the purchase and planting.

After the demise of our lovely cherry trees in March last year (which had to be felled as they had died), it was great to plant something new, especially as part of this wonderful project which encourages people to plant trees as part of caring for and sustaining the environment.

Would you like to take part?

Discuss / agree at PCC. Inform the congregation and request donations for the tree. Seek advice about which tree might best suit your chosen location. Choose a plaque from the official website. Arrange a 'planting ceremony' and invite members of your community. Ensure you take photos! Remember, the tree planting season is from October to March, so plenty of time to organise yours! Visit: www.queensgreencanopy.org



Finding "green" grants for your environmental project

Catherine Ross
Open & Sustainable Churches
Officer, Cathedral & Church
Buildings Division

Are you looking for funding for a new environmental project at your church? Low-carbon heating, solar panels, or a new nature garden perhaps?

A new page on the Church of England website aims to help you: www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/fundraising-for-net-zero-carbon

The new resources provide you

with advice on possible sources of funding for projects to reduce carbon emissions or improve nature, and gives advice on how to approach those funders in a way most likely to succeed.

A great place to start is to watch the recordings of three recent webinars on environmental fundraising. You can find them on the page above, or by going to YouTube and searching for "Church of England" and then the playlist on "Environmental Fundraising". (www.DofN.org/EnvironmentalFundraising) Grant funders with lots of experience of environmental

projects, or specific environmental programmes, may well ask you for specific figures to support the environmental claims of your project. It can sometimes be challenging to estimate these, so the page gives you some ideas about how to estimate the carbon or nature impact of your project.

You will need to show that you understand climate change issues in your community, in the Church of England and in a global context, whilst remembering that most grant makers who are funding in this area will already have a good understanding of the issues involved; you will not need to explain to the funder what the climate emergency is, or why protecting the environment is a good idea.

Most practically, there are links through to grants directories you can use: the Church of England's own one, plus others from Ecclesiastical Insurance, National Churches Trust, The Centre for Sustainable Energy, and Community Energy England. It gives you the details you need on funders such as Garfield Weston, Veolia, Biffa, MCS Foundation, Chapman Charitable Trust, the Morrisons Foundation, and far more.



Responding to God's grace

Robert Culyer
Generous Giving Adviser

We only have to look at the Diocese of Norwich Parish Share figures to see that our parishes are full of the most generous people. I think we have to also acknowledge that this is only the tip of the iceberg. Not only are our church communities generous financially but also with their time and talents. As I travel across our diocese I hear the most amazing stories about what you are doing in your parishes to keep our parishes running smoothly. I get a really warm reassuring feeling that all this is done for a true love of God and their church and most people are doing this without recognition or a grumble. Interestingly you can feel it when you go into the church. With this positive attitude nothing seems a chore but a pleasure to do.

One of the bedrocks of our church is the way that we as individuals respond to God's generosity to us and as I previously

said this is very evident. Despite all of this we must not become complacent and I hope that you will agree that every so often it is good to look and review how we do things in our parish. The simplest of changes can make a vast difference. I would like to recommend that you have a look at a national resource about running a generosity week.

The Generosity Toolkit is a resource for your PCC to meet and reflect on your shared experience of generosity in the life of your church. By working through the toolkit, you will look in depth at what generosity is, consider what you are already doing well, and where you could improve and grow.

Giving should be wholly integrated within Christian life-in our following of Jesus, and our desire and calling to be Christ-like. Generosity is a hallmark of a lived-out faith and a testament to it. Have a look at the resources. You might want to use some, all or none. You choose.

The Generous Giving team would love to support you if you are interested in running a Generous Giving week around Harvest (or any other time) in your parish.

