

 Diocese of Salisbury

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens

The last 12 months have been a year like no other and thank you for all you have done to help keep your church functioning – albeit in a very different manner. By the time you read this we hope that you will be enjoying being church together again without many of the COVID restrictions that have been a feature of life this past year. The capacity to sing together in services and share hospitality afterwards will be a great tonic!

Of course, getting 'back to church' will be wonderful but it won't be the same, we have all been changed by the last year. COVID-19 has brought tragedy to many, but like many crises, it has also served as a catalyst for change and innovation. Many churches will be livestreaming services in future, others continuing with some element of 'Zoom' services with their unique capacity to include people from the comfort of their homes. Some church business meetings are also likely to continue online, whilst anecdotally Deanery Synods seem to have thrived on Zoom! 'Change and decay in all around I see' is certainly not an accurate description of recent months but we do still abide in 'Thou who changest not' – our Lord who is the same yesterday, today and forever, and therein lies our confidence for the future.

Some of you may have heard that Heather Bland has retired as our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer. We are very grateful for her dedicated service over many years. Our new team are Jem Carter (mobile: 07469 857888) and Suzie Futcher (mobile: 07500 664800) with weekend out of hours cover being provided by 'thirtyone:eight' – Tel 0303 0031111. Full details of their respective availabilities can be found on the diocesan website. **If you haven't already done so, please update your church noticeboards and websites with these changes of personnel and contact numbers.**

Our apologies that the DAC and Faculties have been a continuing source of frustration. There has been some progress, the Online Faculty System is bedding in and we are also seeking to make more use of 'delegated powers' to streamline straightforward faculty applications. Unfortunately, the difficulty in recruiting a new, permanent DAC Secretary has hindered us in our aim to offer a fast and efficient process across the board but we are very grateful to Portsmouth Diocese' staff for helping us during the 'interregnum' and expect things to improve rapidly this year.

Wishing you every blessing for the coming year.

Antony MacRow-Wood, Penny Sayer, Sue Groom, Alan Jeans.



**The Venerable
Antony MacRow-Wood**
Archdeacon of Dorset



**The Venerable
Penny Sayer**
Archdeacon of Sherborne



**The Venerable
Dr Sue Groom**
Archdeacon of Wilts



**The Venerable
Alan Jeans**
Archdeacon of Sarum

Thank you once again to Ecclesiastical for sponsoring this Visitation News, for providing Insurance cover to many of our Church buildings and contents, and for offering advice and resources in our daily administration and governance.

Above photo: Salisbury Cathedral

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Change in Diocesan Safeguarding Advisers

You may have read in the various 'in house' diocesan circulations of the retirement of DSA Heather Bland. We are pleased to announce Heather's role has been filled by a new DSA, Suzy Fatcher. Suzy brings some really useful experience into the diocese, having previously worked in Safeguarding within an educational setting. She also has a particular interest in counselling. She will be an asset to the team at Church House, where she will be working in a job-share arrangement with Jem Carter.



Suzy Fatcher works 9am-5pm, Monday-Thursday inclusive. Suzy is the first point of contact for urgent safeguarding advice from 9am-9pm on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 9am until 12pm on a Wednesday (via mobile: **07500 664800**), after which she will handover to Jem Carter as below.



Jem Carter works 9am-5pm, Tuesday-Friday inclusive. One day a week is also spent providing dedicated safeguarding support to the Cathedral. Jem is the first point of contact for urgent safeguarding advice from 12pm on Weds through until 5pm on a Friday. He is also available on an

'on call' basis until 9pm on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (via mobile: **07469 857888**).

An external safeguarding service provider '**thirtyone:eight**' provides out of hours cover from 5pm on a Friday until 8am the following Monday – Tel: **0303 0031111**.

Please make sure your parish website, policies and noticeboards contain this important up-to-date information. We also have a general safeguarding email account: safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org to which routine enquiries can be sent and will ensure a timely response even if one or other of us is not at work.

Kind regards, **Jem and Suzy**

Become carbon 'net zero'

In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod set new targets for all parts of the church to work to become carbon 'net zero' by 2030. In response to this, the Diocese of Salisbury has set up a Net Zero Working Group. Besides formulating a plan of action which will lead to net zero by 2020, we are also looking for specific year-on-year reductions and encouraging parishes not to forget the wider eco agenda which has been highlighted so well by A Rocha and their eco church work.

