

PCC News

The newspaper for all PCC members to help support your church



Just one thing for Jesus p3



Closer to God and one another p4



Creating a vision ahead p5



New Environment Officer p8

Infectious enthusiasm to pop-up choir



Tyrone Best
St John the Baptist Church
Garboldisham

One Autumnal coffee morning in Garboldisham Parish Church, a conversation started about starting a pop-up choir for Christmas, and reaching out to the local community. I had previously been involved in conducting choirs, so found myself taking the lead, and via word of mouth, poster displays in the community and a few announcements within our church and village we ended up with 19 people within our choir. We had 6 weekly practices before performing at two separate churches' Carol Services in December 2022. The advice I'd pass on is:

Enthusiasm is infectious
If you're keen and show it, others will soon catch the bug! Share your passion for starting a choir with church friends and local community peers – you might be surprised at the support you receive.

Choose your repertoire carefully
Start off with less complicated music as not everyone can or should be able to read music, though everyone can sing.

Be open to everyone
It's a really good idea to keep your choir un-auditioned and open to all. Everyone can find their singing voice – sometimes the opportunity and a little encouragement from others is all they need!

Use tools available to you
Use local church hymn book and what is available online. Then print copies for the choir members so they can even highlight certain lines to help perfect harmonies and in-the-round singing.

Don't forget the warm-up!
Getting the voice and brain warmed up is vital if you want to make the most out of rehearsals. Take a look at Singing Warm-ups for some really great warm-up songs on YouTube.

Short and sweet
Keep rehearsals snappy and varied. Aim for 1 hour (including a warm-up), and work at a small selection of songs – something to suit all tastes!

Our pop-up choir in Garboldisham was approximately 45% non-church people which we not expecting – but were delighted about. Christmas worship was transformed by having our choir, and forged links with new friends in the area around, with very little effort. We are now practising for our Easter Service in April 2023.

I am in the process now of setting up a Benefice pop-up choir to perform in July 2023 for one of our special Benefice services as well as it being another way to support all the churches within our Benefice to fellowship together.



You are invited

Elizabeth Humphries
Communications Manager

Welcoming the Bishop of Thetford designate to the Diocese.

You are invited to attend a Service of Welcome for Ian Bishop, soon to be the Bishop of Thetford, and his wife Sue at Norwich Cathedral on Saturday 30 September from 5.30-6.30.

The Venerable Ian Bishop will be joining the Diocese of Norwich from the Diocese of Chester where he is currently Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

Ian is no stranger to Norfolk, having previously served as vicar of Tasburgh, Tharston, Saxlingham Nethergate, Shotesham, Newton Flotman and Swainsthorpe. Ian and Sue

raised their family in Norfolk.

Ian will be ordained as a bishop in Westminster Abbey on 29 September.

He says: "I want to be a pastoral bishop who comes among the people of Norfolk and Waveney with kindness and love, and an ability to listen well. I want to be a missional bishop, to help you grow your church where you are and to nurture the green shoots of growth that you see locally. I am looking forward to being amongst you very much, we have very many happy memories."

If you would like to attend the Service of Welcome in Norwich on 30 September, please follow this link and fill in the form by 22 September. www.DofN.org/service-of-welcome

Editorial

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



One of the nicest things about my role is the interaction with you the PCC members as I travel across the Diocese. It is genuinely quite amazing the number of hours you as PCC members dedicate to God's service to grow the kingdom.

Sometimes we feel that it is quite challenging but as we read in 2 Corinthians 9.8: "And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work". This makes me wonder if we step back often enough and not only take stock of God's abundance towards us but also take time to celebrate the great things that we are doing in our parishes. Are we listening to what God is calling us to do with the amazing gifts and talents that he has bestowed upon us?

It is quite easy to be quite shy about all the great things we are doing but as a PCC we need to sit down and start to jot down all of these achievements. Then list all of the resources that we have. By this I don't necessarily mean only financial but talents that members of your community have. With this information you are then resourced to look at developing your parish's vision by working with these assets.

It is surprising how easy it is to overlook the obvious. Talking to parishes recently about applying for their Roca awards, they found as soon as they started checking off the list that they had already completed a lot of the requirements without even realising it. It is not until you start recording your

achievements that you realise what you have achieved.

