

Dear Churchwarden,

Over the last few weeks I have come across a few bits information to share with you and I would also like your support in helping me to gather some information.

### **Heating and Energy Guidance**

The Guidance on [Temporary closure of a church due to cold weather](#) and [Managing frost protection](#) are now both in the download section of the [Energy efficiency measures](#) page. The [Practical suggestions to help parishes save energy and money](#) are now available on the [Heating you church this winter page](#)

For those of you wanting to explore other heating options, Historic England have produced some advice on using heat pumps. The advice looks at the options of air, ground and water source heat pumps, and explores the process of assessing and reducing heating demands in buildings. You can access it [here](#).

### **Getting ready for winter**

I'm sure that most of you will already have an agreed maintenance schedule for your church but if not you can find one [here](#) to help you get ready for the winter and the year ahead.

### **Faculty Workshops**

Starting in the new year I plan to run quarterly faculty workshops at different locations around the diocese. The purpose of these workshops is to provide support for any parishes who wish to apply for a faculty but may want a bit of support understanding the process or using the Online Faculty System. To avoid people having to travel long distances I plan to have the workshops in more local areas throughout the year. I am initially looking at running workshops in Gateshead, Sunderland, Durham and Stockton/Darlington. If you are able to host a workshop please let me know. I hope to publish dates and locations early in the new year. I am also more than happy to answer any individual queries that you might have about the faculty process. Please contact me via email at [martin.howard@durham.anglican.org](mailto:martin.howard@durham.anglican.org) or phone on 07586090996.

### **Grant Survey**

I regularly get asked by parishes which grants they can apply for to support work on their church buildings. Whilst we hold a list of grants that are available to churches we are not necessarily aware of all of the grant providers that churches have received funding from. The purpose of this survey is to obtain a better picture of what is available for parishes and allow us to best support you when you need this information. I would be grateful if you could complete the following survey giving details of any grants that you have received as a church for work on your building during the last 3 years. The detail will not be shared with others, just the overall findings. I would be grateful if this could be completed by 6/12/22 and if someone else in your church has this information, please forward it to them. You can access the survey by clicking [HERE](#).

### **Contractor / Supplier Database**

I receive regular requests for details of contractors who can carry out particular types of work such as heating, stained glass, joinery, etc. As a diocese we do not carry lists of recommended contractors however we are happy to share details of contractors / suppliers that have been used by other churches. Many of the current lists have not been updated for some time, so I am currently in the process of building a new database and therefore need your help. In the next couple of weeks I will be sending out an email asking you to share details of contractors that you have used over recent years on your church buildings and would appreciate your responses.

**Quinquennial Inspections**

Thank you to everyone who has responded to my emails about outstanding and due Quinquennial Inspections. Please continue to update me when you have inspections booked and send me the reports when they are received.

**Finally**

If you have any questions about work on your church buildings, please get in touch and I will do my best to give you're the support that you need.

Kind regards

Martin