

ARCHDEACON OF STOKE-UPON-TRENT'S VISITATION NOTICES 2016

Please pray for the Rt Revd Michael Ipgrave who is to be the 99th Bishop of Lichfield!

Stoke Archdeaconry Churchwarden and Church Officer Training

7:00 – 9:00 pm Monday 20th June 2016 at St James', Clayton

With input from Sandra Johnson-Wallis (DAC Support Officer) on the new **Online Faculty System** and Simon Wilcock (Ecclesiastical Insurance) on **caring for your church buildings**. There is dedicated training on this evening for **PCC Secretaries** led by Lynn Brough.

7:00 – 9:00 pm Thursday 29th September 2016 at St Mary's Uttoxeter

Especially helpful for those who are **thinking about becoming wardens, are new in the post or simply want to refresh their understanding of the churchwarden's role**.

The evenings begin at 7:00 pm with refreshments from 6.30 pm and are open to all Wardens and any members of the PCC who might find them helpful. To book or for more details please contact sandra.johnson@lichfield.angican.org or phone 01782 663066 or sign up tonight. There is no charge for these events.

Church Buildings

New Projects:

If you are considering embarking on a major new building project (or indeed any project where there is likely to significant funding needed) please speak first to the Archdeacon. Through the Parish Projects, Loans and Grants Committee we can offer expertise and advice on project planning and possible funding.

The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015:

New Rules came into force from the beginning of 2016. There are some items that need a Faculty, some which may be done with the permission of the Archdeacon (List B) and matters that the parish can do without wider consultation but with certain conditions (List A). To find out what level of permission you need for **any** work in a church or churchyard please see the document *Do Your Proposals Require Faculty Permission?* <http://bit.ly/1pdVDBI>

Online Faculty Application:

All applications for List B and Faculties must now be made online. Details of how to login and use the system are found in the *Archdeacons' Visitation News*.

CDM:

The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations apply to all construction work in Great Britain. You should be aware of your responsibilities under these regulations. As a 'client' – an individual or organisation for whom construction work is being carried out, you have a number of specific duties under the CDM Regulations; however, you can appoint a competent person to assist you in the discharge of these duties if you wish (such as your QI Architect). The Approved Code of Practice to the CDM Regulations summarises the duties of a client as follows:

- check the competence and resource of all appointees;
- ensure there are suitable management arrangements for the project including welfare facilities;
- allow sufficient time and resources for all stages;
- provide pre-construction information to designers and contractors.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Group:

In response to feedback received from customers about their church insurance policies, has developed some new guides which they are calling "Church Insurance Made Simple". You can find guides on how to plan building works, covering church events, administering insurance, people on church property and community outreach activities here <http://tinyurl.com/h58h6vy>

Churchyards:

You can find the *Churchyard Regulations* on the Diocesan Website along with a "user friendly" version for the bereaved called *Hallowed Ground*. Holding the line on **artificial flowers and other decorations** had proved pastorally sensitive and there are no easy solutions to the difficulties this can cause. Clear signage in the Churchyard explaining the regulations, clarity at the point memorials are put in on what is acceptable and plenty of advance notice if you intend to remove artificial flowers can help. Churchyards are *shared* spaces and so, like any such space, are subject to planning arrangements.

Discovering the Heart of God

Spiritual Companionship:

Is a confidential relationship which allows room to discern the presence of God in life's experiences. It is for anyone and Spiritual Companionship is available to all who want it. The **Diocesan Spirituality Adviser** Charles Ruxton would like your help with these questions:

Is there anyone to whom you go to talk about your relationship with God?

- a. If so, who (Spiritual Companion/Director, other – please describe); and can you say what you value in particular from this relationship?
- b. If not, would you value it? What would help you find someone?

Send your comments to Charles is on 01743 891636 or charles.ruxton@trinitychurches.org they will be 'anonymised' and used in planning future work. If you would like to explore having a Spiritual Companion, the Stafford Area Co-ordinator is Freda Bishop on 01782 372924 or freda.bishop@virgin.net

The Community of St Chad <http://bit.ly/1yoAHFF>

The Diocesan Prayer Diary can be found at <http://bit.ly/1UgsUJz>

Prayermate is a free app made to help you pray and is available for IOS and Android devices. You can subscribe there to the Diocese of Lichfield Prayer Diary.

Growing Disciples

Faith Pictures:

Is a short course designed to help Christians talk naturally to friends, neighbours and colleagues about what they believe. The heart of the course is about helping people to identify a single picture or image that embodies something of their faith. The course aims to be accessible and light-hearted, without jargon or inflexible methods. It has a number of emphases not always found in faith-sharing courses. These include the avoidance of one-size-fits-all models and the importance of honesty and listening. Each session contains a short video and encourages discussion in pairs and as a whole group. <http://bit.ly/1VVjWT7>

Pilgrim:

A Course for the Christian Journey is an excellent resource for nurturing the Christian faith in new Christians and those more established in their faith. <http://bit.ly/2429NZZ>

Reaching New Generations

Leading Your Church into Growth:

This important national course for ordained and lay will run at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick from **7th-10th November 2016**. It is aimed at the breadth of Anglican traditions and explores way in which local churches can grow in numbers, depth and commitment to the local community. Details at <http://bit.ly/1TdcNrc>

Dovedale House:

Is a great place for children, young people and parish groups to take time out in stunning surroundings. Details can be found at <http://bit.ly/1T3Zrx2>

A Church Near You:

When people search for your church on the internet it is very likely that your ACNY entry will come up first even if you have your own website so it needs to be kept up-to-date!

