

# PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



Bringing in more and more people p4



Friendships formed, faith deepened p7



Transfer of parish books p10



Be bold p11

## Virtual Reality comes to St Mary's Fishley



Ivan Barnard  
Churchwarden, Fishley

A chance encounter on a summer's day at Fishley has resulted in a groundbreaking technological collaboration with Iain Tubby of CADS.

For Iain Tubby, stumbling upon the church and listening to my story was a truly serendipitous moment. This chance encounter presented a unique opportunity for CADS to contribute to a local uplifting cause.

CADS have used a Matterport survey to create a 3D "digital twin" – and an interactive walk-through model. The survey captures panoramic images to create an immersive 3D "dolls house" style model of the church, as well as a 2D schematic floor plan.

The Matterport survey data for St Mary's now enables users to virtually explore the site and

gives the church a photographic asset record of the space. The interactive "dolls house" model provides a 360-degree view of the churchyard and the church itself as well as an interactive tour of the inside of the building.

Although St Mary's is geographically isolated, being located in open farmland off the South Walsham Road near Acle, this valuable 3D model means that the church now benefits from further visibility, particularly for soon-to-be spouses and Friday visitors alike.

Through the latest technology, this unique model showcases and captures the enchanting wonders of St Mary's Fishley. We're so pleased more people can now appreciate the charm of this richly historic building.

To view the Matterport tour and read more about CADS work with St Mary's Church Fishley. Visit [www.cadsonline.com](http://www.cadsonline.com) and search "hidden gem".

## Here I am

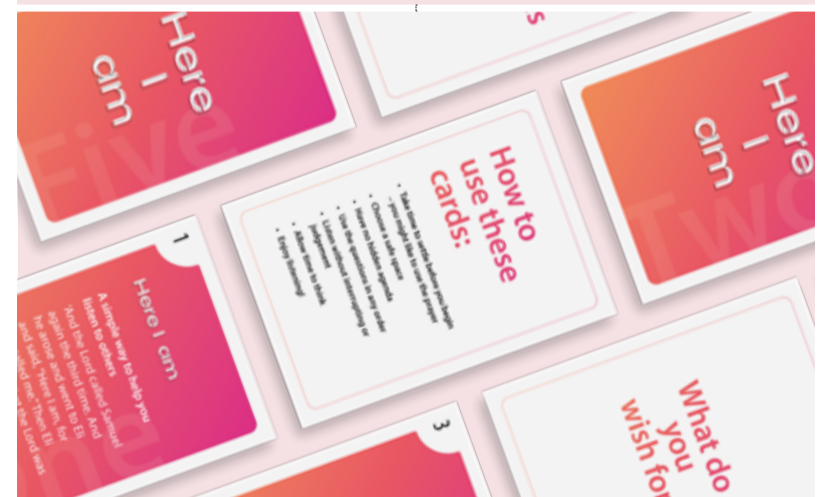
Jonathan Richardson  
Children, Youth and Families  
Development Officer

As part of our vision of living Prayerfully, Pastorally and Prophetically and as a response to our year of living pastorally we have been thinking about how we can encourage active listening and help facilitate conversations, particularly intergenerational ones. As we visit churches, we hear time and again that people feel ill equipped or nervous about starting conversations, particularly with young people, or don't feel listened to themselves.

Here I Am is a resource to encourage and support meaningful conversations, for all ages, drawing upon aspects of chaplaincy – through being present, being available and intentional listening. 1 Samuel 3 recounts a conversation between God and young Samuel long ago. When woken in the night by a voice calling his name, Samuel, thinking it is his mentor Eli calling him, replies saying, 'Here I am.' It took three times before Eli realised that it was the Lord calling Samuel. What followed was one of the most significant conversations between a child and God recorded in the Bible.

Few of us would say that we are the best listeners. Our minds wander: we often interject too quickly; or at best we remain conscious of the potential interruptions of others, and mindful of the time. Consequently, we can hardly wonder that God's voice often remains unheard, and our need to connect meaningfully with God and with others unmet.

Here I Am offers four simple



questions to facilitate honest conversations and is suitable for all, from primary aged children, to the most senior of us. Although it can helpfully be used for conversations between adults or between children, we would also encourage you to invite young people to sit with older generations and to use these questions as a starting point for a conversation – and then to do it the other way round.

The resource comes complete with an explanation of how it can support a meaningful conversation and why saying 'Here I Am' to another can be transformational

for you both.

We pray that you will hear God's voice through your conversations, and times of silent listening, knowing that you are both precious to God, unique and of infinite worth to him – and that your conversations matter!

A copy of the Here I Am resource will be sent out to churches during January and February. If you want additional copies, they can be obtained by visiting our online shop <https://shop.dioceseofnorwich.org/>

We pray this resource will bless you and your church.



## Editorial

**Robert Culyer**  
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Over the festive period I endeavoured to catch up on my reading and delved into a book called *How Village Churches Survive*. I am afraid to report that people who don't like change are not going to like what I am about to say.

The author mentions the Theory of Evolution developed by Charles Darwin and says this was not the survival of the fittest as is often erroneously stated. The species that survives is the one that is the most adaptable. This applies to our churches and communities as well. If you don't believe me or Darwin just look at the successful parishes in our diocese and ask why are they doing better? What is the common thread? You will notice that they are adapting to their environment. Quite often these changes are thrust upon us and although we may not want to change personally, do you feel that your church should adapt? For example, as we move increasingly towards a cashless society should we consider providing new mechanisms to enable giving and assist givers to live out their Christian faith?

It is also a matter of positive thinking. Churches that are thriving are focused on the positivity of their situation, however dire it actually is. They focus on the abundance of what God has given us. Recently I heard a talk from Revd Sam Wells and he talked inspiringly about God's abundance. He discussed how Adam and Eve could only see what they could not have. They were given all the trees in the whole garden but they fixated on what they couldn't have rather than seeing the glory of the whole garden. Sam went on to say that God sends us everything that we need to do what he is calling us to do. He also said that acceptance of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life are fundamentally an invitation to God's abundance. If we open

our eyes we can see God's superabundance. In the Gospels we see where there is far too much bread for the 5000. Why not let us all celebrate God's infinite abundance and at your next PCC meeting why not ask every PCC member to list a positive about your church and do the same at subsequent meetings?

Looking at those positives you then need to look at how they fit into the model of how you run your church. If you have a growing church you may feel that you are doing everything the right way but constantly monitoring that will ensure that you are adaptable to your changing environment. For others not growing, you need to ask, is what you are doing working and if not, why are you continuing to do it? I, like many of you, am passionate about my church and want it to thrive, and there is always that fear of throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

I appreciate that the following paragraph is a bit random but we need to get younger people in our churches. For many of our churches, the fifty somethings would definitely be viewed as younger. These people are about to finish their working life, they often have empty nest syndrome, they have more disposable income and have more time to volunteer. I, and this is my thought rather than a diocesan idea, feel that we should target this group of people if only to volunteer in our communities, but at the same time encourage them to be transformed by Christ. At the same time we need to keep encouraging families to join our church life.

In this issue of PCC News parishes have very kindly sent in articles about alternative uses for church buildings as well as ideas for starting prayer and bible study groups. Yes, they start small but from these acorns great oaks grow.

# Going forward harmoniously

**Milee Brambleby**  
Mediation Team Leader

As we approach the season of Annual Parochial Church Meetings, it's a good time to think about how we can set ourselves up for a productive and positive year. In 2023 change of one kind or another is likely to be on the agenda. Sometimes, navigating our way to decisions on what to change, whether to change and how to change, can feel like a daunting prospect. Here are five things to have in mind as you and your PCC set out into 2023.

### 1. Agree how you want to work together

What does good team work look and sound like in your context? What behaviours do you expect of each other? What behaviours aren't helpful or acceptable? How do you formally arrive at, vote on and record decisions? How do you communicate decisions? How do you manage share of voice? Sometimes there is a dominant voice at the table which can make it hard for others to contribute. What might you need to do to ensure everyone feels invited to

speaking? N.B. If you don't think there is a dominant voice at your meetings just consider for a minute whether it might actually be yours! Further ideas can be found here: [www.DofN.org/code-of-conduct](http://www.DofN.org/code-of-conduct)

### 2. Encourage and welcome all the possible options

Human beings everywhere need to feel that they have been heard. It is important that every opinion is allowed its place in a discussion process. Sometimes a plethora of views can feel overwhelming so make sure you have a way of capturing them all succinctly. In meetings, a white board or flip chart can be helpful as it keeps everything in plain view and demonstrates clearly that what has been said has been heard and noted.

