**Dear churchwardens and PCC members...**

In uncertain times the Bible often speaks of hope. For example, “For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper you and not harm you, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Ironically, many churches in 2018 discovered something of their future hope by connecting with their past. The centenary commemorations of remembrance were often centred on churches at the heart of our communities. In these celebrations, Christians, along with history societies, schools, community groups, councils, artists, poets and more came together to give fresh meaning to the lives of those who had fought and died in the First World War. In giving a new meaning to the lives of these – primarily young men – we reconnected ourselves with the places where we live and worship today. Names on memorials somehow became more real to us and I was amazed by how many clergy volunteered to help their communities in remembrance. Our churches became amazing, imaginative, energised, creative – and relevant in so many new ways.

It seems that these relationships established, or deepened, in the Autumn of 2018 were renewed just a few months later as many reported a growth in Christmas service attendance – in a year where statistically figures should have decreased. Praise God! Jeremiah goes on to say, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart” (29:13). Exploring history for its own sake is something of a ‘history society endeavour’, the education of children about the past may be one fulfilled by our schools, but connecting people with a God who loves us, who inspired people of both past and present, is a church’s core activity.

In other parts of this edition of Visitation News you’ll find a renewed sense of hope and vision demonstrated across all the work we do together. Last autumn, Jesus changed our churches! Let’s pray that work continues in 2019, with renewed sense of purpose, so that our church and our churchgoers may become more confident in our mission and our hope.

**Stephen Taylor**

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**Bishop Trevor writes**

“The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it.” (John 1:5)

These words from the beginning of St John’s Gospel reminds us of God’s love and faithfulness for us and for all the world. While at times the darkness may seem to be growing stronger, the light of Christ still seeks to dispel its shadows. That light I see in the faces and intentions of those who come to offer themselves as disciples of Jesus Christ. I see that light in the welcome which you and your communities offer those seeking an experience of peace and hope. God’s invitation to us is to share that light with all whom we meet so that the world might believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

This will be my final article for Visitation News before I retire in May. My overriding sense is one of thankfulness as I prepare to move forward to the next stages of my own life and discipleship. Thankfulness to you and to the communities of the Diocese for that faithful witness which you bear, day by day, to the transforming power of Jesus Christ. I see that light in the welcome which you and your communities offer those seeking an experience of peace and hope. God’s invitation to us is to share that light with all whom we meet so that the world might believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.

My prayer now is that the Diocese will continue to flourish and go forward in its firm determination to continue to bear witness to Jesus Christ, to make disciples in His name and to serve the needs of the wider community.

Canterbury is a great diocese and I have been blessed and fortunate to have been called to be Bishop amongst you. With my prayers and blessing,

**The Rt Revd Trevor Willmott**

Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury
The Diocesan Secretary writes...

At the time of writing it is the start of a new year and new financial challenges are dawning across the Diocese. We continue to face the challenge of declining attendances in our churches whilst at the same time seeking to retain a high quality of ministry within our parishes. Inevitably the cost of this ministry, and that of the vital resource and support for it, will rise with inflation. It is therefore important that we focus more concertedly on our long-term objectives of:

- growth – both spiritual and numerical
- re-imagining Ministry
- building partnerships with our communities

Our strategy, Changed Lives ➔ Changing Lives has given us five key project strands (see the article by Colin Evans below) which underpin key aspects of these overarching objectives. If we are to see a flourishing of the Christian faith and discipleship within our diocese, now is the time to invest and equip our leaders and our church communities to better witness to the Gospel of Christ in our modern-day society. Achieving our financial and missional goals will be challenging but – as we were encouraged by a recent Peer Review of our diocese by representatives of the Church Commissioners – we must ‘hold our nerve.’ My prayer for us all is that we will draw closer together and allow God to bless us as we face the challenges of our times.

Julian Hills
Diocesan Secretary

Strategic Programme Manager, Colin Evans, writes...

2018 was a year for mobilising our Changed Lives ➔ Changing Lives strategy. As we start 2019, we have launched key projects in each of our five priority strands:

1. As part of the national Setting God’s People Free initiative, over 15 churches and groups from across the diocese will regularly be asking themselves two key questions:
   - How has knowing Jesus changed your life?
   - How can we best support one another to be seven-day-a-week disciples?

