

 Diocese of Canterbury

# archdeacons' visitation news

## Dear Churchwardens

### Where is God taking us next...?

In the OT book of Habakkuk, the writer is in dialogue with God. Writing at a time when all around was injustice and idolatry, Habakkuk is longing for God's intervention and asks God what is to be done next. He climbs the watchtower so that he can be ready to hear God's word to him.

There is wisdom in climbing a watchtower – a physical structure built for surveillance and defence. Once there, away from distraction, you can see a long way ahead – to the horizon perhaps. Whatever is approaching will be clearer far earlier from the watchtower than from the ground. The writer of Habakkuk positions himself there to wait for God's word to him.

As leaders, we sometimes do well to climb the watchtower – a vantage point to see ahead of others what is coming next, and then to inform those on the ground.

The watchtower then is a symbol of God's unfolding mission. By climbing it, by asking the question 'Where is God leading us now?', we are engaging in the dynamic nature of God's purposes. With God, there is always a 'next,' and we are encouraged to be led by God into this onward, forward motion. We may take a moment to climb the watchtower to see, but we will not be staying there forever – we will need to climb down and take action soon enough.

Missio Dei (the mission of God) is an invitation to participate in God's action in the world. When we ask the question 'Where is God taking us next?' we unravel yet more questions – to whom is God

taking us? How is God taking us? When we identify what is coming towards us on the horizon we will begin to know what this new direction is – and we ask yet more questions: Are we ready? What do we need?

The team in Diocesan House is there to help support the answers to these and other questions. In these pages are some reminders of the ways the team do that. The important thing for you as Churchwardens is that you are not alone. It might feel lonely when you are in the watchtower and start to see what is coming towards you, but when you climb back down you are surrounded by others looking to support you.

I hope that this publication encourages you as you seek out God's purposes and plans for wherever you are serving him.



**The Venerable  
Will Adam**  
Archdeacon of Canterbury

**The Venerable  
Darren Miller**  
Archdeacon of Ashford

**The Revd Canon  
Sharon Copestake**  
Interim Archdeacon of  
Maidstone

Produced and printed by

 **ecclesiastical**

# Visitation Services 2025

Churchwardens and others are invited to attend these services for prayer, worship and the formal admission of Churchwardens. The Visitations will be held at 7pm with the exception of 17 June which will be held at 5.30pm as part of Evensong in the Cathedral.

<b>Thursday 5 June</b>	Canterbury archdeaconry, Canterbury Cathedral
<b>Thursday 12 June</b>	Ashford archdeaconry, Canterbury Cathedral
<b>Tuesday 17 June</b>	All archdeaconries, Canterbury Cathedral (Evensong at 5.30 pm)
<b>Wednesday 25 June</b>	Maidstone archdeaconry, St Mary of Charity, Faversham
<b>Tuesday 1 July</b>	Ashford & Maidstone joint archdeaconries, St Nicholas, Allington

The Visitations are not ticketed events and there is no restriction on numbers attending. Churchwardens should attend whichever service suits them best and will receive a warm welcome whichever archdeaconry they are connected with. It is hoped that the choice of dates and venues ensures that every Churchwarden attends a service to be admitted to office.

The Archdeacons will look forward to your attendance at one of these events. If you need any further information, please contact your Archdeacon's office.



## The Bishop of Dover writes

Within the last year, I have regularly been dwelling in scripture using the story of Jesus in the boat asleep on a cushion while a storm is brewing. This has led me consciously, every time I am in a church building, to look up.

There I see the architectural design of a boat, and I am drawn to envisage our Lord asleep, making himself comfortable with the cushion – Mark's gospel gives us this image (4:35–41). Not far away from him, in another part of the boat, the disciples are in a state of fear. They are panicking. They believe a disaster is about to engulf them and they cry out: *"Jesus, wake up man! How can you be sleeping? Can you not feel the rage of the wind, the damage that is being done! We are frightened, afraid, and all you can do is sleep! Wake up!"*

Jesus awakes, and he first calms the storm, *"Silence! Be still!"* Three simple words effecting change. Then he addresses the behaviour of the disciples, *"Why are you afraid, where is your faith?"*. There is something to be said about 'being still, being silent'. The silence allows us time to think, to see things in perspective, to remember who we are, who has called us and who is always present with us. It is all too easy to join in with the crowd and be carried along within the echo chamber of whatever is being shouted.

