

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2019 - issue 17

Dear churchwardens,

In every licensing service for a new Vicar or Priest-in-Charge, the following words are read by the Bishop or his Commissary as part of the Preface to the Declaration of Assent:

"The Church of England... professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation."

A lot has been talked about in the last few years about 'Fresh Expressions', and the wonderful variety of ways that churches are trying new ideas and new forms of meetings and of being church, in order to reach out to, attract, and draw in generations who were not connecting with our traditional ways of being church. These include Messy Church, Café Church, Church Without Walls, and a whole host more. In reflecting on this with a priest recently, I was very struck by his observation that, as we are now often engaging with the 2nd or 3rd successive generation who have not grown up with a meaningful engagement with the church, one could turn this all on its head a bit now and say that older forms of worship are increasingly also now the needed Fresh Expressions, as people 'rediscover', or discover for the first time, the joys and riches of classical and traditional forms of service, of liturgy, choral music, quiet reflection and more reflective worship such as Taize services. The new 'Choir Church' initiative, based at St. James, Milton, in partnership with the Cathedral, is a great example of this – a Fresh Expression of church that is drawing on the glories and potential of the Anglican choral tradition to reach young people and their families in a fresh and meaningful way. It is increasingly and wonderfully the case that, from an overall Church of England point of view, it is helpful to say that anything that is not a

straightforward Common Worship or BCP service can rightfully be a Fresh Expression, which helpfully all points to the truth that a range of service styles are needed, and that in each of our churches we need to be pioneering and trying different things to reach different people.

As part of our Archdeacons' Fabric Visitations to your parishes, we want to give these inspections a clearer focus, looking forward and reflecting together about the mission and worship strengths, and weaknesses, of our parishes, and not just about the classic archidiaconal fixations on drainpipes, service registers and Communion linen.

I hope that in your ministry as Churchwardens, and in partnership with your clergy, your PCCs and the wider congregations of which you are a part, you will also be able to find the space and keep the discipline of looking up from the necessary detail and busy-ness of the day-to-day practical responsibilities that you have, to look forward and keep on asking the question: 'What will it mean in our context – in the needs and opportunities of this particular parish and community – for us to be a "Fresh Expression", to "*proclaim the faith afresh in our generation*", to "Live, Pray and Serve" the community that God has placed us in?' As we do that, may our prayer, our vision and our expectation be that God will use us and our churches to declare His love, to grow His Kingdom and to serve the world around us.

With thanks for all that you do, and for your partnership with us in the Gospel.

Archdeacon Gavin



**The Venerable
Gavin Collins**

Archdeacon of
the Meon
Tel: 02392 899696
gavin.collins@
portsmouth.anglican.org



**The Venerable
Joanne Grenfell**

Archdeacon of
Portsdown
Tel: 02392 899672
joanne.grenfell@
portsmouth.anglican.org



**The Venerable
Peter Leonard**

Archdeacon of
the Isle of Wight
Tel: 02392 899698
peter.leonard@
portsmouth.anglican.org

Produced and printed by

 **Ecclesiastical**

Help us to help you even more!

Last year, Hampshire & the Islands Historic Churches Trust (HIHCT) were very kindly offered this forum, in the AVN, to encourage all churches in the Portsmouth Diocese to participate in **Ride & Stride**, our annual fundraiser, which will take place on **Saturday 14 September in 2019**. The amount raised in 2018 was a record with an almost 10% increase on 2017 to just over £65,000. Our thanks to all those who went the extra mile. Three Portsmouth deanery areas (Petersfield, Havant & the Isle of Wight) raised an amazing £22,000 between them and one small rural church on the IoW raised over £3,000!

We would love more churches to join in Ride & Stride. It has many benefits that are good for the church and the wider community and can be undertaken in many ways but clergy support is paramount. We believe it supports Mission too. In 2019, we are hoping to encourage CofE schools to get involved in R+S. All ages can participate in whatever way they wish to fundraise, not just by cycling and walking!

Ride+Stride raises most of the grant money that the Trust hands out to our churches on application, with additional support from Hampshire County Council.

It is up to all of us, clergy, PCCs, churchwardens, churchgoers and non-churchgoers, to support and cherish our church building heritage and to ensure it is passed on for future generations to enjoy. This is what the annual event is all about and why HIHCT's work is so important. Please see our website and contact details below. Our small team of volunteers is here to help your church.

www.hihct.org.uk

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

Registered Charity No 299633

Supported by



LyCiG – Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be

Portsmouth Diocese is one of a number of Dioceses in the country that has fully embraced Leading your Church into Growth.



It is an impressive and judicious investment of resources that over 80% of clergy and a significant number of lay parish representatives have now been on the course. So bravo to the Diocese for making this commitment. It shows the need for us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in our local communities, and just how much evangelism is at the heart of our Diocesan direction of travel.

