

 Diocese of Canterbury

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens



The theme of our visitations this year is 'Revitalisation'. You may well be thinking that this was the theme last year and you'd be right. The thing about revitalisation is that it isn't something to be just looked at once and forgotten, but something that becomes part of our life.

In our gardens, revitalisation is something that happens

throughout the year. We see new life throughout the seasons, some happens naturally while some takes some intervention from us. Occasionally, to really give new life to a garden that has become tired, we undertake some quite drastic changes, pulling up beds to put new features in that will help the garden work for today.

In our churches, revitalisation does occasionally mean something big like a new church plant or bringing in expertise from other churches to almost start again in a place. For most of us, however, revitalisation can be on a smaller scale, reflecting the work done regularly in a garden. It's always good if a PCC regularly asks if the life of the church is all it could be or are there things that can help people keep their faith full of life, enabling them to make the best of their relationship with God and to bring others to know the life God gives. It might be that the local church decides that a particular service or initiative has had its day and needs to end. That may be the opportunity to launch a new service aimed at people who aren't currently catered for – creating a new worshipping community. Another way that revitalisation might happen in a church is introducing something to deepen people's faith and help them see it in a new way.

There's lots that's possible and keeping revitalisation on the agenda will help us not miss opportunities or identify needs for the present as well as the future. Don't forget, you're not alone in this: our colleagues at Diocesan House are always ready to help, as is your archdeacon, but many of the churches around you are also looking at renewing our life of faith and there will be opportunities to share these locally, perhaps at your deanery synod.

The Venerable Andrew Sewell
Archdeacon of Maidstone

The Venerable Darren Miller
Archdeacon of Ashford

The Venerable Will Adam
Archdeacon of Canterbury

Visitation Services 2024

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 25 June, which will be held at 5.30pm as part of Evensong in the Cathedral.

Monday 3 June – Ashford & Maidstone joint archdeacons, St Mildred's, Tenterden

Thursday 13 June – Canterbury archdeaconry, Canterbury Cathedral

Tuesday 18 June – Ashford archdeaconry, Canterbury Cathedral

Tuesday 25 June – All archdeacons, Canterbury Cathedral (Evensong at 5.30 pm)

Tuesday 2 July – Maidstone archdeaconry, St Michael's, Sittingbourne

These are not ticketed events and there is no restriction on numbers attending.

Training opportunities

Dates for Churchwarden training are below. Churchwardens are invited to attend whichever date suits them best and are not confined to the archdeaconry to which they are linked to.

Ashford Archdeaconry – Wed 11 July from 3-5pm, Charing Barn (afternoon tea included)

Maidstone Archdeaconry – Tues 16 July from 6-8pm, Maidstone archdeaconry (supper included)

Canterbury Archdeaconry – Wed 17 July from 3-5pm, St Paul's Parish Centre (afternoon tea included)

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The Bishop of Dover writes...



As children growing up in Montego Bay, during the school holidays, my aunt saw fit to give us a particular medicine. She said the purpose was to make us fit and well. This was specially put together by gathering the leaves of certain bushes. Once they were washed, they were gently simmered, and we drank the liquid as tea.

The result of taking the medicine was that we kept in good health throughout the year – just the occasional sniffle. I have no idea to this day what the medicinal purposes from the combined leaves were, but they appeared to have served their purpose. We were brand new at the start of each new term and my aunt would brag that her family were never showing signs of being sickly!

If we are honest, our church today is showing signs of sickness (few or no children, depleting in numbers, not enough volunteers to share the various roles, and lacking in confidence to share the Good News of the Gospel). I hope we will be ready to recognise the diagnosis and be willing to take the right medicine to once more be revitalised as a church.

The 'bush leaves' that I have to offer is a deepening prayer life, spending time dwelling in the Word of God, thinking, and living generously and then going out with joy, in the power of the Holy Spirit to live and work to God's praise and glory. My prayer is that you may ponder on these things and deepen your own spiritual life as you share in the leadership of your local church and communities, and for this and all that you do to serve the Lord, I offer my sincere thanks and praise.

Bishop Rose

Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury



The Strategic Programme Manager writes...



This issue of Visitation News is all about 'revitalisation' which means to bring something back to health or life. To speak this way about our beloved church, one that we have probably given years of committed service to, can be uncomfortable because it means having to acknowledge that it is not in great health or not very alive.

Towards the end of 2021, I found out that I had four significant blockages in my heart and needed a quadruple heart bypass, despite living a healthy lifestyle! Put simply, my body needed to be revitalised! The great news for me was that with the skills of a great surgeon and his team, new life could be brought to my heart. I'm enjoying my 'new life'!

