

## Working Together

### Visitation Charge – Archdeaconries of Sarum and Wilts 2019

Thank you very much for being willing to take on the responsible role of Churchwarden. In partnership with your parish priest, you share in the leadership and oversight of the life of your local church, helping to set the agenda, shaping and nurturing the life and character of your community and bearing some of the legal responsibility. We would like to thank you on behalf of all our parish priests for all that you give to them of your time, energy and loyalty, as together you share in the mission of God. We also thank you on behalf of the Diocesan Bishop whose officers you are.

Among the changes this year, we welcome our new Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey. Bishop Andrew is getting out and about amongst the parishes and we hope that you are able to meet him to share the joys of living and working in this wonderful part of the Diocese of Salisbury. We have also recently said farewell to the Bishop's PA, Mrs Rachel Parkins, and we wait to hear who will be joining our team.

One of the privileges of being an Archdeacon is visiting parishes to license new ministers. It is wonderful to see people training as Lay Worship Leaders and Lay Pastoral Assistants. As a diocese we continue to see an increase in vocations to all forms of commissioned, licensed and ordained ministry. This is one of our priorities as we prepare to replace the large numbers of clergy who will be retiring in the next ten years and adapt to working all together in ministry and mission.

Another reason for which Archdeacons visit parishes is to undertake Triennial Visitations. It is encouraging to see that most of the churches have most of the paperwork in place. The items that seem to be most often missing are Health and Safety policies, and records of those for whom the PCC has requested DBS clearance and those who have attended Safeguarding training. In order to be prepared in advance of the office arranging the visit to your church, it is possible to download the Archdeacons' Triennial Inspection Checklist from the churchwardens' page on the diocesan website. See here:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/churchwardens>

We have also been encouraged by the number of visits we have been making to churches where there are some exciting conversations about how to best use our buildings for the good of the wider community. Please ask the DAC office for informal advice early on in your plans and definitely before embarking on any works. Many of you are now applying for Archdeacons' written notices for minor works under Lists A and B. The diocesan website provides a whole raft of useful information, and the relevant forms to download. As we indicated last year, the Diocese will move to an online faculty system. This should help reduce the amount of time it takes to apply for a Faculty, and will allow you to monitor the process of the applications. Look out for further news from the DAC about this in due course. See here:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/church-buildings>

Please do explore the diocesan website. You will find invaluable advice for churchwardens here: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/churchwardens>

Under the heading 'Registry' you will find 'Responsibilities for a Churchwarden' and 'Information for New Churchwardens.'

The role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer is a vital one. Please support your PSO as the Safeguarding Requirements from the national church continue to increase. The most recent

significant document to draw your attention to is the 2017 'Key Roles and Responsibilities of Church Office Holders Practice Guidance'. Please read this, especially the pages concerning churchwardens (p. 21). You will find this document on the diocesan website (the last item under National Policies) alongside information, model policies and details of courses. This is updated regularly and changes are highlighted in the e-bulletin. Please keep a lookout for them: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/safeguarding>

If you have any questions or concerns about safeguarding, please contact Heather Bland, the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor, [heather.bland@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:heather.bland@salisbury.anglican.org)

We recognise that it is a challenge to be able to find PSOs, PCC members and key officers such as Treasurers and we are very grateful for those who take on these very important roles. We continue to be encouraged by the generous support of our parishes in the archdeaconries of Sarum and Wilts to the Parish Share requests. 97.1% of Share was received last year across the diocese and most of our deaneries exceeded that. This is good news! We expect that you are by now aware of the Parish Giving Scheme. When a parish signs up to it, PGS makes it possible for people to give to the church by Direct Debit and reclaims the tax for each church, thus reducing the workload of the Treasurer.

Our thanks go to those who work to support us in our ministry as Archdeacons when we have questions. Our friends at the Registry are always a great resource and are willing to answer any questions you or we have in regard to legal matters. Sue de Candole is our Registrar and with the support of her colleagues, she is providing excellent service. Ruth Arlow is our Chancellor and she too is a great help to us.

Within your pack you will find plenty of useful information including the following:

- This year's Archdeacons' Visitation News
- An invitation to this year's Churchwarden conferences
- Directory of Resources for Parishes
- Churchwarden Handbook flyer
- Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust leaflet

And finally please contact us if you need any help. We thank Anna for her support with our work, and look forward to welcoming the Bishop's new PA very soon!



Archdeacon of Sarum and Archdeacon of Wilts

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