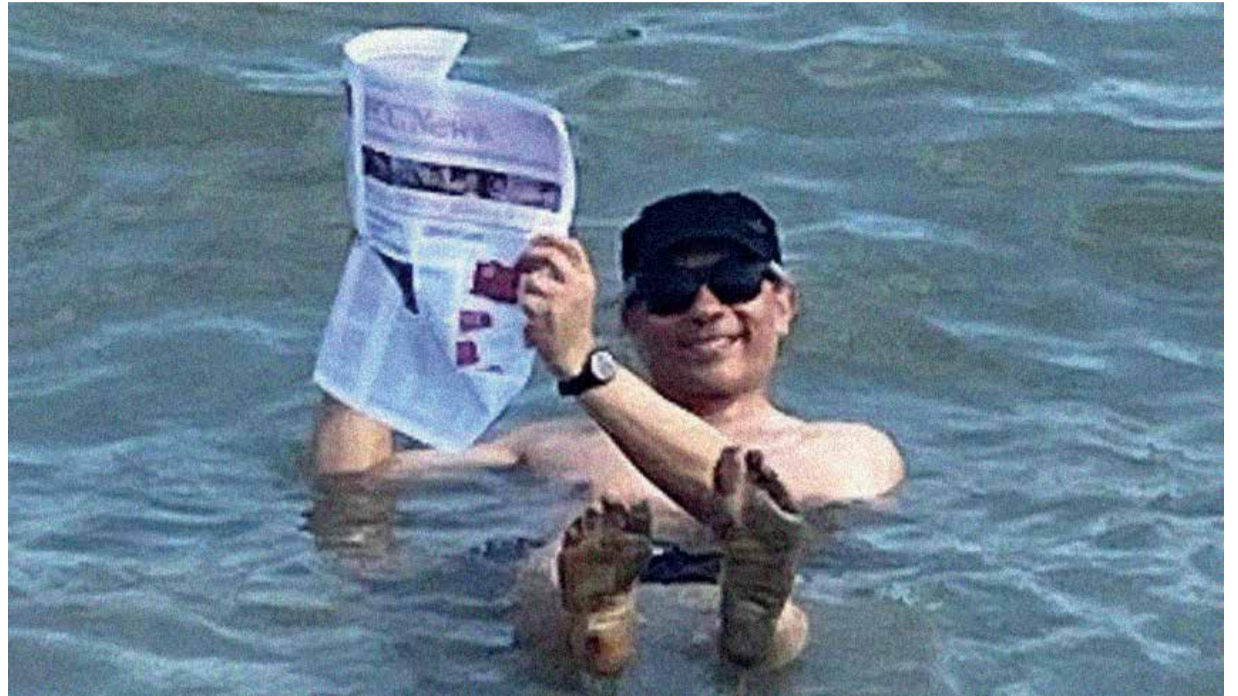
You maybe wondering why I am asking you to consider your parish's vision statement. Recently I read a book called *A Spirituality of Fundraising*. It was an American book and fundraising has a slightly different interpretation. Anyway, in the book it says "It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting others people into our mission. Vision brings together needs and resources to meet those needs". Reflecting on this statement it appears to be obvious that givers will respond generously if they are part of the vision to help grow the kingdom. It does not have to be made up of major leaps but might be lots of tiny steps. As Bishop Jane says in her article further on in this edition the vision needn't be complicated.

The Parish Support Team have also written articles to give you pointers as to what the priorities for your parish/benefice might be going forward. As I said before if you look at what assets you have this can help you to determine which of the priorities you can meet.

I appreciate that you have limited time to complete all of the asks of the PCC but without knowing the direction of your travel your efforts may be wasted. It would be like setting off in the car to go to London from Norfolk and travelling North up the A1.

I hope that you have all had a successful summer and are ready for autumn. I hope that you enjoy this edition and find it supports you in your role as a PCC member. Thank you for all that you do.

PCC News on tour in the Holy Land



The Revd Tim Yau reading PCC News in the Red Sea.

Clergy Support Trust

Having trouble sleeping?



Clergy Support Trust have partnered with Sleepstation to provide a **free online sleep improvement programme**, tailor-made sleep plans and resources to serving and retired Anglican clergy, ordinands and their partners.

We are here to serve those who serve.
www.clergysupport.org.uk/norwich



The Church Buildings Commission report, entitled "Lifelines for Historic Churches and their Communities" is available to read online here:
www.DofN.org/ChurchBuildingsCommission2023

Just one thing for Jesus

The Rt Revd Dr Jane Steen
Bishop of Lynn

Transformed by Christ: Prayerful, Pastoral, Prophetic. This is our diocesan vision. It's our hope, our aspiration, and our prayer. By the grace of God, we seek to be daily transformed into the likeness of Christ. We hope to be prayerful, pastoral, and prophetic people.