The truth is, we cannot legislate for all the storms of life, but it is within our powers to decide how we will respond. As the children of God here in the Diocese of Canterbury, may we always remember that the risen Christ is present with us.

I want to thank you for all that you do as Churchwardens, caring for your clergy, congregations and buildings. It may feel at times like there are storms along the way, but keep faithful and know God's presence with you and treasure the exciting waters of mission and growth.

+Rose

**Bishop Rose**  
Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury



## Churchwarden Training

<b>Thursday 10 July</b> <b>3.30-5.30pm</b>	Ashford archdeaconry Charing Barn (next to St Peter & St Paul, Charing) Market Place, Charing TN27 0LP
<b>Wednesday 16 July</b> <b>2-4pm</b>	Maidstone archdeaconry St Faith's Centre, Monckton Lane, Maidstone ME14 2PY
<b>Thursday 17 July</b> <b>3-5pm</b>	Canterbury archdeaconry St Martin's Parish Hall, Church Street, Canterbury CT1 1NH
<b>Tuesday 22 July</b> <b>7-8.30pm</b>	Ashford Parish Church Hall, Church Yard, Ashford TN23 1QG

Please contact your archdeaconry to request to attend the training and join any date, as the training is identical at each event.

# Support and resources for Churchwardens from Ecclesiastical

Ecclesiastical understands that volunteering for the role of Churchwarden and supporting your church can be a demanding job. Managing a treasured building and ensuring that it's a safe place for your congregation to worship, visit and enjoy can be daunting, but you don't have to do it alone.

## Ecclesiastical church support managers

At no additional cost, Church Support Managers are there for their Ecclesiastical church customers. Providing tailored help and training to support church insurance needs, they can offer guidance on risk management, health and safety legislation and direct you to online resources. They can also deliver online and in-person group training sessions around topics including the basics of insurance, fire safety, fundraising, climate change and net zero, open churches and theft of metal.



Heather Ford



Joseph Davies

**Heather Ford** – Church Support Manager for the North.

Heather has roots in the Church, having previously worked for the Diocese of Manchester, and understands the demands of church life. Heather is passionate about supporting churches to understand how insurance can help, rather than hinder, to enable people to focus on their ministry and thrive.

**Joseph Davies** – Church Support Manager for the South.

Joseph is very much part of the Church family – his father was a parish priest, his mother a hospital chaplain, his wife was recently ordained as a curate, and he spent nine years as a verger at Salisbury and Ely Cathedrals.

“ Fundraising is crucial for sustaining church activities and initiatives. I am always delighted to offer guidance on effective fundraising strategies. We have an excellent online Fundraising Hub which has lots of information about how to get started and how to keep going on your fundraising journey. ”

✉ [meetus@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:meetus@ecclesiastical.com)  
 🌐 [ecclesiastical.com/church/church-support-managers](https://ecclesiastical.com/church/church-support-managers)

## Fundraising hub

Fundraising plays a key role in boosting finances for your church. Ecclesiastical's fundraising hub offers user-friendly support guides which take you from 'where to start' through to 'key factors for successful fundraising' and everything in between.

If you have an Ecclesiastical policy, you can also contact their fundraising helpline, to arrange a call back from their expert team.

📞 **0345 601 9959**  
 🌐 [ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising](https://ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising)



## Ecclesiastical's plain English guides

If you are looking for help in areas such as legal expenses, building work, or outreach, Ecclesiastical has a range of easy to understand Made Simple Guides to help, and their comprehensive document library is full of useful tools like risk assessment templates and Guidance Notes.

🌐 [ecclesiastical.com/church/#madesimple](https://ecclesiastical.com/church/#madesimple)

## Ecclesiastical church insurance team

Do you have questions about your Ecclesiastical policy?

📞 **0345 777 3322** – lines are open 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays  
 ✉ [churchteam@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churchteam@ecclesiastical.com)

## Risk Advice Helpline

Are you looking for advice on how to minimise risks as you manage your church?

📞 **0345 600 7531** – lines are open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays  
 ✉ [risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com)

## A claims team that really cares

Ecclesiastical's claims team are experts.

📞 **0345 603 8381** – 24-hour reporting service  
 🌐 [ecclesiastical.com/claims/claim-online](https://ecclesiastical.com/claims/claim-online)

## Ecclesiastical would love to hear from you

Do you have a story for Ecclesiastical? Perhaps you overcame a fundraising problem or found a way to get your local community more involved with your church. Sharing 'a day in your life' could really help other Churchwardens and members of the PCC.

