



Dear Colleagues

## Churchyards

Churchyards are an opportunity for mission and ministry. Yet in many parishes, looking after our churchyards places a heavy demand on limited resources. This year the diocese has entered into an arrangement with the national charity, Caring for God's Acre, (CfGA), so that they can provide local churches with help and assistance. Clergy and wardens can contact CfGA for free advice on matters such as churchyard maintenance, community engagement, setting up volunteer groups, and applications for external grant funding.

Eight churches will receive 50% funding (£300) for the preparation of an individual churchyard management plans from CfGA specialists, for which parishes in areas of deprivation may apply for a full grant. Initial expressions of interest to our diocesan environmental officer, John Polhill on [john@reflectiongardens.org.uk](mailto:john@reflectiongardens.org.uk).

The Annual Presentation of Churchyard Awards takes place at Blymhill Village Hall [postcode] on Saturday the 19th November 2016 at 10am for tea/coffee and scones. All those interested in participating on 2017 will be most welcome. Email [gwen-johnson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gwen-johnson@hotmail.co.uk) or phone her on 01889 586469 for further details.

Next year we are arranging a series of free conferences covering practical and statutory aspects of churchyard management. The first will be on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2017, followed by an autumn conference in each episcopal area (7<sup>th</sup> October with Bishop Geoff). Register your interest now at [tc@lichfield.anglican.org](mailto:tc@lichfield.anglican.org) and tell us what topics you would like to be included. We are looking for examples of good practice to share with others.

And planning ahead, Cherishing Churchyards Week is 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

There is a wealth of information available on CfGA's website [www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/](http://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/). It is always worth alerting our DAC Secretary, Kristina Williamson, to any proposals, for her advice and guidance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'David Primrose'.

David Primrose

Director of Transforming Communities