But have you ever wondered how to turn that into a vision for your benefice, parish or church community? The great thing about the diocesan vision is that we can make it real where we are. The vision tells us how:

■ Take a **prayerful** approach: Make some time daily to sit with God in prayer. See what the Lord puts on your heart for your benefice or parish. Make some time on the PCC agenda to sit in silence, listening to the Lord.

■ Have a **pastoral** conversation about possible ideas. It's true that churches which intend to grow, tend to grow. It's also true that churches grow when they serve their communities. What might be the opportunities for pastoral service where you are?

■ Lastly, be **prophetic**: don't keep your ideas to yourself! Find ways to ask your congregation what they think: perhaps hold a vision morning,



or gather people after church, or put out postcards and pencils and ask people to write ideas and drop them in a box. If you can, invite people from beyond the church to connect with the whole parish.

A group of people will need to gather to look at the ideas coming from this and from the PCC to see if there's a theme pointing towards a vision. A vision informs priorities, and our priorities determine where we put resources. Our stewardship comes from our vision: we join with others, giving of our money, our time and our talent in the Lord's service. But the vision needn't be complicated. In fact, like our diocesan one, it's better if it isn't.

There's plenty of help when it comes to turning vision into

action. Perhaps the vision is to overcome isolation and welcome others into the household of faith? Anna Chaplaincy might work for you; (www.DofN.org/anna-chaplaincy). Or maybe the parish has a heart for families and God's care for them? Maybe an open church event would be worth a go? You will have plenty of other ideas, and there's much more help out there. Remember, though: just one thing for Jesus is a great place to start.

To have a benefice vision is to cultivate attentiveness: attentiveness to our context, to God and to one another. It is to discern what it is that the Lord asks of us, for we are God's people, in a parish and a place with a purpose: to do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with the Lord.

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



Prayer Diary, your feedback is welcomed

As part of our continued commitment to you to provide responsible and wise stewardship, we are reviewing the style of Prayer Diary. It has a vital role to play in the prayer life of the Diocese and we'd like to hear from you if you have any thoughts about its design or content. Please email news@dioceseofnorwich.org with any helpful feedback, thank you.

Auditing our worship

The Revd Charles Read
Deputy Warden of Licensed Lay
Ministry and Director of Liturgy
& Worship, Eastern Region
Ministry Course

I had walked quite a few yards down the street before I realised that I was talking to myself. My colleague and I were on the way back from a meeting and had stopped to have afternoon tea in the city where I grew up. As we walked back to the car, I was happily chatting away and had not noticed that my colleague had stopped to have a look in a shop window. They were intrigued and attracted by the display of goods and were contemplating going inside to buy something. It is often said that worship is the churches shop window. Many people's first contact with our churches is through coming to an act of worship, including baptisms, weddings and funerals. Is our shop window going to draw people further in to Christian faith and life or will people just pass by?

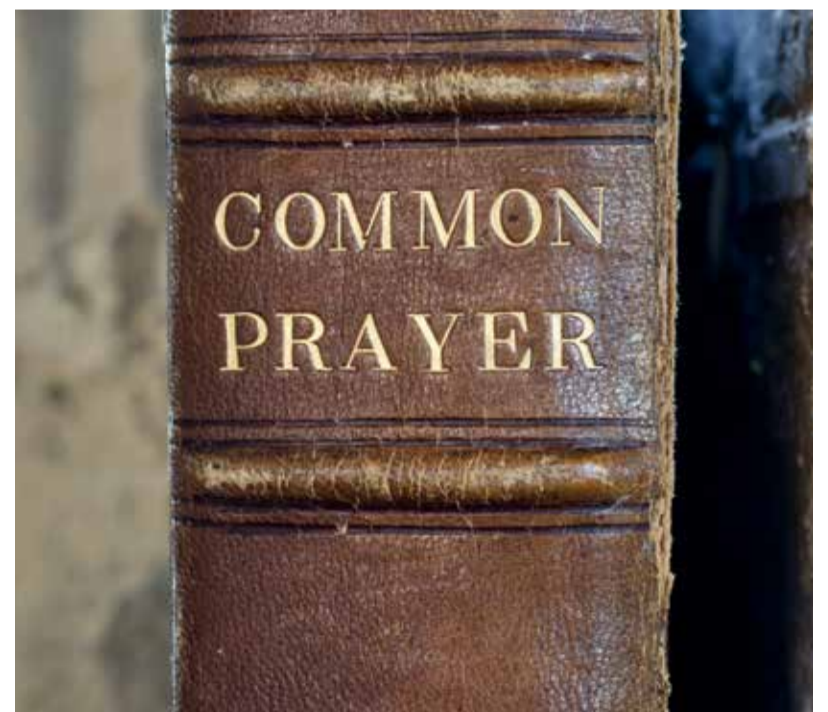
It is a good idea to stop and think about the worship in our churches from time to time and see whether we could do things differently and possibly better. Of course lots of people are convinced that they know exactly what worship should be like – usually this turns out, surprise surprise, to be very similar to the kind of worship they like themselves. When I was involved in producing parts of Common Worship, we really did get letters from people telling us what kind of worship God prefers. I still have one that says that if the Book of Common Prayer was good enough for Jesus it should be good enough for us today.

