



Diocese of Leicester

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens



The Archdeacon Visitation Services provide an opportunity to give thanks to God for the faithful service over the past year of Churchwardens and Officers, and to commission and pray for those new or returning Churchwardens and Officers beginning another year of service. So, thank you! And be assured of our prayers

for you; and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining us for the annual training day for Churchwardens and Officers on Saturday 30th September at Leicester Forest East.

The historic elements of the Visitation service remind us that Churchwardens form part of a chain of lay leaders stretching back over decades and, often, many centuries. In this sense you are very important stewards. There are material aspects to this stewardship, such as the church building, church hall, churchyard and the church valuables and contents. There are also spiritual and social aspects to this stewardship, such as serving God's mission to the people within our parishes and congregations in a particularly challenging era for the world and the church. It has been wonderful over this past year to hear of so many ways in which you have been fulfilling this calling.

This wider historical lens of stewardship encourages us to think about what is most important to pass to succeeding generations. We recognise that this includes urgent buildings maintenance,

pastoral situations and sustained patterns of worship, which have to take our immediate focus. However, a recent survey of young people within our Diocese expressed a strong wish to have a valued voice, to be heard and participate in shaping the future of our Christian communities and churches, and also identified a deep wish to secure the sustainability of our planet. In response to these hopes and aims, our Diocesan strategy of Growing Faith and its focus on developing disciples within churches, households and schools, will support children, young people and all generations in this hope, and inform our work as Minster Communities. This will be strengthened as each Minster Community appoints a Growing Faith minister who will work in new ways to enable communities to engage in sharing their faith with others in ways that are relevant for their needs. Further, the Eco Church and our diocesan Eco Communities' priority provides a route to support our endeavour to be people who seek to care and sustain God's creation. In the coming months and years, Churchwardens and officers will have opportunities to encourage, lead and shape how these aims are part of our shared ministry.

Continued on page 2...

Produced and printed by

 **ecclesiastical**



...Continued from cover

In this time of change our care and safeguarding of all those we meet remains vital, and in living out the Great Commission our need to love one another as Christ loves us has never been more pressing. For you as Churchwardens there is a particular need, as you seek to assure the safeguarding of your community supported by the members of your PCC, the Ministry Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

With this in mind, we also take this opportunity to invite you to the **Church Officers Training day** which is scheduled for **Saturday 30th September, 9am-1pm** at **St Andrew's Church Leicester Forest East**. More information will be available nearer to the date, but it would be good to mark this date in your diary, whether you are a new or an experienced Churchwarden.

This year, in the Coronation service for King Charles III, we have witnessed visible symbols of what is entrusted to a new monarch as lifelong stewards. One of these is the Coronation orb, a golden globe representing the earth surmounted by a cross. Amongst many varied descriptions of its symbolic significance, the Coronation orb may be understood to highlight the Sovereign's calling to steward the material resources within the realm and to safeguard the nation's spiritual resources, so that they may be handed on to succeeding generations.

Be assured that in this significant year of national transition, we will continue to pray, as you take your office as Churchwarden and embrace the wide area of stewardship shared with the ministry of your communities, that this role will bless you as you bless this and future generations.

With kind wishes



The Venerable Richard Worsfold
Archdeacon of Leicester
richard.worsfold@leicestercofe.org



The Venerable Claire Wood
Archdeacon of Loughborough
claire.wood@leicestercofe.org



Intercultural Ministry



My name is **Jessie Tang**, **Intercultural Ministry Director** for the Diocese, and I lead the Intercultural Worshipping Communities (IWC) Project, which is SDF funded. We are working hard to enable churches to develop interculturally and affect cultural change in the whole Diocese, through working specifically with 5 core churches (IWCs) and 17 partner churches. We also run events in the Diocese to highlight the voices of Global Majority Heritage Christians and help people to think more internationally. Christianity is a global faith, Leicester and Loughborough are diverse places, so how does the Church reflect the kinds of people in its locality? How can we begin to address racial equity in our Diocese? Our project has specific aims, such as increasing in ethnic diversity across the Diocese, but we are really keen that it is not *just* a project – it's a God-given vision which is also in the Diocese's Five Strategic Priorities.

