

 Diocese of Peterborough

# archdeacons' visitation news

## Dear Churchwardens

### Thank you!

It has been another year of change, last Easter Chel Cullen became PA to both Archdeacons and in many ways the 'glue' that's holding our new Archdeacons' office together, which can be challenging when we are spread over both Peterborough Diocesan office and Bouverie Court, Northampton. Despite the challenges, we have formed a good team with a focus on serving the whole Diocese and in particular yourselves as Churchwardens.

This last year has also seen some significant challenges with over 100 parishes being in vacancy at the same time and more than 27 benefices being vacant during the last year. We are aware that this not only puts pressure on the Archdeacons' office but also means that you as wardens carry a heavier burden and some of these vacancies are and will continue to be much longer than any of us would want to be the case.

Safeguarding has seen more change in the last year as we had our new Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor join us in December, it is good to welcome Carole Fitzsimons to lead the team, this means we can serve the whole Diocese with training, advice and response to all matters of Safeguarding.

Finally, we would like to say that it has been a privilege to work with you as Bishop's officers and to see the support which you have been able to give to one another sharing experiences, skills and struggles. We encourage you to continue to work together

in your own Benefice and Deanery as well as wider where helpful such as the experience of re-ordering where knowledge and ideas can be very usefully shared.

So for all of you who serve your communities, churches and PCCs so faithfully...

*For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.  
(Psalm 122 v9)*



**Alison Booker**  
Archdeacon of Oakham

**Chel Cullen**  
PA to the Archdeacons

**Richard Ormston**  
Archdeacon of Northampton



# Net Zero Carbon and church buildings

**Jon Breckon**

In February 2020, the Church of England's General Synod set an ambitious target to urgently reduce carbon emissions and work towards Net Zero by 2030. Since then, a suite of advice and guidance has been developed to help parishes identify what actions they can take. But with so much new information available, where do you start?

By far the most useful tool is the **'Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon for Church Buildings'**, available here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church>. This sets out a series of recommendations and suggestions for you to consider. It is worth drawing attention to the very first set of actions as a relatively simple and easy way to make a quick impact. The advice here is based on sound principles of regular cyclical maintenance and basic care of buildings, namely;

1. Maintain the roof and gutters, to prevent damp entering the building and warm air escaping. *(Damp air takes more energy to warm up, and damp walls conduct heat quicker than dry ones).*
2. Fix any broken windowpanes and make sure opening windows shut tightly, to reduce heat loss.<sup>1</sup> *(Problematic draughts can contribute to significant heat loss, and while ventilation in buildings is important, it is more important that you are in control of the amount of ventilation).*
3. Insulate around heating pipes to direct heat where you want it; this may allow other sources of heat to be reduced in this area.
4. If draughts from doors are problematic, draught-proof the gaps or put up a door-curtain.<sup>1</sup>
5. Consider using rugs/floor-coverings (with breathable backings) and cushions on/around the pews/chairs.

Stretton Church, which has been repaired and re-ordered  
(photo supplied by St Nicholas Stretton Project Team)



Defective gutters and saturated stonework

<sup>1</sup>If interiors are of historic, architectural or artistic interest, seek professional and DAC advice.

For some minor maintenance works, such as fixing leaking gutters, or replacing broken glazing, you may be able to get a small grant towards the cost of the work. The National Churches Trust has a 'Maintenance Booker' scheme, details here: <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/get-support/buildings-maintenance/maintenancebooker>. If you would like to discuss church building maintenance, please feel free to contact the Historic Churches Support Officer.

[jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)  
07732 894457

## Open churches



There is much churches can do to unlock their visitor potential! Should churches be kept locked at all times?

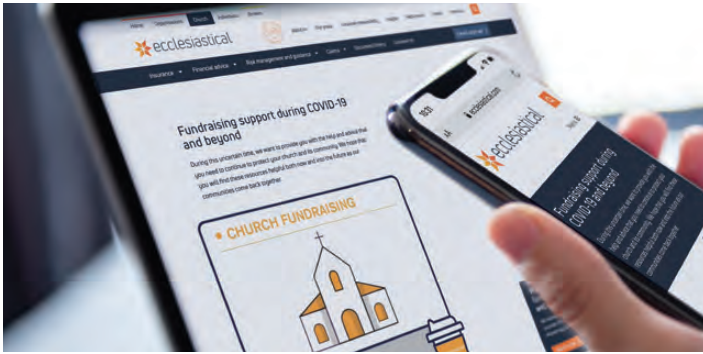
The answer is no, provided suitable precautions are taken.

**Here are top tips for being open and secure:**

- Carry out a full risk assessment. You can find this on the Ecclesiastical website at [ecclesiastical.com/churchriskassessment](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchriskassessment).
- Ensure local residents know that the church is operating an open-door policy so that they can observe suspicious activity.
- Encourage local people to visit the church while passing by.
- If possible, create a rota of volunteer stewards to be present in church – but don't forget to consider their personal safety if, for example, they might be alone in a church at any time.
- Create a secure storage area in which all valuables can be locked.