But how do we go about assessing our worship? There are at least two aspects to this. The first is to ask some practical questions about how the worship connects with people who might come – these are questions of accessibility. This would include how easy it is to get into the place where the worship is taking place if you are in a wheelchair, whether the worship reflects the people who might come

(for example, is it just men who appear at the front and lead parts of the worship?) and how easy the service is to follow.

The second aspect is to ask how well our worship reflects what we believe about God and his church. When we choose hymns, do they always talk about God as though God were a mighty male warrior? Does the layout of seating in our churches imply that the congregation are passive recipients of the things that important people at the front are doing? Is there much space in the worship for bringing before God the needs of our local community and of the world?

Auditing our worship can be quite a big task and it may be that you will want to scrutinise a couple of aspects of your worship now and more later rather than do it all in one go. If you want to do this I can recommend two resources. The first is the series of booklets published by Grove Books on worship. I must disclose that I am the convener of the author group! You will find details of the worship series at www.grovebooks.co.uk/collections/



worship. One particularly helpful title is by Mark Earey and is called *Evaluating Worship*. This is a clear guide about the whole process of reviewing worship and why we should do it. You could buy several copies of this and use it to think through the worship in your church and perhaps set up a small group to do a survey with recommendations for your PCC.

The second resource is to ask someone to come and be a consultant for your worship. An external eye on what you do

from a friendly person might be a valuable tool because we often cannot see things when we are involved in something week by week – but somebody coming in might spot things which we need to think about. You can contact me if you want someone to do this or you could contact Canon Aidan Platten at the cathedral and between us we could find someone who could come and be your friendly observer and advisor.

Keep your worship shop window bright and attractive and see who you might attract in!

Stewardship is first and foremost a form of ministry. It is a way of announcing our vision and inviting other people into our mission. Vision brings together needs and resources to meet those needs – Henri Nouwen

Good financial management

Susan Bunting
Director of Finance



Parish Vision – Good Financial Management, some questions to consider.

- Are budgets prepared for the parish and how widely are they communicated? i.e., are they on a notice board or published in Church magazine/website?
- Have the parish signed up to the Parish Giving Scheme to maximise Gift Aid income on donations income? (www.DofN.org/pgs). In addition, has the parish recently reviewed Stewardship and giving?

- Does the parish operate the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GASDS) on cash/contactless donations of £30 or less?
- Has the parish considered card readers and contactless donations (QR codes?)
- Has the parish applied for grants on building works? A grant covering the VAT cost may be issued on certain works by the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (www.DofN.org/lpw)
- Other grants may be available by using Church Grants at www.DofN.org/ChurchGrants
- Has the parish considered a legacy campaign?
- Has the parish reviewed the level of insurance cover for the Church Building? including policy excesses and paying in 12-month instalments. Normally there is no average clause on Church Building policies.

- Has the parish considered the 'Energy basket' offered by the National Stewardship Team at Archbishops' Council, whereby energy can be purchased in bulk on a national scale? Details can be found at www.parishbuying.org.uk, where other cost savings can also be made.
- Has the parish checked that they are paying the correct VAT rates on utility bills? Charges for the supply of fuel and power are subject to a reduced rate of 5%, provided that any business activities of the church, e.g. admission to premises for a charge or the letting of church buildings, represent no more than 40% of the total usage of the building.
- Does the parish use the Parish Accounts Workbook (PAW), a free Excel workbook (with a Google Sheets version



to be available shortly) to prepare PCC Receipts and Payments accounts in a charity format, along with the Return of Parish Finance? This can be downloaded at: www.DofN.org/paw

Growing closer to God and one another

The Revd Peter Herbert
Thetford (Team Ministry)
(Benefice)

Loving and following Jesus – where's the excitement in that? Well, judging by the variety of things going on in the Thetford Team Ministry, it's everywhere!