The resources can be found at www.DofN.org/generosity

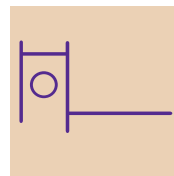
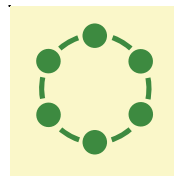
Delight for the giver and the receiver

Revd Steve Wood
Burnhams Benefice

For me there is a small window each year in the quiet between Christmas and the end of January when I look forward to the coming events, in good years a wedding or a new baby in the family, a holiday, maybe the start of a resolution to run, sail, exercise, read more. You all know the sort of thing, sometimes even a review of spending or saving but I am ashamed to say that my regular donations to the church do not benefit from this reverie. That ticks along, it seems that having first been established it needs no thinking about. But is this so?

In my previous parish we had the usual range of giving opportunities: cash in the plate, standing orders and envelope schemes. We were grateful for all forms of donation yet when St Albans diocese joined the Parish Giving Scheme our PCC were quick to join.

Robert Culyer's front page article in the Spring issue spoke thoroughly to the practical advantages and operational details but giving is more than this. As individuals our giving has to be in some way



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

sacrificial but too it should be easy to do, private and effective. All of our current ways of giving address some of these aspects to varying degree.

The envelope scheme is private. For many the envelope is part of the tradition of church going, put in the pocket of our Sunday best. It is painful to change. The inconveniences for the receiving church, though, are many, including finding someone other than the treasurer to open the envelopes, for the numbers and the names to be perfectly confidentially managed, for gift aid to be claimed and records to be maintained for seven years.

Cash in the plate is more simple but less private and prone to variability. It needs counting and banking – in our rural and not so rural Norfolk parishes this itself is increasingly difficult as more bank branches close.

The standing order is private,

and to my opening point once set in place sadly may be only infrequently reviewed.

Without repeating all of Robert's points in the previous PCC News article, the highlights are that the advantages of direct debits are supplemented by automatic record keeping and tax information. I received a letter of thanks which reminded me of my donation (good for my tax form too) and gently told me what it needed to become if adjusted for inflation, making sure that my reverie did include my church life.

Yes, our parish saw an increase in numbers of planned givers, an increase in giving, some annual uplift, less stressed treasurers, better cash flow from the monthly gift aid and reduced administration.

Giving should be a delight for both giver and receiver and this scheme thoughtfully tries to make that possible.

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Help with fundraising

Carol Ward
Church Grants

Church Grants is a bespoke Christian fundraising consultancy that supports Christian Charities and Churches of all denominations.

The Church Grants team is made up of Directors, Matthew Lagden, Andrew Clark and Carol Ward, Fundraising Associate & Training Manager. All are committed Christians and members of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

What do Church Grants offer?

There are three main ways Church Grants can assist:

1. FREE access to the Church Grants database

Provided by the Diocese of Norwich for parishes and churches

in the Diocese, this is a searchable database of warm funders to enable you to research and identify grant makers that may be interested in making a financial contribution to your project.

www.DofN.org/churchgrants

2. The Kickstarter Guide (£750)

For those that have capacity to fundraise but are not quite sure where to start, this is a step by step guide of the information and resources needed to start fundraising.

Included in the price:

- Templates to help you plan your project in order to start fundraising
- A well tested 'case for support' trust application structure to use to apply for funding
- Budget and Gift Table templates
- An initial 60-minute coaching session (either by phone or zoom)

to assess your fundraising needs, what your next steps should be, and how to make use of our materials

■ A 45-minute follow up session to gauge how successful these steps have been and to recommend further actions

■ An additional 45-minute follow up coaching session for a fundraising area of your choice.

www.churchgrants.co.uk/kickstarter

3. Church Grant Consultancy (£475 day rate)

More in-depth support for a successful fundraising campaign and/or appeal. Because every project is unique, we will work alongside you to determine how best we can assist, providing a full fundraising service or undertaking

some of the steps needed for a fundraising campaign or appeal:

- helping to plan a fundraising strategy
- writing the case for support
- carrying out research and writing funding applications

The only other expenses to be incurred are travel and any overnight accommodation. All charges are agreed in advance.