2. We have launched the Changing Lives Prayer Network with seasonal prayer cards and plans for a Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage. This initial work has been very well received – thank you for all the feedback. The Prayer Network seeks to deepen the ways that we are:
   - listening and discerning God’s direction for mission through our prayer
   - connecting more purposefully with one another and sharing stories of God at work
   - equipping one another to pray more – and to pray more deeply.

   Please save the date of 7-8 June 2019 to get involved in The Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage – more news and resources coming soon.

3. We have successfully recruited enablers to work in each of our nine Ignite projects, focussed on growing worshipping communities in disadvantaged areas. We have heard many encouraging stories of how these enablers are already building strong relationships with their communities. Many volunteers from the churches are coming forward to help out with the Ignite meetings when they begin. The first new plant launched successfully in March at St. Francis, Ashford.

4. The focus of our Youth Hubs project is on making and nurturing new Christians of secondary school age among non-churchgoing teenagers. Our pilot hub will be based in the Sittingbourne Deanery, at St. Mary’s Church. We have successfully recruited our project leader – Louisa Ley – and she is now working with the team to develop detailed plans for a summer launch. The pilot hub will develop models that can be tailored and replicated in other deaneries across the Diocese. This project will be supported by funding from Allchurches Trust, as well as other sources.

5. Our pilot wave of Missional Learning Communities is now underway. Rooted in spiritual practices, teams will work together to identify how they can foster change and renew mission in their communities. Incumbents and lay teams from several benefices can foster change and renew mission in their communities. Incumbents and lay teams from several benefices are meeting together to learn the principles that underpin the approach and to learn together as they plan missional activities. In future years every benefice will be given the opportunity to participate and benefit from this project.

Colin Evans
Strategic Programme Manager

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Archdeacon Visitation dates for 2019

Churchwardens and others are invited to attend these services for prayer, worship and the formal admission of churchwardens. The visitations will be held at 7.30pm on the following dates:

Monday 20th May – Ashford and Maidstone Archdeaconries
St. Mildred’s, Tenterden

Tuesday 21st May – Maidstone Archdeaconry
St. Mary’s, Teynham

Wednesday 22nd May – Canterbury Archdeaconry
Canterbury Cathedral

Thursday 23rd May – Ashford Archdeaconry
St. Mary’s, Dover

Training opportunities

Upcoming training sessions for new churchwardens will include opportunities to network and socialise with one another:

Ashford Archdeaconry
Thursday 20th June from 6.30 – 9pm (supper included) at the Archdeaconry, Ashford

Maidstone Archdeaconry
Tuesday 25th June from 6.30 – 9pm (supper included) at the Archdeaconry, Maidstone

Canterbury Archdeaconry
Thursday 27th June from 6.30 – 9pm (supper included) at the Archdeaconry, Canterbury

Churchwarden and Parish Officer Training
12th October, 9.30am – 12pm
The John Wallis Academy, Ashford

Further details of the training will be made available later in the year, but please save the date.

We are very grateful to Ecclesiastical for its help in producing this newsletter at no cost to the Diocese. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Allchurches Trust for its grant of £121,237 in 2018, which greatly benefits the mission of this diocese.
Parish Pixels – show us what makes your church special

This year, our church competition celebrates churches across the UK through photography. However, it is far from just a photography competition!

We’ll be asking every church to send us a single photo showing what makes their church special, whether taken by a professional or a member of the congregation on a smartphone.

We know that every church, its congregation, and community is unique. From the volunteer who holds everything together, to the children’s groups who brighten up the Sunday services. From the beautiful flower gardens, to the exceptional architecture of your church building. No two churches are the same, and we want to celebrate what makes your church special.

How would you show how unique and special your church is in just one photo?
Find out more about the competition and how your church can enter at: www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels

Insurance advice that’s right up your street

Our Church Insurance Consultants offer a locally-based advisory service to churches up and down the country, either face-to-face or over the phone.

Our five consultants are responsible for a particular region of the country, and are available to visit your church and parish to give on-the-spot advice, as well as scheduling seminars and training. This could include help with explaining your insurance policy, to giving risk management presentations, and providing churchwarden training. Each member of the team isn’t just an expert in insurance, they also have a deep involvement with the church themselves. Thanks to their background in the church, they appreciate and understand the concerns that PCCs and congregations have.