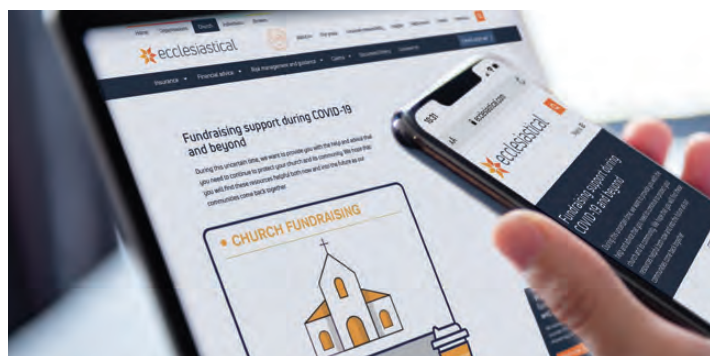


Luke Fogg – Project Manager

Luke knows all about numbers! He keeps an eye on our budget and whether or not we are on track with reaching the project's goals. He has also been in the Diocese since forever, so knows a lot about a lot. Luke collects statistics from our core churches and partner churches, and is good at networking and helping to plan training events.

Dinta Chauhan & Lesley Whitwell – Administrative Support

Both have an important job in making sure everything runs smoothly – from booking event spaces, to writing minutes and sending emails. They work well together as a super team, and we share them with the Property Department. Dinta is one of the longest-serving members of the DBF staff!



Fundraising hub to support your church

Fundraising has always been vital for churches, from the traditional, well-loved flower festivals and cake sales to the world of digital fundraising opportunities that the internet has opened up. But it can be daunting to know where to start, so Ecclesiastical's easy-to-use online fundraising hub is here to help with great ideas and simple advice.

Drawing on the advice of experts and our own 135 years' experience in working with churches, we've pulled together a range of top tips to help you boost existing income streams and develop new ones. There's help with researching sources of funding and writing professional grant applications that can make all the difference to the answer you receive. There are great video webinars with fundraising specialists offering their insights into key fundraising issues.

Other guidance includes fundraising in less affluent areas, fundraising in rural parishes, how to build a fundraising team and more to keep your congregation and the wider community informed and engaged.

There are plenty of useful resources and handy templates for all types of churches on our Church Fundraising Hub at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising

Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good giving programme is back with awards of £1,000 to give to charities helping those in need. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, and together they are giving away over **£1 million** to charities in the 2023 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your favourite charity or church at any time for the £1,000 draw.
- It's one nomination per charity, per person, so if you have more than one favourite, get them in the running today!
- There are three £1,000 draws this year giving away between £120,000 and £150,000 in each.
- Once you've nominated, share your nomination and get your network to support too.

Get nominating and find out more at www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Did you know?

In 2022, 15 churches each won a £1,000 grant.

There were thousands of nominations for these churches. The more nominations received, the greater their chance of winning.



Contains promotional material

Rebuilding the historic Church of the Ascension in Salford

In February 2017, a fire broke out at the Grade-II listed Church of the Ascension in Lower Broughton, Salford, Greater Manchester. Six crews from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service battled for hours to contain the blaze, which ultimately devastated the building.



Many members of the local community gathered outside the church building to survey the damage, some reduced to tears. Much used and loved by young and old, the building plays an important role in both spiritual and social terms as an inclusive community space accessible to all. The church had recently undergone a £250,000 restoration project which people in the community had helped to fund.

Immediately following the fire, Ecclesiastical carefully assembled the right team of experts to attend the site as soon as the fire service authorised it.

Repair work began in October 2018 with teams of carefully selected experts appointed to complete the works. Phase one included reinstatement of the structural elements of the building,



such as columns, roof structures and slate coverings; stone and brick repairs; stained glass window and window guard replacements; and ceiling finishes.

Phase two began in September 2021, focusing on preserving the historical features of the church. As part of the restoration, Ecclesiastical worked with customers to build in modernisations to enable them to make the space better serve the requirements of today's use.

Restoration of the building was completed by the end of September 2022.

In November 2022, the church and community came together to mark the completion of the £5m restoration project with a rededication ceremony.

Read the story in full and see more pictures at
www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension

// It has been a long five and a half years since the fire... we can now look forward to the future with a beautifully restored church which is fit for the 21st century. //

Shirley Kehoe, PCC Secretary at the Church of the Ascension



Take our advice – for a brighter future

Ecclesiastical is well-known as a leading insurer of churches and other heritage buildings. But many people aren't aware that we also have a stand-alone financial advice arm here to help you make the most of your money.

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides fully independent advice on pensions, investments, life assurance and mortgages for the clergy, church community and PCCs.



You don't have to be an insurance customer to use the service – we're happy to help anyone – but we obviously have specialist knowledge of the church sector, as IFA Kieran Harper explains.

'I've been in the industry for seventeen years and with Ecclesiastical for all but two of those,' said Kieran, who's based in our Gloucester office. 'When it comes to

providing regulated financial advice to the clergy and the wider church community, that experience helps.