We are encouraging all churches to use the energy footprint tool to give a baseline of their carbon footprint in 2019. This will enable us to chart progress made. Other buildings within the scope of this target are church schools, diocesan buildings, clergy houses, the cathedral and other church-owned buildings.

The net zero group is chaired by the Archdeacon of Sherborne and includes a diverse group of people from parishes, the Church House Team and Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education. We do not work in isolation and we are already benefitting from the experience of other dioceses, including Oxford Diocese and the dioceses in the south-west region.

A preliminary report was made to Diocesan Synod in February, and there will be regular updates. At Synod, we heard from one of our younger church members. Joe Brindle, whose dad Keith is a parish priest in Devizes and a member of the net zero group, explained why the younger generation are so passionate about eco matters and encouraged synod members to take back to their parishes the message that this is a key missional issue for many of his generation. It is a reminder that the fifth mark of mission is: to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the Earth.

There will be regular updates in Grape Vine on the progress we are making and how individual parishes can get involved. Please don't forget that the diocese moving to net zero is only part of the effort needed, we can all work towards reducing our carbon footprint. And we continue to encourage parishes: sign up for eco-church if you have not already done so. If you have signed up, take stock of progress to date, plan next steps, put them into action and join the growing number of churches who have received eco awards.



Who's who?



The Church House Staff and Bishops' Offices based in Salisbury and Stourpaine – Dorset are made up of colleagues with a wide range of skills and experience, reflecting the breadth of our responsibilities as we serve the diocese. Our role and calling are part of the life of the diocese as we seek to ensure that there is a flourishing Christian presence in every place in response to the calling of God on our lives.

The Church House Staff together with the Bishops' Offices seek to serve our churches, enabling clergy, licensed ministers and many other volunteers to focus their energy for mission and ministry in their communities.

The four Church House staff teams that serve the diocese are:

Mission, Ministry and Communications (MMC) which is refocusing resources to encourage mission and ministry across our communities and parishes to be locally led and centrally supported, in line with the diocesan priorities for growth. This includes fostering a culture of vocation (lay and ordained) investing in ministerial formation, supporting a genuine localised strategy for mission (including discipleship and social justice) and developing the potential of our digital engagement.

The **Parish Support, Governance and Administration Team** provides a first point of contact and act as a resource and information hub. The team is also responsible for diocesan governance and pastoral planning, human resources and assisting parishes in their care for church buildings and churchyards.

The **Finance and Asset Management Team** is responsible for all financial functions of the DBF with an annual expenditure budget of £14m. The team is responsible for the procurement and maintenance of all clergy property, recognising the importance of the home to clergy wellbeing and ability to provide ministry. Our Property Trading Company (SDBFBC) provides surveying services to schools and private clients, we are expanding this work to create more income. A newly established fundraising function will be financed by the national church to support giving across the diocese.

The **Safeguarding Team** seeks to make churches and schools a safe and welcoming place for all.

The Church House Staff and Bishops' Offices Contacts Guide aims to make it easy for churches to access the resources available and contact the relevant staff for information and support. Our main contact number is **01722 411922** or email us at parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org

'Generous Giving'

A Diocesan Stewardship Campaign is scheduled for the autumn and will be entitled 'Generous Giving'. Even before COVID, the diocese had recognised a need to put its finances on an even keel but the brutal fact is that the pandemic has weakened the position of many parishes and the diocese even further and not to try and resource ourselves and collectively do something about that would be negligent.

The renowned Catholic writer and speaker Henri Nouwen wrote a seminal article on giving called the 'Spirituality of Fundraising' (which can be downloaded as a PDF file with an Internet search on the author's name and that title). That term 'fundraising' may well conjure up images of a church committee that only comes alive as it plans the next bring and buy sale – but ask that same committee to engage with the notion that the Gospel contains the power to transform lives and communities and they may struggle. Through this campaign we are seeking to shift that dynamic and imagine a church, funded by the giving of the faithful (admittedly easier in an urban context than a rural one), being released into mission, so this campaign's purpose and intent will be much more aligned with the ethos expounded in Nouwen's article. It will be about generous giving as an aspect of our discipleship born of our continuing conversion as we live out our baptismal promises. The principal biblical passage will be the feeding of the 5,000, the little boy who

gave all that he had and Jesus did with it immeasurably more than we could conceive or imagine. Additionally, we have recognised from the outset that if this campaign is about 'keeping the show on the road' it will fail to enthuse or engage, so the campaign seeks to be rooted in our vision for the Kingdom in our contexts – picking up on Nouwen's emphasis on the need for vision 'without which the people die'.



