Dear churchwardens

We thank you for taking on the role of churchwarden. You are key people in the life of the church, as together we share in the care and oversight of our congregations.

You will see some articles in this edition of the Archdeacons’ Visitation News on the most recent major initiative in the diocese, which is being called the Rural Hope. The diocese has been successful in winning a major grant from the national church to enable us to bring new impetus and support to the rural church.

Obviously our diocese has a number of large urban conurbations, but much of it is rural or semi-rural. With rural benefices getting ever larger, and with fewer clergy, the challenge for the rural church can be even greater than it is in some of our town churches. A large percentage of the grant, therefore, is being used to employ four Rural field officers, one for each archdeaconry, who will work with deaneries and local congregations on developing strategies that address issues in the rural church, which too often inhibit or frustrate growth and flourishing.

Although the project is focused on the rural church, what it seeks to achieve, and what underpins it, is exactly the same for the urban church, and therefore in many ways the project is relevant to the diocese as a whole. In essence, what the project is trying to do is help us think about the future pattern of the local church by taking us back into the very foundations of our faith, where a life of discipleship in Jesus is very simply rooted in a life together.

So often when we hear Jesus call his disciples to a way of love and compassion, the spirit of the age within us hears this as simply a call to a personal moral attitude or character trait.

But it’s much more than that. It’s a way of living together. Perhaps because our age is an age of separations, of individualism, where we are inclined to think in terms of individual achievement and personal glory and success, we need to hear again this invitation to community life. The men and women who were first converted by the Apostles revealed their conversion not by individual feats of virtue, but by entering a new life in the community. Luke writes in the Acts of the Apostles: ‘All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.’

The Rural Hope project seeks to help us re-engage with this essential trait of what it means to be church through three strands: i) working together across benefices and deaneries, with the dynamic and ethos of one congregation rather than many, ii) a much more extensive sharing in the key areas of ministry, and iii) using what a more extensive life together means to bring a more efficient and pragmatic approach to the ‘nuts and bolts’ work, in order that energies can be directed into the priorities of the Christian life. This is to bring God’s blessing and transforming life through service to our communities and wider world.

See inside for more details.

Paul Taylor

Churchwarden training sessions 2018

Wednesday 4 July, 6.30pm for 7pm start, Figheldean Village Hall, Pollen Lane, Figheldean, SP4 8JR. Mission and Growth, Renewing Hope in the Countryside.

Thursday 5 July, 6.30pm for 7pm start, St Aldhelm’s Church, Spa Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT3 5EW. New to being a churchwarden (open to all).

Monday 8 October, 6.30pm or 7pm start, Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend, SN12 6NS. How to be the best churchwarden, looking beyond administration.

The Venerable
Paul Taylor
Archdeacon of Sherborne

The Venerable
Alan Jeans
Archdeacon of Sarum

The Venerable
Sue Groom
Archdeacon of Wilts

The Venerable
Antony MacRow-Wood
Archdeacon of Dorset

Produced and printed by

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters
Parishes across the Diocese have been getting involved in Eco Church, finding ways to show that we really care for God’s creation, and discovering a powerful expression of faith in Christ. Eco Church may only be two years old, but the national scheme has found its feet and is helping local churches to explore the deep connections between our faith and the environment.

Eco Church uses an online survey that highlights what is already being done in the parish and suggests simple steps that can make a difference.

Gillian Clarke, from St Mary’s in West Moors, shared their experience of achieving a Bronze award. ‘The Eco Church online survey is so user friendly. It takes only minutes to register and costs nothing. It is an excellent way of doing an audit on your church’s current practice. The questions then trigger lots of ideas to help churches move forward in behaving more responsibly as stewards of God’s creation. Making an impact on the state of the world’s environment may seem an impossible task, but by starting with small steps, we can all make a difference.’

At St Michael’s church in Atworth two members looked into the survey and the parish was delighted to achieve a Bronze award at the end of 2017. Margaret Evans said that the experience was both great fun and informative: ‘We realised that we were already doing many of the things suggested, but that some of the suggestions were financially impossible at this time. It was an exciting moment when we received the certificate, which has been framed and hung in the church. We all became more aware of the planet and what it is facing and incorporate these ideas in our personal and domestic recycling and continue to seek out eco-friendly products and packaging for our own and church use. The award was a good way of bringing these issues into focus. As a follow-up we are keeping a corner of the churchyard as a wildlife sanctuary and introducing an insect tower with logs.’

As the Church of England’s lead bishop for the environment, Bishop Nicholas supports Eco Church and encourages parishes to get involved: ‘Christians want to steward the gifts of God and care for his creation. Climate change is already damaging the lives of some of the world’s poorest communities. We need to care for the earth because there is no Planet B.’