We pride ourselves on our flexible and agile approach, working with clients to identify and provide the right support for them.

Church Grants are here to help so please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for further assistance with your fundraising needs.

info@churchgrants.co.uk
www.churchgrants.co.uk



Name change

In the past The Allchurches Trust has been very good at supporting our churches financially with grants to do building repairs. We therefore wanted you to know that the Allchurches Trust is now called Benefact Trust.

So, has everything changed? The short answer is no. Benefact Trust remains committed to making a positive and transformative impact on lives and communities throughout the UK and Ireland, with the same expert, dedicated teams behind our varied work.

You can still apply for funding online at:
www.benefacttrust.co.uk



Bats and roof repairs

Brian Nunn
PCC member, Billingford

Our church of St Leonard Billingford is 4 miles east of Diss and overlooks the picturesque Waveney Valley & Billingford Mill. It has served as a place of worship for more than 800 years.

We form part of the Redenhall with Scole Benefice. We are distinctive because our tower – which may never have been completed – is the same height as its nave. Despite its diminutive size, the art and architectural historian, Nikolaus Pevsner devoted more than half a page to our church in his guide on listed buildings.

In 2017 the Quinquennial inspection found part of the north roof was badly in need of retiling to prevent rainwater from getting in. Retile within 5 years was the

architect's recommendation!

Quotations were obtained and around £25,000 would be needed to carry out the work but, as with most rural churches, fundraising and grant aid would be required.

To complicate matters we have our very own bats so permission was needed from Natural England & Bat Conservation Trust before repairs could start. However, to do so they needed to know more about "our" bats, so surveys were required. These were completed with the help of local volunteers together with Suffolk Bat Group & Norwich Bat Group, for whose help we are very appreciative.

During this time we were organising fundraising and applying for grant aid. BUT then along came COVID which impacted fundraising activities.

We eventually received permission from Natural England to carry out the repairs albeit with

restrictions, the work could only be carried out during April or the period 15th Sept-31st Oct, to avoid the bats breeding season or when they should be hibernating.

Due to the time taken to obtain the permission required in respect of the bats, and the restrictions on fundraising because of COVID, it was only late in 2021 that the funds needed to carry out these repairs were finally raised.

Repairs were completed by the end of October 2021 and we can now continue worshipping in our medieval Grade I Listed church, safe in the knowledge that the roof is much more secure.

This has now given us breathing space before embarking on the next round of repairs detailed in the Quinquennial Inspection report. These include removal of cement plaster and replacing it with lime plaster to combat dampness, both internal and external.

Raising the roof in Kessingland

Helena Lord
Churchwarden, Kessingland

Our quest to start raising funds for a new thatched roof and associated repairs at Kessingland Church began in 2018, when we launched our "Raise the Roof" Campaign, with a Heritage Weekend.

This successful start brought the seriousness of the situation to the attention of many who were unaware of how bad the roof had become. Many donated by buying a "Batch of Thatch" and funds were raised slowly but surely through smaller local events; donation boxes in local shops and pubs; raffles and more.

When Covid struck in 2020, we had raised around £23k of the projected forecast of £200k. Things slowed down, but donations continued to be generously given. By December 2021 we had accrued £37.5K.

Our small team of 5 kept working and in the early days of 2021, we were made aware that funding was going to open again to other projects such as ours. We expected the application process to be long and not without its problems, but strong in our faith that this would succeed, we carried on regardless with regular meetings, contact with our Diocesan architect and engagement with many local community groups to get them involved and committed to taking part in what would be an amazing project for everyone living here in

Kessingland and our many visitors.

Cutting a long story short, we carried on in faith that if purpose driven by God we would succeed, put all our costings together, the project plan for what would happen when and all the necessary paperwork, evidence, photos; testimonies and support letters/videos were uploaded to the Heritage Lottery Fund portal on October 3rd, 9 months down the line.

