

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2018 - issue 16

Dear churchwardens,

In the last few years there's been a flourishing of people coming forward looking to respond to God's call. Although ministry in the Church of England has sometimes been characterised as belonging to the few – the ordained, the well-educated, and the paid – we have become clearer in recent years that this view is both wrong and deeply limiting of the Church's mission...

And one of the important things that we've come to realise as this broader vision of ministry has come to life is that we might need quite different kinds of Christian leaders to proclaim the gospel afresh to new generations than we've had before. We need people who make a particularly strong contribution in their home community, people who are good at making connections with different workplaces or chaplaincy settings, and people who enjoy being at the margins of both church and society and who want to gather together others who see the world as they do.

Lay and ordained ministers don't have to all appear to come from the same mould. Rather, we are looking for people to serve in ministry who are open to discovering how God wants to mould them, who want to learn more about who they are, about how they can build up God's community, and about how they can participate in God's redeeming work. In other words, we are looking for people who are open to finding themselves in God.

Being called into true selfhood – knowing what we are suited for and being ourselves – isn't as easy as it sounds. On the tombstone of a holy rabbi, Rabbi Zusya, are the words, "One who served with love, who rejoiced in suffering, who wrested many from their sins". But before his death, Rabbi Zusya had been heard to say, "In the coming world, they will not ask me, 'Why were you not Moses?' They will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

We all have a calling from God, and primarily that calling is to become more truly ourselves before God, without pretence or charade, without self-deception or concern for how the world sees us. When we can acknowledge with confidence that we are already known and found and loved by God, then whatever our calling is will become clearer.

So be open to God. Listen to God. Don't work at becoming something you're not, but instead see how God is calling you to ministry – you, the real you – and allow yourself to be shaped by God for his work.



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Vocations: David Price

David Price announced at the age of 10 that he would be a cathedral organist. He told his grandmother every time he visited her house.



His vocation and his faith were kindled when he started singing as a chorister at Bath Abbey. And it was confirmation that jolted him from jobbing chorister to thoughtful church organist.

He went to London to study for a music degree and to be assistant organist at Croydon Parish Church.

"Here I found a vocation," he said. "The music was fully centred on a prayerful and faithful congregation. I began to understand the place and power of music within the liturgy and as a way to lift souls. I think I discerned a plan for me. I think God wanted me to inspire, console and to worship through music."

He moved to Rochester where he experienced the joys, challenges and strains of working in a cathedral as an organ scholar. He then became assistant cathedral organist at Ely Cathedral – alas, too late for his grandmother to see and understand it.

David came to Portsmouth in 1996, where he became our cathedral organist and Master of Choristers. He fell in love with Kitty, the bishop's daughter, and they married. He also lost his mother at around this time.

"I had to ask where is God in all this?" he said. "But he is there. He works through Kitty, my new family, my job in Portsmouth and in a new sense of perspective. I realised that life must be lived, people should be cherished, new experiences and challenges should be grasped."

He still sees his role of leading the cathedral choirs, organising music and liturgy for services and nurturing young musicians as a vocation – a calling to use his talents in God's service.

"Twenty years later, I know God is still walking alongside me," he said. "Portsmouth Cathedral is a very different place to what it was in 1996. I hope it continues to evolve, to welcome, to nurture and above all to place God at the centre of its work.

"I am still driven to make music in worship. I hope to bring people closer to God through encountering the divine in song and in liturgy. I also hope to inspire the many children and young people who make up the choirs here at the cathedral – choristers, choral scholars, lay clerks, colleagues and volunteers."

Great to see churches engaging in making disciples



The new Mission Development Officers, Andrew Hargreaves and the Isle of Wight MDO, Allie Kerr, have been enjoying finding their feet joining the mission team with Anthony Rustell, Victoria James and others, as well as building relationships across the diocese in our first few months together since September.

It has been wonderful to visit so many parishes and meet many people committed to seeing God's Kingdom grow. We would love to meet with you and learn all about God's mission in your parish if you haven't met us yet, so do get in touch if you'd like to invite us over.