In Ezekiel 37, God shows his prophet a valley of dry bones and asks him if the bones can live! Ezekiel says that only God knows. Ezekiel is then instructed to prophesy over the bones and step by step they come back to life again. The message was for Israel who were saying "our hope has gone" (v11) and were a promise that God himself was going to bring new life to Israel.

We think that God is still in the business of bringing new life, even in seemingly difficult circumstances; hope has not gone. How might God want to revitalise our (His!) church? Let us pray for it and work for it with Him!

Colin Evans

Strategic Programme Manager

The Head of Media and Engagement writes...

Good news. That's at the heart of what we do. As a church, in our diocese and in the Media and Engagement team. We live in a world crying out for hope and the Good News of the gospel message. In our media work, we promote the Good News that our churches and schools represent in our communities and give space for the Christian message in the press, on TV and radio.

At our deanery roadshows in autumn 2023, a picture was shared of our diocese being like a ploughed wheat field; from a distance we can't see all the green shoots starting to spring up but as we move and look more closely, we can see signs of growth. Each individual green shoot (confirmation, new congregation member or fledgling Christian community) may not look like a lot on its own, but as we look at the whole picture we can celebrate and realise we are part of something much, much bigger.

One of our Bold Outcomes is 'every parish, benefice and deanery showing signs of revitalisation'. One outward sign of this is wanting to tell our story of how God is working where we are. So do keep sharing the Good News that you are, where you are. You never know who needs to hear it.

Orla Garratt

Head of Media and Engagement

Enhance your church's fundraising efforts

Whether you're raising funds for new facilities, building repairs, youth worker recruitment, or daily running costs, the Ecclesiastical Fundraising Hub provides resources to aid your church's growth in fundraising. This practical hub is organised into user-friendly steps, each offering information, guidance and tools, regardless of your fundraising experience.

Explore a wealth of articles, blogs and supporting documents on various topics such as digital fundraising, capital projects, understanding the grants process and forming fundraising teams. Access a free searchable list of church funders providing grants, along with tailored fundraising support for small rural churches.

Also, to support time-constrained churches and volunteers, looking for quick information on the diverse fundraising landscape, the hub offers concise, insightful bitesize videos addressing key fundraising issues. Additionally, sign up for live, free webinars conducted in collaboration with Philanthropy Company across 2024. For additional help, call the fundraising helpline below.

📞 0345 601 9959

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising



An update from grant-making charity, Benefact Trust



BENEFACT TRUST

Every day, Benefact Trust, the charitable owner of Benefact Group, witnesses the crucial role churches and charities play in our communities. Since the Trust was established in 1972, it has awarded over £256m in funding to support these organisations to thrive and make a positive

impact in society. Benefact Trust's grants support a range of causes and there are many heart-warming stories to be found on the website.

🌐 www.benefacttrust.co.uk/news



Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good Awards programme is back again with grants of £1,000 and more to give to churches and charities. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, who are giving away over £1 million to churches and charities in the 2024 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your church or favourite charity for the £1,000 draw.
- You can nominate as many charities as you like; it's one nomination per charity per person.

There are six £1,000 draws this year giving away between £50,000 and £120,000 in each. Once you've nominated, share your nomination, and get your friends and family to support too.

Did you know?

The Movement for Good Awards has gifted over £5.75 million to more than 2,500 charities since the initiative started in 2019.

Last year, A Rocha UK was awarded £5,000 in the Environment and Climate special draw. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Also, in 2023, £11,000 was awarded to 10 church-related charities through the £1,000 Movement for Good Awards; Kilkenny Christian Centre in ROI actually won twice! So please get nominating; next time it could be your church! You can find out more at:

🌐 www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Contains promotional material

Would you like to sign up for e-news?

The monthly e-news is full of useful information to support you in areas such as fundraising, church security and environmental impact. Signing up is easy and you can unsubscribe whenever you choose. Many of Ecclesiastical's customers have chosen to receive this and we hope you would like to join them.

 www.ecclesiastical.com/signup



Financial support for your 2025 sabbatical

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) have assisted over 1,400 clergy members in funding a variety of extended leave projects.


The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a positive and long-lasting impact on your church and community. One of the 2023 recipients, the Rev'd. Heston Groenewald, vicar of All Hallows Church in Leeds, received a bursary to support his local interfaith ministry.

