



Diocese of Leicester

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens



The Archdeacon Visitation Services provide an opportunity to give thanks to God for the faithful service over the past year of Churchwardens and Officers, and to commission and pray for those new or returning Churchwardens and Officers beginning another year of service. So, thank you! And be assured of our prayers

for you; and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining us for the annual training day for Churchwardens and Officers on Saturday 30th September at Leicester Forest East.

The historic elements of the Visitation service remind us that Churchwardens form part of a chain of lay leaders stretching back over decades and, often, many centuries. In this sense you are very important stewards. There are material aspects to this stewardship, such as the church building, church hall, churchyard and the church valuables and contents. There are also spiritual and social aspects to this stewardship, such as serving God's mission to the people within our parishes and congregations in a particularly challenging era for the world and the church. It has been wonderful over this past year to hear of so many ways in which you have been fulfilling this calling.

This wider historical lens of stewardship encourages us to think about what is most important to pass to succeeding generations. We recognise that this includes urgent buildings maintenance,

pastoral situations and sustained patterns of worship, which have to take our immediate focus. However, a recent survey of young people within our Diocese expressed a strong wish to have a valued voice, to be heard and participate in shaping the future of our Christian communities and churches, and also identified a deep wish to secure the sustainability of our planet. In response to these hopes and aims, our Diocesan strategy of Growing Faith and its focus on developing disciples within churches, households and schools, will support children, young people and all generations in this hope, and inform our work as Minster Communities. This will be strengthened as each Minster Community appoints a Growing Faith minister who will work in new ways to enable communities to engage in sharing their faith with others in ways that are relevant for their needs. Further, the Eco Church and our diocesan Eco Communities' priority provides a route to support our endeavour to be people who seek to care and sustain God's creation. In the coming months and years, Churchwardens and officers will have opportunities to encourage, lead and shape how these aims are part of our shared ministry.

Continued on page 2...

Produced and printed by

 **ecclesiastical**



...Continued from cover

In this time of change our care and safeguarding of all those we meet remains vital, and in living out the Great Commission our need to love one another as Christ loves us has never been more pressing. For you as Churchwardens there is a particular need, as you seek to assure the safeguarding of your community supported by the members of your PCC, the Ministry Team and the Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

With this in mind, we also take this opportunity to invite you to the **Church Officers Training day** which is scheduled for **Saturday 30th September, 9am-1pm** at **St Andrew's Church Leicester Forest East**. More information will be available nearer to the date, but it would be good to mark this date in your diary, whether you are a new or an experienced Churchwarden.

This year, in the Coronation service for King Charles III, we have witnessed visible symbols of what is entrusted to a new monarch as lifelong stewards. One of these is the Coronation orb, a golden globe representing the earth surmounted by a cross. Amongst many varied descriptions of its symbolic significance, the Coronation orb may be understood to highlight the Sovereign's calling to steward the material resources within the realm and to safeguard the nation's spiritual resources, so that they may be handed on to succeeding generations.

Be assured that in this significant year of national transition, we will continue to pray, as you take your office as Churchwarden and embrace the wide area of stewardship shared with the ministry of your communities, that this role will bless you as you bless this and future generations.

With kind wishes



The Venerable Richard Worsfold
Archdeacon of Leicester
richard.worsfold@leicestercofe.org



The Venerable Claire Wood
Archdeacon of Loughborough
claire.wood@leicestercofe.org



Intercultural Ministry



My name is **Jessie Tang**, **Intercultural Ministry Director** for the Diocese, and I lead the Intercultural Worshipping Communities (IWC) Project, which is SDF funded. We are working hard to enable churches to develop interculturally and affect cultural change in the whole Diocese, through working specifically with 5 core churches (IWCs) and 17 partner churches. We also run events in the Diocese to highlight the voices of Global Majority Heritage Christians and help people to think more internationally. Christianity is a global faith, Leicester and Loughborough are diverse places, so how does the Church reflect the kinds of people in its locality? How can we begin to address racial equity in our Diocese? Our project has specific aims, such as increasing in ethnic diversity across the Diocese, but we are really keen that it is not *just* a project – it's a God-given vision which is also in the Diocese's Five Strategic Priorities.



Luke Fogg – Project Manager

Luke knows all about numbers! He keeps an eye on our budget and whether or not we are on track with reaching the project's goals. He has also been in the Diocese since forever, so knows a lot about a lot. Luke collects statistics from our core churches and partner churches, and is good at networking and helping to plan training events.

Dinta Chauhan & Lesley Whitwell – Administrative Support

Both have an important job in making sure everything runs smoothly – from booking event spaces, to writing minutes and sending emails. They work well together as a super team, and we share them with the Property Department. Dinta is one of the longest-serving members of the DBF staff!



Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler

My name is **Matt Long**. I am married with three kids. I try to live the seasons – paying attention, cooking on fire, paddle boarding, foraging, and fermenting. I am a fantasy football fanatic, avid Philadelphia Eagles fan and constrained poet.

I am the Youth Engagement and Intergenerational Communities Enabler for the Diocese of Leicester. I am passionate about recognising and releasing young people's God-given gifts and providing a platform for their voice to be heard and responded to. My role in the Diocese has many threads, including...

...facilitating *Bishop's Children and Youth Council*. We are reimagining how we hear and respond to the voice of children and young people in the Diocese, including schools, colleges, uniformed organisations, and churches. We want to hear more young voices! Could you facilitate a listening group with children or young people in your context?

