

In response to the Bishops "Let Us Talk."

I hope my thoughts below are food for thought?

Church Warden's Role and Responsibilities.

We all know what the responsibilities of Church Warden are? He's the Bishop's representative in the parish responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the church, keeping an eye on the vicar and taking a service if required! So he/she has extensive responsibilities but little in the way of authority outside the PCC, it is instead invested in the DAC at Salisbury! The DAC may know about buildings but nothing about the requirements of individual parishes!

Who listens to the concerns of Church Wardens and if they have concerns what method is there to raise them, especially if it's common across the Diocese? We are the Bishop's representatives but how does he hear our collective voice? We attend any number of meetings but never solely for Church Wardens talking together. If the answer is considered to be the training sessions that are held? They are training sessions aimed at new Church Wardens and not so much those in post!

Conclusion. Let Us Talk.

1. Church Wardens have a large responsibility but little authority concerning the church under their care.
2. Church Wardens should be given the opportunity to meet with other wardens in order to discuss their ministry and for their views to be progressed through to the Bishop.
3. The straight jacket of the faculty system should be loosened and more discretion and responsibility given to Church Wardens and their PCC's. As faculty procedures are being discussed soon, who's representing the Church Wardens views, the DAC? I think not!

Yours Faithfully Peter Griffin. Church Warden. All Saints. All Cannings.