Through support and guidance, and by giving our customers the reassurance that they are doing things safely and securely, our consultants can enable churches to focus on what really matters: worship, mission and outreach. With their support, we hope to help make our nation’s churches a vibrant, vital and exciting part of the community for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Find out more about your Church Insurance Consultant in your area on our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/cic

Our specialist customer service team

Our dedicated church customer service team have a deep understanding of the specialist needs of those who look after, and protect, churches. Our friendly team are ready to help you with any query, no matter how big or small, and are available by telephone, email or post.

Call: 0345 777 3322
(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)
Email: churches@ecclesiastical.com
Post: Church customer services, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ
Unique research bolsters our advice for churches on slips and trips

Although churches are generally low-risk environments, slips and trips remain the most common cause of injury. In some cases, these can be severe, so taking sensible and adequate precautions is essential. Sometimes, this is more difficult in church premises, usually because of design constraints or the heritage fabric of the building itself. Here, it is usually necessary to consider a wider range of precautions.

We understand this challenge, and it’s why we have teamed up with leading health and safety researchers at the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to look at the problem. We have conducted research across a range of historic buildings (including churches) with a view to developing practical advice in the prevention of slips and trips. This is in a way that is both sympathetic with the history of the building and is cost effective.

Our new guidance looks at a range of topics identifying best practice and exploring a range of precautions. You can find out more and read the guidance on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/churchslipsandtrips

We’ve donated over £285,000 to churches across the UK so far!

For every new home insurance policy taken out with us, we have donated £130 to the church of the policyholder’s choice, and so far these donations add up to over £285,000!

We are delighted that this offer is now running until the end of 2019 and many more churches are set to benefit from our donations.

How your church can benefit

For every new home insurance policy taken out where ‘Trust130’ is quoted, we will ask the customer what church they would like a donation of £130 to go to. So, by spreading the word around your church workers, volunteers and congregation, your church could benefit, and as there is no limit to the number of donations one church can receive; the donations could make a big difference to your church.

Has your church already received a donation?

If your church has received a donation, we’d love to hear how your church has used the money. Whether you’ve used it for a large project or event, or just to buy biscuits for coffee mornings, we want to hear about it. You can either tell us by email at: Trust130@ecclesiastical.com or via facebook tagging us @churchmatters and we might share your story too!

Find out more about our home insurance at: www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance

Do we have up-to-date contact details for you?

If you need to update us on changes to names, email addresses, phone numbers and changes to PCC members, you can do this by calling our team on: 0345 777 3322
Taking a sabbatical in 2020?

Ecclesiastical’s Ministry Bursary Awards provides financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2020. You can find out more about the awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba

Rewarding the good work of others with our Movement for Good Awards

At Ecclesiastical, we’ve always believed in supporting the causes that can make a positive difference to people’s lives. That’s why we work closely with the communities we serve to tackle the issues that are important to them.

On Tuesday 23rd April, we launched our Movement for Good Awards – a programme designed to give £1million to charities. Our Movement for Good Awards are a way of recognising and supporting the efforts of these dedicated men and women – people who devote their energies to changing people’s lives for the better.

500 charities will receive a £1,000 donation

Anyone can get involved by simply nominating an eligible charity*. You can nominate between Tuesday 23 April and Friday 17 May.

10 charities will be awarded a £50,000 grant

Eligible charities* can apply for a grant via a simple online application. Applications open on Monday 23 June and close Friday 26 July.

So, if your church is a registered charity, you have a charity associated with your church, or there’s a charity anyone in your congregation is associated with, you can get involved.

You can find out more on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/movementforgood

*Please note, anyone can nominate but you must be an eligible charity to win an award. Go to the website address above to view the full Terms and Conditions.

Risk Management Advice Line

We know that managing the risks of a church or church hall can be a demanding responsibility.

That’s why we’ve introduced the Risk Management Advice Line. Whenever you need information about managing risk and can’t find what you are looking for on our website, our experts are here to help.

Call our Risk Management Advice Line: 0345 600 7531

The line is open from 9:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays.

Alternatively you can email us at: risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

Our Risk Management Advice Line offers Ecclesiastical customers free risk advice. Please have your policy number to hand when you call.

Our new-look website

Have you seen our newly refreshed website? We’ve changed our site to make it easier to use, but you will still find all our useful guides, information and videos available on the site.

The website has a clean and fresh style, which makes it easier for you to find the information you need. If you have any trouble finding information on our new site you can always call our team who will be happy to direct you to the right place.