✉ [meetus@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:meetus@ecclesiastical.com)

Contains promotional material

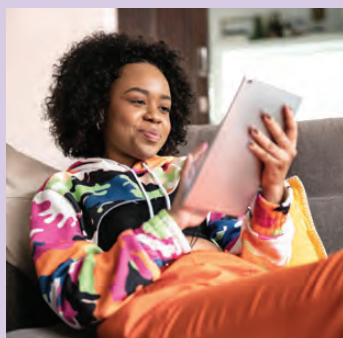
# Month-by-month support

To help you plan maintenance and manage your church and its grounds, Ecclesiastical has created a calendar to keep you organised and on track – you can download your copy using this link:

 [ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar](https://ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar)



# Get monthly tips straight to your inbox




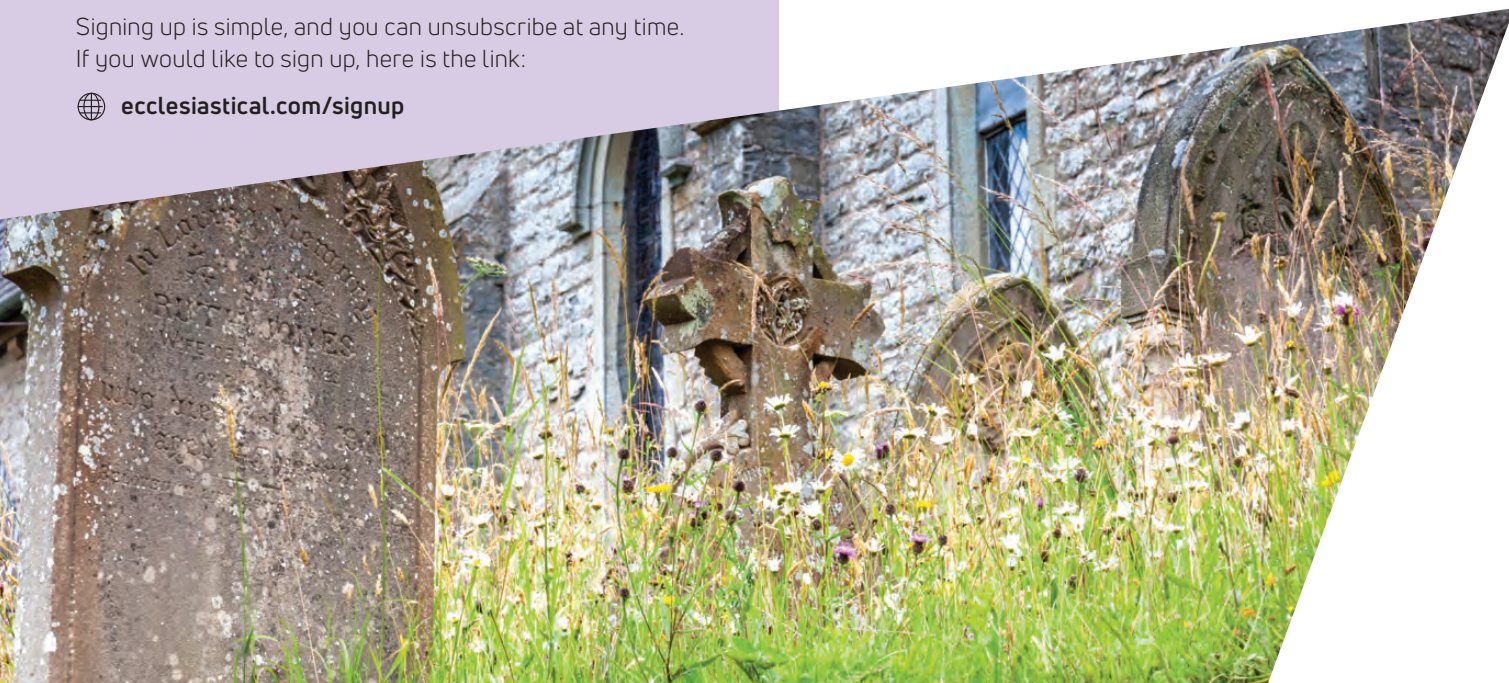
Join the community of church leaders who receive Ecclesiastical's monthly e-newsletter. It's packed with valuable advice about church security, event planning, fundraising and more.