### 3. Agree how you will choose which option(s) to pursue

What key drivers and constraints must be considered? E.g. alignment with Parish/Diocesan mission and vision, safeguarding considerations, legal responsibilities including charitable obligations, financial considerations, pastoral considerations, availability and capacity of volunteers/clergy/staff.



### 4. Acknowledge strong feelings

People have strong feelings about all kinds of things in church life from the liturgy we use to the brand of biscuits we choose for coffee mornings. When someone is expressing a deeply held view, it can help to acknowledge that they feel strongly about it. Often too, we find it easier to say what we don't want rather than what we do, so people may need encouragement to express their view positively and constructively.

### 5. Would it help to talk it over?

The diocesan mediation team has a wealth of experience in helping individuals and groups to talk and work together well in challenging times. If you'd like a confidential chat about challenges your PCC is facing in 2023, just pick up the phone or drop us a line.

Contact Milee Brambleby on: **07468 570471** or [milee.brambleby@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:milee.brambleby@dioceseofnorwich.org)

## Who Let The Dads Out?

**Alan Cossey**  
All Saints' Church, Mattishall

For about a decade, All Saints' Mattishall (aka ASM) has run a parents and pre-schoolers group called "Little Angels" each Wednesday during term time, but of the 20-30 parents there each week only 2-3 are dads. In late 2018 we heard of "Who Let The Dads Out (WLTDO)?" something aimed specifically at dads, and went to see how a couple of such groups were being run in Cromer and Sheringham.

We were impressed so decided to try a similar group one Saturday each month with a slightly higher age range, up to school year 1 (now up to year 2). We only averaged 3 dads for the first few months and to be honest, wondered whether it was worthwhile, though those who came enjoyed it. Then 6 dads came along. Yippee! We continued with a similar number of dads (with 10 little ones) until March 2020 when we suddenly had 13 dads (and 18 little ones)!

Then the first lockdown happened. Frustration!

We started up again in August 2021 with numbers initially low, but were up to 12 dads and 17 kiddies last time we met. People have found out about the group via



mums at Little Angels, Facebook groups, Nextdoor.co.uk and the local parish council's quarterly magazine. We also put flyers through doors regularly.

We have two main aims. Firstly, it can be hard for dads to get time with their little ones and, let's be honest, to know what to do when they do have time! WLTDO lets dads have fun with their youngsters in a safe, warm environment and also to meet with other dads in a similar situation (and feast on bacon butties). We also plug it to mums as a chance for them to have a bit of time off!

That seems to work well.

Secondly, we get a bit of a chance to chat with the dads about God. We would like to do it more than we are doing at present but it is starting to be a way into the church family for one or two of the dads. One dad is having two sons baptised soon and has said that they see ASM as "Bounce church". They feel at home here. This may be something that you could quite easily set up in your parish/benefice. Why not give it a go! For more info on WLTDO as a whole, do have a look at [www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wltdo](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/wltdo)

## To advertise in PCC News

If you would like to advertise in PCC News please contact Naomi Rizk on **01603 882322** or email [naomi.rizk@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:naomi.rizk@dioceseofnorwich.org)





# The Bishop's Lent Appeal 2023

**Elizabeth Humphries**  
Communications Manager

## Why get involved?

The Bishops' Lent Appeal 2023 will help to raise money for the new Priscilla Bacon Lodge hospice building which will increase the capacity for end of life specialist care in Norfolk and Waveney. The funds received will be in memory of The Venerable Ian Bentley, the former Archdeacon of Lynn, who received palliative care from staff at the current Priscilla Bacon Hospice.

Bishop Graham says: "Many of you knew Ian, who served the

Diocese of Norwich with such distinction, ministering in its many parishes, including Oulton Broad, St Peter Mancroft and as Archdeacon of Lynn. He also served on the Chapter of Norwich Cathedral. Ian was a faithful minister of the gospel and when he died, many of us lost a friend too. If you are able to, I encourage you to consider donating to support the great work of the Priscilla Bacon Hospice Charity as they work to complete the new hospice building."

If you would like to take part in fundraising, you'll find materials available for churches to use on our website: a general poster, an events

poster and jam jar stickers. You can also order gift aid envelopes. Go to [www.DofN.org/lent](http://www.DofN.org/lent)

If you or your church would like to donate directly, you can do so via the website here:

[www.DofN.org/donate](http://www.DofN.org/donate)

For raising awareness, you may also like to watch or share the video ([www.DofN.org/lent](http://www.DofN.org/lent)) which is a conversation between Bishop Graham and Revd Helen Garrard, who gives an overview of her work as a hospice chaplain at Priscilla Bacon Lodge.

Please consider ways your church may wish to give, or how you could organise an event to raise money.

## Working as a hospice chaplain



The words below are part of a conversation taken from the Lent Appeal video between Bishop Graham and Revd Helen Garrard, hospice chaplain at Priscilla Bacon Lodge. To watch the video in full, please go to [www.DofN.org/lent](http://www.DofN.org/lent)

**Bishop Graham:** Can you give us an overview of the work you do?

**Revd Helen:** The work of chaplaincy as a profession, sits in health care, alongside all the other multidisciplinary team members, so I join with doctors, nurses,

physios, the whole team in terms of providing holistic care for patients.

The central work of chaplaincy though, really, is the establishment of a hospitable and therapeutic relationship for patients, for those who care most about them, their family and staff. And in that space, we hope to enable patients to talk about what's most on their hearts and minds at this time of their lives, their thoughts, their big questions, their feelings, their fears and their hopes. And to do so in a way that we can share that burden and enable them to live the best life that they are able, alongside all of the other treatments that are helping them.

But of course, because, within the NHS, the key priority is that care is equitable for all, that care is given irrespective of their faith, belief or lack of it, and it's given to everyone in our care, so a lot of my work is also is management and support of a team of chaplains and making sure that everyone gets

access to spiritual, religious and pastoral care as they need it.

**Bishop Graham:** And for that team, as well as being alongside the patient who's here, you're there for the families.

**Revd Helen:** The work with families is very important. I draw on many biblical images. I quite often think of Christ on the cross and Mary and John at the bottom and that entrustment and I think of that when families leave their loved ones in our care and I think of what a privilege it is and I hope that what we can do within chaplaincy care and spiritual and pastoral care is to offer a still place, in all of those stormy waters that people are living through. Somewhere they can touch and find shelter and refuge and hopefully to find a hope beyond the situation they are in that will give them some resource and light and power to cope.

## Goodbye and thanks



### Bishop Alan writes:

As I reflect back on my time in the diocese, one of the things for which I am very grateful is the collaboration with the many excellent lay leaders in parishes with whom I've had the privilege of working. I recognise that you have a challenging job but am constantly impressed with the resilience and commitment I've seen to serve God and the communities in which you live.

One of the things I'm happiest to have played a part in is the introduction of the Authorised

Worship Assistant initiative which has seen over 150 lay people newly engaged in leading worship. Our future as a church must involve a greater desire to draw out the gifts God has undoubtedly given us, gifts that have sometimes lain dormant and unused.

I am writing this as we celebrate the feast of Candlemas and, among other things, draw inspiration from the lives of Simeon and Anna. They waited patiently in the Lord's house for the moment when God would act to bring consolation and renewed hope to the people. Their patience, prayerfulness and devotion are presented as examples to us, and I have often seen those qualities among the lay leaders who serve our churches. So thank you for the inspiration you are to me and to others and for all that we have shared in the service of God.

## Prayer

Transformed by Christ  
to become more **PASTORAL**

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

Amen

## Lent Appeal 2023 Fundraising Ideas

Below we've listed 10 fundraising ideas to help you plan events for the Lent Appeal. Don't forget – you can download posters and jam jar stickers from: [www.DofN.org/lent](http://www.DofN.org/lent)

### 1. Pancake Party

Invite your friends, family, neighbours and church members to come along and join in the fun. A small donation can be made on the door which entitles guests to two pancakes with fillings of their choice. Set up a pancake bar with a selection of toppings such as; lemons, sugar, honey, banana - pretty much whatever your imagination tells you! If you're feeling energetic after all those pancakes you could even have a pancake race. We'd love to see your pictures! Tag us on social media using [@diocesenorwich](https://twitter.com/diocesenorwich) on Twitter and [@dioceseofnorwich](https://www.instagram.com/dioceseofnorwich) on Instagram.