Call us on: 0345 777 3322

www.ecclesiastical.com/church

We would like to hear what you think of our new website. You can email comments and feedback to: churches@ecclesiastical.com
Allchurches announces record giving and changes to grant programmes

In 2019, Allchurches Trust, owners of Ecclesiastical, is making changes to its giving that will place even more of an emphasis on helping organisations in less-affluent areas.

The changes have come about following a Strategic Grants Review, which set out to ensure that the Trust continues to meet the needs of its beneficiaries and make the greatest possible impact with the funds available. The aim is to improve effectiveness, transparency and reporting, including for annual grants to dioceses and cathedrals.

These annual grants are now guaranteed until 2022, facilitating longer-term, strategic planning. At the same time, the Trust aims to steadily make a greater amount of funding available to churches, charities, dioceses and cathedrals that apply for grants to fund projects in their communities.

As well as giving a higher percentage of the total project cost, Allchurches has doubled the uplift on grants to projects in areas of greatest need.

Annual grants are also now allocated based on population and the degree of deprivation of the area, and dioceses and cathedrals have been asked to provide more information about what they intend to spend their grant on and report back on the impact that the money is having.

Chairman of Allchurches Trust, Sir Philip Mawer, said: “We’ve already heard about some great initiatives being funded by our annual grant, including a youth outreach partnership project called Growing Faith for Generations (GF4G) in the Isle of Man. We’re keen to work with dioceses to share these stories about the good work our funding is helping to enable in their parishes.”

You can find out more about Allchurches Trust at: www.allchurches.co.uk

We’re here for you...

Ecclesiastical supports our church customers with more than just church insurance – read on to find out more about how we can help you.

Expert Financial Advice
Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services provide independent financial advice. Our experts advise clergy, church people and PCCs on making investments (including ethical investing), pension and retirement planning, mortgages and life assurance.
Call: 0800 107 0190
Email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

Car Insurance
Ecclesiastical Insurance Services offer tailored Motor insurance protection to the clergy, with benefits including business use (for anything relating to the church), no direct debit charges, no fees for policy changes, and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.
Call: 0345 450 9396
www.ecclesiasticalinsuranceservices.co.uk

Award-winning Claims Service
Our dedicated team are ready to support you and with 99% claims satisfaction*, if the worst should happen, you know you are in safe hands.
Call: 0345 603 8381
www.ecclesiastical.com/claims

Funeral Plans
A funeral plan from Ecclesiastical is an ideal way to make financial provision for your funeral, as well as reducing the worry for your loved ones at a difficult time. Making your funeral wishes known in advance and providing for the cost makes sound financial sense.
Call: 0800 055 6503
www.funeralplans.co.uk

*Ecclesiastical claims satisfaction survey 2017 - direct customers
The Director of Mission and Ministry writes:

The Licensed Ministries and Local Church Development frameworks have been working closely together over the last year developing ideas, programmes and training events to help all ministers (lay and ordained) in the diocese grow in their work and access resources which are beneficial for the local parish. This work reinforces and encourages the missional focus of the diocese, equips church officers for their particular tasks, and helps to shape collaborative values of mission and ministry. Later in the year we are organising an event for church officers that will include specialised input and seminars on key areas.

We are also updating materials and information on the diocesan website. In the months ahead we want to specifically work with churchwardens in areas including leading worship, surviving a vacancy, developing lay ministry, building relationships with local schools and insurance issues. Peter Ingrams will look forward to working with you (pingrams@diocant.org).

The first Missional Learning Community launched in January this year (see page 2) and has the potential to renew the Church at both the deanery and benefice levels. People attend to the Scriptures together, develop habits of spiritual practices and share the specific ministry and mission concerns they have with others so as to develop imaginative responses in their local setting. Steve Coney is the person to talk to about this exciting project (sconey@diocant.org).

Our DDO, Joss Walker (jwalker@diocant.org) and her team have been developing a vocational focus for young people and have been offering a gateway ‘Explore More’ course, which over 100 people in the diocese have attended. We are also working to ensure that access to vocations in the Church is as open as possible, particularly by recognising the impact of unconscious bias and how we might overcome that. Nigel Collins (ncollins@diocant.org), as Warden of Readers, is always available to talk through how Reader ministry can be developed and encouraged in benefices, while I (nemslie@diocant.org), oversee the continuing ministry development of priests and, at the moment, the training of curates.