'Many of our customers are clergy – we understand their pension scheme, we know about the issues with living in tied accommodation such as vicarages – so when it comes to retirement planning, we're already ahead of the game. We also have a deep understanding of ethical and sustainable investing – as you would expect of a company with such strong links to the church – and this area is getting ever more popular with a lot of our customers.'

Please get in touch to find out how Kieran and his colleagues could help you.



0800 107 0190



getadvice@ecclesiastical.com



www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice

Have you signed up for Ecclesiastical's monthly e-news?



This monthly email is full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical's church customers and anyone in your church community. Signing up is easy and, if at any time you decide you no longer want to receive it, you can click the 'unsubscribe' button at the

bottom of the email. Feel free to pass the sign-up link to anyone you think would like it.

Sign up at www.ecclesiastical.com/signup

Support for your 2024 sabbatical

Are you planning on taking a sabbatical in 2024?

Did you know that there may be support available for you through Ministry Bursary Awards? Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2024.

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community.

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards have supported over 1,400 members of the clergy to finance a wide range of extended leave projects and plans. The application window runs between April and September. Judging will take place in November 2023, with the awards made in December 2023.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently?

It's full of information to help you run your church, such as the **Made Simple Guides**, which cover these key topics:

- Church insurance made simple
- Administering your church insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Community outreach
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises

You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. **Explore the website at www.ecclesiastical.com/church**

Protect your home and support your church with £130 donation



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its available profits to good causes, one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical do this is through the Trust130 Home Insurance offer. For every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offer to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Originally launched in 2017 to celebrate the 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical has since donated more than £460,000, helping to support over 2,500 churches. A donation of £130 may not sound like much, but churches and congregations have used the donations in many creative ways to fund all sorts of things.

In the **Parish of Harpenden**, the donation will be used to support Cornelia's Coffee Shop, which is a community resource that enables them to engage with local people, offering fellowship and raising funds for charity.

It needs some new equipment – not least, a new freezer – and the donation will help in this general regard. It does great work to benefit the community and other great causes. One of our recent events at Cornelia's was to help our local Ukrainian arrivals.

Kevin Featherstone, Parish Warden

St Mary's Church, Wythall, used their donations to offer a weekly hot meal to families struggling with the increase in the cost of living.

This happens directly after school and includes activities for children and a Bible story or video. £130 will pay for meals for about 20 families, funding the food for about two weeks, which is a great boost financially, but also to the step of faith which this venture is.

Pam Miller, Treasurer

Award-winning home insurance



As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining the most trusted home insurance provider with the happiest customers.

Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in spring 2023 for home insurance for a record 17th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status.² Ecclesiastical was also voted the best home insurance provider in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2022.³

For more information about Trust130 and Home Insurance, visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

Call us for a home insurance quote on **0345 777 3322** and mention code **TRUSTPA**.

¹ Terms and conditions apply. ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners



Car insurance

Our Clergy Motor Insurance is tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, no admin charges and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹



0345 450 9396



www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance

¹ Subject to terms and conditions.



Funeral planning

Ecclesiastical can help you make financial provision for your funeral, reducing the worry for your family and ensuring your wishes are provided for. Terms and conditions apply.



0800 055 6503



info@epsfunerals.com



www.funeralplans.co.uk



Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler

My name is **Matt Long**. I am married with three kids. I try to live the seasons – paying attention, cooking on fire, paddle boarding, foraging, and fermenting. I am a fantasy football fanatic, avid Philadelphia Eagles fan and constrained poet.

I am the Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler for the Diocese of Leicester. I am passionate about recognising and releasing young people's God-given gifts and providing a platform for their voice to be heard and responded to. My role in the Diocese has many threads, including...

...facilitating *Bishop's Children and Youth Council*. We are reimagining how we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese, including schools, colleges, uniformed organisations, and churches. We want to hear more young voices! Could you facilitate a listening group with children or young people in your context?

...co-ordinating the *Ministry Experience Scheme* (MES) for the Diocese. MES gives young Christians an opportunity to grow as a disciple, explore calling, gain experience of Christian ministry and develop leadership skills. We are looking for young adults, aged 18–30, to spend a year serving God through the MES.

...supporting, encouraging, championing and resourcing *Growing Faith* in the Diocese. Growing Faith is a national Church of England movement that exists to put children, young people, and families instinctively at the heart of all mission and ministry. It involves churches, schools and households working together to help children, young people and families have life in all its fullness.