### 2. Lent lunches

Why not hold a week of Lent lunches? This is a great chance to get your community together and support the Lent Appeal Project.

### 3. Sponsored Prayer walking

Start a prayer walking group around your village or town. Pray for those dealing with long term illness or a terminal diagnosis, their families and those who care for them. We would always recommend walking in pairs, especially at night.

### 4. Tech free time

An idea for teenagers – why not give up social media or screen time and get sponsored for it. Give up all technology (or selected technology) for however long you think you can cope.

### 5. Auction of Promises

Ask members of your church and

community if they will promise to wash cars, do some gardening, mow lawns or do DIY and auction off the promises to the highest bidder.

### 6. Friday Fish & Chips evening

Traditionally during Lent, Christians did not to eat meat on Fridays. So why not hold a Fish & Chips evening and invite your community?

### 7. Make Jam!

If you're good at making jam, you can get some jam jar stickers from the Lent Appeal page, stick them on your jam jars and sell at your church or church hall. [www.DofN.org/lent](http://www.DofN.org/lent)

### 8. Cake sale

Baking is a great activity for all ages and can really bring people together. If your church hall has the facilities, why not bake something during Sunday school with the children and sell it at tea and coffee time? Alternatively, hold a coffee morning and ask people to donate cakes and treats.

### 9. Football Match (running or walking)

Ask a local team to play a match against your church team or play your youth group against the senior members of your church. Ask each player to pay a fee to play and sell tickets to the game. Organise a raffle at half time and ask for prizes to be donated by local businesses.

### 10. Quiz night

Speak to your local pub / restaurant / community space and see if they will partner with you to hold a one-off Quiz Night or if they will use their regular Quiz Night to raise money for the Lent Appeal. A great way to get the local community involved and aware of the Appeal! Or hold a Quiz night in your church or church / community hall.

## The Coronation of King Charles

The Coronation of King Charles takes place on Saturday 6 May 2023 at Westminster Abbey.

On Sunday 7 May, neighbours and communities are invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches. On Monday 8 May 'The Big Help Out' is aimed at encouraging people to use volunteering to bring communities together and create a lasting volunteering legacy from the Coronation weekend.

Keep an eye on the website: [www.dioceseofnorwich.org](http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org) and sign up to eNews for current information.



Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. The Diocese of Norwich is blessed with over 600 churches and we need to be bold and creative in how we use them. Here are some ideas of what is happening in our diocese. I hope it gives you food for thought. Or you may already be doing something amazing that we need to share; if so, please drop me a line.

# Coffee is the vehicle

**The Revd Tom Eagles**  
Vicar, STN Church

We have all recently been reminded of the national decline in numbers of those who consider themselves Christian, and how Norwich remains – at least statistically speaking – one of the most Godless cities in the UK. In one sense, none of this comes as a surprise. The decline in church attendance has been well documented over the last few decades and now the anecdotal evidence of a post-pandemic acceleration in this decline has been backed up with some concerning statistics. But despite the statistics and the fact that those coming into contact with the church through occasional offices and attendance of Sunday services may be reducing, the spiritual hunger across our nation remains as real and acute as it ever has done.

With these realities comes the necessity for creativity in mission and the challenge for the Church to diversify. It is in response to this opportunity that the Mitre Benefice is seeking to respond, by creating spaces into which

people can be invited and can freely come, and in which they can encounter the Church and the love of Jesus outside of what might be considered a normal church service.

The first practical steps of response for the Mitre Benefice came in 2015 when The Sanctuary Coffee Stop was launched after St Alban Church on Grove Walk was reopened and revitalised. The 'Sanctuary Coffee Stop' as it is now known, is a café that operates inside the Church building, facilitating and supporting midweek missional activity such as pilates and Zumba classes, a monthly Jazz morning, and a sing and rhyme group for parents and toddlers. The Sanctuary likewise operates across the week and outside of these core missional activities, creating a consistent, warm, credible and safe space into which people can come and feel at home. Everyone is welcome, and it is a place in which the church and unchurched can consistently meet, connect and communicate.

A second venture began in 2016, when The Mitre pub on the Earlham Road was purchased through the gifts and generosity of the congregation of St Thomas

Norwich. The pub, which until 2015 was operating as a Chinese restaurant, was refurbished and reopened as a bistro. But now, as well as church staff offices, the space operates as a coffee shop during the day and a missional space that the church is able to use to host missional activity during the evenings and weekends. The Mitre serves, for example, as the perfect venue to host Alpha courses, as it makes the invite to the unchurched a little bit easier; for many, the thought of stepping inside a pub is a little less daunting than stepping into a church for the first time.

While the outworking of each of the spaces is slightly different, the motivation behind both and the assumption is the same; the church cannot solely rely on footfall to communicate the gospel message to those who don't yet know Jesus. Coffee is the vehicle that The Mitre has chosen to missionally respond to the challenging context in which we all find ourselves. For others it will be something different. But the exciting fact is that despite the challenges, the opportunities to reach out and to move out are endless. The time to diversify might just be now.



# Bringing in more and more people

**Helena Lord**  
Churchwarden, Kessingland

In ever challenging times, we are always looking for new ways to attract people into our wonderful church buildings. Many don't feel the draw to come for a Sunday service and so we use our churches for other events and bring new people in through our doors.

**Here are some of the ways we have "re-purposed" our buildings**

In Kessingland, we have a Tower Open Day every August Bank Holiday. This has been done for many years and brings in young and old who can climb to the ringing chamber and then the bell tower and learn how this part of the church operates. We have recruited new bell ringers through this mission outreach, along with their families.

We have a newer member of our Kessingland congregation who is

the organiser of a charitable theatre company that embraces many vulnerable children and adults and is now feeling comfortable to stage a FREE concert, "A Song For You", with a festive theme, in the church for the whole village to enjoy. All donations will support the charity 'CAPPA'.

Back to Basics – teaching about church furniture and symbolism in Kessingland was also very successful. Newer members came and one couple who have not ever worshipped in our church have attended several services now, and after being in love and partnership for many years – they got married in our church in late October. The church was full to the brim.

In Gisleham, there have been two wonderful evenings of "Singalong A Good Time". This brought much happiness and laughter to all who came, especially after lockdown. Music included old favourites, a Blue/Jazz singer, contemporary pop, the now infamous Delilah and organ solos. New members of the

church have resulted from this and one is now on the PCC.

Gisleham also now has a regular group of volunteers looking after the maintenance of the churchyard. This has created a wonderful community relationship within the village and shared spiritual fellowship at the pub afterwards!

Rushmere has held a quiz, with Bangers & Mash Supper, complete with candlelight and torches (no electricity or water in the church!). They have also held children's activities, including a magic show. Again new church members have resulted.

This has all resulted in more mission & outreach, both social & pastoral, plus teaching within the benefice. And it hasn't stopped yet – once the roof project is complete in Kessingland, many more ideas will come to fruition, bringing in more and more people of all ages to enjoy our heritage.

Together we are doing it... Thanks be to God.



# We have the best message in the world

**The Revd Ian Dyble**  
Weybourne Group

Up here on the North Norfolk Coast we are feeling very positive. We believe that when Jesus said that He would build his church and that the gates of hell would not prevail against it, he really did mean it (Matthew 16:18). We are not blind to the reality of church attendance numbers, or depressing statistics from the CofE or the national census. But there is hope and as the old saying goes (referring to any potential invasion of our shores) 'He who would all England win, must at Weybourne Hope begin!'

There are 658 church buildings in our wonderful diocese, but if we try to do the same thing in all or many of them, then we may well continue to see just small numbers of our communities attending them. And so here in the Weybourne Group we are trying something different; in fact

offering something different – and consistent – at our different churches. These are early days and in one case, West Beckham, we have done very little as the church has been shut for roof repairs, but we have reason to hope!