LyCiG has never been a quick fix. It is not a 'fast food' way of solving the challenges or making the most of the opportunities we face. LyCiG is not a course, it is a movement. It is a process, and not an event.

Bob Jackson said, "Given that the Church of England has been in decline for over 100 years, isn't it about time that we had an anti-decline strategy?". So why have a growing church? So that we can look good in the ever more programme-driven competitive nature that so pervades rather too much of our church life? No – we have a growing church because that is the picture which the New Testament constantly paints for us of all living things growing. And for those in leadership within the church – whether lay or ordained – if you aren't leading your church into growth, then where are you leading it?!

Furthermore, a growing and bigger church can make a bigger difference in our communities and in our society at large. We not only have Good News – we are Good News. We are

co-workers and co-builders of the Kingdom of God. Therefore it's logical to think that more workers and builders, co-operating with our Missionary Compassionate Loving God, would make a bigger difference.

There are many wonderful signs of hope and love around the Diocese of Portsmouth, but there is no limit on the Hope and Love for God's Church in this place. As the hymn writer said, "Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be" – or "Hope to the hopeless that they might hopeful be."

So as you read this, ask yourself or your PCC, what happened to all that we explored at LyCiG? Perhaps this would be a good time to dust off the notes, retrieve LyCiG Local – the excellent follow on course which was a gift to each parish and benefice in the Diocese. Or if you are fully up to speed and embedding some of the suggestions and models from LyCiG – then share your good news. Or if you need help, do ask the excellent Diocesan Mission Resources Team at Peninsular House.

PS If you are reading this, and have no idea what I am talking about... then please challenge your leaders and ask them all about it! The investment was precious – we need to use it well.

Canon Tim Sledge, LyCiG Trustee and Head of Fundraising, Portsmouth Cathedral

Parish Pixels – show us what makes your church special



This year, our church competition celebrates churches across the UK through photography. However, it is far from just a photography competition!

We'll be asking every church to send us a single photo showing what makes their church special, whether taken by a professional or a member of the congregation on a smartphone.

We know that every church, its congregation, and community is unique. From the volunteer who holds everything together, to the children's groups who brighten up the Sunday services. From the beautiful flower gardens,

to the exceptional architecture of your church building. No two churches are the same, and we want to celebrate what makes your church special.

How would you show how unique and special your church is in just one photo?

Find out more about the competition and how your church can enter at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/parishpixels



Contains promotional material

Insurance advice that's right up your street

Our Church Insurance Consultants offer a locally-based advisory service to churches up and down the country, either face-to-face or over the phone.

Our five consultants are responsible for a particular region of the country, and are available to visit your church and parish to give on-the-spot advice, as well as scheduling seminars and training. This could include help with explaining your insurance policy, to giving risk management presentations, and providing churchwarden training. Each member of the team isn't just an expert in insurance, they also have a deep involvement with the church themselves. Thanks to their background in the church, they appreciate and understand the concerns that PCCs and congregations have.

Through support and guidance, and by giving our customers the reassurance that they are doing things safely and securely, our consultants can enable churches to focus on what really matters: worship, mission and outreach. With their support, we hope to help make our nation's churches a vibrant, vital and exciting part of the community for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Find out more about your Church Insurance Consultant in your area on our website:

www.ecclesiastical.com/cic

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.

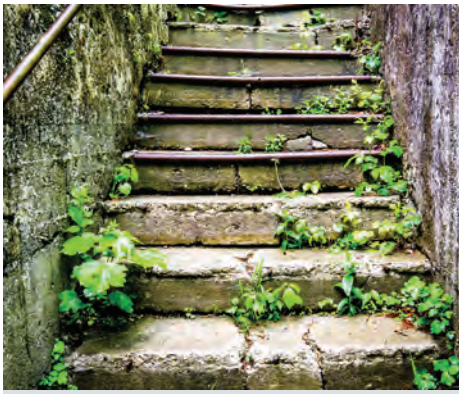
Call: 0345 777 3322

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

Email: churches@ecclesiastical.com

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





Unique research bolsters our advice for churches on slips and trips

Although churches are generally low-risk environments, slips and trips remain the most common cause of injury. In some cases, these can be severe, so taking sensible and adequate precautions is essential. Sometimes, this is more difficult in church premises, usually because of design constraints or the heritage fabric of the building itself. Here, it is usually necessary to consider a wider range of precautions.

We understand this challenge, and it's why we have teamed up with leading health and safety researchers at the Health and Safety Laboratory (HSL) to look at the problem. We have conducted research across a range of historic buildings (including churches) with a view to developing practical advice in the prevention of slips and trips. This is in a way that is both sympathetic with the history of the building and is cost effective.