Many of Ecclesiastical's customers already benefit from this e-newsletter, and we hope you'll join them.

Feel free to share the sign-up link with others in your church community who might be interested.

Signing up is simple, and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you would like to sign up, here is the link:

 [ecclesiastical.com/signup](https://ecclesiastical.com/signup)



# Why should net zero be a focus for churches?

## A Q&A with the Church of England



# BENEFACT TRUST



Julian Atkins

In 2024, our Group's charitable owner, Benefact Trust, pledged £1.5m towards the Church of England's ambitious goal of reaching net zero by 2030. Benefact Trust's funding is focused on equipping and inspiring churches across the UK to start their journey to net zero and reduce their impact on the environment.

Benefact Trust sat down with Julian Atkins, Net Zero Programme Director for the Church of England, to talk through some of the most commonly asked questions about the Church's net zero goal.

Whilst many of us want to play an active role in tackling climate change, the prospect can seem overwhelming due to the scale of the issue, the urgency to take

action and the abundance of complicated information. In Benefact Trust's short Q&A with Julian, he emphasises how important it is to keep things simple and start small.

Julian discusses what net zero actually means, why the Church has a responsibility to reduce its impact on the climate and low-cost ways to get started. Watch 'Net Zero and the Church' on Benefact Trust's YouTube channel:

 [youtube.com/@benefacttrust](https://youtube.com/@benefacttrust)

Here you'll find a host of helpful videos, including a full podcast with Julian Atkins.

# Ecclesiastical supports sabbaticals

Ecclesiastical aims to support Anglican clergy by offering financial assistance for life-affirming sabbaticals through their **Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs)**.

Established in 1987, these awards have distributed over £1.4 million, benefiting more than 1,500 clergy members. An MBA can rejuvenate and enhance the ministerial development of clergy, offering them opportunities to engage in extended study, travel, or other enriching activities that can have a lasting impact on their personal growth and to the ministering of their congregations.



St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in Kolkata, West Bengal, India

The **Revd Adam Dickens** is a recent recipient of such an MBA and he told Ecclesiastical:

“ I was very grateful for the MBA grant as it facilitated my sabbatical visit to Kolkata and wider West Bengal where I spent a month engaging with projects run by the Cathedral Relief Service of Kolkata Cathedral, as well as visiting various establishments that came under the ambit of the Diocese of Calcutta; these included churches, schools, colleges, a TB clinic, an AIDs hospice and a residential home.

“ It was an extremely rich time as I was offered a window into the joy and despair of life for people living in the city (as well as some of the rural areas in the state of West Bengal) and the creative ways in which church communities were responding. It provided interaction with a very different culture to the one I'm used to inhabiting, with all the challenges and growth that comes with it. ”

The application window for the 2026 MBA programme opens in spring 2025 and closes in September 2025. In 2026, we are particularly keen to see more sabbaticals which aim to support the drive for carbon net zero.

If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit:

 [ecclesiastical.com/mba](https://ecclesiastical.com/mba)



## Give yourself a financial health check

In today's world, with the high cost of living and rising taxation, it's more important than ever to ensure your finances are in top shape.

### Expert advice for clergy



Ben Dabbs




Ben Dabbs, an independent financial adviser with Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Service (EFAS), emphasises the importance of financial planning for clergy. “With little time available for clergy in their busy lives to focus on themselves, it's important for them to seek expert advice to manage their finances effectively and ensure their personal well-being and that of their

dependants is planned and catered for,” he explains. “Too often, clergy members will delay financial planning until the twilight of their ministry, which can lead to unnecessary hardship.”

### Plan ahead with confidence

To help you review your financial arrangements, such as life assurance, pension savings, investments, mortgage options<sup>1</sup> and retirement planning, it's worthwhile seeking expert advice from an independent financial adviser who understands your circumstances and can put in place a plan to help give you peace of mind for the future.

If you would like to arrange a financial health check or receive a brochure providing information about the advice and services available, please contact EFAS at:

 **0800 107 0190**  
 **[getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)**  
 **[ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice](https://ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice)**

<sup>1</sup>Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on a mortgage. The value of your investments including pension investments can fluctuate, and you may not get back the amount you invested. Your capital is at risk.