At Weybourne, the church is at the centre of our largest community (only about 400 mind you!) and so it seemed to make sense to focus on community and all its ages. So every week we have a service for all ages – whether 4 or 40, 9 or 90 – easy to access, very low bar, and the congregation has grown with many people from the community now finding their church home there. Bodham is a similar demographic and now that Weybourne is established we plan to think how we might develop Bodham in a worship partnership with Weybourne.

In Kelling, where there are few, if any families, we have consistent BCP services every Sunday. And the congregation is growing with many who grew up with the BCP

and it is their preferred vehicle for accessing their faith and worship. The gains are small. But they are gains. We are also committed to being an Eco Church, something that is undoubtedly necessary – and attractal – in our current times.

Salthouse has a very small population indeed but the church is glorious, light and quite large. For many years it has been used, alongside a very small congregation worshipping there twice a month, for art exhibitions, and this has provided much needed income and drawn people into the building. We are now developing Salthouse as a centre for Christian Creativity and this is to be reflected in the style and nature of the worship services in 2023.

At Upper Sheringham we have the 'pull' (pardon the pun) of the restored bells and enthusiastic ringers – and a growing number of them – which again is attractal

to many, both those that ring the bells as experts and learners and those who are drawn by their sound. The services at Upper Sheringham are again different to elsewhere in the Benefice and attract those who worship best in a more Eucharistic, Common Worship style of service.

Staggering services of different expressions across the day and having retired clergy to take responsibility for particular parishes does mean that we are able to offer consistency of service times and regularity. People know what they are going to get and when.

And it seems to be working. There is much still to do but we have the best message in the world. The important thing is that people hear it, not necessarily what service style it's heard in.

Please feel free to drop us a line if you'd like any more information. [weybournegroup@gmail.com](mailto:weybournegroup@gmail.com)



## New year, new start

Are you up to date with all your Safeguarding Training?

The 2023 Safeguarding Training Plan is now available, so all details of training requirements as well as forthcoming Leadership Pathways, PtO Pathways & PSO Inductions may be found on the Safeguarding Section of the Diocesan Website at: [www.DofN.org/safeguard-training](http://www.DofN.org/safeguard-training)

To access the Training Portal to complete or update your Safeguarding Basic Awareness, Safeguarding Foundations, Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse and Safer Recruitment and People Management modules, access the following link, go to 'Online courses', register as part of the Diocese of Norwich (that bit is rather important!), and select the module(s) you need you complete:

**Safeguarding Training Portal** ([cofeportal.org](http://cofeportal.org))

If you have any queries, please email Ruth Walker, Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer at: [safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org)

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## TABLE OF PAROCHIAL FEES FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 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.

The 2019 Order set the framework for fees until 2024. It provided that fees would increase annually in line with CPI. The Archbishops' Council will be asked to consider if this remains appropriate in the light of prevailing inflation levels and may propose a revision to be considered by General Synod in February 2023.

For further information about fees refer to the **Guide to Church of England Parochial Fees** and **Frequently Asked Questions** which are available on the Church of England website.

### BAPTISMS

Certificate issued at time of baptism (See Note A1)  
Short certificate of baptism given under section 2, Baptismal Registers Measure 1961

### MARRIAGES

Publication of banns of marriage  
Certificate of banns issued at time of publication  
Marriage Service in church (See Note A3)

### SEARCHES IN CHURCH REGISTERS

Searching registers of marriages for period before 1 July 1837 (See Note A2) (for up to one hour)  
for each subsequent hour or part of an hour  
Searching registers of baptism or burials (See Note A2) (including the provision of one copy of any entry therein) for up to one hour  
for each subsequent hour or part of an hour  
Each additional copy of an entry in a register of baptism  
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)

### EXTRAS

The fees shown in the table do not include charges for heating, the services of a vergier, 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.

	Fee payable To Diocesan Board of Finance £	Fee payable To Parochial Church Council £	Total Fee Payable £
	—	18	18
	—	18	18
	—	36	36
	—	18	18
	240	288	528
	—	36	36
	—	36	36
	—	36	36
	—	36	36
	—	18	18
	—	—	—
	—	18	18

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 is 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.



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## TABLE OF PAROCHIAL FEES FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 – FUNERALS, BURIALS AND MONUMENTS

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 baptisms and marriage services.

The 2019 Order set the framework for fees until 2024. It provided that fees would increase annually in line with CPI. The Archbishops' Council will be asked to consider if this remains appropriate in the light of prevailing inflation levels and may propose a revision to be considered by General Synod in February 2023.

For further information about fees refer to the **Guide to Church of England Parochial Fees** and **Frequently Asked Questions** which are available on the Church of England website.

### Funerals and Burials of Person aged 18 Years or More (See Note B2(i))

#### A. Service in Church

Funeral service in church, whether taking place before or after burial or cremation (See Note B1)  
Burial of body in churchyard immediately preceding or following on from service in church  
Burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains in churchyard immediately preceding or following on from service in church  
Burial of body, or burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains, in cemetery immediately preceding or following on from service in church  
Cremation immediately preceding or following on from service in church  
Burial of body in churchyard on separate occasion (See Note B2(ii))  
Burial of cremated remains in churchyard or other lawful disposal of cremated remains on separate occasion (See Note B2(iii))  
Burial of body, or burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains, in cemetery on separate occasion (See Note B2(iii))

#### B. No Service in Church

Funeral service (including burial of body) at graveside in churchyard  
Funeral service (including burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains) at graveside in churchyard  
Funeral service at crematorium, or funeral service (including burial of body or burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains) in cemetery  
Funeral service in premises belonging to funeral director, whether taking place before or after burial or cremation  
Cremation immediately preceding or following on from funeral service in premises belong to funeral director  
Burial of body in churchyard, not following service at graveside (committal only)  
Burial of cremated remains in churchyard or other lawful disposal of cremated remains (committal only)  
Burial of body, or burial or other lawful disposal of cremated remains, in cemetery (committal only)

#### C. Certificate issued at time of burial (See Note B2(iii))

### MONUMENTS IN CHURCHYARDS

Permitted in accordance with rules, regulations or directions made by the Chancellor of the diocese, including those relating to a particular churchyard or part of a churchyard (but excluding a monument authorized by a particular faculty, the fee for which is set by the Chancellor)  
Small cross of wood  
Small vase not exceeding 305mm x 203mm x 203mm (12" x 8" x 8") or tablet, plaque or other marker commemorating a person whose remains have been cremated  
Any other monument (the above fees include the approval of the original inscription by the incumbent)  
Additional inscription on existing monument

### SEARCHES IN CHURCH REGISTERS

Searching registers of burials (See Note B3) (including the provision of one copy of any entry therein) for up to one hour  
for each subsequent hour or part of an hour  
Each additional copy of an entry in a register of burials

### EXTRAS

The fees shown in the table do not include charges for heating, the services of a vergier, 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.

	Fee payable Towards Diocesan Board of Finance £	Fee payable To Parochial Church Council £	Total Fee Payable £
	124	104	228
	17	348	365
	17	141	158
	33	—	33
	33	—	33
	49	348	397
	49	141	190
	64	18	82
	124	348	472
	124	141	265
	227	—	227
	227	—	227
	33	—	33
	49	348	397
	49	141	190
	33	—	33
	—	18	18
	17	38	55
	17	71	88
	17	149	166
	17	18	35
	—	36	36
	—	36	36
	—	18	18

### NOTES:

#### B1. Definitions etc.

'Burial' includes deposit in a vault or brick grave and the interment or deposit of cremated remains.

'Churchyard' includes the curtilage of a church and a burial ground of a church whether or not immediately adjoining such church.  
(NOTE: This includes any area used for the interment of cremated remains within such a curtilage or burial ground, whether consecrated or not.)

'Cemetery' means any burial ground other than a churchyard.

'Monument' includes headstone, cross, kerb, border, vase, chain, railing, tablet, plaque, marker, flatstone, tombstone or monument or tomb of any other kind.

'Immediately preceding or following on from service in church' includes the day before and the day after the service in church. See note at the top right of the table.  
Where "—" appears in the table no fee is payable to the body indicated.

