

 Diocese of Chester

# archdeacons' visitation news

## Dear Churchwardens



Has the Church in this country ever experienced a year like 2020? Has there ever been a harder time to be a Churchwarden? Many of our churches have seen income decimated, mission and ministry has been on hold, and trauma and anxiety about the future is not too far under the service. But, in the midst of the

challenges, churches have discovered new ways to be Church, many have jumped years of technical advancement, lots of folk have been at the heart of the community response to COVID and the mission of the Church has reached out in unexpected and exciting ways.

We would especially want to pay tribute to the amazing way that parishes have continued to pay parish share. This has meant some extraordinary efforts and some deeply sacrificial responses, for which we are deeply and humbly grateful. Without wishing to tempt fate, it feels like the worst of the storm has been weathered and calmer waters lie ahead. The fantastic story of the calming of the storm in Matthew 8:24-27 comes to mind. As Jesus and the disciples sailed across Galilee, a furious storm blows up and Jesus remains steadfastly asleep, whilst the disciples do what they can to stay afloat. At times it has felt like we've been racing around deck doing all we can to stop this ship from sinking and the rebuke always comes from Jesus, 'You of little faith, why are you so afraid?' There has been fear about how we cope, and you may still feel that, but storms pass and perhaps our call is to learn that whatever happens, we are still in God's hands – why be afraid?

As our churches seek to respond to the calmer sea, opportunities will arise to reach out and speak to our communities recovering from trauma. There will be people who need love, support and time to be listened to. We need to be ready to give that support, to look for the damaged and broken in our towns and villages, to encourage the small businesses in our high streets and the exhausted heroes of our NHS.

Storms will continually come our way and, as Churchwardens, you may well be more aware than most of the effects that will have on church life, but don't be afraid. Perhaps practically it is a moment to thank Ecclesiastical, who have provided this newsletter and who are often there for the Church in the storms as a visual demonstration of the support God has provided his Church. But never forget that as you allow Jesus to be real and present in your lives by faith, somehow storms don't hold the fear they might, because whatever happens we are still in God's hands – why be afraid?



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# None of us can ignore the risk of cyber-attack (as much as we may want to!)

**Cyber risk is real and attacks are significantly increasing in frequency. It is estimated around 80% of attacks can be prevented or mitigated by basic risk management practices that we could all be doing with little effort or cost.**

## Everyone faces risks

Most cyber-attacks are 'scatter gun'. Cyber criminals don't care who you are until they know whether they can get through your defences. They may be sending out millions of emails a day to target victims. These emails don't discriminate between a corporate CEO, volunteer in your church or an Archdeacon. Follow a link in one of those emails... and suddenly your cyber threat becomes real. Your attacker will want to know all about you now – and how they can exploit or steal from you and the people whose information you hold!

## Understand what is most important to you and why

What would happen if someone stole all the personal data you hold about staff, volunteers and the vulnerable people you support? What if abusive messages were sent to those people from somebody posing as your church? Or if those people had their bank accounts hacked because you lost control of their personal information? What if your organisational accounts, records and files were irreversibly corrupted by a computer virus?

Think about the worst ways that your church, diocese or cathedral could be compromised by a cyber-attack and then work backwards to minimise your risks and protect your finances, reputation and operational capacity. It's not a cheerful task, but it is necessary.

## Get the basics right with these five free and easy things you can do

These five simple steps from the National Cyber Security Centre ([www.ncsc.gov.uk](http://www.ncsc.gov.uk)) will go a long way to protecting you from cyber-attack... and they won't cost a penny:

1. Use firewalls to secure your Internet connections from potential threat
2. Ensure all devices (computers, laptops, tablets and phones) have the most secure settings enabled
3. Use passwords for every device and change them regularly
4. Control access to your information; discriminate between general access for staff and volunteers, and restricted administrative access with password protection
5. Install updates as soon as you receive them. Manufacturers send you updates to protect you from the latest vulnerabilities they've discovered – don't ignore them!