The Eco Church survey is available at arocha.org.uk Could your parish be the next to achieve an award?
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.

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

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

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.

V&A Casts of Christian crosses conserved by V&A Museum
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
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](http://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](http://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](http://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
We are delighted to have won a significant national church grant to deliver a creative and effective programme over the next four years as part of our diocesan commitment to renewing hope: Renewing Hope through Rural Ministry and Mission (to be known as #RuralHope).

With 90% of our parishes and 50% of our population in rural areas, it is important to ensure that a Christian presence in every community of this diocese continues. The rural church has a unique dynamic that is deeply rooted in the wider community.

With clergy thinly spread in multi-parish benefices, lay leadership is especially crucial in the rural church. Small congregations may not have all the skills they need within their existing ranks. Thinking and training on mission and evangelism often derives from work in cities and suburbs, which won’t always work in rural contexts. We want to develop more appropriate training to meet these rural situations.

We aim to encourage and equip our current rural church leaders, as well as giving them extra support to identify, nurture and train new ones. We wish to empower people to step out in faith trusting that God will give growth: in numbers, depth and impact.

Rural churches are powerful and often underestimated bases for mission and evangelism. They also face challenges: of our parishes in which membership has declined by at least 10% in the last five years, more than 80% are rural.

Our work in urban and suburban parts of the diocese will continue as we all share this Renewing Hope journey together.

There are four strands to #RuralHope that are underway:

- **Leading into Growth**, to support ordained and lay leaders, in groups and as individuals. This will be done through local training and mentoring, encouraging congregational participation, seed-corn funding for mission projects and plantings for rural incumbents. These include two major programmes with a solid track record of helping rural churches grow and facilitating collaborative leadership between clergy and lay leaders: Thrive and LYCIG (Leading Your Church Into Growth).

- The funding enables us to recruit a team based across the diocese to assist our rural clergy and lay leaders, working with them on local projects and helping them respond to missional opportunities that support growth.

- **The Rural Ministry Experience Scheme** for young adults aged 18-30 to explore if God is calling them to ordained ministry in a rural setting.

- **The Rural Training Pathway**, for ordinands and trainee Licensed Lay Ministers based at Sarum College, enabling them to gain experience in country parishes and benefices. This ground-breaking programme will benefit the church nationally as well as locally.

- **Rural Placements** giving urban and suburban clergy the chance to experience ministry in the countryside, helping them to consider a move.

Further updates on the programme as it develops will be reported in future leaflets, as well as online at www.bit.ly/ruralhope

To get involved in #RuralHope, please contact the Programme Manager, Sarah Keen, on 01722 411 922 or sarah.keen@salisbury.anglican.org

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There But Not There

There But Not There is the national 2018 Armistice project to remember the 880,000 soldiers who gave their lives in the First World War. ‘With the centenary of such a terrible conflict drawing to a close, this final opportunity to pass the torch on to the next generation and recognise the destruction of war through commemoration is one that must not be passed up.’

One of the aims is to install life-size silhouettes of the fallen wherever they are listed for the Armistice Period 2018. This is a powerful way of taking the names from plaques or memorials in our churches and churchyards, and making them present in the church.

If your church is interested in taking part, grants are available for these silhouettes.

For more details see: https://www.therebutnotthere.org.uk/gallery/
The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, Heather Bland, and the Archdeacon of Wilts, Sue Groom, (who holds the portfolio for safeguarding on Bishop’s Staff) would like to thank all churchwardens very much for working alongside their incumbents in taking safeguarding seriously. We are very grateful – thank you very much for all that you contribute to this vital pastoral ministry!

A reminder:

The Archdeacons’ Triennial Visitation expects to see four items with regards to safeguarding:

1. a Safeguarding Policy, which is reviewed annually. The Diocese of Salisbury has adopted, and strongly recommends each parish to adopt, the new national policy ‘Promoting a Safer Church.’ This must be done in conjunction with the Safer Recruitment Practice Guidance. These documents can be found on the website www.salisbury.anglican.org under the heading ‘Safeguarding’ then ‘National Policies.’

2. a Parish Safeguarding Representative, whose photograph and contact details are displayed on a noticeboard. If the PSR does not want their personal contact details to be made public, then we recommend that the PCC purchases a basic pay-as-you-go mobile phone for this purpose and the PSR agrees to check it for messages 2-3 times per week.

3. a list of those for whom the PCC has requested DBS clearance.

4. a list of those who have completed safeguarding training with a record of the module(s) studied. CO (the module appropriate for PCC members) is now available online. If that is difficult for some members, then we suggest that a group get together around a computer and work through it together.

For information:

You may be aware that the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) will be investigating the Anglican Church (and in particular the Diocese of Chichester) from March 2018. You can follow its progress on the website www.iicsa.org.uk under the heading ‘investigations’.