There is no impact on the church insurance premiums if a church is open during daylight hours. If you have any concerns, speak with Ecclesiastical's customer services team on **0345 777 3322**.





## Fundraising hub to support your church

Fundraising has always been vital for churches, from the traditional, well-loved flower festivals and cake sales to the world of digital fundraising opportunities that the internet has opened up. But it can be daunting to know where to start, so Ecclesiastical's easy-to-use online fundraising hub is here to help with great ideas and simple advice.

Drawing on the advice of experts and our own 135 years' experience in working with churches, we've pulled together a range of top tips to help you boost existing income streams and develop new ones. There's help with researching sources of funding and writing professional grant applications that can make all the difference to the answer you receive. There are great video webinars with fundraising specialists offering their insights into key fundraising issues.

Other guidance includes fundraising in less affluent areas, fundraising in rural parishes, how to build a fundraising team and more to keep your congregation and the wider community informed and engaged.

**There are plenty of useful resources and handy templates for all types of churches on our Church Fundraising Hub at [www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising)**

## Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good giving programme is back with awards of £1,000 to give to charities helping those in need. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, and together they are giving away over **£1 million** to charities in the 2023 Movement for Good Awards.

### £1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your favourite charity or church at any time for the £1,000 draw.
- It's one nomination per charity, per person, so if you have more than one favourite, get them in the running today!
- There are three £1,000 draws this year giving away between £120,000 and £150,000 in each.
- Once you've nominated, share your nomination and get your network to support too.

**Get nominating and find out more at [www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical](http://www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical)**

### Did you know?

**In 2022, 15 churches each won a £1,000 grant.**

There were thousands of nominations for these churches. The more nominations received, the greater their chance of winning.



Contains promotional material



# Rebuilding the historic Church of the Ascension in Salford

In February 2017, a fire broke out at the Grade-II listed Church of the Ascension in Lower Broughton, Salford, Greater Manchester. Six crews from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service battled for hours to contain the blaze, which ultimately devastated the building.



Many members of the local community gathered outside the church building to survey the damage, some reduced to tears. Much used and loved by young and old, the building plays an important role in both spiritual and social terms as an inclusive community space accessible to all. The church had recently undergone a £250,000 restoration project which people in the community had helped to fund.

Immediately following the fire, Ecclesiastical carefully assembled the right team of experts to attend the site as soon as the fire service authorised it.

Repair work began in October 2018 with teams of carefully selected experts appointed to complete the works. Phase one included reinstatement of the structural elements of the building,



such as columns, roof structures and slate coverings; stone and brick repairs; stained glass window and window guard replacements; and ceiling finishes.

Phase two began in September 2021, focusing on preserving the historical features of the church. As part of the restoration, Ecclesiastical worked with customers to build in modernisations to enable them to make the space better serve the requirements of today's use.

Restoration of the building was completed by the end of September 2022.

In November 2022, the church and community came together to mark the completion of the £5m restoration project with a rededication ceremony.

Read the story in full and see more pictures at [www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church-of-the-ascension)

// It has been a long five and a half years since the fire... we can now look forward to the future with a beautifully restored church which is fit for the 21st century. //

**Shirley Kehoe**, PCC Secretary at the Church of the Ascension



## Take our advice – for a brighter future

Ecclesiastical is well-known as a leading insurer of churches and other heritage buildings. But many people aren't aware that we also have a stand-alone financial advice arm here to help you make the most of your money.

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides fully independent advice on pensions, investments, life assurance and mortgages for the clergy, church community and PCCs.



You don't have to be an insurance customer to use the service – we're happy to help anyone – but we obviously have specialist knowledge of the church sector, as IFA Kieran Harper explains.

'I've been in the industry for seventeen years and with Ecclesiastical for all but two of those,' said Kieran, who's based in our Gloucester office. 'When it comes to

providing regulated financial advice to the clergy and the wider church community, that experience helps.

'Many of our customers are clergy – we understand their pension scheme, we know about the issues with living in tied accommodation such as vicarages – so when it comes to retirement planning, we're already ahead of the game. We also have a deep understanding of ethical and sustainable investing – as you would expect of a company with such strong links to the church – and this area is getting ever more popular with a lot of our customers.'

Please get in touch to find out how Kieran and his colleagues could help you.



0800 107 0190



[getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)



[www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice)

## Have you signed up for Ecclesiastical's monthly e-news?



This monthly email is full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical's church customers and anyone in your church community. Signing up is easy and, if at any time you decide you no longer want to receive it, you can click the 'unsubscribe' button at the

bottom of the email. Feel free to pass the sign-up link to anyone you think would like it.