**You can download more guidance on how you can protect yourself from the threat of a cyber-attack here:**

[www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/cyber-security/](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/cyber-security/)



## Protect yourself with Cyber Insurance cover

Ecclesiastical's Cyber Insurance cover is comprehensive and flexible and will dovetail with your existing insurance policy. You can choose a cover limit appropriate to your level of risk, which can include equipment replacement costs, investigation costs, legal advice, liability and data breach costs, and data restoration.

**Call us on 0345 777 3322 to speak about your level of risk and whether Cyber insurance cover is right for you.**



# The Department for Outreach

The Department for Outreach is the newest department in Church House. It brings together the Departments of Social Responsibility and Mission and its aim is to encourage and support mission and evangelism across the diocese, in parishes and elsewhere, that we might enable people to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

## What do we mean by mission?

**Our understanding is based on the Anglican Communion's Five Marks:**

'The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'

[www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx](http://www.anglicancommunion.org/mission/marks-of-mission.aspx)

These are sometimes summarised as: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. It is humbling and encouraging to know that the mission of every local church, indeed of every Christian, is the same as the mission of Jesus Christ, and of God's worldwide church.

But we also know that committing ourselves to this mission is demanding. There are times we might find ourselves hindered or discouraged. That's why God calls people into the church as he calls them to himself. Belonging to the church we combine our talents and passions and make ourselves, together, more than the sum of our parts. And help in this mission can come from outside the local congregation as well, from the wider church. The Department for Outreach is part of that help. Members of the department have particular skills in significant areas of church life, as well as a commitment to helping churches as they make Jesus known and mirror his love in their communities.

## What kind of help can the Department of Outreach bring?



The youth, children and families' missioner, **Jonny Masters**, focuses on supporting parishes to minister alongside young generations. Jonny has developed a strong network of Leaders of Young Generations across the Diocese. The LOYG network welcomes all who minister with children, young people and families – whether paid or unpaid.

The network receives regular information about upcoming events and training as well as resources. If you'd like to join, do get in touch with him. Alongside this, Jonny supports workers on a one-to-one basis as requested, assists parishes with vision setting and works

with other Diocesan Advisers to provide high-quality support and training that is accessible to parishes in the Diocese of Chester.

**Martin Smith** is the Diocesan Christian Giving and Pastoral Reorganisation Missioner. As the Christian Giving Missioner, Martin provides advice and assistance to parishes on all matters relating to giving. His role includes helping parishes to undertake Giving Initiatives. As Pastoral Reorganisation Missioner, Martin advises on pastoral reorganisation matters. His responsibilities include the preparation of proposals for Pastoral Schemes and Orders and the administration of the associated statutory consultations. Martin is also the Assistant Secretary to the Chester and Macclesfield Archidiaconal Mission and Pastoral Committees.



As the fourth of the Five Marks highlights, a concern for marginalised and vulnerable people is part of a Christian's identity. **Vanessa Layfield** is the Engagement and Inclusion Officer for the Diocese. She is passionate about inclusion and working with those on the margins. She works towards making our

church communities as accessible as possible in all ways for all people. This includes helping with accessibility audits of parish churches, advising on adaptations to buildings, worship resources and encouraging PCCs to include disabled people in leadership positions. She also offers training events for parishes on accessibility. In the wider diocese, she is putting together an online celebration of different abilities service and three sessions of training for youth and children's workers on the subject of children with additional needs are planned. Additionally, Vanessa has been instrumental in launching and developing the newly formed Diocesan Race and Ethnicity Forum. Forum members are currently working with Cathedral staff to plan an art exhibition entitled 'Global Images of Christ'. Furthermore, with the support of Archdeacon Ian, they are planning the delivery of unconscious bias training throughout the Diocese during 2021/2.