...co-ordinating the *Ministry Experience Scheme (MES)* for the Diocese. MES gives young Christians an opportunity to grow as a disciple, explore calling, gain experience of Christian ministry and develop leadership skills. We are looking for young adults, aged 18–30, to spend a year serving God through the MES.

...supporting, encouraging, championing and resourcing *Growing Faith* in the Diocese. Growing Faith is a national Church of England movement that exists to put children, young people, and families instinctively at the heart of all mission and ministry. It involves churches, schools and households working together to help children, young people and families have life in all its fullness.

More info: www.growingfaithconnections.org

...journeying with churches, Fresh Expressions and schools to explore what it looks like to become *Intergenerational Community*. When, where and how do different generations intentionally gather in mutual serving, sharing, or learning, to live out Everyday Faith?

Finance Department



I am the new Director of Finance and Property for your Diocese and very fortunate to head a small but hardworking and competent team. I am a Chartered Management Accountant and have been fortunate to work in many varied sectors and organisations including golf, university sport, HMRC and the Foreign Office.

However, I am very enthused and feel privileged to be able to work for the C of E given the fundamental and central importance Christianity plays in the lives of many and the valued importance of churches within wider communities.

Being from Nottinghamshire and attending the local C of E school many moons ago, I have to say my favorite church remains St Mary's in Edwinstowe not least because, as a romantic, I love the story that Robin Hood and Maid Marian were supposedly married there!

The Finance and Property Team look after the money and property and land of your Diocese but also offer services to parishes such as payroll, act as custodian for parish assets when wanted and try to answer any questions from parishes on finance or accounting that we can.

As the recent Bishops' Finance letter to parishes suggests, the Diocese has large financial issues that need to be solved and the finance team are doing their best to make sure the money your Diocese has is spent wisely and on things valued by parishes.

Simon Wilson

Director of Finance and Property

St Mary's Church in Edwinstowe





Diocesan Safeguarding Team

The Church of England sees safeguarding as a gospel imperative: 'The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value of every human being is affirmed and those in positions of responsibility and authority are truly trustworthy.' The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved in Church activities is the responsibility of the whole Church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role in promoting a Safer Church for all.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Team are here to work with you, to ensure that church settings in our Diocese are safe spaces where everyone can flourish. The team comprises of Julie Foulds, Safeguarding Team Administrator; Louise Warner, Diocesan Safeguarding Training Officer; Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (ADSA); and Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA). We work within the national Church of England policies and practice guidance.

Rachael and Pete are available to give advice and guidance on all safeguarding matters:

- In addition to safeguarding concerns about children or vulnerable adults, we should always be contacted if there are safeguarding concerns about a church officer, if someone appears to pose a risk to a church community or if someone is reporting church-related abuse.
- We work with victims and survivors of abuse to report abuse and access support.
- We offer practical advice on policies, procedures, and practice guidance.

- We can advise on safer recruitment and DBS issues where there are blemished disclosures.
- The Safeguarding dashboard is available to help you keep track of safeguarding in your church setting and up to date with national changes in safeguarding requirements. Please contact Pete Holloway for advice on how to get started and to complete your dashboard.

Louise coordinates our safeguarding training in line with the Safeguarding Learning and Development Framework 2021. Louise delivers Leadership and Permission to Officiate Safeguarding Training. Basic & Foundation Safeguarding Training, Safer Recruitment & People Management & Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse are all available online, but Louise is also able to offer these courses face to face. Training should be renewed every 3 years. There is helpful guidance on the safeguarding training page of the diocesan website, about what training is required for each role, training dates and how to book on. Please take a moment to check that your training is complete and up to date.

Julie provides admin support to the team and works with Louise to manage training bookings and enquiries. Julie is a point of contact for DBS queries and Lead Recruiters.

We are always keen to link with church settings and this year we are planning bimonthly meetings with Safeguarding Coordinators in addition to our annual safeguarding conference and safeguarding coordinator's service. Churchwardens and incumbents are always welcome at these.

The effectiveness of safeguarding provision in the Diocese is monitored by the Diocesan Safeguarding Oversight Group (DSOG), made up of Diocesan representatives and external members from statutory agencies. This is chaired by Adrienne Plunkett, our newly appointed independent chair of DSOG.

Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 0793 081 9279 Email: Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org

Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser
Tel: 07930 887984 Email: Peter.Holloway@LeicesterCofE.org

Julie Foulds, Safeguarding Team Administrator
Tel: 0116 261 5360 Email: Julie.Foulds@LeicesterCofE.org

Louise Warner, Safeguarding Training Officer
Tel: 07729628319 Email: Louise.Warner@LeicesterCofE.org

Out of hours cover is provided by **Thirtyone:eight**
Tel: 0303 003 1111 and ask for option 2.

Please state that you are calling from the Diocese of Leicester.

For more information

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

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters



Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries or parent company can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24869. Benefact Group plc Reg. No. 01718196. Benefact Trust Limited Reg. No. 1043742. Benefact Trust Limited is a Charity registered in England and Wales with Reg. No. 263960. Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services Ltd (EFAS) Reg. No. 2046087. Ecclesiastical Planning Services Limited (EPSL) Reg. No. 2644860. South Essex Insurance Brokers Limited (SEIB) Reg. No. 06317314. All companies are registered in England at Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 113848. EFAS, EPSL and SEIB are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Firm Reference Numbers 126123 (EFAS), 958152 (EPSL) and 47947 (SEIB).