## Join the Movement for Good



Ecclesiastical is part of the Benefact Group and we do financial services differently – we give all available profits to charity and good causes. It's thanks to our customers that we can make this happen.

The Movement for Good Awards is our annual giving programme and anyone can get involved. The Awards give you the opportunity to nominate the charitable causes that matter most to you.

We're proud to have supported churches, Scouts groups, food banks, hospices, heritage charities and more, all nominated by their supporters.

### How to nominate a charity or church to win £1,000

1. Visit [movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical](https://movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical)
2. Nominate before 15 December 2025. Your nomination will be included in all the remaining £1,000 draws in 2025, so the earlier you nominate, the more chances you have. It's one nomination per charity, per person, so you can get as many as you like in the mix.
3. Further down the page, there are resources you can personalise and share with your colleagues and congregation to encourage more nominations.
4. Keep scrolling to sign up for notifications, including special £5,000 draws and larger awards through partnership funding.

You'll also find more information about the Awards, including the terms and conditions at:

 [movementforgood.com/tc](https://movementforgood.com/tc)

**Best of luck!**

## Trust Ecclesiastical to insure your home and give back to your church!

As a church official, your home could serve as both a living space and a place for your ministry. You might host prayer meetings and counselling sessions from your home, or even help parishioners plan weddings and funerals. You will be supporting your parishioners throughout the years, and Ecclesiastical Insurance is there to support you, with their tailored home insurance policies.

A home insurance policy from Ecclesiastical Insurance can be adapted to suit the needs of the clergy in your work on behalf of the Church, or the general needs of your congregation and community.

### Ecclesiastical Home Insurance

Ecclesiastical Home Insurance provides up to £750,000 for buildings and £75,000 for contents as standard. This cover includes protection for your home, personal belongings and even contents away from home up to £3,500. Additionally, 24-hour home emergency assistance and legal expenses are included, helping to ensure you are covered in unexpected situations.

### But there is more!

When you take out a new home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical, they will donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of your choice<sup>1</sup> – this programme has already contributed over £500,000, to churches across the country.



You can trust Ecclesiastical. They regularly win coveted awards for their home insurance products. In November last year, they retained their top spot in the Fairer Finance Home Insurance league table for a record twentieth time and remain the UK's most trusted home insurance provider!<sup>2</sup> Importantly, in today's online world, they also have an 'Excellent' score on Trustpilot too.<sup>3</sup>



When you talk to the friendly experts at Ecclesiastical's UK-based Head Office, they will work with you to make sure that your home and its contents are well-protected against a variety of risks. By choosing Ecclesiastical, you're not just insuring your home; you could also be helping your church. Call us today!

 **0345 777 3322** and quote **CHOPS25**  
 **[ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance](https://ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance)**

<sup>1</sup>Terms and conditions apply. Visit [ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms](https://ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms). <sup>2</sup>Fairer Finance Home Insurance customer experience rating, spring and autumn 2015 – 2024. <sup>3</sup>Trustpilot reviews – 419 between 1 February 2023 – 14 April 2025. Correct at time of going to print.

## The Diocesan Secretary writes



As I meet more and more of the people who attend church across the Diocese, it is clear there is much to celebrate. However, we all recognise there may be questions about capacity or finance, or perhaps even deeper questions about the next steps for a parish if the congregation is aging or struggling to find connection to the people around them.

As we announced at Synod,

we are aiming to use every parish's Mission Action Planning to inform diocesan strategy more clearly, helping us achieve our **Three Bold Outcomes** together.

No parish is alone in their planning and the team here at Diocesan House is always here to help. Our Generous Giving team has already helped many parishes explore their financial situation and what steps they can best take. The Mission and Ministry team can help in a variety of ways to support current parish missions or help explore areas that a parish may not yet be aware of. The Children and Young People's framework, along with the Board of Education, support parishes' partnerships with their local schools as well as wider work with young people and families. The Vocations team can help in enabling people to discern how they can best serve the parish, God, and the local community. There is also the DAC team, the property team, and your Archdeacon's office, who can also help support you and your parish as you discern where God may be taking you next. Please do not hesitate to ask if we can assist in any way – we are here to serve you.

**Iain Blythe**

Diocesan Secretary

## The Director of Mission and Ministry writes

As we reflect on where God is taking us now, the Mission and Ministry team believes that God is guiding us toward deeper engagement with God's call in our everyday lives and ministries. We are called to listen attentively, to adapt to our changing contexts, and to deepen our prayer lives.