#### B2. Funerals & Burials

i) No fee is payable in respect of a burial of a still-born infant, or for the funeral or burial of a person dying within eighteen years after birth.  
ii) The fee for a burial in a churchyard or cemetery on a separate occasion applies when burial does not take place on the same day as, or on the day before or the day after, a service in church.  
iii) The certificate issued at the time of burial is a certified copy of the entry in the register book of burials kept under the Parochial Registers and Records Measure 1978.

#### B3. Searches in Church Registers

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

#### B4. Costs and Expenses

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.



Starting anything new in a parish or benefice can be daunting, but from small acorns great oaks can grow! I appreciate that a lot of Bible study/prayer groups are already operating across our diocese, but I have selected just a few stories to point you in the right direction if you are thinking of starting one. I attended a study group just before Christmas and I can honestly say it was an amazing experience. It not only continued to embed my faith but it meant I got to know better members of our congregation I had not really spoken to before. Win, win.

## Friendships formed and faith deepened

**Belinda Barwick**  
LLM Chet Valley benefice

Our group has been going for about 6 years, led by myself and Revd Jill Haylock. It meets on a Wednesday afternoon for about an hour and a half, starting with a cup of tea so that we can catch up on personal news and concerns. We then have a discussion which is usually Bible-based, sharing ideas and questions, and finish with a time of prayer.

There are usually about 6 to 8 people present, mostly, but not all, church members. We continued through the pandemic as soon as the 'rule of 6' started, meeting in the garden of one of our members. It was that exceptionally beautiful summer and we were able to meet safely, making a real difference to the feeling of isolation that the pandemic had brought about.

We have used a variety of materials: sometimes a particular book, the group discussion materials produced by USPG and Embrace the Middle East, an online Bible study or a book of the



New Testament. There are times when our discussions range far and wide, following the interests and enthusiasms of the group, and other times when we stick to the script!

When I asked the group what they enjoyed most about meeting, the general feeling was that talking with like-minded people, open to the views and opinions of others, was something they really valued. We have gone through many major events in our members' lives; bereavement, serious family illnesses and other traumas, and have supported each other in prayer. The great grandchild of

one member had a rare medical condition from birth: we supported him and his family for months in our prayer times and have all felt involved in his progress through to starting school.

The group has strengthened a sense of community and belonging. It gives its members a safe space to air views which we might feel are strange and unorthodox, until we discover that other people are as curious and questioning as we are ourselves. It is a place where friendships are formed and faith is deepened, where we learn what God is like from seeing Him at work in each other.

## Embrace what you can do

**The Revd Graham Wilkins**  
Cringelford Benefice

For many of us, we love to get a chance to talk about our life and faith, to encourage each other to continue our walks with Jesus, to be able to pray with others and to get that relationship building time with other Christians. We might need more than Sunday morning. For many people that is found in small groups – meetings of people during a week.

Now at the moment our small groups are few in Cringelford so don't expect me to tell you how amazing it is to have hundreds. We have one which runs weekly and we run groups at other times – Lent courses, Advent Courses and often special courses such as to look at the Prayer Course. These are small beginnings but during one of our recent Advent courses someone said how great it was to meet together to encourage each other and that we should try to do more of it – and we are going to.

It doesn't have to be slick. If someone is willing to host, it can be as small as some friends meeting weekly over a cup of tea to read the Bible and pray. In the pandemic we gathered on zoom to read through Mark's gospel and to discuss what we read each week. So you could choose a book of the Bible to go through. Maybe there is a particular topic you want to think about. Googling "Small Group Resources" can help – as can visiting Revelation Resource Centre if you visit Norwich. There are different resources that are available to guide and help you through it, you don't have to be Spiritual Giants, just want to know more of Jesus. There can be times of praying and sharing concerns. Maybe play some hymns or worship songs...I'm not a musician so it is often YouTube or a CD that does the heavy lifting on this!

Don't be put off by what you can't do, embrace what you can do and maybe in 2023 start or join a small group to spend a bit more time getting to know God and getting to know each other.

## Reaching out to those of little or no faith

**Revd Canon Nigel Tuffnell**  
Redenhall with Scole Benefice

Our small groups grew out of a common desire to grow our faith beyond our Sunday worship. In small groups it is easier to ask questions, pray out loud and encourage one another in our journey of faith. They are also ideal for getting to know people well. It is amazing how you can sit next to someone in church for years, and never find out much about them, or they about you. With knowledge and occasional shared meals, trust grows, along with our experience of Christian fellowship.

With busy lives we meet fortnightly or monthly, and weekly during Lent. We may study a book of the Bible, looking for guidance on how to live in the freedom of the Spirit. Another time we could be studying prayer, its many aspects and how they can enhance our communication with God. We may look at a theme such as generosity, and what the Bible

tells us, or perhaps consider what the Biblical names for God say about who God is. Every now and again, we may just have a time of fellowship and prayer, or a social with food and drink.

When we began, there was the hope that our small groups would be the ideal place from which to reach out to those of little or no faith. They could then be safe places within which to explore Christianity, before being introduced to lots of people and strange services in church. This has happened, but only to a very limited extent. Still the potential is there, and the hope of further growth.

In our benefice we have a range of small groups, led by different ministers, and each with its own style. We meet in homes and pubs, and occasionally in church. Some groups are more scholarly or structured, some are very definitely neither of these. Whatever the content or style, we meet to deepen our relationship with Christ, and we hope that there is a group for everyone.

## Being agents of God's transforming power



**The Revd Helen Jary**  
Oulton Broad Team Ministry

Prior to the pandemic, there were home groups meeting in our parishes but it was felt that there was scope for a revised approach. The period of Covid-related restriction, when everything moved online, became a margin between the old system and something new; so, we began to think and pray about how we might restructure our approach to small groups.

A new vision for small groups in Oulton Broad emerged. The

overall aim was to facilitate transformation, which obviously chimes with our Diocesan Vision. This was summarised in the following way: being transformed and being agents of God's transforming power and love. We wanted to ensure that the groups would be outward looking and growing, equipping us for everyday discipleship, and so it was felt that they should be called 'Life Groups', a change from the previous 'Home Groups'.

We identified two people to act as coordinators for each group as well as a host. We then invited our congregations to think and pray about joining a group and asked for preferences, such as meeting daytime or evening. The groups were assembled, prayerfully, from the lists of people who expressed interest, with an option to change if people felt that the group where they were placed wasn't quite the right fit.

Our Life Groups were launched in September of this year – seven groups with over seventy people involved, a number of whom had never been involved in a small group before. We meet for chat, Bible study, prayer, food, fellowship, and sometimes socially at additional times. A bank of resources was established, enabling groups to choose what to study. The resources vary from Bible study booklets to video based courses, giving plenty of scope to find something suitable for each group.

One of the pitfalls that we wanted to avoid was filling up everyone's diaries with lots of church meetings and gatherings. Therefore, we decided Life Groups would meet twice a month on weeks other than those when 'business' meetings take place, e.g. PCC or Ministry Team.

The Groups are still young but there has already been much positive feedback from those involved.



# Step by step

Prof John Greenaway  
Earlham

Starting the 'EcoChurch' journey may seem daunting. But you can take reassurance from our experience in Earlham parish, Norwich. The secret is to take things step by step.

First we formed a small EcoChurch group with the support of the PCC and the vicar. Our group is diverse, including a churchwarden, a retiree, a young person and a mother with children, and we report regularly to the PCC in the way that Finance or Buildings committees do.

I think that is important because the EcoChurch strategy will involve initiatives that link to areas like buildings, worship and community outreach. Initially, we wrote a short declaration of intent to help us focus. Next, we persuaded the ministry team to agree to a month-long series of services focusing on eco-theology and the environment.

Then it is important to register with the aRochaUK scheme <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk>.

This will provide you with a comprehensive questionnaire to fill in under five headings: worship and teaching, buildings, land,



community outreach and lifestyle. It also provides loads of resources. The questionnaire highlighted where work needed to be done, but also offered encouragement – we found we were already progressing in two areas: worship and land.

It can also indicate some 'low hanging fruits' that one can start with – it is much easier to put up bird boxes in the grounds than achieve solar panels on the hall roof! Another thing I recommend is to visit and take advice from another parish, further along the road. We received useful guidance from the nearby parish of St Andrews Eaton who kindly saw us. Each parish will have its own opportunities and drawbacks, but we can all move in the same direction and learn from each other.