Sign up at [www.ecclesiastical.com/signup](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/signup)

## Support for your 2024 sabbatical

### Are you planning on taking a sabbatical in 2024?

Did you know that there may be support available for you through Ministry Bursary Awards? Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and we are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2024.

The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a long-lasting impact on your church and community.

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards have supported over 1,400 members of the clergy to finance a wide range of extended leave projects and plans. The application window runs between April and September. Judging will take place in November 2023, with the awards made in December 2023.

**If you would like to find out more about the Awards, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit**

**[www.ecclesiastical.com/mba](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/mba)**



## Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently?

It's full of information to help you run your church, such as the **Made Simple Guides**, which cover these key topics:

- Church insurance made simple
- Administering your church insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Community outreach
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises

You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. **Explore the website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/church](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church)**



# Protect your home and support your church with £130 donation



As part of a financial services group that exists to give its available profits to good causes, one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical do this is through the Trust130 Home Insurance offer. For every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offer to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.<sup>1</sup>

Originally launched in 2017 to celebrate the 130th anniversary, Ecclesiastical has since donated more than £460,000, helping to support over 2,500 churches. A donation of £130 may not sound like much, but churches and congregations have used the donations in many creative ways to fund all sorts of things.

In the **Parish of Harpenden**, the donation will be used to support Cornelia's Coffee Shop, which is a community resource that enables them to engage with local people, offering fellowship and raising funds for charity.

It needs some new equipment – not least, a new freezer – and the donation will help in this general regard. It does great work to benefit the community and other great causes. One of our recent events at Cornelia's was to help our local Ukrainian arrivals.

**Kevin Featherstone**, Parish Warden

**St Mary's Church, Wythall**, used their donations to offer a weekly hot meal to families struggling with the increase in the cost of living.

This happens directly after school and includes activities for children and a Bible story or video. £130 will pay for meals for about 20 families, funding the food for about two weeks, which is a great boost financially, but also to the step of faith which this venture is.

**Pam Miller**, Treasurer

## Award-winning home insurance



As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining the most trusted home insurance provider with the happiest customers.

Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in spring 2023 for home insurance for a record 17th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status.<sup>2</sup> Ecclesiastical was also voted the best home insurance provider in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2022.<sup>3</sup>

For more information about Trust130 and Home Insurance, visit [www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130)

Call us for a home insurance quote on **0345 777 3322** and mention code **TRUSTPA**.

<sup>1</sup> Terms and conditions apply. <sup>2</sup> [www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance](http://www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance) <sup>3</sup> [www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners](http://www.thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor/article/times-money-mentor-awards-2022-winners)



## Car insurance

Our Clergy Motor Insurance is tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, no admin charges and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.<sup>1</sup>

0345 450 9396  
[www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance)

<sup>1</sup> Subject to terms and conditions.



## Funeral planning

Ecclesiastical can help you make financial provision for your funeral, reducing the worry for your family and ensuring your wishes are provided for. Terms and conditions apply.

0800 055 6503  
[info@epsfunerals.com](mailto:info@epsfunerals.com)  
[www.funeralplans.co.uk](http://www.funeralplans.co.uk)

## Welcoming Emily to the DAC Office



Emily Elliott

We were recently pleased to welcome Emily Elliott to the DAC Office as Church Buildings Caseworker. She has just completed her MPhil in Heritage Studies with the University of Cambridge and received her 1st class BA (Hons) Archaeology and Landscape History from Anglia Ruskin's Peterborough Campus in 2021. Emily has over four years' voluntary experience within the heritage sector and is keen to work with parishes in the Diocese.

Emily's appointment will assist the work of the DAC office and parishes seeking to look after their church building and navigate the faculty process. This is very welcome, following a busy year in the office, due to the vacant post.

### New projects and the Church Buildings Team

If your parish is considering exploring a new project for your church building, perhaps lighting, audio-visual improvements or a reordering project, do get in touch with us. With some projects we may have an advisor we can ask to contact you to provide some initial guidance and with others, we can give you a steer as to how you might initially approach the project. This can help to get things started in a positive way and flag up resources you might find useful. If you are exploring grant funding, there are some great resources on Jon Breckon's page of the Diocesan website which can be accessed via this link:

[www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/diocesan-staff-teams/historic-churches/grants-fundraising-5250.php](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/aboutus/diocesan-staff-teams/historic-churches/grants-fundraising-5250.php)

DAC Secretary, **Sally van der Sterren**

**Sally.vanderSterren@peterborough-diocese.org.uk**  
**01733 887026**

Church Buildings Caseworker, **Emily Elliott**

**emily.elliott@peterborough-diocese.org.uk**  
**01733 887038**

Historic Churches Support Officer, **Jon Breckon**

**jon.breckon@peterborough-diocese.org.uk**  
**07732 894457**

### The path to Net Zero Carbon

Just a reminder that there is a wealth of information available in relation to achieving Net Zero Carbon. The Church Buildings Council website has a designated page with links to guidance, webinars and case studies: [www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church](http://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/net-zero-carbon-church)

If you are looking for a starting point, the helpful Practical Path to Net Zero Carbon For Church Buildings document, can be found via the above link.