One of the ways parishes have shown their commitment to church growth and making disciples is by engaging in the Leading Your Church Into Growth course (LYCIG) that Allie and Andrew have inherited from the hard work started by Charlie Peer and Anthony Rustell. Since 2015, nearly 85 % of our parishes have engaged in LYCIG, which is great news. The majority have set up leadership teams to focus on God's call to spiritual and numerical growth. In most cases those leadership teams are helping their congregations to engage in this thinking through whole church follow-up courses, 'LYCIG local' and 'Everybody Welcome'. It's so encouraging to see parishes start the dialogue as to what it means to see God's Kingdom grow and how we partner with God's Spirit to see this happen. Do look out for further LYCIG follow-up events coming soon across the diocese.

We love to hear stories of encouragement of how God is at work in bringing people to Himself across Portsmouth Diocese, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with Allie or Andrew at allie.kerr@portsmouth.anglican.org or andrew.hargreaves@portsmouth.anglican.org so we can see and share with other parishes to inspire the work of the Spirit across the body of Christ in our part of God's world. God bless you in your partnership with Him.



2018 – Ecclesiastical's year of the church volunteer

In 2017, Ecclesiastical's annual church competition celebrated the role that churches play in their local communities and the positive change brought about by various community initiatives.

Churches were asked to submit a piece of artwork that encapsulated their community offering, be it a regular food bank service, mother and toddler groups or coffee mornings for the elderly to combat loneliness, etc. More than 270 wonderful and creative submissions formed the Great Community Mural, a 10m x 3m structure, which was unveiled at St Paul's Cathedral before going on to tour cathedrals around the UK.



This year, Ecclesiastical will be honouring the invaluable contributions of church volunteers – the people who tirelessly devote their time and energy to make a difference to support their church and to make a difference to their local communities.

Michael Angell, Church Operations Director at Ecclesiastical, explains that the 2018 competition is all about recognising and celebrating those who do so much to support their church and enrich their communities. "We're continually inspired by the dedication of church volunteers and all they do. Our hope is that this year's competition will not only recognise outstanding voluntary work, but also encourage others to consider devoting their time for the benefit of others," said Michael.

Look out for details of this year's competition on www.ecclesiastical.com/church

Risk Management Advice Line

We know that managing the risks of a church or church hall can be a demanding responsibility.

That's why we've introduced the Risk Management Advice Line. Whenever you need information about managing risk and can't find what you are looking for on our website, our experts are here to help.

Call our Risk Management Advice Line: **0345 600 7531**

The line is open from 9:00 to 17:00 Monday to Friday excluding Bank Holidays.

Alternatively you can email us at:

risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com

and one of our experts will call you back within 24 hours.

Our Risk Management Advice Line offers Ecclesiastical customers free risk advice. Please have your policy number to hand when you call.



New health and safety guidance

Nobody wants to see anyone suffer an injury, so it's important that your church has taken steps to protect those who use your buildings. This can seem a bit daunting when starting from scratch, so we've developed a series of new webpages, guidance notes, checklists and videos to help make health and safety straightforward. They provide a range of information and examples to help you get started, or check the adequacy of what you already have in place.

Find out more at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/healthandsafety



Do you receive our monthly e-news?



We send updates and useful advice by email once a month. If you or anyone else in your church would like to be added to the list, you can sign up at: www.ecclesiastical.com/signup

If you no longer wish to receive our emails, you can unsubscribe at any time – just click the unsubscribe button at the end of the email.



Allchurches Trust

Every year, we give a large proportion of our profits to Allchurches Trust, the charity that owns Ecclesiastical Insurance Group.

General Data Protection Regulation – Is your church ready?

The increased rate of technological developments and globalisation have brought new challenges for the protection of personal data. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has been introduced to reflect changes in technology since the Data Protection Act was introduced in 1998.