Our new guidance looks at a range of topics identifying best practice and exploring a range of precautions. You can find out more and read the guidance on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/churchslipsandtrips

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

If you need to update us on changes to names, email addresses, phone numbers and changes to PCC members, you can do this by calling our team on:

0345 777 3322



We've donated over £285,000 to churches across the UK so far!

For every new home insurance policy taken out with us, we have donated £130 to the church of the policyholder's choice, and so far these donations add up to over £285,000!

We are delighted that this offer is now running until the end of 2019 and many more churches are set to benefit from our donations.

How your church can benefit

For every new home insurance policy taken out where 'Trust130' is quoted, we will ask the customer what church they would like a donation of £130 to go to. So, by spreading the word around your church workers, volunteers and congregation, your church could benefit, and as there is no limit to the number of donations one church can receive; the donations could make a big difference to your church.

Has your church already received a donation?

If your church has received a donation, we'd love to hear how your church has used the money. Whether you've used it



for a large project or event, or just to buy biscuits for coffee mornings, we want to hear about it. You can either tell us by email at: Trust130@ecclesiastical.com or via facebook tagging us [@churchmatters](https://www.facebook.com/churchmatters) and we might share your story too!

Find out more about our home insurance at: www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance





Rewarding the good work of others with our Movement for Good Awards

At Ecclesiastical, we've always believed in supporting the causes that can make a positive difference to people's lives. That's why we work closely with the communities we serve to tackle the issues that are important to them.

On Tuesday 23rd April, we launched our Movement for Good Awards – a programme designed to give £1 million to charities. Our Movement for Good Awards are a way of recognising and supporting the efforts of these dedicated men and women – people who devote their energies to changing people's lives for the better.

500 charities will receive a £1,000 donation

Anyone can get involved by simply nominating an eligible charity*. You can nominate between Tuesday 23 April and Friday 17 May.

10 charities will be awarded a £50,000 grant

Eligible charities* can apply for a grant via a simple online application. Applications open on Monday 23 June and close Friday 26 July.



So, if your church is a registered charity, you have a charity associated with your church, or there's a charity anyone in your congregation is associated with, you can get involved.

You can find out more on our website at: www.ecclesiastical.com/movementforgood

*Please note, anyone can nominate but you must be an eligible charity to win an award. Go to the website address above to view the full Terms and Conditions.



Taking a sabbatical in 2020?

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provides financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2020. You can find out more about the awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on our website: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba

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.

Our new-look website

Have you seen our newly refreshed website? We've changed our site to make it easier to use, but you will still find all our useful guides, information and videos available on the site.

The website has a clean and fresh style, which makes it easier for you to find the information you need. If you have any trouble finding information on our new site you can always call our team who will be happy to direct you to the right place.

Call us on: **0345 777 3322**

www.ecclesiastical.com/church

We would like to hear what you think of our new website. You can email comments and feedback to: churches@ecclesiastical.com



Allchurches announces record giving and changes to grant programmes

In 2019, Allchurches Trust, owners of Ecclesiastical, is making changes to its giving that will place even more of an emphasis on helping organisations in less-affluent areas.



The changes have come about following a Strategic Grants Review, which set out to ensure that the Trust continues to meet the needs of its beneficiaries and make the greatest possible impact with the funds available. The aim is to improve effectiveness, transparency and reporting, including for annual grants to dioceses and cathedrals.

These annual grants are now guaranteed until 2022, facilitating longer-term, strategic planning. At the same time, the Trust aims

to steadily make a greater amount of funding available to churches, charities, dioceses and cathedrals that apply for grants to fund projects in their communities.

As well as giving a higher percentage of the total project cost, Allchurches has doubled the uplift on grants to projects in areas of greatest need.

Annual grants are also now allocated based on population and the degree of deprivation of the area, and dioceses and cathedrals have been asked to provide more information about what they intend to spend their grant on and report back on the impact that the money is having.

Chairman of Allchurches Trust, Sir Philip Mawer, said: "We've already heard about some great initiatives being funded by our annual grant, including a youth outreach partnership project called Growing Faith for Generations (GF4G) in the Isle of Man. We're keen to work with dioceses to share these stories about the good work our funding is helping to enable in their parishes."

You can find out more about Allchurches Trust at: www.allchurches.co.uk

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.



Expert Financial Advice

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services provide independent financial advice. 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



NOW available to PCC members!

Car Insurance

Ecclesiastical Insurance Services offer tailored Motor insurance protection to the clergy, with benefits including business use (for anything relating to the church), no direct debit charges, no fees for policy changes, and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.

Call: 0345 450 9396

www.ecclesiasticalinsuranceservices.co.uk



Award-winning Claims Service

Our dedicated team are ready to support you and with 99% claims satisfaction*, if the worst should happen, you know you are in safe hands.