He visited India and Pakistan to experience and learn more about the diverse cultures and customs that make up the fabric of the local community. On his trip, Heston experienced the Holi festival in India and celebrated Easter with Christians and Muslims in Lahore.

“ The MBA grant enabled an amazing adventure around India and Pakistan and so has been a valuable, wonderful investment in my wellbeing and in my local interfaith ministry. ” **Rev'd. Heston Groenewald**

The application window for the 2025 MBA programme is now open and closes in September 2024. In 2025, we are particularly keen to see more sabbaticals which aim to support the drive for net zero carbon.

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

 www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Invest in making a difference

Worries about social matters, our planet and the environment are factors most of us think about daily. To do more to help address these concerns, there is increasing interest from people looking to invest ethically in accordance with their principles.

What is ethical investing?

Richard Wood, Director of Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (pictured below), explains, "Put simply, ethical investments allow people to invest without sacrificing their environmental, social, moral or religious principles while at the same time aiming to make a profitable return."



Ethical investment funds can be screened using negative or positive criteria. For negatively screened funds, the fund manager will, for example, be screening investments to avoid a range of activities considered harmful – such as companies involved in manufacturing tobacco.

When using positive screening, fund managers actively identify companies that make a positive

social impact or who invest sustainably and/or responsibly. They will have, for example, good corporate governance and employment practices as well as being active in making a positive impact on the environment.

To find out more about ethical investing, contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services today.

 **0800 107 0190**
 **getadvice@ecclesiastical.com**
 **www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice**

Please note: The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Your capital is at risk.

Looking for help to go green?

Give your parishioners a warm welcome!

We all want our church buildings to be welcoming spaces for both prayer and for wider community activities, but particularly in the chilly months, keeping buildings warm is a challenge and can be costly and harmful to the environment.

Wherever you are in your journey to reduce your church's carbon emissions, Ecclesiastical would like to help. For example, they would like to spread the word about some interesting innovations that they've come across recently.

Warming chandeliers

St Matthew's has been trialling innovative radiant heating chandeliers in their church in Bristol. These chandeliers use a very gentle wavelength of heat, like that of the winter sun, and they warm just the space needed, not the whole church. They have proved much cheaper to run than a central heating system and can help to lower your carbon footprint.



Through the Movement for Good awards, Ecclesiastical awarded a £35,000 grant to St Matthew's in 2023, which will allow them to make the trial installation permanent. If you would like to consider applying for a similar grant, further information can be found on page 3. Also, if you wish to install this type of heating, please let the Ecclesiastical Underwriters

know, so that they can advise on any potential insurance implications and ensure the system itself is covered.

Heated cushions

Another innovation, helping church communities take steps to reduce their carbon emissions by warming people not spaces, is a heated seat cushion! These are powered by lithium-ion batteries which are widely used as a power source in portable electrical products. However,



if you do choose this option, it is important to select seat cushions and fabrics that have an appropriate fire performance and to follow the guidance on charging the cushions. Cushions should comply with British Standards and have the CE mark. If you think that this is an option for you, you will find guidance about the cushions here:

www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-heated-cushions

Ecclesiastical has also developed a new Made Simple guide, which can support you on your journey to make your church buildings more environmentally friendly. It includes information about other alternative heating systems like heat pumps, information about LED lighting and much more.

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

If you have any tips that have helped your church in its environmental journey, why not drop Ecclesiastical an email and they can share your ideas in their monthly digital newsletter.

weboffice@ecclesiastical.com



Insurance made simple!

As church insurance experts, Ecclesiastical is well placed to help you navigate many of the complicated insurance responsibilities of your church. They have created a series of 'Made Simple' guides which highlight potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches.



The guides also offer help with activities and projects that PCCs often become involved in, which include:

- Climate change and your church
- Administering insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Church valuation
- Community outreach
- Digital technology
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises
- Unoccupied buildings

You can find lots more information at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

Herschel Infrared



Funeral planning

As you know, funerals can be costly, but Ecclesiastical can help you make provisions to reduce the financial worry for your family when the time comes and ensure your wishes are provided for.¹

¹ Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.

☎ **0800 055 6503**
✉ **info@epsfunerals.com**
🌐 **www.funeralplans.co.uk**

Car insurance

Ecclesiastical's Clergy Motor Insurance has been tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, unlimited windscreen cover and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹ To find out more about the benefits of this policy, get in touch with Ecclesiastical.

☎ **0345 450 9396**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance**
¹ Subject to terms and conditions



Month by month support



So you can better look after your church and parishioners, Ecclesiastical has again produced their easy-to-view calendar to help you plan maintenance activities throughout the year.

🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar**

Insure your home with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to a church of your choice

Trust130 is just one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical gives back to the community; for every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offers to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Since 2017, Ecclesiastical has donated over £500,000 to more than 2,500 churches in the UK.

A £130 donation really helped **St Peter's Church in Parwich**. Church Treasurer **Stuart Chambers** told Ecclesiastical:

“ If you're short of numbers, it's a big job keeping everything ship-shape. I have a ride-on mower, but you can't get to the actual graves on that so inevitably they can look a bit unkempt, which is a real shame. ”

With the £130 donation, St Peter's was able to keep its graveyard looking neat and tidy by paying for a man with a strimmer.

Award-winning home insurance

As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining one of the most trusted home insurance providers with the happiest customers.²



Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in Spring 2024 for home insurance for a record 19th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status. Their buildings and contents cover is also a Which? Best Buy and it was voted the best home insurance in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2023.³



Get a home insurance quote

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer who understands the needs of those working in the church and for the church. Their policy helps to protect your home and takes into account the extra duties you carry out for the church.

☎ **0345 777 3322** and quote **CHOPS24**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance**

¹ Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance



The Director of Mission and Ministry writes...

The Mission and Ministry (M&M) team is always interested in revitalisation. Working with lay and ordained ministry colleagues, as individuals, in ministry teams, congregations, spheres of leadership and responsibility, we come back to the three golden threads to kindle and nurture revitalisation in all that we do:

- **How are prayer and spiritual practices being developed?**
- **How am I learning and reflecting on ministry practice?**
- **How are we attending to good relationships and collaborative ministry?**

The M&M team oversees the work of prayer resource and coordination throughout the diocese. Prayer – the foundation of relationship with God and the outpouring of our hopes – is always attending to revitalisation. Each month, churches and individuals are invited to write prayers for the Diocesan Calendar, and the response is amazing. There is an enthusiasm for prayer; a belief that it matters, and a joy in sharing the stories of what God is doing in the ordinariness of diocesan life. Revitalisation is wonderfully evident in the prayers that are printed, on a monthly basis, in the Calendar. Prayers that link benefices to deaneries, and deaneries to the wider diocese. Prayers that draw us together as a community of faith; a community who believes in the revitalising power of prayer.

This summer, the diocese is looking forward to a record number of ordinations, with 15 ordinands being ordained deacon. This number includes five Distinctive Deacons, four ordinands who have been trained through the new one-year 'Dover Pathway' course, a pioneer curate and two curates who will have an emphasis on church-planting and fresh expressions. These newly ordained ministers will join a wide range of parishes across the diocese.

Being able to continue supporting candidates as they follow their call to ordination is a continued and ongoing blessing of the vocations team and DDO office. Revitalisation has been realised

through Deanery Vocations Roadshows during 2023 where engagement with many people and Dwelling in the Word together has imbued new life and vitality into the message that 'Vocations is for All'. The shared work within the ADDO team and with all those in the parishes has opened up the opportunity for growth for all, with new people making contact to share their vocation stories and discuss a way for them to start discernment. Moving forward, the work of vocations is collaborating with the Bishop's Office to streamline and actively improve joint processes in supporting those being ordained.

In terms of mission, among other work streams, we are seeking to help revitalise deaneries and benefices through offering the Leading your Church into Growth (LyCiG) conference over two days – **Monday 8 – Tuesday 9 July 2024** at Seasalter Christian Centre, CT5 4AX. LyCiG offers teaching, encouragement and support to local church leaders to help churches grow in numbers, depth and vitality. A response to our diocesan Bold Outcomes and to our 2023 Attendance Report, the conference is for clergy and, where possible, a small team of lay leaders. If you are interested, contact:

✉ SLucas@diocant.org

The M&M team continues to deliver aspects of *The Canterbury Diet* in order to support and further develop ministers. There has been extensive work in rewriting the outline and content of the Minister as Learner and Minister as Leader programmes to make them more contextual to the needs of the parishes today and the leadership development of current ministers. Work continues in training and deploying Pastoral Supervisors for ordained ministers. Reflective Pastoral Supervision provides a regular, planned, bounded space for a minister to attend to the work of ministry. As such, it works in the realm of wellbeing and revitalisation of the person as minister and the work of ministry.

The M&M team have developed and rolled out Action Learning Sets for Area Deans and Lay Chairs. These are seen as key diocesan roles in terms of deanery planning and thus, local and diocesan revitalisation.