We're a team of five churches serving the diverse communities of Thetford and surrounding villages (including two churches planted in recent decades to reach different parts of the town).

In all our diversity, our mission and ministry as a Team is bound together by our Team vision statement:

Loving God
Wholeheartedly loving, worshipping and following God

Growing Together
Growing together in our love and care for one another, and as disciples of Jesus who are rooted in the Bible and prayer

Reaching Out
Welcoming everybody as we serve our different communities with the good news of the Gospel through words and actions in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Of course, the way that's worked out is different for each of our different churches – but at heart it's all about having our focus on God and on people.

We seek to grow closer to God and to one another through our regular services, home groups, pastoral visits and our social times together. We're currently excitedly preparing for our first Team Churches Weekend Away this autumn.

Civic services, seasonal services and special events (such as organising a village picnic for the coronation weekend) give us many opportunities to connect with our communities – and of course worship, fellowship and discipleship are not incompatible with outreach! We find that many of our groups and events end up covering all three aspects of our vision.

Take, for example, our Team

sports ministry, encompassing work in schools, an after-school club, holiday clubs and activities for children and youth, social football for adults and (ensuring that armchair fans aren't left out), big screen events and sports quizzes.

Or take children's ministries such as weekly Messy Mornings and special Christmas and Easter activities. For the young people we have a weekly youth group and, thanks to a partnership with the local branch of Youth for Christ, a school lunch club and after-school youth café.

The adults aren't left out either, with events like Men's Breakfasts, Ladies' Lunches and *Crafting Christmas*, regular groups like *Hope Explored* and *Christianity Explored* for those looking into the Christian faith, *Silverthreads* group for the over-60s, a fortnightly *Good Grief Café*, and the popular Saturday café at St Cuthbert's Church in the town centre.

At the heart of all of it though, is God, as we seek to wholeheartedly love, worship and follow him in all the different things he's called us to.



Is Safeguarding integral with your parish vision?

Ruth Walker
Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer

In the last edition of PCC News, I was extolling the virtues of our greatly valued and dedicated volunteers who have taken on the role as Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO). However, we do all need to remember that whilst a key safeguarding position, the PSO is not solely responsible for safeguarding within their parish. All of us, including church officers, other volunteers and PCC members, have a responsibility in helping to positively shape the culture of safeguarding within our parish.

If parish life is at the heart of the Diocese, and is a fundamental context in which we need to ensure we get our safeguarding right, then have we considered having a vision for developing a robust safeguarding culture within our parish life and the activities within our church community?

Shaping of a culture of safeguarding is a responsibility which lies with each and every one of us as individuals, irrespective of the role we have or part we play within the parish. Maintaining

and updating safeguarding training is an important element of this, as well as ensuring there is support for everyone within your Church to effectively recognise and respond to possible situations of abuse, whilst promoting and implementing best safeguarding practice to promote a safer Church for all.

As another year flies by, I would like to thank all those who have actively engaged not only in our safeguarding pathways, but the encouraging response to undertaking the revised Safeguarding Basic Awareness, Safeguarding Foundations and Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse online modules. The response to completing safeguarding training has not always been enthusiastic! However, throughout the year, there has been a progressive and positive engagement which continues to demonstrate a real commitment to safeguarding within many parishes and church communities.

Should you have any queries or concerns, the Safeguarding Team is here to support you, and may be contacted on **01603 882345**, or at safeguarding@dioceseofnorwich.org

Creating a vision ahead

The Revd Mark Capron
Dersingham Benefice

The vision and mission action plan here are about bringing together all the good things of ministry and mission combining with the priorities looking ahead. This sets out a framework that holds everything together with the current church and the future of the church in the years ahead. Through this framework, it importantly provides purpose, intentionality and a focus on who we are as followers of Jesus and with it responsibilities.

Many like things easy to remember and it is important, whether parish, diocesan or other, that the vision and what flows from this is easy to understand and remember, in order to provide direction. In our context this vision is rooted in Matthew 28.16-20 (The Great Commission).

The Vision

“Helping one another to follow Jesus through the GRACE of God”. The vision is an action. It is deliberately participatory and it involves us together. It is about helping one another in our church family follow Jesus



who “is the way, the truth and the life”. It draws down from the Great Commission and has Jesus at the centre, with us seeking to follow him, but acknowledging that we need the GRACE of God to do that.

