

Dear Churchwarden,

I would like to introduce myself as the New Buildings for Mission Secretary. Dan Spraggon has moved into a new position within the Diocese as Church Buildings Support Officer but we will be working together on many things.

I thought it would be a good opportunity to update you on a few things.

Quinquennial Inspections

Many of you will be catching up inspections that were due during the COVID pandemic and I'm sure that these will soon have been completed. I am trying to get our records up to date and would appreciate it if you could send me any reports received this year so that I can ensure the my records are correct. If you are unsure when your next inspection is due please contact me and I can give you the details that I hold.

If any churches wish to appoint a new inspector for their Quinquennial Inspections I can send you details of the process that needs to be followed and any new inspectors need to be approved by the DAC prior to completing any inspection.

Faculty Applications

All faculty applications for work on your church buildings should be completed using the Online Faculty System (OFS) and any work should not commence until the faculty is received from the Chancellor.

The DAC are keen to be involved at an early stage and are able to give informal advice prior to the full faculty petition being received. I am also more than happy to answer any queries that you might have about the process. Please contact me via email at martin.howard@durham.anglican.org or phone on 07586090996.

The DAC meet 10 times each year and if you would like items to be discussed at the DAC please contact me at least two weeks before to ensure that it can be included on the agenda.

The final two meetings of this year are on 8th November and 13th December.

Grant Funding

I have been made aware of a couple of grants that may be available to help fund work on your buildings.

- The National Churches Trust's Foundation Grant Programme for urgent maintenance works and small repairs offers small grants between £500 and £5,000. The final deadline for applications in 2022 will be the end of October. Details can be found on this link.

[Maintenance grants](#)

- The Northumbria Historic Churches Trust give out grants across our diocese and currently have grants available for various projects. Details can be found on their website.

[Making a Grant Application / Northumbria Historic Churches Trust \(northumbriaht.org.uk\)](#)

In addition to these the Durham Diocesan Church Buildings Panel has small grants for works to your church buildings. Grants set at a maximum 10% cost of works and maximum award of £4,000. Do get in touch if you need further information.

Net Zero

The church of England has set a target of being Net Zero Carbon by 2030.

The guidance that a PCC must have due regard to is listed here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/church-buildings-council/how-we-manage-our-buildings#faculty-amendment-rules-2022-net-zero>

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. I intend to send out an update each quarter unless I have anything that needs your urgent attention.

Kind regards

Martin