

Dear Churchwarden,

I apologise for the length of this email but I have quite a lot of information to pass on to you. I will also add my previous wardens emails to the website in case you have missed any information I have shared.

### **Heating Survey**

In my last email I asked if you could complete a very short heating survey, if you haven't had chance to do it yet I would really appreciate your feedback. Please click on the link below.

[Durham Diocese Church Heating Survey \(google.com\)](#)

### **Faculty follow up**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the emails that I have sent out to many parishes over the last few weeks regarding faculty information that is showing as incomplete on the Online Faculty System (OFS). If you haven't had chance to respond, I would be grateful if you could so that I know that all proposals on the system are still active. This will allow me to direct my support to parishes who may need help with their proposals. For any faculty work that has been completed the "Practical Completion Certificate" should now be completed online. If you have any problems then please let me know.

### **Quinquennial Inspections and reports**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the various emails that I have sent out regarding outstanding inspections. I know that many of you have either had the inspections or have them planned in the near future. If you are unsure when your last inspection took place, you can find all of the current reports that I hold on the [Diocesan website](#) which is updated regularly, or alternatively contact me. Once inspections have taken place, I would be grateful if you could forward me a copy for our records.

### **Spring Clean**

As we head into Spring (ignoring the snow on the ground as I write this email!), it is a good time to arrange a spring clean around the church buildings and churchyard. During my visits to churches over the last few weeks I have noticed a lot of overflowing gutters, blocked downpipes and gulleys full of leaves. In many cases this is causing the walls to become very wet and for damp to penetrate into the building. Keeping on top of this maintenance will save thousands of pounds in repairs to plaster, stonework and floors.

### **Net- Zero 2030**

Last week I attended a webinar on "Becoming a Net Zero Carbon Church" which was really useful and wanted to share the information with you.

I have attached the slides from the presentation along with the links below.

- The webinar recordings and register for future webinars at this page: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/webinars-getting-net-zero-carbon#na>.
- Case studies
  - All case studies: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/towards-net-zero-carbon-case-studies>
  - You can see the St Michael's video along with a written case study: [St Michael's Baddesley Clinton : A small, rural, listed church becomes net zero carbon | The Church of England](#)

- The St Anne in Ings case study that Catherine was hoping to show you can be found here: [Heat pumps and fabric improvements make a rural church warm and well used : St Anne in Ings | The Church of England](#)
- You can arrange a church energy audit through Parish Buying - more information here: <https://www.parishbuying.org.uk/categories/energy/energy-basket/audit>
- You can find information about the Energy Footprint Tool - to enter your utility bill data and find out your carbon footprint: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/policy-and-thinking/our-views/environment-and-climate-change/about-our-environment/energy-footprint-tool#na>
- Guidance:
  - You can find the Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church/practical-path-net-zero-carbon-churches>
  - More information about the Net Zero Carbon church is here, including links to the Practical Path, permissions, recent Faculty changes, and where to find other resources: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>
  - Also some useful practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money this winter <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/heating-your-church-winter>
  - Heating guidance is available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating>
  - Solar PV guidance is here: [https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/CCB\\_SolarPV\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2021-08/CCB_SolarPV_Guidance.pdf) and more information on renewables here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/renewable-energy>
- Register for Eco Church and find more information here: <https://ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/>
- Extracts from the Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 for churches can be found here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/net-zero-carbon-routemap/reducing-emissions-churches>
- Fundraising
  - Fundraising webinars and grants directories: <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/fundraising-for-net-zero-carbon#na>
  - Benefact Trust have just released details of a new Building Improvement Fund and it lists Solar panels: [BIG-programme-guidance.pdf \(benefacttrust.co.uk\)](#)

### **Faculty Workshops**

The first two of our faculty workshops took place this month and we still have plenty of spaces available at the April Sessions.

The next two sessions are:

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2pm at St Cuthbert's, Durham

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 7pm at St Cuthbert's, Etherley

They can be booked by clicking on the following link <https://durhamdiocese.eventbrite.com>

### **Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum**

Last month I set up 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](#)

### **Policies**

Every church needs to have a range of policies and procedures in place to ensure churches can function effectively. Some policies such as the Safeguarding Policy are provided centrally but other policies need to be written to reflect the needs of individual parishes. I am hoping to put together a resource consisting of some sample policies that churches can then personalise to their specific needs. I would be grateful if you could send me policies that you are willing to share and I will begin to develop this resource.

### **Diocesan Website**

Following comments from several people about difficulties in finding the information required, I have now added links to the different web pages from the main Church Buildings page.

If anyone has any difficulty finding the Church Buildings section, it can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

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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