

 Diocese of Peterborough

# archdeacons' visitation news

## Dear Churchwardens

### Greetings from your Archdeacons!

**Whether you are new to your role, or have been in post for a while, we hope that you will find this edition of Visitation News helpful and informative.**

We are living through what is proving to be the most enduringly challenging period for church and society since the end of the Second World War, and we want to put on record our immense gratitude to all Churchwardens who have been so faithfully exercising their responsibilities and supporting their clergy and parishes throughout the pandemic. We are especially appreciative of the service of those Churchwardens who have been holding the fort during vacancies over the past year, but, whether or not you have had clergy in post to support, we want you all to know that you are not taken for granted, that your service of Our Lord and his church is greatly valued, and that, indeed, we are so very grateful that we can depend upon you.

Supervision within the life of the church is exercised lightly at the best of times, and with some 350 churches in our care, we could not perform our roles without your attention to the detailed needs and circumstances of your own particular parishes, and that has been even more true throughout the past year, when we ourselves have been effectively grounded and unable to undertake visitations and inspections.

You will no doubt have been giving much thought, with your clergy and lay colleagues, to seeking to discern the signs of the times, to not only charting a course through the extraordinary circumstances in which we have found ourselves, but also to rediscovering what your church communities are called to be and to do in their own particular situations, and how our great heritage of church buildings, with all their challenges and opportunities, can best serve the mission of the church in this generation. As *normal* life has, to a large degree, been put on hold, your church communities will no doubt have come to a fresh appreciation of what, on the one hand, they most value and what, on the other hand, is ripe for revision, pruning and changing.

As you continue this process of discernment, and as your parish and wider society are gradually released from the constraints that have had to be placed upon us, do please draw on the resources, online and in person, which diocesan officers offer to assist you in the fulfilment of your calling, and in the necessary reimagining of the ministry and mission of the church, that we may be ready to proclaim afresh, by word and by deed, the good news of the gospel which it is our privilege to share with this generation.

**May God bless you, his servants, in all that lies ahead.**

### Carbon neutral by 2030?

Whilst we have been preoccupied with the effects of the pandemic, the increasing challenges posed by climate change and global warming have not gone away. In February 2020, the Church of England General Synod debated a proposal that the church should seek to be carbon neutral by 2045 and, instead, set the much more ambitious target of 2030 for net zero carbon emissions for the Church of England.



The Peterborough Diocesan Synod discussed this subject further in March of this year and resources will be available to help you plan to meet this target in your parishes. Please do all you can to help us exemplify good stewardship of God's creation.



**Gordon Steele**  
Archdeacon of Oakham



**Richard Ormston**  
Archdeacon of Northampton

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# Safeguarding within the Diocese of Peterborough

The care and protection of children, young people and vulnerable adults<sup>1</sup> involved in church activities is the responsibility of the whole church. Everyone who participates in the life of the Church has a role to play in promoting a 'safer church' for all. We take safeguarding very seriously and are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of everyone within our church community. Safeguarding is everyone's business and responsibility.

'The Church of England is called to share the good news of God's salvation through Jesus Christ. In the Diocese of Peterborough, the life of our communities is integral to how we address this task. The good news speaks of welcome for all, with a particular regard for those who are most vulnerable, into a community where the value and dignity of every human being is affirmed and those in a position of responsibility and authority are totally trustworthy. Being faithful in our call to share the gospel therefore compels us to take with the utmost seriousness the challenge of preventing abuse from happening and responding well where it has.'  
(*Promoting a Safer Church*)

**Safeguarding means the action the Church takes to promote a safer culture in all our churches. In order to achieve this, we will:**

1. Promote a safer environment and culture.
2. Safely recruit and support all those with any responsibility related to children, young people and vulnerable adults within the Church.
3. Respond promptly to every safeguarding concern or allegation.
4. Care pastorally for victims/survivors of abuse and other affected persons.
5. Care pastorally for those who are the subject of concerns of abuse and other affected persons.
6. Respond to those that may pose a present risk to others.

<sup>1</sup> In their policies and procedures our statutory partners have now moved away from the terminology of 'vulnerable adults' towards 'adults at risk of harm', usually shortened to 'adults at risk'.



## Key messages (*Parish Safeguarding Handbook*):

1. The welfare of the child, young person and vulnerable adult is at all times paramount, and takes precedence over all other considerations.
2. The Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser (DSA) or Assistant DSA must be consulted whenever a safeguarding concern of any kind arises in your parish.
3. Safeguarding is part of our core faith and an integral feature of Christian life in our parish churches and communities.