*Continued on page 8...*





A church's buildings can be both a blessing and a burden and our Buildings Missioner, **Emily Allen**, has been a huge help to many as they think about them. She says: "I work with parishes in considering the dynamic of places and spaces, (church buildings and church halls), in ministry and mission, and contribute to related Diocesan

thinking. Support includes helping parishes overcome hurdles with capital fundraising for repairs and improvements, project management to think afresh about spaces, heritage interpretation and missional projects. Recent projects are 1). 'Houses of Prayer': parishes appreciatively enquiring of buildings as places of divine encounter. 2). Establishing a Church Café group. 3). Building God's Kingdom: a research and development paper mapping the landscape of Diocesan church buildings. 4). COVID-19 response funding guidance."

They also support the work of a number of other forums, which aim to highlight areas of particular need and concern. These are: the Environment Forum; the Mental Health Forum; the Criminal Justice Group: the Rural Committee and the Urban Committee. Hannah and Rebecca may well be your first point of contact if you want to get in touch.



More generally, along with others in the team, and the coming Mission Adviser, my role as Director is to help churches move onwards in mission and evangelism. We are living through a great and pain-filled disruption; but God has not changed and the need for the Good News of the Kingdom of God is perhaps more obvious than

ever. My prayer is that, through the Department of Outreach, the churches of the diocese, and people in other ministries, would be enabled to serve Christ and their communities with ever-increasing insight, confidence and joy.

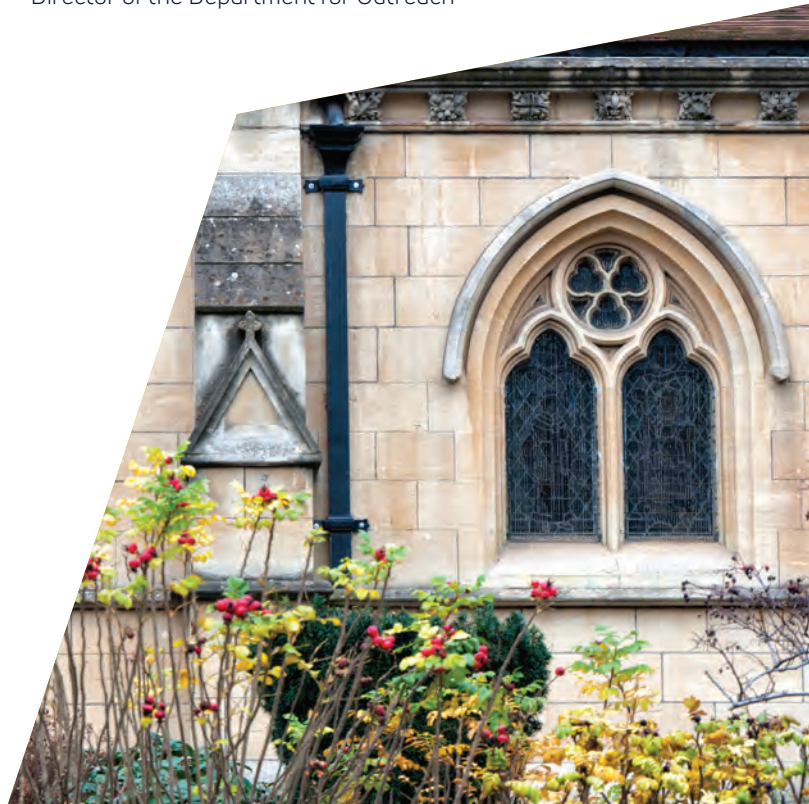
**Peter Froggatt**  
Director of the Department for Outreach



The Director of the Diocesan Counselling team, **Peter Mackriell**, is part of the Department for Outreach. He says: "Sometimes we need a good listening to! Members of the Diocesan Counselling Team create safe, confidential spaces where both lay and ordained people can explore challenges and opportunities as they arise. Life

can feel out of control or rather flat; bereavement or redundancy, a house move or a breakdown in relationship can leave us angry or sad; the future can feel scary, the present overwhelming or the past throws a long shadow. Counselling can help to address such challenges to our mental health and wellbeing, and opens up opportunities for growth and development."

There is support and advice on the workings of the team from our Administrative Assistants, **Hannah Jones** and **Rebecca Hathaway**.



**For more information**

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



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