GRACE is in capitals – there is a reason, and this is instrumental in our mission action plan (see below). But first the mission statement supports the vision and serves to identify purpose and key priorities for the horizon. Here we have:

Mission Statement

- Grow deeper roots of faith
- Reach out with the love of Jesus
- Be attentive to the Spirit’s prompting
- Develop children & youth ministry
- Nurture an improved care of God’s creation

As I mentioned the word GRACE in the vision is in capitals. So GRACE in our

vision provides in both senses of the word:

- A reminder of the Godly gift of Grace.
- Secondly it offers us an acrostic which helps us remember the church mission action plan.

This sets out clearly the direction of the church ahead providing a framework that is both purposeful and intentional. The GRACE is: **GRACE marks of Mission**
Glory to God
Respond and **R**elate
Ability to **A**ccess
Committed to **C**ommunity
Environmental **E**xcellence

The Mission action plan is about giving the headlines and intentionality, whereas we also have the Outcomes of Grace, which are an insight into what the realised prayerful expectation may look like through the GRACE of God.

When vision meets with the willingness to have a go

The Revd Julia Chamberlin
Children, Youth & Families
Project Adviser

Whenever a benefice takes seriously its ministry among children, young people, and their families there are challenges to face. The benefice strap line is, ‘We seek to radiate the love of Christ through prayer and service’, and to engage with our children, young people and their families in creative and meaningful ways. A vision agreed by the PCCs and underpinned by prayer, listening and action.

One key decision was that rather than have a youth champion (How Village Churches Thrive), they would have an oversight group, whose conversations with villagers revealed how important this vision was to them.

Matlaske Benefice is small with a population 2000; seven parishes and two services per

Sunday. “What is happening is happening outside Sunday morning – that’s not to say Sunday morning is lost, but if we focused all on Sunday morning it would be Sisyphean (it is of course Sisyphean anyway!)” Despite the belief that the village of Edgefield had hardly any children – there are 18 families and about 35 children under 14yrs. Their vision has borne fruit, proving that in rural ministry teamwork is essential.

Worship on Sundays is challenged by the lack space for children’s work. “What we are doing together is so encouraging but we may only be able to sustain this for a season, so we pray that God enables seeds to be sown,” stated Rev David Longe. “Engaging teenagers remains a challenge but we are exploring this and remain optimistic.” They now have three groups running: Country Mice, a thriving toddler group; a drama group – which has proven immensely popular in

attracting children and young people; and family activity mornings during the school holidays, with the possibility of a fourth group – Coffee, Cake and Chat at Saxthorpe.

God raised up people who could envision and lead the way, they became a driving and inspiring force, they shared resources across the benefice; ensured safeguarding was in place; they subscribed to the Diocesan Resource Centre and learned:

- To plan ahead and advertise well across all platforms
- To look outward across boundaries and partner with others inside and out of church.
- To collaborate
- To evaluate their progress.

While Sunday mornings remain unchanged, “It will be when congregations ask why young people and families are absent at Sunday morning service?, that it will be the time to explore how children can engage in worship for this century!”

Your shop window



Parish Support Team
Communications:
Your Church Website



What might you consider as part of your parish’s vision going forward if you do nothing else? Consider how you can portray yourselves to the outside world.

Would you like more people to find your church, but don’t have the time or money to run your own website? Or maybe you do have a church website, but it’s difficult to maintain. The communications team are here to help.

Your church website is your ‘shop window’. It’s a tool for mission and how many new people will find your church. So does it reflect your church community well? Here are some things to think about:

- Is it up to date?
- Does it look welcoming and friendly?
- Do you have copyright and GDPR permission to use the images on it?
- Do you have contact details on it?
- Do you have 1 person looking after it? What happens if that person moves away?

If you don’t have a website or a person to run one, don’t worry! A Church Near You (ACNY) is the Church of England finder tool, similar to a church directory, and your church

already has a page on it. You can use it as your main church website, it’s free and comes with free support.

At a basic level, it has contact details, location, service times and facilities. But if you want to make it look much better, you can add your own events, logo, pictures and colours. You can really localise it and make it reflect your own church community.

Don’t forget, if you already have a church website, it’s worth keeping your church page on ACNY up to date as well. It has a national reach, with over 10 million page views a year. Many more people may visit your ACNY page than your local website.

Setting up and maintaining a website can be time consuming and costly. By using A Church Near You as your main website, you can free up money for other church projects.