Call: 0345 603 8381

www.ecclesiastical.com/claims

*Ecclesiastical claims satisfaction survey 2017 - direct customers



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

www.funeralplans.co.uk

A churchwarden's checklist

Churchwardens are some of the most valuable volunteers in any church, bearing much of the responsibility of running and maintaining the building, not to mention the day-to-day functioning of the parish. The wide range of duties churchwardens undertake makes the role one of the most varied in the church community. From rising damp to blocked drains, unserviced boilers to crumbling stonework, they always have plenty on their plate!

The specific duties of a churchwarden vary from parish to parish. To help them – and your church – the leading church insurer Ecclesiastical has put together some guidance on key tasks and responsibilities. If the answer to any of the questions below is 'no', it's a good idea to speak to your churchwarden and work out a plan of action.

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 whenever there are any changes to the premises that may affect fire precautions?

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 all your church insurance up to date and does it give you appropriate cover?

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.



Vocations in our Diocese

The Church of England has set itself an ambitious national target of raising the number of ordinands by 50 per cent by 2020. I took up my new role as Diocesan Director of Vocations and Ordinands in December and have been hugely encouraged by the number of people in our diocese who are already exploring a call to some kind of ministry. Currently we have fourteen ordinands in training on both residential and mixed-mode / contextual pathways with the possibility of sending up to a dozen or so to a BAP this year. People are exploring and training for Reader ministry and recently a group was commissioned following our Occasional Preachers course. Almost every week I've had incumbents contacting me to commend candidates to begin the process of discerning a sense of calling. The national church has released a resource to challenge church leaders to have at least one vocations conversation a week with members of their congregation, which I am hoping to share in chapter meetings over the coming months. I believe that God has a vocation for every Christian and if anyone would like to explore what that might look like, please speak to your incumbent or to one of the Vocations team.

Revd Canon Peter Hall – DDVO
peter.hall@portsmouth.anglican.org



How to get social with your media

Do you have a Twitter account? Have you ever posted a photo on Instagram? Do you like to keep up to date with friends on Facebook?



If you're already using social media in your personal life then you might be interested in seeing what it could do for your church. More and more churches are using social media platforms, and you could find they have a powerful role to play in the life of your church. From papyrus through to television, the Church has always used the media of the day to share its message. The prevalent media of today is undoubtedly social, with millions of people signed up to Facebook and Twitter. The good news is that most social media platforms are free and require very little technical knowledge. All you need is an engaging way with words.

Here's some advice on how to take the next step.

Plan ahead

Before you start tweeting or posting, it's important to have a plan in place. Think about what you're trying to achieve, and which social media platforms are the best ones to help you do it. For example, if you know that many of

your parishioners are already on Facebook, that might be more effective than trying to build an entirely new online community via Twitter.

Start with a website

If you're going to use social media to engage people with your church, it's a good idea to have somewhere to direct them so they can find out more. That's why a website is really useful. It should be more than an online brochure. Try to make it engaging and interesting, and regularly update it so people come back for the latest news.

Your website should be easy to read, without any jargon, and contain information that would attract people who don't come to church. It should also be a focal point for your congregation, so they can find out about everything that's going on.

There are many low-cost or even free tools you can use to build a website, such as WordPress. Some of the tools may take time

to get to grips with, but you might be lucky enough to have a computer-savvy person in your congregation who could help you build your website.

As well as building the website, you will also need a domain name for your website. You will have to pay for your domain to be hosted, which will probably be around £30 a year.

Twitter

Twitter is a micro-blogging service that has grown enormously over the last few years. A third of the UK population say they use it regularly. Once you've set up an account at www.twitter.com, you'll be able to post short 280-character messages and follow other people and organisations you're interested in to see what they are saying. To get you started, why not have a look at what Church Matters is saying at www.twitter.com/churchmatters. If you click the 'follow' button, you'll see every Church Matters update.

Facebook

Nearly 30 million people in the UK use Facebook, and more than half of those users are pensioners. To start using Facebook, go to www.facebook.com where you'll need to create your own personal account. Once you've done that, you'll be able to set up a Facebook page for your church. You'll then be able to post messages, connect with people and organisations, post photographs and advertise events.

Blog

A blog is an online space in which you can write regularly about things that interest you, or display pictures and videos. A blog can be completely separate from all your other activity, or you can integrate it into your church's website, it's up to you. The most popular blogging software is all free: WordPress, Blogger and Tumblr.

Lots of advice and support

You'll find a huge amount of free advice about how to use social media and websites online. The Church of England also offers training courses in the web and new media at www.churchcommstraining.org

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](https://twitter.com/churchmatters)

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24869. Registered in England at Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 113848. Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services Ltd (EFAS) Reg. No. 2046087. Registered in England at Beaufort House, Brunswick Road, Gloucester, GL1 1JZ, United Kingdom. EFAS is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.