# Two agitated cats and why they aren't quite so uptight...

Nigel Boldero  
Churchwarden,  
St Peter's, Haveringland

Reflections on a third time lucky application for Heritage Funding and other grants of nearly £250,000

We began our journey towards becoming a 'Festival Church' around 7 years ago. Our church is the only public building in our village (of around 200 people), but over the years its congregation has dwindled, and for most of the time it is closed. Sound familiar?

We developed a new vision – one which saw the building as a place of worship and social activities for the local community (being a Festival Church means we have a minimum of 6 services a year), but which also serves a number of 'communities of interest'. This includes people who are interested in local history (the church, the village, former World War 2 RAF airfield and so on).

It will also serve the wider community as a focus for social and cultural events and activities to enrich lives and promote wellbeing. We have held a number of "shared silences" that make use of our Conservation Churchyard as well as the peaceful atmosphere inside the church, and are looking forward to hosting day-long "retreats".

And the churchyard is an 'island' from which we can promote, with landowners, improvements in biodiversity in the wider landscape.

In 2019 we put together a Lottery bid to make this vision a reality. This included:

- urgent repairs
- wheelchair access and automatic door opening/closing
- new heating and lighting
- an 'all access' w.c.
- galley kitchen
- some pew removal to give more flexibility, and
- an ambitious programme of heritage activities including an interactive console so that people can access a range of local heritage information.

This wasn't successful but we had very positive feedback and were encouraged to resubmit – which we did early in 2022. We were turned down again; this time because the balance between repairs to an



historic building and improvements to it was seen as being skewed too much towards improvements.

This was something that had not been commented on in the previous application, so we challenged this and had some very helpful advice from a Lottery Advisor on how to improve the proposals. Last autumn we submitted once more (this time excluding the W.C. and kitchen) and were successful in securing just under £200,000 – which with other grants means we are just about to commence works and activities worth nearly £250,000.

The activities include research into local history and that of the airfield and presenting this on a new website and in the church; engaging local schoolchildren in puppet making and creating a play about life in the "Victorian Village"; performances of the play "Blood Libel" which tells the tale of "William of Norwich" (who it seems was born and baptised in Haveringland); a series of exhibitions and talks about these and other historical topics; new guides and church trails to promote visitors to the area; developing wellbeing activities; action to

improve biodiversity locally, and arranging a conference around "Reimagining Rural churches".

So what are the lessons? Apart from persistence (and having discussed this with our Lottery Advisor), here are my 'top ten tips' (some a bit more obvious than others):

1. Read and understand the National Lottery Heritage Fund advice and guidance
2. Pay attention to details
3. Have an adequate contingency/inflation fund
4. Think carefully about the ongoing viability of your church and how it can support a continuing attention to heritage
5. Get the investment balance right between means and end – the end is heritage
6. Think about heritage assets in the widest sense – not just buildings, but the stories to be told and how
7. Attract new audiences to heritage – it's good for a variety of reasons, including attracting people to the church
8. Have environmental sustainability as a high priority
9. Make sure the budget adds up – and remember to ask for the cost of activities in addition to the cost of capital works
10. Ask someone who doesn't know anything about the project to read it and explain it back to you

And what about the cats? Well we have two sculpted, unhappy felines at the junction of our tower and the main body of the church – I'm guessing that with works commencing in the next few months they might just be a bit more calm and collected come the end of the year!



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I have included this next article for two reasons. One, I hope that it gives you encouragement reading this inspiring story about living out our faith, like it did for me, and two, I hope that it makes you wonder if this is something you could do?

I can hear many of our readers crying out “Do you know how old we are?!” But we need to think wider. What sort of

people might engage with this project in our community? Would it not likely be a few young families from ours or our neighbouring community? Like sports ministry bringing people to God, gardening may be the way to faith for groups of our communities. Once engaged I hope that the Good Shepherd using careful nurturing will bring them into our Church.

# Hazelnut story: a living witness to the Gospel

Revd John White  
Hazelnut Community

The idea for a community garden church had an unexpected beginning ten years ago when my family and I went on a day trip to Melrose Abbey in the Scottish Borders. Walking through this sacred space, long since abandoned by the religious community, I was fascinated by the descriptions of the life and ministry of the monks who lived there. The signboards described community life that

was governed by rhythms of prayer and a lifestyle that was based on growing food, providing education for the community, offering hospitality, and supplying medicine and basic medical care. In its day, the Abbey was the heart of the community, providing nourishment for soul and body.

What caught my imagination was how practical and holistic this communal life had been. It was a religious community that did not only offer worship and prayer but engaged with the local population as a living witness to the Gospel,

caring for mind and body as well as heart and soul. I left with the question reverberating in my head: What if we could create spaces like Melrose Abbey, for our time? This led me on a journey to engage with others who are writing and thinking about the wealth of wisdom from past religious communities and how their witness can impact the Church today.

Eight years later, after much reading about the religious life and studying new forms of monasticism, I found myself in my first year of curacy still thinking and pondering about how I might create a sacred space that had the flavour of Melrose Abbey. With these thoughts in the back of my mind, I took my children to visit Windmill City Farm in Bristol on a free afternoon. Built on a site that had been bombed during World War II and left to be overrun by rats until the council decided to tarmac it for parking, it was eventually saved by the local community who fought back to reclaim the space, ultimately building a beautiful community farm in the middle of the city.

It was a beautiful warm day when we visited, and I took great pleasure in watching my children climb trees and run around the allotments. I felt deep joy as I stood there, taking in the beautiful green space that had been created in the midst of an urban environment. I recognised that this modern city farm had many of the elements of the historic abbey



life. It is a hub for the community to gather together around food and education. The only thing it lacked was a sacred space, where people were able to encounter and connect with the Creator.

On that day I had what Pope Francis would call an 'ecological conversion', a change of heart and mind when thinking about the world and our relationship with it that is inspired by a rediscovery of the deep wells of our faith. This conversion opened my eyes to the beautiful and unique ways in which the earth declares creator God and convinced me that the climate emergency is the biggest issue facing the Church today and one that will need swift, radical, and imaginative solutions. Plans grew in my mind for a church plant that would have as its core a church rooted in nature; a sacred space that engaged deeply with

climate emergency.

Fast forward almost 3 and a half years and we are well on our way to seeing this vision become a reality with a community garden church planted in Bristol that is biodiverse in earth and people. It's a worshipping community that has Creator, creation, and community present in all we do. Despite the original motivation of the climate emergency for meeting in nature, it is here that we have encountered Christ and one another in a deep and meaningful way; unforeseen and yet completely welcome. From this land aim to share our learnings in collaborations and new friendships in order to help other communities put their hands in the soil.

More information and ways to be involved are available on our website: [hazelnutcommunityfarm.com](http://hazelnutcommunityfarm.com)

As we start the new year we need to consider different services that may attract people to join us for worship to hear the Good News. Have a look at the list and see which of the following may work in your parish.

Here is a list of services you may like to consider:

- |                 |             |             |                    |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|
| ■ Creationtide  | ■ Lammas    | ■ Epiphany  | ■ Ascension        |
| ■ Plough Sunday | ■ Harvest   | ■ Lent      | ■ Pentecost        |
| ■ Lambing       | ■ Advent    | ■ Holy Week | ■ Trinity          |
| ■ Rogationtide  | ■ Christmas | ■ Easter    | ■ Remembrance-tide |

Advertorial

## Multi-media to any device

Info Point is revolutionising self-guided church tours across the UK. It rewards visitors for visiting because the stories shared on it are only available to those who come to the site. This is seen as a key way to boost donations.

During the pandemic, brothers-in-law Dan Boys and Joseph Middleton set up Wildfi to help boost churches and other cultural venues with an innovative solution that delivers multimedia content to any mobile device.

Connecting to Info Point is a simple two-step process using QR codes, which made a revival during Covid-19 as part of the NHS Track & Trace scheme. Visitors can then freely browse videos, audio, text, images and interactives without

any downloads, logins or mobile data needed.

The Church Tour feature has proved to be one of the most popular features on Info Point. Visitors are guided around the church on their phone and use the interactive floor plan to learn about key features, artefacts and stories.