More info: www.growingfaithconnections.org

...journeying with churches, Fresh Expressions and schools to explore what it looks like to become *Intergenerational Community*. When, where and how do different generations intentionally gather in mutual serving, sharing, or learning, to live out Everyday Faith?

Finance Department



I am the new Director of Finance and Property for your Diocese and very fortunate to head a small but hardworking and competent team. I am a Chartered Management Accountant and have been fortunate to work in many varied sectors and organisations including golf, university sport, HMRC and the Foreign Office.

However, I am very enthused and feel privileged to be able to work for the C of E given the fundamental and central importance Christianity plays in the lives of many and the valued importance of churches within wider communities.

Being from Nottinghamshire and attending the local C of E school many moons ago, I have to say my favorite church remains St Mary's in Edwinstowe not least because, as a romantic, I love the story that Robin Hood and Maid Marian were supposedly married there!

The Finance and Property Team look after the money and property and land of your Diocese but also offer services to parishes such as payroll, act as custodian for parish assets when wanted and try to answer any questions from parishes on finance or accounting that we can.

As the recent Bishops' Finance letter to parishes suggests, the Diocese has large financial issues that need to be solved and the finance team are doing their best to make sure the money your Diocese has is spent wisely and on things valued by parishes.

Simon Wilson

Director of Finance and Property

St Mary's Church in Edwinstowe





Diocesan Safeguarding Team

The Church of England sees safeguarding as a gospel imperative: 'The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.' The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team are here to work with you, to ensure that church settings in our Diocese are safe spaces where everyone can flourish. The team comprises of Julie Foulds, Safeguarding Team Administrator; Louise Warner, Diocesan Safeguarding Training Officer; Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (ADSA); and Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA). We work within the national Church of England policies and practice guidance.

Rachael and Pete are available to give advice and guidance on all safeguarding matters:

- In addition to safeguarding concerns about children or vulnerable adults, we should always be contacted if there are safeguarding concerns about a church officer, if someone appears to pose a risk to a church community or if someone is reporting church-related abuse.
- We work with victims and survivors of abuse to report abuse and access support.
- We offer practical advice on policies, procedures, and practice guidance.

- We can advise on safer recruitment and DBS issues where there are blemished disclosures.
- The Safeguarding dashboard is available to help you keep track of safeguarding in your church setting and up to date with national changes in safeguarding requirements. Please contact Pete Holloway for advice on how to get started and to complete your dashboard.

Louise coordinates our safeguarding training in line with the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021. Louise delivers Leadership and Permission to Officiate Safeguarding Training. Basic & Foundation Safeguarding Training, Safer Recruitment & People Management & Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse are all available online, but Louise is also able to offer these courses face to face. Training should be renewed every 3 years. There is helpful guidance on the safeguarding training page of the diocesan website, about what training is required for each role, training dates and how to book on. Please take a moment to check that your training is complete and up to date.

Julie provides admin support to the team and works with Louise to manage training bookings and enquiries. Julie is a point of contact for DBS queries and Lead Recruiters.

We are always keen to link with church settings and this year we are planning bimonthly meetings with Safeguarding Coordinators in addition to our annual safeguarding conference and safeguarding coordinator's service. Churchwardens and incumbents are always welcome at these.

The effectiveness of safeguarding provision in the Diocese is monitored by the Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG), made up of Diocesan representatives and external members from statutory agencies. This is chaired by Adrienne Plunkett, our newly appointed independent chair of DSOG.

Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 0793 081 9279 Email: Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org

Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 07930 887984 Email: Peter.Holloway@LeicesterCofE.org

Julie Foulds, Safeguarding Team Administrator
Tel: 0116 261 5360 Email: Julie.Foulds@LeicesterCofE.org

Louise Warner, Safeguarding Training Officer
Tel: 07729628319 Email: Louise.Warner@LeicesterCofE.org

Out of hours cover is provided by **Thirtyone:eight**
Tel: 0303 003 1111 and ask for option 2.

Please state that you are calling from the Diocese of Leicester.

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com
Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries or parent company can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24869. Benefact Group plc Reg. No. 01718196. Benefact Trust Limited Reg. No. 1043742. Benefact Trust Limited is a Charity registered in England and Wales with Reg. No. 263960. Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services Ltd (EFAS) Reg. No. 2046087. Ecclesiastical Planning Services Limited (EPSL) Reg. No. 2644860. South Essex Insurance Brokers Limited (SEIB) Reg. No. 06317314. All companies are registered in England at Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 113848. EFAS, EPSL and SEIB are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Firm Reference Numbers 126123 (EFAS), 958152 (EPSL) and 47947 (SEIB).