We always expected to get rejected first time, but we heard quickly that we had passed the first phase and then miraculously we heard the result of our total application being successful and the whole amount being awarded. Our prayers had truly been answered.

This we hope will encourage others to apply for grants and funding. Be mindful that it is not straight forward and setbacks must be expected, but when it works, all of that is so worthwhile!

Top Tips would be:

- Have an active small team – everyone with a job to do.
- Get the local community engaged and involved with future plans. Give them a project.
- Be alert to potential changes: from the funding body; your projected costings; availability of tradespeople etc.
- Be ready for setbacks & disappointment, but don't let them become insurmountable.
- Get excited when you receive good news – miracles do happen.

As members of our diocese I sometimes fear that we do not always hear about some of the great initiatives that our diocese is supporting. Most of us accept that we need to encourage work with families and young people. On this page we have articles

about just this. We also need to appreciate that some of our Parish Share request goes to support these activities and we need to be proud of the fact that what our parish pays towards the central request goes to help fund the work of the 'Church'.

Not only does Parish Share help to support these new initiatives, such as the sports ministry, but also other great projects in our diocese that support those affected by homelessness, addiction and poverty just to name a few.

Partnership and collaboration

Susie Bratby
Trainee Sports Minister

It has been so encouraging to see how God has been at work over the last 16 months despite restrictions. As part of the sports ministry, we are running three lunch time clubs, three after school clubs and Active RE in three schools, reaching over 100 children each week. Over 80 children have heard the good news of Jesus Christ at 'Legacy', our sports based holiday club. Sixty-five adults from the church and community attended the Olympic and Christmas quizzes where they heard about the hope found in Jesus and around 50 children and young people have tested out their skills in the football cage. It has been wonderful engaging with so many people and seeing families come to church for the first time as a result of this ministry.

Rev'd Tony Heywood of Grace Church on the Abbey Estate in Thetford writes, "It's been a wonderful encouragement to have Susie on the staff team the last year and a half. Through all the different activities and events she has organised, many people have heard about Jesus who might not have otherwise. It's also been a joy to see Susie building a team of volunteers



and helping believers to use and grow in the God-given gifts."

Partnerships have been a key part of this ministry. During lockdowns and restrictions, while in person ministry was unable to happen, I had the time to contact local organisations and charities to see if we could partner together in the future. While some partnerships were obvious such as contacting local schools, others were less so, but have proved to be vital for this ministry to succeed. Partnering with Keystone Trust and Flagship Housing enabled us to put on a 'Euros Community

Festival' where we had a big screen showing the England vs Germany football match, a free BBQ and the football cage.

Rev'd Peter Herbert, team rector, writes "It's been brilliant to see what God has been doing in and through the sports ministry here in the Thetford Team Ministry, and how so many people have heard, experienced and grown in the love of Jesus through all that's been happening. Partnership and collaboration, both within the churches and with other organisations, has been fundamental to all that's gone on."

Prayer

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

Endlessly creating and re-creating God,
you tell us that you "are doing a new thing":
open our eyes to perceive it
springing forth as you promise;
open our hearts to receive it
flowing through all that we are
and all that we do.

May your waters of transformation
refresh the expectations we have
of our communities of faith;
may they stream into whatever is arid
and reinvigorate all that is parched.
Then may we embrace change more readily,
dare more, dream more, risk more,
and reach out more boldly with your love
to people of all ages, genders and sexualities,
to people of all abilities and backgrounds –
for every family in heaven and on earth is yours.

Isaiah 43.19

Ephesians 3.15

Susanna Gunner

Diocesan Adviser in Spirituality and Discipleship

Is it all down to timing?