For more support: Using your A Church Near You site as your main church website – **AChurchNearYou (zendesk.com)** Or contact **news@dioceseofnorwich.org**











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Embrace God's abundance



the Generous Giving Advisers along to a PCC meeting to give a presentation. As we move increasingly towards a cashless society you, as a PCC need to ensure that you are able to take contactless payments (this might mean having one of the Diocesan contactless machines on a 'try before you buy' scheme). As another vision point, are you offering and promoting the facility for people to give online (this is totally free to your parish to set up)? Resources such as PGS allow people to make one off donations using a QR code.

Finally, are we engaging with the wider community and giving them the opportunity to give to support your church? People in our local communities may not wish to come to church every Sunday but they want to see a church in their local community. Schemes such as PGS have the facility for local people to set up a monthly direct debit to support your church. Across our diocese we are now seeing a lot of churches benefit from this additional giving. Do we need to include in our vision statement that we will actively promote donations from the wider community using the specially designed leaflet using PGS?

In Ephesians 3 we read "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

Surely a parish/benefice vision is the first step in us thinking and asking?

to God for his generosity and abundance. It might be that you decide to look into and take part in the National Generosity week. People automatically assume that it is just about giving money but it is much deeper than that. It is about having a generosity of spirit, and living out our Christian faith.

As a PCC we need to ensure that we provide all of the mechanisms to ensure that our congregations and visitors are able to live out their Christian faith. This might mean that as part of your vision that you consider joining The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) and invite

Robert Culyer
Generous Giving Adviser

When considering your parish/benefice vision you may ask yourselves why generous giving should be included?

As true followers of Jesus Christ we are called to live generous lives and give in response to God's generosity towards us. After all he gave us the greatest gift of all: he gave us his Son as our Saviour so that we would have everlasting life. As a PCC you may want to include in your vision diary dates when you give thanks

 info-point.com

**Reward visitors
for visiting**



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



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30
YEARS
1989-2019

Reducing draughts and dampness

Eliza Greenwell
Church Care and
Development Adviser

Whilst building your vision don't forget to include some or all of the following. Building your vision from what you have rather than what you haven't brings into focus the magnificent church building that you have.

Church building maintenance plan

Routine maintenance is one of the best and most cost-effective ways to ward off decay, prevent costly problems from developing, and keep your building warm and dry. Reducing leaks, excessive draughts and dampness are also steps on the 'path to net zero.' If you don't have an annual maintenance plan set up for your church building, consider producing one to keep track of what needs doing and when. Include any regular inspections or testing that need to be arranged such as for electrical installations,

lightning conductors, or your Quinquennial Inspection. Outside of a structured plan, undertake inspections to identify problems and action minor repairs, and carry out regular maintenance tasks such as cleaning gutters. Maintenance days play a big part in engaging with the wider community.

Quinquennial Inspection report plan

Just as prevention is always better than cure, maintenance is preferable to major repairs. However, the need for such repairs may come up from time to time. Decide how to prioritise and fund urgent work which has been flagged in a Quinquennial Inspection report, thinking about how this fits into a wider vision. Carrying out repair work not only secures the fabric of the building but contributes to the church looking welcoming and enables worship and community use.

Churchyard management plan

It is a good idea to draw up a

churchyard management plan to provide a basis from which annual work programmes can be organised. The management plan should be reviewed every few years. Key objectives include the maintenance and development of the churchyard to enhance the beauty of the church, recognising the ecological potential of the churchyard, and encouraging community participation.

Future plan

Looking ahead, do you need to plan for making any more significant changes to your building to aid your vision? Work out what your needs are, what is possible within the constraints of the building and your resources, and what is already covered by other churches or community venues in your locality. Talk to the Church Buildings Team if you need advice or support.

For a maintenance checklist and an annual churchyard work plan please contact Eliza Greenwell on eliza.greenwell@dioceseofnorwich.org



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Diocesan Environment Officer appointed

Elizabeth Humphries
Communications Manager

“This is a new role for which we have received external funding and comes at the perfect time as we seek to take a big step forward with our environmental ambitions,” says Tim Sweeting, Diocesan Secretary. “I am really pleased that Barbara Bryant, who many of you will know, has been recruited to fulfil this role.”

“I have been immensely fulfilled in my role of supporting Bishop Graham with his media and projects over almost three years and will be sad to leave the team at Bishop’s House,” says Barbara. “However, I’m very excited to be able to take up the new role of Diocesan Environment Officer, building upon one of the project areas which I have been developing under my current role.”

“This post has been funded by the Anne French Memorial Trust to work within the Mission & Ministry Team to further embed the fifth mark of mission to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth. I’m pleased to have re-joined colleagues in the Parish Support Team from late August.”