The relationship between churchwardens and incumbents is critical for a healthy church community and witness. We are working hard to help incumbents develop ministry teams that suit their contexts, the gifts of the people of God, and the call of Christ for us to be his disciples in his Church and in God’s world.

Neville Emslie
Director of Mission and Ministry

The Communities and Partnership Framework writes:

Jesus says, “I have come that you may have life, life in all its fullness” (John 10:10). We work with communities and individuals to bring about change and enrichment where existing circumstances are broken or have become a challenge. Over the last ten years, we have seen the constant rise of financial and social exclusion affecting people across the whole social spectrum in our communities, where people have become disenfranchised and isolated. Our local churches and the communities we serve can be beacons in such situations of growing desperation.

In 2019, we have already planned with many churches to develop further the hospitality we give. In particular, we’re working on…

- Pilgrimage – working with parishes to extend their welcome to pilgrims both local and further afield across the many pilgrimage paths in our diocese.
- Places of Welcome – we have celebrated the first anniversary of this initiative coming to Sittingbourne and hope to develop six further

Places of Welcome around the Diocese through our Together Kent project worker.

- Ignite – the new Ignite pilots around the diocese continue to build their links with the wider-community to share Christ’s teaching and grow worshipping communities.
- Refugees – we will be developing the ‘Home’ arts project in new locations, along with raising awareness of how our communities can welcome refugees.
- Rural communities – we’re looking at how we can continue to build links with other organisations to enrich our communities so that people can access services and resources much more easily.

There is so much more that we’re doing – and can continue to do in partnership with you.

“For all that has been, thank you. For all that is to come, Yes!” (Dag Hammarskjold)

Caroline Pinchbeck
Director of Communities and Partnerships

Places of Welcome – we have celebrated the first anniversary of this initiative coming to Sittingbourne and hope to develop six further

Stewardship and funding

Stewardship is about our response to God’s generosity. It covers all aspects of our lives and how we live them; how we look after God’s creation, use the gifts which we have been given, and use our financial resources. Your stewardship and funding advisors are here to support you, to maximize planned giving and encourage your congregation to think about how they can best use their time and talents. If you haven’t run a stewardship campaign recently, we can enable you to move forward confidently with your mission plans, knowing that they are underpinned by firm finances.

Stewardship campaigns are best run on a three-yearly cycle, with a main campaign in year one and a smaller renewal appeal in years two and three. We can help plan, produce the materials and deliver your main campaign, and we can help with resources and support for your annual stewardship renewal.

If you are planning a major capital project, we are able to offer advice on fundraising. We can support you from your first thoughts about your project all the way through to celebrating your success. This includes advice on planning and sources of funding (major donors, local funding, gift days and grant makers) before you embark on the project.

Throughout the year we also run courses including project planning, fundraising and bid writing – and we can lead your PCC away day, to help you focus on generosity in your context.

To find out more, please contact Liz Mullins (emullins@diocant.org) or Charlotte McCaulay (cmccaulay@diocant.org).
Heating equipment fuelled by liquid propane gas

Historic churches can be cold places. We know that making them comfortable for worship on anything but the hottest day can be difficult. We also appreciate that really effective heating systems are expensive to install and to run. For those reasons, we understand the need for portable heaters.

Some portable heaters are fuelled by liquid propane gas, or LPG as it’s usually known. They take various forms: some of them look like domestic gas heaters; some of them consist of an overhead array mounted on a vertical post; some of them consist of a horizontally positioned tube with the heater inside and an electrically-powered fan to blow the hot air in the direction of where it’s needed.

The Diocese of Canterbury actively discourages the use of such heaters. They can smell unpleasant in operation. They give off a lot of condensation, which can cause problems for historic fabric, such as accelerating the onset of wood rot. Even more seriously, they are a potential fire risk. Spare gas cylinders increase the danger when stored inside the church. In the event of a fire, they are at risk of exploding. The explosion will not only produce a fireball, it will also scatter metal shrapnel over a wide area.

If the fire service discovers gas cylinders or knows in advance that they are present, the firemen will withdraw and fight the fire from outside a 200-meter (660-foot) exclusion zone until it’s safe to approach. This will make it impossible to avoid serious damage to the church.

If you have no permanent heating system or do have one, but need to augment it, then we encourage you to use electric heaters instead. Ecclesiastical Insurance suggests using thermostatically-controlled convector or fan heaters, which should preferably be wall mounted or, at any rate, positioned where they can’t be knocked over and are well clear of anything combustible.