Tony Walmsley, Church Treasurer at a church in Lowestoft commented, “Our Open Days have gone really well. We introduced Info Point to visitors as a way to do their conducted tour, to start where they wanted and to look at what they were interested in. That allowed them to relax and go at their own pace. Some visitors who used it stayed

for more than an hour.”

Info Point ([www.info-point.com](http://www.info-point.com)) is a standalone, plug and play system that uses less power than one low energy light bulb. Content is easy to upload and update using the intuitive content management system, which has been designed by our team specifically for Info Point.

Wildfi are offering a 20% discount and a free church tour interactive floor plan for the first church in the Diocese of Norwich that places an order, quoting Norwich23. All subsequent Info Point orders from the diocese in 2023 will get a free interactive floor plan (worth £500).

Contact Dan at Wildfi to discuss further: [infopoint@wildfi.co.uk](mailto:infopoint@wildfi.co.uk), 01773 432303.

 [info-point.com](http://info-point.com)

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Picture showing St Peters church, Swainsthorpe, with congregation members and the Revd. Dawn Davidson.

## Something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue

**Susan Peters Corbett**  
Churchwarden

St Peters Church, Swainsthorpe, has a small but active congregation and we have some good news to share!

Our church gates were in a terrible state of repair. Originally installed in the 1960s, they were made of oak and once were strong. For the last few years, they have been falling apart, despite the helpful repairs undertaken by Stephen Talby, one of our parishioners, and Charles Carron Brown and Andy Haggith (both members of the PCC as well as the congregation).

### Something new

Two members of our congregation have gifted a new gate to us, in commemoration of their marriage at St Peter's a few years ago. Their generous gift has transformed the look of the church as you approach it, as well as providing a secure boundary and gates that work without one needing to do a gym workout first!

### Something borrowed

Thoughtful as ever, our kind donors reused the old metalwork on the gate where possible, so some of the hinges and furniture from the old gate have been cleaned up, japanned and become part of the

new gate. The good wood from the old oak gate is being reworked into items for the church, such as a new advent ring and possibly some candle sticks, providing a sense of continuity whilst recycling and reducing waste.

### Something blue

Our first ever church sign, bought with a grant from the Good News Fund (provided by the Diocese of Norwich) has now been erected. It tells visitors and churchgoers the name of the church, the contact details for the Rector, the services for the month, and even has a space to advertise special events. None of this information was available before unless you looked at the notice board inside the church porch. So now our parishioners can easily see what is going on in the church and we can spread the "Good News". There will be a service on 11 September to dedicate the new gates.

And as you can see from the picture above, the sign is indeed blue.

## Faculty applications: Transfer of parish books to the Cathedral Library



Photo credit: Bill Smith/Norwich Cathedral.

**Nicholas Cannon**  
DAC Secretary

Parishes occasionally wish to deposit rare or antique books in the Parish Libraries Collection at the Cathedral Library. David Etherington KC, the Chancellor of the Diocese, has granted an Additional Matters Order in respect of such transfers. This means that the deposit of parish books into the Cathedral Library will not require a faculty and can be authorised by an Archdeacon as a List B matter subject to certain conditions.

This Order applies to (a) books of sufficient importance and interest to justify their retention by the Cathedral Library and (b) books which require such retention in order to preserve and care for them properly and (c) books which

the Cathedral Library has agreed to retain and care for.

The conditions are that the books remain the property of the parish, and the books must not be lent by the Library to any third party or sold without the consent of the parish and a faculty authorising it.

For any query on this subject, please contact Nicholas Cannon, DAC Secretary, at: [nicholas.cannon@dioceseofnorwich.com](mailto:nicholas.cannon@dioceseofnorwich.com), 01603 882350.



## Faculty application fees increase

A new Ecclesiastical Fees Order has been issued, coming into effect on 1 January 2023. This Order increases the cost of a faculty application from a total of £311.20 to £317. In our Diocese, the Diocesan Board of Finance normally pays the cost of a faculty application, unless

there are special circumstances involved. However, parishes will wish to be aware of the increase in fees in dealing with private faculty applications.

For any query on this subject, please email Nicholas Cannon, DAC Secretary or call 01603 882350.



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You will notice that Jonathan and I have collaborated on the article below. It has come about following a conversation at the coffee machine. We both felt passionately about 'intention' and our faith so we sat down and penned the following article. We are only a small part of the Parish Support Team who want to see your parishes flourish and we and our colleagues are here as a team to support you in any way that we can. We hope that you feel inspired by the article.

## Be bold!

**Jonathan Richardson**  
Children, Youth and Families

**Robert Culyer**  
Editor

Travelling across our Diocese and meeting with many PCCs we are humbled by the plethora of great acts of selfless giving being carried out to support less fortunate people in our communities. But, it does make us wonder how many of our parishes take that next step and encourage those they are helping to embrace and feel the love of our Lord?

We would like you to challenge yourselves and ask – what is our intention? Why are we doing it? At a meeting we both happened to be at recently someone said we need to be aware that you don't have to be Christian to do good. So, we ask again, why are we doing these good deeds? What is our intention?

Jesus said that "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35). We become the signpost to Jesus. In the same way, maintaining our church buildings or encouraging people to come to church is not the main intention. Our overall intention is that the church, both building and people, should be a signpost to direct people to God, through Jesus.

We checked in the dictionary for the meaning of intention and it said: "Intentions are mental states in which the agent commits themselves to a course of action". We should commit ourselves to share the Good News in both words and actions.

What could sharing the Good News look like? It doesn't need

to be scary and starts with simple acts to help people feel comfortable and connected. It might be something as simple as giving someone a leaflet explaining what happens in your church; that it is a welcoming space and encourages people to come in and just sit and absorb the atmosphere. You might offer a befriending service by arranging for someone to sit with them? You might offer transport? Make it clear that they do not have to be Christian to attend church. It was interesting at a seminar recently when the speaker asked if those attending would know what to do if they went into a betting shop. Everyone said no and we were told that someone visiting church for the first time could feel just as lost and bewildered. This is an important message for churches.

There are many reasons why we may feel nervous about sharing the Gospel more boldly. Many people talk of being ill equipped, not knowing where to start, fear of rejection, or fear of scaring people away. It is striking that in the latest census results the media focused on the fact that less than half the nation identified as Christian (whether that is based on a committed faith or cultural heritage) – but if you turn that round then nearly half the population do recognise a connection to Christianity. The "Talking Jesus" research which has recently been updated found that 53% of non-Christians know a practising Christian, 45% of the population believe in the resurrection and 33% want to know more about Jesus – that is one in three. This gives all of us hope that if we start a conversation then we have a good chance of it not causing offence – and it might be welcomed.

There is a current TV advert that shows someone driving where all the signposts are blank. The driver



is left looking lost and bemused, but then the words appear on the signs and the ad proclaims – "it's good when everything is clear".

As you offer warm spaces, toddler groups, church cafés, other community events etc, consider how you might intentionally use them as signposts to Jesus. It is important that we find ways to prompt conversations, so it might be as simple as having Bible story toys or books available, using Christian background music at events or making sure that signage and leaflets have a simple explanation of the Christian faith.

Consider having a course planned that you can invite those interested in finding out about faith, such as "Christianity Explored" or the "321" course. Alongside this you might consider running a course for your congregation to help them feel more confident talking about their faith. There are good courses such as "Talking Jesus", "Just Start Talking", "Life of the Frontline", "Faith Pictures" and more. You can find information on these via the Diocese of Norwich Mission Hub under the section for Evangelism or Courses. You might like to invite one of the Mission Enabling Team to come and help you run the course.

"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15)

## Re-introducing the Church Building Ambassadors

**Frances Jackson**  
Church Building Support Officer

Have you ever wanted to talk to a fellow Churchwarden or PCC member about a task you are considering, or needed some friendly advice from someone who has experience of caring for a church building? This can be very helpful to parishes starting out on a journey, whether that is a repair project or deciding to work on their welcome and tourism offering. So when I started working at the Diocese in September I was delighted to find that there was a group of volunteers known as the Church Building Ambassadors who could do just this; offer friendly advice and support to other churches on a range of topics.