The changes will come into effect from 25 May 2018 and will affect all organisations that handle personal data relating to living EU citizens. This means that churches will need to comply with the new regulation.

Guidance on how to prepare for GDPR is available from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), and you can find detailed guidance on how this applies to churches on the Parish Resources website.

ICO overview of GDPR www.ico.org.uk

Parish Resources' Church guidance www.parishresources.org.uk/gdpr



Allchurches uses this money to give grants to churches and Christian charities. Sir Philip Mawer, Allchurches' Chairman, said: "Thanks to the generosity and hard work of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group and the loyalty of its customers, last year we were able to give £15.6 million to projects all over the UK and Ireland that are improving lives, strengthening communities and bringing hope."

One of Allchurches' largest grants in 2017 was £300,000 for the Church Urban Fund's

Together Network that supports local groups tackling poverty and deprivation.

Of the many small but vital grants of between £500 and £6,000 made annually, recent examples include £2,000 towards a night shelter, £1,250 for a school library and, over the course of 2017, 37 grants to restore or repair church bells.

For more information about Allchurches Trust, and the grants they give, visit www.allchurches.co.uk



Maintenance Booker



Ecclesiastical are pleased to be supporting the National Churches Trust's new MaintenanceBooker initiative. The new

web-based service makes it easy to keep church buildings in good repair. MaintenanceBooker allows churches and chapels in England and Wales to get a quote from accredited contractors with experience in church and historic building maintenance.

You can find out more at: www.maintenancebooker.org.uk



Casts of Christian crosses conserved by V&A Museum

Six towering early Christian crosses in the Victoria and Albert Museum's famous Cast Courts will be conserved thanks to a grant from Allchurches Trust, owners of Ecclesiastical. The crosses were cast in plaster from ancient stone crosses around the British Isles during the mid-19th century, and installed in the Cast Courts along with copies of other architectural and ecclesiastical wonders including, astonishingly, Trajan's Column.

Allchurches Trust's grant contributes to the V&A's project to restore the West Court and Central Gallery, which are due to open in autumn 2018, completing the redevelopment of the magnificent Cast Courts.





What would your church do with a donation of £130?

To celebrate both our 130th anniversary and being voted as the most trusted home insurance provider in the Fairer Finance rankings, we are offering to donate £130 to your church when you take out a new home insurance policy.



All you have to do is take out a new home insurance policy with us, quoting 'Trust130' and we will do the rest. Full terms and conditions are available on our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130.

Call our team to find out more:
0800 783 0130

Our home insurance

At Ecclesiastical, we pride ourselves on providing honest and specialist insurance for those associated with the church, and our home insurance is no different. Our home insurance is tailored to meet the specific needs of our customers, including specialist cover for clergy, church workers and church volunteers.

We aim to keep insurance simple, and make it as clear and easy for you to understand as possible.

There's nothing standard about our standard policy

Some companies might charge more for useful extras, but your Ecclesiastical policy includes cover against losing keys, legal expenses and home emergency protection at no extra cost.

You'll be insured against a range of events such as fire, theft, subsidence, storm or flood and escape of water. Our home contents and buildings policy includes:

- Up to £750,000 buildings and £75,000 contents cover
- Home emergency cover
- Up to £50,000 legal expenses cover
- Up to £3,500 for accidental loss or damage to valuables and personal belongings that you take away from your home.

Find out more about our award-winning home insurance at:
www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance
or call our team: **0800 783 0130**

Has your church already received a donation?

Tell us how you've used it by posting your story on our Facebook page and tagging us @Ecclesiastical.

Alternatively, you can send your story in to our team at:
Trust130@ecclesiastical.com and we might share it on our website and Facebook account!



Information at your fingertips

Our dedicated website for churches contains bespoke advice on how to look after your buildings and the people that use them.

From health and safety guidance and risk assessment templates to ideas for fundraising events, our website provides a wealth of information. Our Church Matters website is dedicated to churches and contains bespoke advice for your church buildings and the people who use them, plus more information on all our products and services.