If you have no alternative, then please note the following guidelines:

- You’ll need a full faculty to introduce the heater. Approval from the DAC will be conditioned on an explanation of why no other form of heating is possible.
- Approval will also be conditioned on storage of the spare gas cylinders in free-standing, well-ventilated secure outbuilding or enclosure at a distance from the church building. If accommodation has to be specially erected, please note that this may also require planning permission. The number of spare cylinders stored there should always be kept to a minimum.
- A fire risk assessment should be undertaken to ensure the heater is placed correctly, well away from anything combustible like woodwork. Ideally it should be anchored to prevent it from being accidentally knocked over and fitted with a proprietary metal guard. It should never be covered.
- A carbon monoxide detector should be fitted. This gas can sometimes be given off by faulty gas-fired equipment. It is odourless and invisible, but can be fatal.
- The heater should never be left unattended for long periods or kept running when the church is unoccupied.
- The heater should be tested annually by a suitably qualified engineer.
- LPG heaters should never be used in a ringing chamber.
- A spent cylinder should be changed in a well-ventilated space, preferably outside. Once the new cylinder has been connected to the heater, open the valve slowly and check for any sound of gas escaping from a leak before a serious escape can occur.

If you are using LPG heaters in your church in breach of any of the guidelines above, please take action straight away. Any gas cylinders stored in or close to the building should be removed to alternative safe accommodation as a matter of urgency. If you need any further advice on what to do next, please contact Care of Churches Officer Edmund Harris (eharris@diocant.org, 01227 473565).

Edmund Harris
Care of Churches Officer

Safeguarding Training

The Safeguarding team has been working hard to ensure that as many people as possible within our churches are trained to the highest possible level. To date we have trained hundreds of people across the Diocese and we would encourage everyone to complete C1 training to gain an awareness of the very real issues that face us in our church context. Through training we can continue to raise the profile of safeguarding across the Diocese and spread the word about how to make our churches safer places where all are welcomed, cared for and supported.

The following safeguarding training courses are available:

- The C1 online module is appropriate for anyone involved in church life. It is possible to complete this module as a group – and we particularly encourage this to help to make the course accessible to those who are less technologically-minded. Resources for face-to-face delivery of C1 within parishes will be made available in mid April.

The C2 Safeguarding Leadership Module is aimed at all lay leaders and safeguarding officers. This module has now been running for two years and we are grateful to our dedicated team of parish trainers who continue to work hard to deliver these courses across the diocese.

To date we have trained in excess of 700 people at C2 level – but we know that there are still many people who would benefit from this training.

How to book your C1 or C2 Safeguarding training

Please do book on to an appropriate training course. Details about our safeguarding training dates and how to reserve a place can be found at www.canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/training Further dates will be added throughout the year.

If you have any queries about training, please contact me on smartin@diocant.org or 01227 459401.

SJ Martin
Diocesan Safeguarding Trainer
What to do in the event of a lead theft

We hope you’ll never suffer an attack by metal thieves. However, with lead prices high and unscrupulous scrap dealers still in business, the threat is never going to go away completely. But while you may not be able to eliminate it, you can still be prepared. It’s good to know what to do if you’re hit, so here’s a quick step-by-step guide.

**STEP 1:** A metal theft is a crime, not just an inconvenience. As soon as it happens you must contact the police before anything else.

If you discover a theft in progress, call 999 straight away. If you’re seen by the thieves, that may be enough to scare them off, but don’t do anything that might put your personal safety at risk.

If you discover a theft that’s already happened, call 101 (the non-emergency number) to report the crime. You can also report it online at: [https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/](https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/). Make sure that you ask the police to class it as a heritage crime and to bring it to the attention of the Rural Task Force. Kent Police are aware of lead theft, understand the huge problems that it causes and don’t view it as a victimless crime. But they need intelligence about what’s happening and where. There are longer sentencing tariffs for heritage crimes in the event of a conviction.

When you report the theft, please give the following information as that will help the police to deal with it more effectively:

1. **Location:** where exactly did the theft happen? Give the postcode of your church.
2. **Nature of the crime:** give brief details of what exactly was stolen (downpipes/flashings/roof covering/lightning conductor) where it was stolen from, and the damage done to the building.
3. **Time:** when did the theft happen? If you can’t be exact, give a timeframe.
4. **Sightings:** were there any witnesses to the crime? If so, what did they see and would they be prepared to give statements? Are there CCTV cameras and have you examined the footage?
5. **Forensics:** the thieves might have left useful evidence, so check with the police that you’re not inadvertently tampering with a crime scene.
6. **Proof:** was the lead treated with SmartWater or any other form of forensic marking system that could trace it to your church? This is really important if the police catch the thieves or scrap dealer red-handed.