Through the *Changing Lives Prayer Network*, we are cultivating a growing prayerful community across the Diocese, fostering spaces where individuals and churches can experience deeper encounters with God. The *Wonder Community* is central to this, creating opportunities for collective prayer and spiritual growth. At the same time, we continue to support churches in developing vibrant, prayer-filled communities that equip and empower them to engage in God's mission.

In our work with reflective practice and pastoral supervision, we offer support for leaders to discern God's direction, providing them with the

tools to navigate a time of change with confidence. Through courses like *Deepening Discipleship*, we help individuals explore their Christian identity, gifting, and calling, encouraging them to discern how God might be calling them to serve the church and wider community.

The Diocese of Canterbury has recently seen two particular areas of growth in ordained vocations. This is the outworking of a wider understanding of the nature of ordained ministry itself (leading to the ordination of six Distinctive Deacons in 2024) and also recognises that there is no age-limit for God calling leaders to step into new areas of responsibility (especially seen in the establishment of *The Dover Pathway* as a route or ordination for those over the age of 65).

As we look forward, we are learning to adapt and follow where God leads, trusting that God will shape us and our communities for his purpose.

**Canon Dr Neville Emslie**

Director of Mission and Ministry



## The Director of Communications writes

The question of 'Where is God taking us next?' is a daily question, challenge and adventure for the Media and Engagement team.

The one thing that we can be sure of is our plans need to stay flexible as we are never sure what the next phone call, email or conversation may bring. Whether it is a question of 'How do I prepare for a radio interview?', 'Should I film content for TikTok?' or 'What's the best way to let the congregation know some difficult news?', we are always ready to assist our parishes and schools as they navigate communication challenges and opportunities. Added to this, we are in regular contact with the media who work at pace and often need statistics, quotes or a detailed response with a fast turnaround.

But in amongst the hectic pace of our work and willingness to be available, we stay rooted in our diocese's vision of 'changed lives, changing lives' ensuring we are tuned in to hear the stories that show how individuals and communities transform when they encounter God.

So where next? Well, we will hand that over to God and we will be ready for whatever comes our way, safe in the knowledge that we will be equipped to do His work, whatever it is. We will also continue to build good relationships with all the people we serve and work alongside as we journey together.

**Orla Garratt**

Director of Communications

# The Social Justice Network Director writes



Our work is at the heart of the Diocesan vision that we are 'changed lives changing lives', as we help to transform our communities through social action, working alongside the poor and homeless, prison leavers, asylum seekers, victims of slavery, rural communities, and community initiatives of various kinds.

Since our official launch

in June 2024, we are in a period of considerable growth, with major grants received, and stories of lives transformed. We were highlighted at Diocesan Synod in March 2025 and, as a result, are exploring new pathways with parishes and schools to expand our reach and create new ventures in East Kent.

Our AGP (Annual General Party!) will be on 23 September 2025 and will be on a larger scale than ever before, with a wide gathering of supporters from our network who can share and celebrate with us the work done and any ideas for the future. All are welcome to attend.


As always, I am in awe of our brilliant project leaders: Rachel Target, SJN Officer, Kelly Napier, Break the Cycle Support Manager, Domenica Pecoraro, Refugee Programmes Manager, Helen Netherton, Connecting Canterbury Lead, Bradon Muilenburg, Anglican Refugee Support Lead in Calais, Nastia Nizalova, Homes for Ukraine Support Worker, to our fantastic diocesan Finance team, especially Shoween Muir for all her detailed work on our accounts, and all our many volunteers.

Please follow our work on our new website:

 [thesocialjusticenetwork.org](https://thesocialjusticenetwork.org)

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:

 [facebook.com/thesjn](https://facebook.com/thesjn)

 [instagram.com/thesocialjusticenetwork](https://instagram.com/thesocialjusticenetwork)

If you would like to join our mailing list, attend the AGP, or be in touch about anything, please email me:

 [jarnold@diocant.org](mailto:jarnold@diocant.org)

**The Revd Prof Jonathan Arnold**  
Executive Director



## The Church Building Support Officer writes

It has been a productive year and a half since I joined the Church Buildings Team as Church Buildings Support Officer. The Support Officer role is a new initiative, funded by the Church Commissioners, to help support the churches of the Diocese of Canterbury with maintaining and adapting their buildings for future use.

