

Dear Churchwarden (and those who look after your Church Buildings) ,

A belated Happy Easter to you all. This update is a little shorter than some as I have not received a huge amount of information this month to share with you.

Energy Footprint Tool for 2023 Energy Usage

The energy footprint tool (EFT) is now open for you to enter your 2023 energy date. The EFT is accessed via the parish returns website and guidance documents are available on the website.

We have currently had data entered from 20% of our churches and it would be great to reach at least 50% by the end of the month.

If you require any support in entering the data, please contact Bethan Still (Diocesan Environmental Officer) or myself.

Accessing Support from the Church Building Support Officer (CBSO)

To ensure that support from Chris is distributed fairly across the diocese, any parish wishing to access support will need to complete a simple application form which outlines the type of support that you would like for your building project. After the form is submitted, the support is reviewed by the Church Building Panel who will decide if the support can be offered to the parish. Further guidance on accessing support is available on the "Church Building" page of the diocesan website, or you can contact me directly

Training Opportunities 2024

Below is the list of training sessions that have currently been planned to support you as you look after your church buildings. I would however like to draw your attention to a couple of sessions that are coming up.

- Understanding our buildings can make it much easier to spot potential problems before they arise and hopefully save us a lot of time and money. With this in mind I am running a session on 16th April where we will look at a church building that has changed quite a lot over the years and the impact that these changes could have on maintenance.
- Churchyard Management can be something that takes up a lot of time, especially if you still have an open churchyard that is well used by the local community. Our registrar Mr Philip Wills will be running the session and will help you to understand the Churchyard Rules and explain how to deal with different situations that you may find yourself in. Last years session was very popular, so do book early.

You can book a place at any of the sessions by clicking on the booking link.

Date	Time	Venue	Event	Booking Link
Tuesday 16 th April	7.00pm	All Saints, Preston on Tees	Understanding your buildings	https://bit.ly/3S0m8vD
Wednesday 15 th May	12.00pm	Zoom	Faculty Workshop	https://bit.ly/3GSAbNq
Thursday 16 th May	6.30pm	Holy Trinity, South Hetton	Churchyard Management	https://bit.ly/3SvkmBu
Wednesday 3 rd July	1.30pm	Cuthbert House	New Churchwardens Training	Please contact your Archdeacon
Thursday 4 th July	7.00pm	Zoom		Please contact your Archdeacon
Monday 16 th September	2.00pm	St Peter's, Jarrow	Annual Maintenance Schedule	https://bit.ly/48st1v4
October	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop	TBC
November	TBC	TBC	Undertaking Church Building Projects	TBC

EV Charging Points webinar: Tuesday 9th April at 2pm

Do you want to find out more about installing EV charging points at your church?

This webinar hosted by Parish Buying is aimed at any church interested in providing EV charging services either to parishioners or the wider community. It will also cover the health and safety of this service.

https://churchofengland-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ifKcSsT3RNC7F-aveAIKVO#/registration

Lead Water Pipe Replacement

Northumbrian Water are currently running a programme of free lead pipe replacement which includes places of worship and community buildings. I have attached details of the programme. You need to apply directly to Northumbrian Water via email to leadfreeproject@nwl.co.uk or call 07543301638, but I would be grateful if you can let me know that you have applied. Obviously every building is different but it is likely that either Archdeacons permission or a Faculty will be required before the work can commence. Northumbrian Water are aware of this but their contractors may not understand the permissions required so please ensure that they follow the agreed processes.

Memorial Testing

I have been asked a number of times over the last year about how churches can get their churchyard memorials tested. ICCM guidelines require a 5 year testing cycle. Many stonemasons will be able to do this if they have done the appropriate training so you may want to contact your local stone mason in the first instance. If they are not able to help you then you could try [Watson Memorials](#) who are able to carry this out, contact 01325 802565.

Fire Risk in Historic Churches

While all historic buildings are at risk from fire to a lesser or greater extent, some are more vulnerable than others, and our historic churches are often among the more vulnerable, especially if left locked up and unsupervised during the day. In this article, Geraldine O'Farrell, Senior Building Services Engineer at Historic England, examines the causes of fires, preventative actions and planning methods to minimise damage should a fire occur. Click [here](#) to read article.

Enter the Green Church Awards

There's still plenty of time to get your entries in for The Church Times Green Church Awards. The awards are aimed at celebrating the great work of church communities and church schools around the country who are caring for God's creation. Entrants have until 30 June to enter the seven categories.

The awards are organised jointly with the Church of England's environment programme, the Methodist Church, the Salvation Army, and Eco Congregation Scotland. Find out more [here](#).

Church of England: Updated grants directory

Are you looking for grants to help fund a local environmental project? Their extensive online directory has been updated and lists organisations which may be able to help you. <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/fundraising-for-net-zero-carbon#finding-suitable-funders-to-apply-to>

Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum

We have an online Churchwardens Forum using Google Groups to allow you to ask questions and share information with other Churchwardens. If you would like to sign up and you can do so by clicking on the following link.

[DDChurchwardenForum - Google Groups](#)

If you are already on the Churchwarden Forum, why not ask a question. The more it is used the more useful it becomes.

Finally if you need any support regarding work on your buildings, please get in touch with me and I will do my best to find you the information that you require.

Kind regards

Martin

Martin Howard

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