“I have been involved with



environmental campaigns and communications throughout my career and it is a natural outworking of my faith. We need to cherish this God-given planet and care for creation. I’m looking forward to being able to resource the many other eco apostles across the Diocese to effect a deepening and growth in this expression of our faith and worship.”

Eco Church grows!

A Rocha UK’s Eco Church programme equips churches in England and Wales to care for creation. Eco Church is a learning community that provides a framework to support your church to take practical action on caring for God’s earth. It includes a toolkit of resources, an online award survey, a quarterly email update, online events, and prayer forums.

At the time of writing, we have 153 churches registered to the scheme with 57 having achieved Bronze Awards and a further 11 with Silvers. Each church travels the journey in its own unique way, dependent upon the people involved and its location, but many ideas can be shared along the way.

Norwich Cathedral received their Silver Award in April. “As part of our ongoing journey to a greener future we have had a survey undertaken of the plant life in The Close which included the discovery of Bee Orchids. We have also increased the number of trees in The Close by 15 per cent,” explained Canon Andy Bryant.

“Within the Cathedral, by the use of careful energy efficient methods, we have achieved a significant drop in our overall energy consumption of both electricity and gas. The work



is ongoing, but we are pleased that this award recognises the positive start we have made.”

St Andrew’s Church in Trowse, on the edge of Norwich city, celebrated their Eco Church Bronze Award in the spring. “We were given a large compost bin which means that spent flowers and coffee and tea waste can be composted and we have dispensed with the council brown bin. This was the first and easiest change,” says Sarah Toothill “We are working with Trowse Parish Council on a churchyard grass cutting regime to create a wildflower section and are hoping to build relationships with the local school to work together on eco projects.”

Harvey Bradley from Oulton Broad and William Fisher from Aylsham share some “top tips” from their journey to Silver:

■ “Have fun! Engaging with people on our green journey is more appealing if there is an element of lightheartedness involved.”

■ Keep checking what other people or groups are doing in the church and support them. For instance, church members started a uniform exchange as their initiative, independently of what they saw as “green” activities.

■ Our primary focus was on communication with and involvement of the congregation. We started a weekly section of the pewsheet devoted to eco-matters, together with an eco notice board.

■ Encouraging the use of LOAF (Local, Organic, Animal friendly, Fair Trade) products throughout the church.

■ Progression to Silver or Gold might not be straightforward. Things might slip back, people might move away, roles regarding recycling may change as others get better at it.

■ A recent ‘Rogation/wonder to wander’ walk was a relaxed gathering of church members and others whose paths might not cross having time out in our wonderful Creation.”

Have you started your Eco Church journey yet?

Register as an Eco Church or find out more at:
<https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>

Sign-up for our Eco Newsletter at www.DofN.org/EcoNews

Join the conversation on our Facebook group
www.facebook.com/groups/NorfolkEcoChurch

For any further help, email ecochurch@dioceseofnorwich.org

Your faith is powerful, so is your will

Colin Tomlin
Generous Giving Adviser

A will is a legal document that sets out what you want to happen to all your assets or possessions when you die. It makes it much easier for your family or friends to sort out your affairs when you pass away.

Dealing with a loved one’s death is stressful. Without a will, that stress is intensified.

With a will, your wishes after death can be carried out just as you intended. This is especially important if you have young children or other family that depend on you financially.

Outside of your family and

friends, your will can also make a difference in your community and across the globe as a powerful statement of God’s generosity through us, His people.

That’s why Christian Aid has teamed up with The Church of England, The Church of Scotland and Quakers to help us let our love live on through a gift in our will.

Here are two essential things that your gift will do:

1. Your gift can help your church’s mission continue. Our places of worship are an important part of our lives. They are also at the heart of our local communities, sharing God’s love



and serving those in need. A gift in your will could ensure that the mission and ministry of your church continues.

2. Help communities lift themselves out of poverty. By including Christian Aid in your Will, you can help create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. You will be standing in solidarity with our most marginalised global neighbours, of all faiths and none. Tackling the root causes of poverty. Supporting in

crises. And creating change that lasts for generations.

So what can you do now?

Join us this September to talk about gifts in wills in your church or meeting. And together we’ll both transform our local communities and stand with our global neighbours.

Whether you have five minutes or an hour, every conversation you have could help create lasting change for generations to come.

Here to help...

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

01603 880853

info@dioceseofnorwich.org

Useful websites

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

Church Care

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

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

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 or contact the communications team on:

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 or **01603 882322**.