Inspire – Volunteers ... We need you!:

Coming soon! An exciting new project for schools will be taking place at Lichfield Cathedral during May and June! Can you help? Running from 10:00 am- 3:00 pm each day will host about 130 pupils. The vision of Inspire is to provide a space that is 'Inspirational, Educational and Spiritual' for every child, young person and member of school staff that attends. Some of the exciting activities include graffiti art, exploring Christianity in our different link dioceses as well as opportunities to explore the cathedral.

23rd-27th May - Year 4 pupils, **6th-10th June** - Year 6 pupils **16th-17th June** - Year 8 pupils Volunteers can give as much or as little time as they feel comfortable doing from 1 day to the full 12 days. For further information or to register your interest please contact either Sue Blackmore on 07891 611760 or sue.blackmore@lichfield.anglican.org or Libby Leech on 07891 290564 or libby.leech@lichfield.anglican.org

Diocesan Board of Education Academy Roadshows:

There will be 5 "roadshows" around the diocese put on by the Diocesan Board of Education team to explain the options for our church schools following the government's recent announcement that it intends all schools to be academies by 2022. This is a massive change in the way education is delivered in this country and has profound implications not just for our schools but for parishes too. The Roadshows will all be held from 4-5.30pm at:

20th June	King's CE School Regis Road Tettenhall Wolverhampton WV6 8XG
21st June	St Michael's CE Primary Sturgens Hill Lichfield WS14 9AW
27th June	St Peter's Academy Fenton Manor Fenton Stoke ST4 2RR
30th June	Thomas Alleyne's High School Dove Bank Uttoxeter ST14 8DU
7th July	Oakmeadow CE Longmeadow Road Bayston Hill Shrewsbury SY3 0NU

Contact Sue Blackmore at sue.blackmore@lichfield.anglican.org to book a place.

Online Pastor:

Ros Clarke is our Diocesan Online Pastor and has been in post for almost a year. Ros uses social media to reach younger people both within and beyond the church with the Good News of Jesus Christ and help younger Christians in our Diocese feel more connected with one another and God. Why not watch TGI Monday - a panel discussion hosted by Ros - by going to YouTube and typing in **TGI Monday!**

Transforming Communities

Many of the worldwide charities for supporting the poor have decided that acting to limit climate change is now the most important strategy for relieving poverty in the years to come. As part of this strategy Christian Aid, Tear Fund and CAFOD are working together with the collective purchase organisation 2buy2 on a campaign called "The Big Church Switch" to encourage churches (of all denominations) to consider changing to a "green" energy supplier in order to reduce their carbon footprint.

The recent Diocesan Environmental Action Plan scheme, in which 30 churches took part, discovered that a quarter of churches are on an inappropriate or unnecessarily expensive energy tariff, estimating that, in some cases quite substantial savings could be made. The Big Church Switch offers a no obligation opportunity for parishes to check their current tariff and get access to a discounted green tariff. PCC treasurers will have received a letter from the Diocese Finance Department inviting them to register for the scheme. To register <http://bit.ly/24jjlwh>

The information needed is on energy bills. Further information is available from 2buy2 on 03333 201 015. **John Polhill, Diocesan Environmental Officer**

Practising Generosity

Parish Share collection in 2015 for the Diocese was an amazing 98.62% (97.64% in this Archdeaconry).

Thank you to all who have given so generously and sacrificially. We continue to ask parishes to pay some or all their parish share on a **monthly standing order or direct debit** and are very grateful that an increasing number of parishes are doing so.

Thank you for all who submitted the Finance Form in good time last year. Forms (for last year's accounts) can be done in hard copy and sent to St Mary's House, or by completing the Finance Form on-line at www.lichfield.anglican.org or by email to finance@lichfield.anglican.org We need the information by no later than 30th June 2016.

If you have any queries concerning Finance Forms, contact Diane Holt on 01543 306054. Further forms are available to download from the finance webpage <http://bit.ly/1NSkEZF>

And important additional information ...

Safeguarding:

The Diocese has a team of Advisers to help with Safeguarding issues. During office hours and for general enquiries please call Kim Hodgkins on 01543 306030. For emergencies the Diocese has an emergency safeguarding number 07530 748056. Please familiarise yourself with all further details on the Safeguarding pages of the website. <http://bit.ly/1DINvwc>

Employing Staff:

If your PCC employs or intends to employ a member of staff (administrator, youth worker etc) then you must download the advice given on the HR pages of the Diocesan Website, especially the *Employment Handbook for Churches* at <http://bit.ly/1SOEsod>

These Notices along with the Archdeacon's Charge will be available for download from the 22nd May 2016 at <http://bit.ly/1WFZcvx>