Canon Dr Neville Emslie

Director of Mission and Ministry



The Director of Children, Schools and Young People writes...

How does your church embrace the spiritual needs of people of all ages and gift them opportunities to encounter Jesus? We hope that parishes will discern ways in which everyone can be welcomed and that through this, new life will bloom in a growing, more diverse church family.

During the past year we have joined uplifting conversations which recognise that revitalisation starts with a genuine welcome by the whole church community; a commitment to meet children, young people and families where they are and walk with them throughout their faith journey. Parishes are trying new, innovative approaches to intergenerational ministry, nurturing people to feel comfortable in sharing their stories and spiritual encounters.

Harnessing the impact of young people's ministry on church revitalisation, we have employed an additional group of youth ministers across the diocese. We have also established projects and partnerships such as Launchpad and Catalyst, helping to build local confidence in designing and implementing initiatives for youth ministry. Our Growing Young Leaders programme has equipped young people aged 14-18 to understand their leadership qualities and recognise their God-given gifts, culminating with individual projects to help support mission and ministry in their local church and wider context.

Finally, we continue to serve and champion our church schools, in which a theologically rooted Christian vision is a living reality. Plans are evolving to join a national pilot, 'FLOURISH'; focused on systemic, missional change to establish a network of worshipping communities in schools. A strategic connection through our presence in education offers the opportunity to imagine thousands of new, younger and more diverse disciples.

Each of these areas is ongoing; for support and guidance, or equipping yourselves further to work meaningfully with children and young people, please do get in touch.


Quentin Roper
Director of Education

Ben Tobin
Lead Officer, Children and
Young People's Ministry




The Safeguarding Team writes...

We have recently begun the rollout of the *Safeguarding Dashboards*. They were designed with the help of Parish Safeguarding Officers and incumbents in a wide range of parishes (both large and small). They are now being used by 7,000 parishes across the Church of England, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The dashboard is really easy to use on a smartphone, tablet or computer. Green lights give you the assurance that you are complying with the *Parish Safeguarding Handbook*. Amber and red lights highlight any outstanding actions. It will even produce an Action Plan for discussion and approval by the PCC (which has been a requirement since 2017). Most people find that they can intuitively use the dashboard without any instructions. However, if you want a demonstration, please watch this short video

 www.safeguardingdashboards.org.uk/safeguarding-dashboards.php

We have invested in Safeguarding Dashboards to make safeguarding easier for you and we strongly commend it to you. If you missed the request for expressions of interest then please email Information.services@diocant.org to request to be included in the Dashboard rollout. Once we have completed the Dashboard rollout we will be sending out to the parishes the opportunity to sign up to the **Parish Safeguarding Hubs**.

The Dashboard and Hubs will support parishes in not only ensuring that they are complying with the most recent Church of England Safeguarding guidance and policies but also with the Church of England National Safeguarding Standards, which were published in October 2023. A full description of the Standards can be found here:

 www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/national-safeguarding-standards

As always, please feel free to contact any member of the Safeguarding team with any queries you or your Parish Safeguarding Officers need further guidance or advice on.

Fiona Coombs and **Paul Brightwell** (DSAs), **Katy Harper** (Trainer) and **Michelle Grice** (Administrator)

The Social Justice Network Director writes...

The Social Justice Network (SJN) is a new charity whose work helps to revitalise our communities through social action. We run a portfolio of projects working with the poor and homeless, people released from prison, refugees and asylum seekers in Kent and France, victims of trafficking and slavery, rural communities and those living with disabilities, and community initiatives of various kinds. In addition to our Kent Refugee Programmes Manager, Domenica Pecoraro, our Break the Cycle Support Manager (supported accommodation for prison leavers who would otherwise be street homeless), Kelly Napier, and Connecting Canterbury lead, Helen Netherton, we are delighted to welcome new people to the SJN.

Rachel Target – SJN Officer

Rachel comes with great experience from KRAN (The Kent Refugee Action Network). She will work on project and event planning, and fundraising. She has been an excellent addition to the team.

Bradon Muilenberg – Anglican Refugee Support Lead

Bradon works ecumenically to help refugees in Calais and especially running the Maria Skobtsova House of hospitality (safe house for vulnerable women, children and families).

Nastia Nizalova – Homes for Ukraine Project Assistant

Nastia helps deliver wraparound support for Ukrainians and local host families in a way complementary to the efforts of Canterbury City Council and other local authorities, Canterbury for Ukraine, and other partners.