Helping volunteers look after and preserve a historic church building, while also addressing the needs of today's church, is a rewarding but difficult task. In my work supporting churches, with some facing a dwindling congregation, a shortage of volunteers, or a variety of maintenance issues, I have been fortunate to work alongside Kevin Tucker, our DAC secretary, and the DAC itself. The guidance and expertise of the DAC has been indispensable to my work: aiding church volunteers to secure and preserve their church buildings for the future, while making them workable for today's missional goals.

The Minor Repairs and Improvements grant (MR&I) programme, generously funded by the Church Commissioners' Buildings for Mission initiative, began in July last year. The response from churches around the Diocese has been positive, hopeful and proactive. So far, we have been able to commit £59,000 towards repairs and improvements to a total of 10 churches, with three on the Heritage-At-Risk-Register (HARR), and many in socially deprived areas. Leaking roofs have been fixed, fallen plaster redecorated, tower turrets made safe, and water-soaked vestries dried, repaired, and made usable once more. Currently, I am working closely with a dozen other churches to help them get over the line and successfully fund and complete necessary repairs.

Since starting the job in October 2023, I have had the pleasure of visiting all the churches on the HARR, and many more besides: building close relationships with church volunteers, assisting them in the difficult task of taking care of what is, in most cases, an ancient, listed building. I have been generously welcomed by more Churchwardens than I can count! I am continually amazed by the hard work, love, and spiritual effort of the volunteers, day after day, keeping their churches running, and, most importantly, open.

If you feel you might need some extra support, or you would like to apply to our MR&I grant, I would be very pleased to hear from you.

Please see our website for further information:

 [canterburydiocese.org/parishsupport/church-buildings](https://canterburydiocese.org/parishsupport/church-buildings)

**Sam Barratt**  
Church Buildings Support Officer

**Paul Britton**  
DAC Chairman

# The Director of Children, Schools and Young People writes

Our team imagines and prays for a hope-filled future for all; both the experience of an abundant life in church schools living out a theologically-rooted Christian vision, and children and young people growing in faith and discipleship, inspiring them to contribute confidently to the Kingdom of God.

## We believe God is encouraging us to:

- *Be outward-looking, younger and more diverse...* We are establishing a clear leadership and ministry pathway for young people, increasing the ways in which we hear their voices, plus supporting parishes and families to share and nurture faith.
- *Shepherd God's flock...* by planning developmental pathways of training and support that equip Children and Youth Ministers, school leaders and staff, as well as provide sacred spaces for rest and learning.
- *Advocate for mutuality, belonging and justice...* helping to create an inclusive welcome in worship, care for the environment and promote ways for church schools to have wider influence in matters of ethical and educational importance.
- *Foster a deep local rootedness...* by forming new worshipping communities in and through schools, and encouraging parishes to connect creatively with community spaces as places for worship.
- *Affirm our bold commitment to education...* Supporting high-quality Religious Education and Collective Worship, enhancing school governance and promoting courageous advocacy and intentional opportunities to explore spiritual flourishing.

**Quentin Roper**  
Director of Education

**Jen Tobin**  
Lead Officer, Children and Young People's Ministry



# The Safeguarding team writes



It would have been difficult recently to miss how important ensuring that safeguarding, at every level of the Church of England, is understood and followed. Attention and priority must always be given to victims and survivors of abuse, their experiences and what needs to change as a result. The

Independent Inquiry into Child


Sexual Abuse made a number of recommendations to the Church of England when they published their report in October 2020. This has led to the implementation of the **National Safeguarding Standards** and independent reviews of every Diocese and cathedral by INEQE, which began in 2024 and will conclude in 2028. Our diocese is scheduled for our audit from 2nd to 6th November 2026. If you have not read any of the INEQE audit reports, they can be found here:

 [ineqe.com/churchofengland](https://ineqe.com/churchofengland)

They have also produced a very detailed Annual Report and I would like to highlight the comment by the Lead auditor, Jim Gamble. *"...the Church of yesterday is not the Church of today. Moral outrage and public exposure have driven significant change. This does not mean that non-recent cases will not surface – indeed, we must hope that they do. Nor does it mean that offending in a contemporary sense will cease entirely. But it does mean that, when it does occur, it is now more likely to be challenged and addressed with the victim and survivor's best interests at the forefront."*

So while audit and scrutiny are necessary, how we all continue to strive towards best practice in safeguarding, as outlined in the National Safeguarding Standards, will ensure that our response will have victims and survivors at the centre in addition to ensuring that our prevention work continues. Please look out for our own audit surveys from August 2026, which will inform the work of the auditors and any focus groups they may want to hold.