We will be drawing on materials produced by the national church, particularly the 'Generosity Toolkit' which we are encouraging PCCs to study together between Easter and the summer. It will help your parish discern your stewardship 'strengths and weaknesses' ahead of the autumn campaign. It can be downloaded from the 'Generous Giving Campaign' page of the diocesan website.

Visit: www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/giving-and-generosity

The Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC)

Much change and progress has been achieved over the past year. We have successfully transitioned to the Online Faculty System, processing a total of 617 applications with 377 registered users assigned to 342 churches. We have a refreshed Constitution, a new Quinquennial Inspection scheme and Delegated Powers policy. We have also rebranded to become the Church Buildings Team to better reflect the work that we do in helping PCCs manage their churches.

Whilst we have had to say goodbye to some team members, we have also welcomed Alex and Catherine to the team.

Alex is a familiar face at Church House having spent the past 13 years as the Reception Administrator. Alex joined the team in January and will be focusing on List B applications and providing administrative support, applying her knowledge from Church House and her family carpentry business.

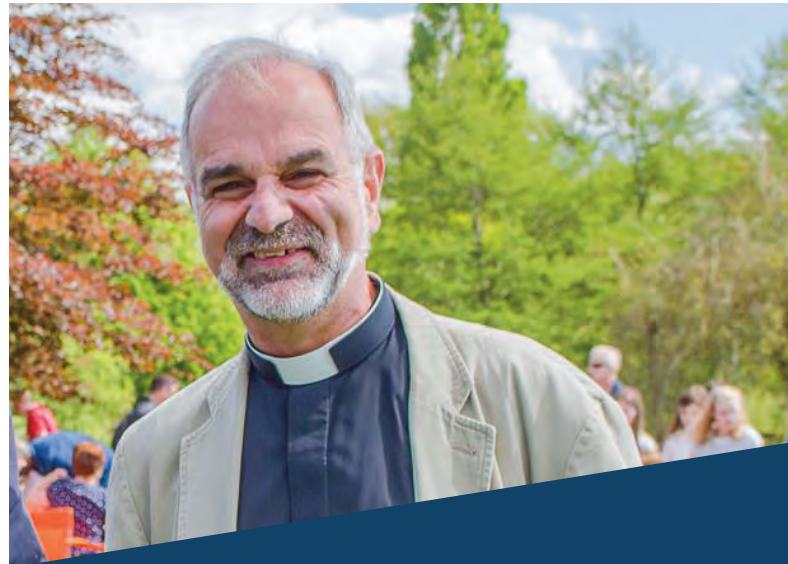
Catherine is the DAC Secretary at Portsmouth and is supporting the team part-time as we transition to a new Secretary. Catherine is applying her years of experience at Portsmouth to build on the progress we have achieved so far, fine tuning the office processes and procedures so that the team can provide the best service possible.



Going forward, we look to welcoming a new secretary, building on and continuing the successes of last year and to reach out to PCCs and provide helpful guidance and advice on a range of matters relating to church buildings. We also hope to start getting out and about on DAC site visits again, providing that much-needed advice for those large projects.

If you have a question or query, please get in touch with the Church Buildings

Team by emailing: DAC@salisbury.anglican.org or visit our website: <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/parishes/dac> for more information.



The Archdeacon of Sarum

I'm looking ahead to the time when our church buildings will again become more accessible to our clergy, congregations, and the wider community. I'm aware that our church buildings are at risk when we are unable to access them as often as we are used to; for worship, for private prayer, and for visitors. Other less-welcome visitors are bats and rats, and other potential carriers of contaminants. Therefore, I just want to remind you of the best practice in re-opening and cleaning our church buildings.

The Church of England advice can be found on the national website at **COVID-19 Keeping Church Buildings Clean v3.0.pdf** (churchofengland.org) and in particular, the cleaning guides for bat-occupied churches can be found at: <https://batsinchurches.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/BiC-Post-lockdown-cleaning-guide-v3-small.pdf>

I hope you find these useful, and please do plan carefully for the re-opening of churches, and have in mind the duty of care for those people who are kind enough to help with cleaning our churches regularly. We should always advise these good people of the need for wearing the protective masks and gloves, and also, ensure the equipment is there in place, for them to use.

The Venerable Alan Jeans
Archdeacon of Sarum

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com
Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

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