Find out more at:
www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters

Do we have up-to-date contact details for you?

If your contact details are out of date or are incorrect, let us know via phone or complete the form on our website available here:

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchchangedetails

You can also update us on changes to names, emails addresses, phone numbers and changes to PCC members by phone.
Call 0345 777 3322



Overall customer satisfaction*

99% 

*Based on 1464 responses to Ecclesiastical's customer opinion survey 2017.

We're here for you...

Ecclesiastical supports our church customers with more than just church insurance – read on to find out more about how we can help you.

Theft of metal

Theft of metal is, unfortunately, an ongoing problem for churches. In recent years, we have received numerous claims for theft of metal from our policyholders, the vast majority of which have been from church properties. Metal theft can have a massive impact on a church, from the cost of the replacement metal, to subsequent damage to the church during the course of the theft or subsequent leaks in a roof.

What can you do to protect your church?

There are steps you can take to help protect your church from theft of metal, and your policy only covers you for metal theft if the following steps have been taken:

- Apply a forensic marking system approved by us (such as SmartWater) to external metal
- Register the marking system with the provider
- Clearly display signage of the marking system to deter thieves.

To find out more and to read our full guidance notes visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/theftofmetal



Financial Advice

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) bring you independent financial advice from a company you know and trust. Our experts advise clergy, church people and PCCs on making investments (including ethical investing), pension and retirement planning, mortgages and life assurance.

Call 0800 107 0190

Email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com



Car Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance Services offer extra benefits tailored for the clergy. Including business use (anything relating to the church), no charge for monthly payments, no administration charges for changes to the policy and up to £500 for church goods in the car.

Call 0345 450 9396

www.ecclesiasticalinsuranceservices.co.uk



Funeral Plans

A funeral plan from Ecclesiastical is an ideal way to make financial provision for your funeral, as well as reducing the worry for your loved ones at a difficult time. Making your funeral wishes known in advance and providing for the cost makes sound financial sense.

Call 0800 055 6503

Email: info@epsfunerals.com



Making a Claim

We will work swiftly and deal with your claim fairly and if we can resolve it when you first contact us, we will. If it is a little more complicated, we will give you direct access to an expert claims handler, so you always know what's happening with your claim.

Call 0345 603 8381

www.ecclesiastical.com/claims

Our specialist customer service team

Our dedicated church customer service team have a deep understanding of the specialist needs of those who look after, and protect, churches. Our friendly team are ready to help you with any query, no matter how big or small, and are available by telephone, email or post.

Call 0345 777 3322

(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)

Email: churches@ecclesiastical.com

Post: Church customer services, Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester GL1 1JZ



Help us to help you!

Does your church or chapel need grants towards its fabric restoration and repair, putting in a toilet, kitchenette or bringing the interior up to 21st-century standards, encouraging more usage by the local community and bringing in a revenue stream? Help is available from **Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT)**.

More than 30 churches throughout the Portsmouth Diocese have benefited from our grants since 2010, including Buriton, Copnor (S Cuthbert), East Cowes (S James), Froxfield Green, Gosport (Christ Church & Holy Trinity), Newport Minster, Niton, Paulsgrove, Portsea (All Saints), Shanklin (St Paul) and Wroxall.

Ride & Stride is here to help you!

Encourage your church to join our annual **Ride & Stride** event to be held on **8 September 2018** (2nd Saturday in September and organised nationwide by 37 county trusts) to raise money in whatever way you wish (some ideas are on our website) by sponsorship or donations. The money raised is split between the participants' nominated church and the Trust. The Trust then awards



Calbourne, All Saints (IW)



Riders & Striders at Newchurch, Isle of Wight



Alan Phillips (Copnor, St Cuthbert) receiving an award from Mrs Christine Atkinson (the Lord Lieutenant's wife) at the Trust's 2017 AGM in Winchester Cathedral

grants for church repairs and renovation on application. This can be an easy and good way to raise money for a project too. The day itself can be fun and very rewarding.

