



# archdeacons' visitation news

## Dear Churchwardens

### Welcome to this year's edition of Archdeacons' Visitation News.

We are all aware of the significant challenges facing our society and the whole world at this time. Alongside the terrible situation in Ukraine, there is the cost-of-living crisis, disruption to public services, natural disaster and fear about a climate emergency; to which you can surely add many other concerns, both great and small.

The Christian faith does not protect us from the reality of life in this world, but it does offer us hope. Central to our hope is that God is always with us and that he can bring good out of every situation.

*"Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8.38-39)*

Your faithfulness and the faithful work you do in your parishes is a clear sign of God at work in our midst. Our Sunday visits over the past year have been a source of great encouragement as we have seen how local people are enabling churches to emerge from the worst of the pandemic, amidst all of the other challenges, to bring forth spiritual life and growth. **Thank you so much for all that you do.**

One of the Diocese's major tasks is **Deanery Development Planning**. This involves important questions about the deployment of ministry and financial sustainability, but it is much more than that. The aim is to gather your goals and aspirations for ministry and mission in order to focus Diocesan support on what local churches most want and need. A particularly useful aid to your thinking and planning is the material generated by the REACH Ely project, more of which can be read later in this edition and on the Diocesan website here: [www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/reach-ely](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/reach-ely).

It was great to see so many of you at the Churchwardens' training day in February (2023), which had a record turnout and generated lots of very positive feedback. Please look out for further details of the next Churchwardens' training day to be held in late September 2023.

With thanks for our fellowship in the Gospel,  
Richard and Alex



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## Churchwardens' Training Day 2023

Calling to all Churchwardens across the Diocese



We would like to invite you to attend this year's Churchwardens' Training Day which will, as ever, be of interest to all Churchwardens, whether you are newly elected or have been in post for some time.

If you know of someone within your parish who might be thinking about serving as a Churchwarden in the future, do encourage them to come along too, as the day is a good overview of what to expect when in office.

**Date:** Saturday 16 September

**Time:** 9.45am to 3.30pm

**Venue:** St Mary's Church, Ely

Further details will be shared in due course and made available on the Diocesan website here: [www.elydiocese.org/churchwarden-training-day.php](http://www.elydiocese.org/churchwarden-training-day.php)

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# Energy and heating churches

**Geoffrey Hunter, DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department**

In 2020, the Church of England General Synod voted to set a target date for 'Net Zero Carbon' of 2030. Since 2020, the increase in the cost of energy has introduced a further imperative.

The Church Buildings Council has produced a suite of documents to assist churches. You can access these on the Church of England website by clicking on this link [www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating). This guidance focuses on saving both carbon and money. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. The process of planning what to do must start with each church reviewing what it needs from its heating system.

The old principle of heating the entire building via radiators or underfloor heating may be the right approach for some churches in regular use and for long periods. For most rural churches, the approach needs to be quite different.

Church buildings were not generally heated at all until the nineteenth century and there is a misconception that heating is good for the building fabric. The most authoritative advice now is that this is not the case and too much heating can be harmful, thus we no longer think about heating the church, but about heating the people!

For churches with fixed seating, heat sources around the seating area can be a good approach. Pew heaters are now more efficient and often do not require Faculty consent. Heated pew cushions may also answer both the question of heating and making pews more comfortable.

Radiant heating has also developed in recent years, with new types of wall-mounted heater that don't glow brightly and can be more easily hidden. These are useful in churches which don't have pews or for when people aren't sitting. These localised heating systems are also easy to 'zone', providing heat in the areas in use. They also provide heat almost instantly and don't need to be switched on in advance.

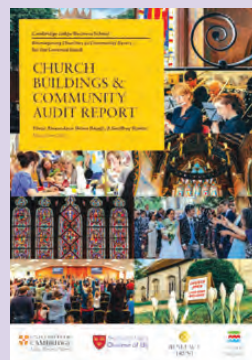
**Further resources are available on the Church Buildings section of the Diocesan website.**

Example of heated glass panels in church



## Building security and the REACH Ely resources

**Geoffrey Hunter, DAC Secretary and Head of the Church Buildings and Pastoral Department**



The Church Buildings and Community Audit Report

Among the resources published as part of the REACH Ely project is guidance for churches on 'safe opening'. Responses to the REACH audit indicated that many churches had not returned to their pre-pandemic opening patterns and more churches are now being left locked.

Ecclesiastical has consistently advised that keeping churches open for visitors during the day reduces the risk of a break-in and theft. Even if your church gets very few visitors, the fact it is unlocked makes any would-be thief worried they might be disturbed.

The majority of church break-ins lead to little of real monetary value being stolen. The bulk of the cost from break-ins is in fixing the damage caused from the break-in itself.

Churches do have treasures of course, and items of value should be locked in a secure safe. We are aware that some churches are storing their keys in a church 'key safe'. We would discourage that practice as it makes it obvious where the keys are and it is normally an easy job for a thief to access a key safe.

Computer and audio-visual equipment is often the most attractive item for thieves as it is easily sold on. In designing how these technologies are installed, PCCs should consider how they can be kept safe from theft and design-in storage for moveable items.

For churches who can't find volunteers to regularly open and close the church, a relatively new development is the automatic timed lock. These are not a substitute for regular inspections, but they do mean these inspections don't have to be first thing in the morning. Some church buildings are left open 24/7 without incident of course. The risks of this approach should be carefully assessed with your insurer.