**What can you expect from the DSA team?** Well, here are some of the things the DSA can assist you with:

- Help in implementing the House of Bishops' safeguarding policies and practice guidance. *Information is held within the Diocese of Peterborough website under safeguarding and is held in the 'toolkits' section.*
- The DSA and Assistant DSA are experienced safeguarding professionals who offer safeguarding advice and support.
- Provide access to the National Safeguarding Team training modules. Safeguarding training is available online for the Basic (C0) and Foundation (C1) safeguarding modules. The leadership (C2) module is currently being delivered in Zoom training sessions by the DSA team. Other training modules are being developed and will be offered soon.
- We want to improve and strengthen engagement and communication with victims/survivors of any form of abuse, or those who have been affected by such abuse. In all of our communication, consideration is to be given to directing people to appropriate partner agencies who can provide expert support, guidance and advice.
- Complete your Parish Audit or gain access to the safeguarding Dashboard App – if you are not using the App, it is recommended and you can contact the DSA team for advice.

In safeguarding we work as a team across the diocese and across all the parishes. We also work with our external statutory partners, other partner organisations and charities.

For more information about safeguarding within our diocese, visit the Diocese of Peterborough website or contact the DSA – Bev Huff on **01733 887040** or **bev.huff@peterborough-diocese.org.uk**

During the pandemic, safeguarding advice is also available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-and-coronavirus-covid-19>





# Grants Hints & Tips



Grants are one of the key means of funding church projects. They are generally awarded either for repairs, some maintenance tasks, or for alterations that will open up a church building for wider use. These grants can help you to generate income that cannot be raised locally and can act as a catalyst in engaging the congregation and local community

with your building. Funding is also available for environmental projects, such as energy saving, nature conservation and education.

There are a large number of grants available for a wide range of church projects. Depending on the size of the project, the grants available can generally range from hundreds to several thousand pounds, and occasionally more. However, it is worth bearing in mind that many grant organisations receive more applications than they can fund. Applying for grants is often a competitive process, so it is important to ensure that all applications are good quality. What can you do to give your bid every chance of success?

## Seven key application tips

1. **Plan** your project! Make a list of eligible grant sources, note application deadlines, and record any feedback if you are unsuccessful. Are you able to reapply?
2. **Speak** to the local community about your project to gather wider support. How will the project benefit them?
3. **Research** the grant funder. What are their priorities? Tailor your applications to meet their objectives.
4. **Engage** with the funder where possible before writing your application.
5. **Demonstrate** the need for your project and provide evidence for your case.
6. **Share** your draft grant application with somebody before submitting.
7. **Supply** all of the additional documents requested.

## Further information and help

If you want to discuss your project, contact Jon Breckon, Historic Churches Support Officer, for advice and guidance.

[jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)  
07732 894457

### For more information

**Call:** 0345 777 3322 **Email:** [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)  
**Facebook:** Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

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## A Churchwarden's checklist

### Your church and churchyard

1. At the last annual meeting of the PCC, did anyone present a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church?
2. (a) Are any essential works for the church building, as noted on the last quinquennial report, in hand or planned?  
(b) Do you have proper arrangements in place for routine maintenance, including the regular clearance of gutters and down-pipes to prevent blockages?  
(c) Are arrangements in hand for proper maintenance of the churchyard?
3. Do you arrange for the electrical installation to be checked every five years?
4. If the church has a lightning protection system, do you arrange for periodic inspection of the system?
5. Do you review your health and safety arrangements periodically?
6. Do you review your fire risk assessment regularly and whenever there are any changes to the premises that may affect fire safety?

### Presentation and care of church records

7. (a) Are your service book records and registers for burials, baptisms and marriages up to date?  
(b) Are all your church registers, records and books in a satisfactory condition and properly stored or deposited within the archives?
8. (a) Are your external and internal noticeboards in good order and up to date?  
(b) Is the current Table of Parochial Fees displayed clearly in the church?  
(c) Is the Churchyard Directive displayed prominently and publicly?
9. Are you satisfied with arrangements for the care and cleaning of the church's interior, church linen and other ornaments and vessels?
10. Do you have up-to-date church guidebooks available and, if appropriate, are they available in other languages?
11. Is there a logbook for your church and is it up to date?
12. Is there a plan of your churchyard and is it up to date?

### Finances

13. Did you pay your clergy expenses in full last year?
14. Is your church insurance regularly reviewed and does it give you the appropriate cover you need?

If you'd like to know more about the role of the Churchwarden, your diocese can provide you with a guide, and you'll find a number of books available commercially too. If you'd like to raise an issue with your Archdeacon, please contact them directly.