Make sure you obtain a reference number for the crime – it’ll be vital when following up the report!

**STEP 2:** Report the incident to your insurer and register a claim. Ecclesiastical Insurance’s claim line is 0345 777 3322. Find out how much of the cost of replacing the roofing they will be prepared to cover.

**STEP 3:** Secure the building with a temporary roof. Even if just a small amount of lead roofing is missing, your church will start to deteriorate quickly. A stitch in time really does save nine – the sooner you take action, the easier it will be to make good the damage. A tarpaulin weighted down with bricks will work as an emergency measure.

**STEP 4:** Anything more permanent will require an emergency faculty, so contact the Registry and DAC office to obtain one. The best way to do this is to contact Ann Beswick, the Registry Clerk (abeswick@wslaw.co.uk, 020 7 593 5148) and Edmund Harris, Care of Churches Officer (eharris@diocant.org, 01227 473565). Send photographs of the affected area, a brief description of what happened and information about what you wish to introduce as a temporary measure to protect the church. Leave intact any remaining lead and don’t make any changes that can’t later be undone.

**STEP 5:** Sort out a permanent fix. Contact your inspecting architect and Edmund Harris for advice, discuss the matter with the PCC. There is a blanket faculty which allows repairs following lead theft to be authorised by the Archdeacon on the advice of the DAC, without the need to apply to the Registry and display a public notice. Here are some points to bear in mind when you’re deciding what to do:

- Lead is always preferred as the first choice for replacing lead. It’s the most appropriate material for an historic church and it also lasts like no other – the lifespan of a lead roof is measured in decades, even centuries.

- We recognise that putting back lead can seem to be tempting fate and we will consider alternatives to prevent the risk of a repeat strike, especially if this isn’t the first time metal has been stolen. Under the terms of the blanket faculty, the acceptable alternatives are terne-coated stainless steel or patinated zinc. Both materials are durable, can be laid to look like a lead roof and are not known to attract metal thieves. But approval isn’t automatic – much depends on how visible the roof is from the ground. Bear in mind that the local authority may require you to obtain planning permission for a change in material, so do check with their planning department. It’s possible your insurer will insist on like-for-like replacement, so check with their claims department.

**STEP 6:** A metal theft is a crime, not just an inconvenience. As soon as it happens you must contact the police before anything else.

If you discover a theft in progress, call 999 straight away. If you’re seen by the thieves, that may be enough to scare them off, but don’t do anything that might put your personal safety at risk.

If you discover a theft that’s already happened, call 101 (the non-emergency number) to report the crime. You can also report it online at: [https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/](https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/). Make sure that you ask the police to class it as a heritage crime and to bring it to the attention of the Rural Task Force. Kent Police are aware of lead theft, understand the huge problems that it causes and don’t view it as a victimless crime. But they need intelligence about what’s happening and where. There are longer sentencing tariffs for heritage crimes in the event of a conviction.

When you report the theft, please give the following information as that will help the police to deal with it more effectively:

1. **Location:** where exactly did the theft happen? Give the postcode of your church.
2. **Nature of the crime:** give brief details of what exactly was stolen (downpipes/flashings/roof covering/lightning conductor) where it was stolen from, and the damage done to the building.
3. **Time:** when did the theft happen? If you can’t be exact, give a timeframe.
4. **Sightings:** were there any witnesses to the crime? If so, what did they see and would they be prepared to give statements? Are there CCTV cameras and have you examined the footage?
5. **Forensics:** the thieves might have left useful evidence, so check with the police that you’re not inadvertently tampering with a crime scene.
6. **Proof:** was the lead treated with SmartWater or any other form of forensic marking system that could trace it to your church? This is really important if the police catch the thieves or scrap dealer red-handed.

Make sure you obtain a reference number for the crime – it’ll be vital when following up the report!

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Proprietary roofing products such as Ubiflex, Icopal are virtually never acceptable. They are visually inappropriate because of the change in character and they have an unknown lifespan, certainly much shorter than metal. They’re therefore a false economy. Your architect will be able to advise.