Advice from Ecclesiastical on safe opening of churches can be found in the REACH resources, along with a case study video on a time-lock installation. [www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/reach-ely](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/reach-ely)

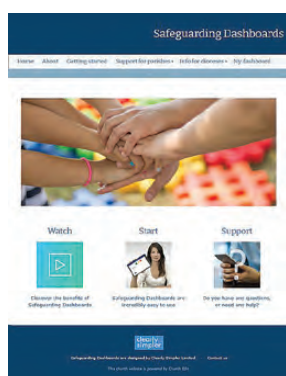
# Has your parish signed-up to the Safeguarding Dashboard?

**Rebecca Boswell, Safeguarding Advisor**

New policies and procedures are making churches safer, but they have also brought a significant increase in the amount of administration for church leaders and Safeguarding Officers. This is where Safeguarding Dashboards can help.

## Safeguarding Dashboards

Safeguarding Dashboards ([www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk)) is addressing this challenge by making safeguarding administration simpler. It is available free to Church of England churches in participating dioceses, of which the Diocese of Ely is one.



Parish Safeguarding Dashboard

Authorised users can see the status of safeguarding within their parishes at a glance. A traffic light system highlights areas with 'Green lights' bringing reassurance that all is well, 'Amber' indicating that action is needed and 'Red' flagging something in need of urgent attention.

Each light has an information page that explains what action is required, and these pages also contain links to other useful resources. Speak to your Parish Safeguarding Officers

to explain more about this tool, and if your church is not using it, please make contact with the Diocesan Safeguarding team ([sarah.king@elydiocese.org](mailto:sarah.king@elydiocese.org)) so we can help sign you up.

## Safeguarding Hubs

The Church of England updated its Safer Recruitment and People Management Guidance in 2021. It includes mandatory requirements for parishes that came into force in January 2022.

To support parishes, in addition to the Safeguarding Dashboards, there is now an additional tool available to your Parish Safeguarding Officers called 'Safeguarding Hubs'.

Safeguarding Hubs are making parishes safer by helping them to meet the Church of England's safeguarding requirements. The Safeguarding Hubs will, through the use of the Role Creator, People Manager and Recruitment Tracker, assist parishes in meeting their requirements.

For more information on the Safeguarding Hubs, visit here: [www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/info/safeguarding-hubs/hubs.php](http://www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/info/safeguarding-hubs/hubs.php)

If you're not sure if your parish is using the Safeguarding Dashboards or Safeguarding Hubs, please do speak to your Parish Safeguarding Officer.

# Safeguarding training – a requirement reminder

**Rebecca Boswell, Safeguarding Advisor**



We frequently find that parish role holders are unclear about what Safeguarding training modules they are required to have undertaken as part of their role and which of these need to be repeated. Core Safeguarding learning pathways (Basic Awareness, Foundation and Leadership) have been developed as a modular programme which builds learning according to role. These pathways should be completed in consecutive order until an individual has reached the required highest level of learning for their role.

The requirements for the most common Parochial Church Council and church volunteer and lay positions are highlighted below. More training is required for licensed role holders and those with particular Safeguarding and leadership positions, more on which can be found on the Diocesan website here: [www.elydiocese.org/core-and-specialist-module-overview.php](http://www.elydiocese.org/core-and-specialist-module-overview.php)

We ask our Churchwardens who play a key leadership role within our churches to help support and encourage the completion of the Safeguarding training of their parish colleagues.

### Parish Roles – all volunteer and paid roles in the parish church are required to complete:

1. Basic Awareness module (*renewal required every three years*)

### PCC Members are required to complete:

1. Basic Awareness module
2. Foundation module (*renewal required every three years*)
3. Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse (*renewal required every three years*)

### Churchwardens are required to complete:

1. Basic Awareness module
2. Foundation module (*renewal required every three years*)
3. Leadership module is also to be taken if the Parish is in vacancy. If this module is completed, renewal is required every three years in place of the requirement to renew the Foundation module.

### Roles that have direct contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults are required to complete:

1. Basic Awareness module
2. Foundation module (*renewal required every three years*)
3. Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse (*renewal required every three years*)

Thank you for your continued support to keep our church spaces safe for all.

# Schools and the work with our churches

**Sarah Conant, Deputy Diocesan Director of Education (DDDE)**

The importance of the work that schools undertake in developing the Church of England vision for education should not be underestimated.



*'In Church schools, the deeply Christian foundation for this vision will be seen explicitly in teaching and learning both in RE (Religious Education) and across the curriculum, and also in the authentically Christian worship and ethos of those schools.'*\*

With circa. 15,700 children attending one of the 85 Diocese of Ely church schools, school life plays an integral part of the work of the churches and their parishes. Children attend daily collective worship through participation both in school and in their local churches. This fosters a relationship between church and children, where children feel comfortable in church as they explore Christian values in a familiar setting.

The interaction with the parish through the local clergy, lay church leaders and the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is the cornerstone of church school life and is recognised in the work that the education team undertake.

The Team's role in schools is to support the leadership, both as educationalists and as those entrusted with the privilege of leading church schools. We aim to forge links between the parish and their schools through regular diocesan visits that explore the needs of both the schools and parishes and how working together can ensure that the vision is embracing *'the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social development of children and young people.'*\*

As a team, we also support school governance and the important role that foundation governors undertake, as well helping the schools develop their visions with their clergy 'enabling all to flourish' as part of SIAMS inspections.

**To learn more about the work of the wider Schools team, please visit the Diocesan website at [www.elydiocese.org/schools](http://www.elydiocese.org/schools).**

\*Church of England Vision for Education Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. Autumn 2016.



## For more information

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