Rev'd Tony Heywood
Thetford Benefice



When we started Grace Church, Thetford (part of the Thetford Team Ministry) ten years ago, we plumped for 4pm as a start time for a variety of reasons. First, as a team vicar covering five other congregations, all of whom met at various times in the morning, 4pm gave me enough time to take two or three morning services, plus be available for any lunchtime thanksgiving or baptism services, have lunch and then get set up for Grace Church.

Even if I had had a clear morning though and a blank sheet in terms of start time, I would have opted for 4pm. It works well for families. Teenagers can have a lie-in or go to sports clubs in the morning, have a leisurely lunch and then come to church. It also works well for parents with younger children as it allows time for a rest for little ones after lunch if needed and the service ends by 5:15pm with sandwiches, cakes, biscuits and drinks so that parents don't need to cook a main meal when they get back home. With a school day the

next day, children can be in bed in good time.

For those starting or thinking of starting a new service at 4pm it might enable some folk to join them who have commitments in a morning service which they want to maintain. For example, there might be someone who leads worship or helps at Sunday School in the morning and wants also to be a part of the new congregation.

Another factor is that in contrast to later start times, it's only dark outside at 4pm for three months of the year and for most of the year it's light not just before but after the service. Also, if people want to get away for a weekend break, a Sunday 4pm service is less disruptive, in that people can get away, enjoy Sunday lunch with friends and family and then head to church afterwards. For all these and other reasons I find 4pm works very well as a start time.



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30

YEARS
1989-2019

Sustaining church families

Jonathan Richardson
Children, Youth and Families
Development Officer

One of the challenges of working with children and young people in church is ensuring that their whole family is supported.

At a recent activity day for young people who have parents or carers in ministry we asked them to identify some of the highs and lows. They told us that the sense of community, friends and free biscuits were high on the list. At the other end they identified

people having high expectations of them, being the first and last at church and the impact of the church on their home as significant worries.

The experience of these young people may be unusual, but they are often a catalyst in a church for others to come. With elderly congregations we often look to those with families to step up to volunteer – but we must be aware of the extra pressure this puts on their children.

It is also important to help families nurture the faith of their children.



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

Something is stirring on the eastern edge of the Diocese



Revd Nigel Lacey
Hopton, Corton & Gunton Benefice

At St Margaret's Church, Hopton on Sea, there is plenty of excitement on a Thursday morning each week. This is the day when the PlayVan arrives and a new group is being formed at the church. It has been much anticipated, having been delayed by Covid 19 restrictions.

A group of mums, and the occasional dad, meet in the

church for structured play, chat, snacks and fun. From small beginnings it has mushroomed into a group of 30 plus bringing new life to the church and giving the opportunity for all sorts of friendships and discussions. Remember, these are 'lockdown children', born during the pandemic and who haven't had the chance to socialise with other children. It is great to see them interacting and having fun.

We already have four baptisms booked from this group and

one or two have even started attending church services. It feels like the Holy Spirit is at work in all this.

There are some challenges from this sudden growth as we need to recruit parents to continue running it and are looking into the possibility of providing some regular all age worship to enable us to have something to invite people along to.

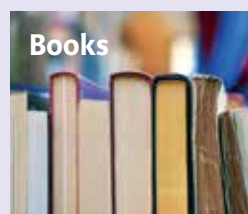
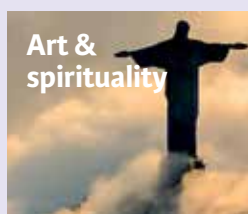
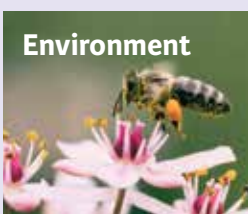
For the village Jubilee celebrations we will be having a craft and fun activity gazebo set

up to strengthen our links with the local community. All these have come about because Octavia and the PlayVan have started to visit us.

If you feel that your parish would benefit from establishing a PlayVan session please get in touch with Octavia. Her email address is playvan@dioceseofnorwich.org or phone 07900 730979

www.DofN.org/MissionHub

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.



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