Churchwardens and PCC members do a huge amount of work to care for their churches and that brings both joys and challenges. The network of Church Building Ambassadors has been built up of people with diverse skills and experience who are familiar with these challenges and willing to help. Some of

the tasks Ambassadors have been involved in are planning maintenance and understanding QIRs, establishing Friends Groups, strengthening welcome and tourism, and advice on funding applications, to name but a few. Ambassadors are experienced colleagues and friends, rather than professional advisors, and we are very grateful to all those who have helped fellow churches in Norfolk over many years.

The existing team of Ambassadors met for a reunion at the end of November '22 and will meet during the year to learn, share experience and news, and enjoy good company.

Would you like to speak to an Ambassador about a project or a query you have about your church building? Or do you have experience you would like to share and think you could be an Ambassador? We would very much like to hear from you! Please contact Frances Jackson, Historic Church Building Support Officer ([frances.jackson@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:frances.jackson@dioceseofnorwich.org), 01603 882336) or speak to another member of the Church Care and Development Team.

## A digital boost to your giving?

This year the Diocese of Norwich is taking part in the National Church's digital rollout.

We will have a variety of contactless machines, available at £30 each, to suit the needs and connectivity of your parish. There will be a variety of machines available. The Generous Giving Team would like to hear from you if you are interested in having one of these machines. The team will be here to support you on every step of getting the machine installed and up and running in your parish. It may be easier to qualify for a machine than you think!

You can register your expression of interest by contacting Naomi Rizk on: 01603 882358, [naomi.rizk@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:naomi.rizk@dioceseofnorwich.org)

The dates of the rollout are as follows:

**February 2023:** Applications open

**March 2023:** Successful churches notified

**March to May 2023:** Churches to complete merchant account set up and attend webinar

**July 2023:** Machines will be issued and set up, and in person training given

As we move increasingly to a cashless society this is a great opportunity for churches to offer an additional mechanism to enable people to give and live out their faith.

*Looking for ways to give your fundraising a boost?*

*Have you thought about hosting a valuation day with Keys Auctioneers for a fun Antiques Roadshow style event?*

Our valuers offer advice and valuations on a wide range of items including ceramics, jewellery, paintings and silver etc.

With ALL donations going towards your fundraising efforts, whether it's maintenance for the building or a charity of your choice.

Contact David Broom for more information and advice on 01263 733195 or email [david.broom@keysauctions.co.uk](mailto:david.broom@keysauctions.co.uk)

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01263 733195

Image from a valuation day at St. Andrews Church, Deopham



# Moving with the times

**Robert Culyer**  
Generous Giving Adviser

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) now has an added feature. It is now set up to take one off gifts as well as receiving regular giving. Visitors to your church can now make a one off donation to support the work of your church using a QR code or by going on line.

We now have 95 churches in our diocese signed up to PGS who are seeing the advantages of this exciting new resource.

#### The church benefits from:

- stable and often increased planned giving, offsetting 'static' giving
- Gift Aid being claimed automatically. This means less work for your treasurer and Gift Aid secretary and can improve cash flow
- protection against inflation by church members choosing to increase their gift annually in line with the rate of inflation
- Receiving one off gifts from visitors who do not carry cash.

#### The treasurer benefits from:

- reduced administration and paperwork

- time saved for them and the people who count and have to bank the money
- improved security by reducing cash management.

#### The individual benefits from:

- being in total control of how much they give
- a simple giving method that means regular financial support for their church
- the option to increase giving annually to protect their gift against inflation
- a direct debit guarantee meaning that gifts are safe and secure
- having access to tokens to put on the offering plate at each service

- having access to help from the Diocese of Norwich and the Parish Giving Scheme office in Gloucester.

And the best bits are that it is free to your parish to use and the money goes directly into your parish's bank account on a monthly basis!

For more information, please contact: Robert Culyer, 01603 882326 [robert.culyer@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:robert.culyer@dioceseofnorwich.org) or Colin Tomlin, 01603 882323 [colin.tomlin@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:colin.tomlin@dioceseofnorwich.org)

Sometimes we are not aware of the great things that are going on in our diocese. The two stories here demonstrate the opportunities provided to encourage personal growth and development of future church leaders

## Encouraging young leaders

**Revd Canon Edward Carter**  
St Peter Mancroft, Norwich

St Peter Mancroft in Norwich is one of the churches in the Diocese where young adults participate in the Ministry Experience Scheme (MES). This is a national programme which aims to encourage the next generation of leaders in the life of the church to explore their vocation in a practical way.

Speaking about MES, Mancroft's Vicar, Canon Edward Carter, said: "In each of the last four years we've been blessed to welcome one or two young adults. Although there's plenty for them to learn, the truth is we learn lots from them as well, the energy and enthusiasm they bring is a fantastic gift for us as a church."

The Revd Dr Fiona Haworth, Associate Priest at Mancroft, coordinates the Scheme for the Diocese, and she also has day-to-day oversight of any Mancroft participants. As she says, "The young adults who've joined us here have had a chance to contribute to projects such as the Gaia art installation in October 2021, as well as gain experience leading worship and preaching. The pandemic lockdowns have been challenging,

but despite everything the scheme has been a great blessing."

St Peter Mancroft commits to funding up to three MES places, and various grants are available to help make this possible. An important element is the provision of suitable accommodation, and part of this has involved generous offers from congregation members. There have also been donations from church members specifically targeted at supporting the running of the MES at Mancroft.

Participants on the MES are often exploring ordained ministry, and this has been the case for some at St Peter Mancroft. However, others have gone on to train as teachers or to follow other vocational paths. At Mancroft there are also Organ Scholarships and Choral Scholarships, which provide opportunities for the rising generation of church musicians. "To see such committed and very capable Christian leaders early in their vocational journey is a very heartening thing", said Canon Carter. "It makes you realise that God is still very much at work in our midst and gives me tremendous hope for the future of the Church of England. The leaders of the future are one of the most precious gifts that God is giving us today."



## Opportunities to work in mission



**Revd Paul Wilkinson**  
Fountain of Life

The Fountain of Life Network Church (FoL Church) located in Ashill, mid-Norfolk, offers an exciting and varied 1-year internship programme for 18–24 year olds. FoL Church is a resource church, providing opportunities to work in mission and outreach with children, youth, families, in worship and pastoral care, across a large geographical area. We're also connected with a range of local churches throughout the Diocese of Norwich and have strong, working connections to the national New Wine network.

#### We offer:

- One to one mentoring
- Regular theological teaching
- Development time with leaders in the church, working in different areas of ministry within and outside the church walls
- Opportunities to grow and explore areas of gifting and interest
- Serving within the variety of ministries run by FoL
- The possibility of running your own outreach project
- Accommodation in the church

house or with congregation members.

FoL church works in over 20 schools through its Kidz Klub ministry, operates its own pre-school and runs a parent & toddler group. It has a thriving youth work programme that operates in Ashill, Dereham and Carbrooke, running discipleship groups, youth services and social gatherings, and we're reaching out into local communities with God's love, seeing transformation through our Missional Communities. It also has a growing sports ministry, which connects people across a range of ages.

Our interns work with a broad team of staff and volunteers, assisting at events and helping to develop the outreach and pastoral care the church offers to the groups and communities it serves. Internships are offered on a full-time basis although we are happy to discuss other possibilities.

Applications forms and information packs are available from the church office [admin@folchurch.co.uk](mailto:admin@folchurch.co.uk) or call 01760 441902. It will be great to hear from you!

## Here to help...

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

**01603 880853**  
[info@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:info@dioceseofnorwich.org)

## Useful websites

#### Previous editions of PCC News

Download and read previous editions in PDF format  
[www.DofN.org/pccnews](http://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](http://www.DofN.org/churchgrants)

#### Diocesan Registry

For advice on legal matters  
[www.DofN.org/registry](http://www.DofN.org/registry)

#### Church Care

Lots of information on caring for church buildings, contents, churchyards, and developing your church building  
[www.churchcare.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://www.parishresources.org.uk)

#### A Church Near You (ACNY)

A national CoFE tool and an excellent way to get your church online and reach a wider audience.  
[www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

#### eNews

Sign up to eNews for the latest information, stories and resources to encourage and equip you in your ministry across Norfolk and Waveney. Register at: [www.DofN.org/enews](http://www.DofN.org/enews) or contact the communications team on: [news@dioceseofnorwich.org](mailto:news@dioceseofnorwich.org)

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