The blanket faculty only covers the replacement of stolen metal roofing. If the theft has caused damage to the fabric of the church (e.g. tiles have been dislodged by the removal of lead flashing) or other metal components have been stolen, a different form of permission may be required, so do check with Edmund Harris whether this is the case.

**STEP 6:** Send in an application to Edmund Harris. You'll need to provide:

- a specification from your architect
- a letter from your insurer consenting to the works
- a PCC resolution.

He’ll forward it to the standing committee of the DAC for review. If they approve, permission will be confirmed in writing. Once you have that, you can instruct the contractor to start work.

You can do a lot to reduce your vulnerability to lead theft. Here are some tips.

- Fit a roof alarm, which will be triggered by any unauthorised access. There's guidance about roof alarms and other security measures on Ecclesiastical Insurance’s website here: [https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/roof-protection-systems/](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/roof-protection-systems/). This may entitle you to increased insurance cover, too.

- Join a Neighbourhood Watch scheme and get your congregation and neighbours to keep an eye out for anything untoward. They can report suspicious behaviour to the police by calling 101. They can also download and use the Country Eye app: [https://countryeye.co.uk/](https://countryeye.co.uk/)

- Please let your congregation and neighbours know when works are taking place at the church. Encourage them to call the churchwardens or clergy if people dressed like contractors appear at the church when they are not expected.

- Keep your church open on a daily basis. If potential thieves can see that the building is frequented regularly, they’re less likely to take a chance. Locked doors don’t keep out thieves – they don’t need the door to be open to reach the roof! Also, regular visitors can report anything amiss. Check whether you are inadvertently putting yourself at risk by taking a look at Ecclesiastical Insurance’s security checklist: [www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/theft-of-metal-checklist.pdf](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/theft-of-metal-checklist.pdf)

Your insurance policy provides cover for metal theft, and subsequent damage, as long as you have taken the following steps:

- applied a forensic marking system approved by the Diocese (e.g. SmartWater) to external metal. More information about SmartWater is available from Ecclesiastical Insurance’s website here: [https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/smartwater/](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/smartwater/)

- registered the marking system with the provider;

- clearly displayed signage of the marking system to deter thieves.

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The Diocesan Advisory Committee

I am very fortunate in my role to assist parishes with faculty applications for churchyards. This can include anything from benches to tree management, memorial gardens, paths and noticeboards. Your churchyard is, first and foremost, a tranquil and peaceful place for burial and remembrance – but it can also be an oasis of green in an urban landscape, a place for the whole community to share and enjoy. This year I have assisted a number of parishes as they seek to make their churchyards a true haven with wild flowers, native hedging and tree planting. It has been uplifting to see plans for children’s areas and beautiful memorial gardens that sit in harmony with the natural environment. A personal project this year is to write guidance for the creation of memorial gardens, in consultation with DAC members and the archdeacons.

I look forward to working with you all in 2019.

Chloe Ewen
Assistant Care of Churches Officer
The Property Department writes...

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 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.

Children and Young People Framework

What does Changed Lives ➔ Changing Lives mean in relation to children and young people?

Throughout the Bible there is an undeniable sense of connection and interaction between generations as faith communities are gathered together. It follows that we should create space and opportunity for the whole people of God to worship together and learn from each other, discovering and rediscovering the richness of faith as it is passed from generation to generation.

This is captured in our vision and ministry, which covers the spheres of church, school and family; seeing children, young people and households coming to faith, growing in discipleship and contributing confidently to the Kingdom of God. We believe this is especially made possible where:

- parishes create expressions of church where children and young people are seen as equal partners with adults in the life of the church; their voices are heard and they are actively involved, where they can grow and truly belong;
- congregations (including leaders, grandparents, Godparents and others) nurture and support the faith of children and young people;
- households become confident in sharing and nurturing faith;
- Church of England schools are authentically Christian and encourage spiritual development, growth in discipleship, and provide a rich experience and understanding of Christianity.

All of this requires a focus on faith formation, characterised by empowerment and participation. Furthermore, across the diocese we are seeking to build a culture where it is second nature to examine strategies, decisions and all daily activities through the lens of what it means for our children, young people and families – a shift which will truly change lives.

Quentin Roper
Director of Education

Murray Wilkinson
Children and Young People’s Ministry Adviser

When it feels irreplaceable, trust

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For more information, call 0345 777 3322 email churches@ecclesiastical.com @churchmatters

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