Some of the **Ride & Stride benefits** are:

- bringing your church and the local community together. You need everyone to contribute to the church's maintenance, not just the congregation, and it could include participation by the whole benefice
- seeing what other churches do by visiting them and sharing information
- raising funds for your church.

The Trust can also offer other grants as well as help and advice to support churches. HIHCT is run entirely by volunteers so expenses are kept to a minimum and the money raised goes back to our county's churches (including those on the Isle of Wight). We retain as little as we can!

So, can you help us to help you!

With the full support of a church's clergy, PCC and congregation, Ride & Stride can be a huge success with many benefits. We would warmly welcome more involvement from some of our county's churches.

In the last 30 years, HIHCT has handed out over **£600,000 in grants and loans** to some 340 active churches. An amazing £1+ million has been raised by our churches during Ride & Stride over that period. In 2016, we distributed £67,000 in grants to our churches. We receive additional grant support from Hampshire County Council and the National Churches Trust because of our best practice, for which we are very grateful.

With your help, we could offer even bigger grants

Ride & Stride 2017 raised just over £60,000 (a record), but with only 120+ churches raising that money out of the 400 churches registered and open for the event, we could have raised much more! Many churches who apply for grants are reliant on other churches' generosity and the huge amount of time the Trust's volunteers give to encourage and help our churches. Some County Trusts raise £150,000+! We would love to make our work more productive so that we can offer even better grant support.

There is strength in us all working together to maintain the fabric of our region's wonderful church heritage (ancient & modern). You can also join us as a Friend of the Trust and enjoy our annual programme of interesting events.

Help is close at hand

www.hihct.org.uk for more details on Ride & Stride, Grants or Friends of the Trust
T: 01264 810584 / 01794 368427
E: rideandstride@hihct.org.uk

Registered Charity No 299633.



Windows restored at St Cuthbert, Copnor



Froxfield Green Church



Supported by



Hampshire
County Council

What is your calling?

Have you ever been asked 'what is your calling?' or 'what is your vocation'? Have you ever given much thought to how you might serve God or how the unique 'you' with your gifts and skills may serve others? Considering these questions is one aspect of how our Christian discipleship is worked out in communion with others.



Vocation can be a tricky word to describe because too often it has become associated with meaning a call to ordained ministry. In fact 'vocation' is a much broader term and all of us have a 'vocation', a calling which enables us to use our particular gifts and skills. Some people are aware that their work is their vocation: both nursing and teaching are considered to be vocational professions. For others raising a family, caring for older people or campaigning for care of the environment are all ways in which vocation is being lived out.

In our worshipping communities we observe people serving vocationally: offering hospitality and welcome, caring for graveyards, offering a listening ear to the bereaved and the lonely, serving as a member of a PCC, caring for the fabric of a building or putting together the annual accounts. Our churches attract different

people with different gifts, skills, and personalities all of whom are called to serve God and one another.

Here in the Diocese of Portsmouth we are encouraging everyone to think and pray about calling. How might you be serving vocationally? Are you living out calling in your life? Sometimes these can be difficult and challenging questions, so it may be helpful by starting to think about your life as a disciple of Jesus. Looking back over your journey of life with God where have you come from? Where are you now? And for the future where are you going? These are profound questions that it may be helpful to talk through with a spiritual director, soul friend, prayer partner, mentor or someone in ministry in your local church.

There is also a DDO team in the diocese, and a number of discernment advisers who may be able to help you to think about how you may have responded to God's calling in the past, and how God may be calling you now.

For some further resources or a conversation, please contact the Director of Ordinands Rev. Belinda Davies on **belinda.davies@portsmouth.anglican.org** or telephone 023 9289 9690.

Further information is also available on the Church of England website at: **www.churchofengland.org/life-events/vocations/whats-your-calling**



Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

When it feels **irreplaceable**, trust



For more information, call **0345 777 3322** email **churches@ecclesiastical.com**  **@churchmatters**

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