Together, we look forward to working with parishes and deaneries to help revitalise our communities and transform the lives of those most vulnerable in our society. To find out more, visit:

The Social Justice Network – Diocese of Canterbury (canterburydiocese.org)

As always, we are pleased to be contacted about any of our projects or community engagement in your area:

The Revd Dr Jonathan Arnold

Executive Director



The Chairman of the DAC writes



The DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) exists to help the churches of the Diocese of Canterbury use their buildings to achieve their missional goals in a way which respects the integrity and significance of those buildings. We have a fine legacy of historic churches, many of which are treasure-houses of art and sculpture

and we need to look after them properly. But the members of the DAC are very conscious that these buildings need to be able to function as churches, meeting the needs of the 21st century church, and that this often requires change and adaptation. The future of our church buildings is best secured by enabling them to be used by thriving congregations.

Happily, it is usually possible to meet both these objectives – creative use of the building in the way that the congregation wants and conservation of its architectural and artistic value. In giving advice to the Commissary General, who takes decisions about whether to grant faculties, the DAC supports most of the applications which it receives, though it may suggest a better way of achieving what the church wants to do. The Committee has a lot of experience of looking after and adapting churches, including as it does all three archdeacons, a parish priest, a lay nominee of the diocesan synod, architects, an historian, archaeologist, an expert on historic buildings from Historic England and a local authority representative. If your church is thinking of undertaking work for which it will need a faculty, it pays to engage the DAC at an early stage so that we can help you to shape the proposal, thus maximising the chances that it will receive our support and the agreement of the Commissary General.

It may sometimes seem that the process of getting a faculty takes too long and I understand the frustration that Churchwardens sometimes feel – and express – about delays in the system. These are in part the result of the procedures required by Church law but a backlog of cases did build up in our diocese in recent years because of a lack of resources to handle them. In 2023, we caught up and the process ought now to be smoother and more responsive to your needs. Kevin Tucker, the DAC Secretary, and I are always ready to give advice and to discuss any case which is delayed or causing other difficulties. If you ever feel that we are not giving you the service which you expect, I would want to hear from you.

Paul Britton
DAC Chairman



The Property Department write...



The Property Department has continued to reinforce the diocesan goal of 'Revitalisation', namely by supporting ministers with the diocesan property portfolio being essential for the focus of growth.

We endeavour to provide our clergy with decent housing to enable them and their families to live in comfort. Where necessary, a vicarage/rectory may be replaced with a more suitable property in terms of structure

and energy efficiency. We encourage any problems at our properties to be reported immediately to enable contractors to deal with issues swiftly to prevent them from worsening.

We use the limited budgets available to the diocese in the best way possible, so will prioritise whatever works we believe are necessary to maintain the structure and fabric of the property. We continue to help parishes with any property problems or queries and guide them as to the best way forward.

In recent years, our department has strived to make the best use of our minimal Glebe to produce capital receipts which are then used by the diocese to improve their asset base.

And finally, from turning our properties around promptly during interregnums, we continue to provide a substantial income from private lettings. This also decreases the overheads of the diocese as we no longer have to pay Council Tax and utility bills for our vacant properties. This lowers the level of Parish Share required, allowing more monies to remain at parish level.

We thank our Churchwardens for their continued support in assisting the Property Department once a property becomes vacant and the part they play in ensuring the house is checked weekly in the void period between a tenant or new clergy occupation.

Sarah London
Property Director

Kelly Burnell
Senior Property and Lettings Officer



Generous Giving

It has been a busy nine months since I joined the Finance Team as part-time Generous Giving Adviser. I have been joined by Vicky Alford, the Finance Team Administrator, who is now also working part-time as Generous Giving Assistant. Alongside these roles, Vicky is undertaking an apprenticeship in fundraising at Kent University and is bringing all sorts of fresh insights to the team.

We received an excellent level of response to our Diocesan Contactless Rollout. The Rollout started in January and will culminate in the collection of contactless donation devices from Diocesan House in May. Over 50 parishes have been allocated suitable user-friendly devices at a highly subsidised cost as part of a scheme set up and funded by the Church of England's National Giving Team to support parishes as they seek to increase their income via donations.

In another exciting initiative, the diocese has signed up to Churchgrants, a grant-finding database to help parishes search for grants that might be available to them from both national and local grant-making bodies for a whole range of projects, from building to youth work. For more information, please see the diocesan website:

 **Grant Opportunities – Diocese of Canterbury**
(canterburydiocese.org)

The Revd Lindsay Yates
Generous Giving Adviser

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

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