The challenge of meeting all the standards continues but there are a number of tools we would encourage parishes to use which can help. If you have not done so already, we would strongly recommend signing up to the Safeguarding Dashboards and Hubs, and you can do so here:

 [canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/parish-safeguarding-dashboard/](https://canterburydiocese.org/safeguarding/parish-safeguarding-dashboard/)

You can also sign up to our quarterly Safeguarding Newsletter on the Diocesan website here:

 [canterburydiocese.org/newsletters](https://canterburydiocese.org/newsletters)

We use this to communicate any new procedures, policies and highlight good practice. Finally, please encourage your Parish Safeguarding Officers and Disclosure Officers – who do an incredible job in their roles, to attend our Safeguarding Networking meetings. Emails in regards to registration go directly to PSOs, Disclosure Officers, Churchwardens and Incumbents as well as going into our newsletter.

**Fiona Coombs & Paul Brightwell**  
Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers

# Generous Giving



In May 2024, the Generous Giving Team, with support from the National Giving Team, distributed contactless donation devices to 51 churches across the Diocese. We are pleased to report that, by the beginning of March 2025, these devices had collectively raised over £47,000 to support the mission and ministry of the participating churches.

Each church contributed £50 towards the cost of its device, and with the funds raised, we were able to purchase additional devices to offer on a 'try before you buy' basis to twelve more churches. Looking ahead, we hope to provide an additional seven subsidised devices to churches by the end of the year.

Also in partnership with the National Giving Team, the Diocese will be launching *Cornerstone*, an exciting new online tool, in June 2025. This generosity platform will be available to all Church of England churches, offering valuable resources to help churches assess their current giving culture and explore opportunities to increase generosity. The platform will also feature a comprehensive grants database. We aim to onboard our first ten churches in June, with a plan to roll out the tool across the Diocese over the next few years. You can read more about Cornerstone here:

🌐 [churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-resources/cornerstone](https://churchofengland.org/resources/building-generous-church/generosity-resources/cornerstone)

This summer will also see the pilot for our planned 2026 *Inviting Visitors* campaign, which encourages churches to open their doors and engage with a wide range of visitors, from local community members to tourists and walkers. For more details, please visit our diocesan website:

🌐 [canterburydiocese.org/our-life/news-events/news/doors-open-on-inviting-visitors-pilot-campaign.php](https://canterburydiocese.org/our-life/news-events/news/doors-open-on-inviting-visitors-pilot-campaign.php)

Finally, last year I mentioned Vicky Alford was completing an Apprenticeship in Fundraising at the University of Kent. I'm delighted to announce that Vicky received a distinction and has now become Generous Giving Officer and a full-time member of the team.

**The Revd Lindsay Yates**  
Generous Giving Adviser

## For more information

**Call:** 0345 777 3322 **Email:** [churchteam@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churchteam@ecclesiastical.com)

**Facebook:** Ecclesiastical

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## The Net Zero Adviser writes

### A Call to Stewardship: Caring for God's Creation Together

God has entrusted us with the stewardship of the earth, and one important way we can fulfil this calling is by actively working toward sustainability in our churches and communities. I am honoured to serve as your new Net Zero Adviser, helping the Diocese take meaningful steps in this shared mission of reducing our environmental impact and achieving our Net Zero goals. A crucial part of this journey is completing the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT), on Parish Returns Online. This tool is vital for understanding our energy cost and consumption, and identifying areas for improvement.

🌐 [churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/energy-footprint-tool-now-open-2025](https://churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/energy-footprint-tool-now-open-2025)

To assist in this process, the Net Zero team will be offering **EFT Drop-in & Online Sessions** throughout May and June, providing guidance and answering questions about EFT completion.

Once your EFT is completed, there are grants available to help us take further action, such as the Quick Wins funding and the Hardship Boiler Fund, which support energy-saving measures and the replacement of old or inefficient boilers.

Together, we can take steps toward a more sustainable future and live out our Christian calling to care for God's creation. I look forward to working alongside you and supporting you in this important mission.

📞 01227 459 401 / 07732 681788

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**Alyne Godfrey**  
Net Zero Adviser