## Our journey to Net Zero

The WWF has released their 'Living Planet Report 2022'<sup>1</sup>, which shows the ways in which we are damaging the world around us. They reported that in the last 50 years:

- **Deforested land has increased by +40%**
- **Marine fish catching has increased by +47%**
- **Human population has increased by +107%**
- **CO<sup>2</sup> emissions have increased by +146%**
- **Materials extraction has increased by +193%**
- **Meat production has increased by +244%**
- **Dams have increased by +293%**



Joanne Ormston

Meanwhile, it shows that our wildlife populations have plummeted by -69%.

This rate of decline in the biodiversity of our planet is starting to put all species at risk, including humans.

As Christians, it is our duty and responsibility to safeguard and care for God's creation. We are not only called in Genesis 1:24-26 to rule over and care for creation; we are also called in Mark 12:30-31 to love our neighbours as ourselves.

The climate crisis is a huge social injustice that our world is facing; with those who are affected the most being those who have contributed to it the least. They are also those who are the least equipped to fight our global environmental issues.

Whereas the figures above, for the last 50 years, paint a dark image; the Diocese of Peterborough has committed to reaching Net Carbon Zero by 2030. We have the opportunity to change the picture of what the next 50 years will look like. We can act now and care for God's creation. We can outreach to our communities and bring people to Christ through nature. The changes we make now can protect our future generations.

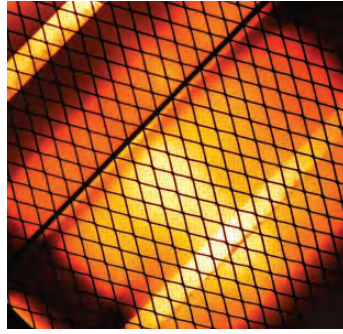
So, take a moment to think. What is your church doing on your journey to Net Zero? How are you embracing this exciting moment of change? What could you be doing differently to better care for God's creation?

If you are looking for resources on Eco Church, the Energy Footprint Tool, Outdoor Church, or Policies, look no further than our Diocesan resources page: [www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/support-for-parishes/environment](http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/support-for-parishes/environment)

**If you would like any further information or support, please do get in touch with the Environment Team on:**  
[environment@peterborough-diocese.org.uk](mailto:environment@peterborough-diocese.org.uk)

<sup>1</sup> [https://wwflpr.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr\\_2022\\_full\\_report\\_1.pdf](https://wwflpr.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr_2022_full_report_1.pdf)





## Managing energy costs

**As churches look to lower energy use costs, they may unknowingly increase the risk of damage to church property or people, and extra precautions may be required. These recommendations help protect your property and keep people safe.**

The rise in energy costs is of great concern to many and you may be looking into lower-cost ways to heat and light your church. By planning ahead and taking sensible precautions, it is possible to reduce energy costs and minimise risks to your property and its occupants, avoiding the enormous inconvenience and financial impact of property damage.

### Central heating

If you're planning on reducing your heating output to just a few areas of the building, it's worth considering that reduced heating can cause damp and mould to form in unused areas.

Many radiators are fitted with thermostatic valves that control the heat output giving better energy efficiency. We recommend turning the valve down to a lower setting in unused areas to help keep the area damp free rather than turning heating off. This will also significantly reduce the risk of water pipes bursting. Water leaks can cause major property damage and enormous inconvenience. Radiators in occupied areas can be set at higher temperatures, as desired for comfort.

Important items such as paintings and rugs may be susceptible to damage in colder conditions. These items should be relocated to warmer parts of the property or suitably protected by appropriate coverings where there is a risk of damage.

### Portable heaters

The use of portable heaters may be considered as an alternative. If you are considering using portable heaters, we recommend the following checks before usage:

- Before purchase, check the heater is not included on published recall lists. Defective heaters are a known common cause of fires and even death.
- Use of portable gas, paraffin and other flammable liquid heaters should be avoided. They significantly increase the risk of fire.
- Ensure heaters are maintained as recommended by the manufacturer and kept in good working order. Only a competent person should undertake servicing or repairs.
- Heaters must be kept away from combustible items including timber furniture and altar frontals.
- Before moving any heater, ensure it is turned off and has cooled down.
- Do not leave portable heaters operating unsupervised.

### Candles

Candles are not recommended as an alternative form of lighting. Battery-powered torches or candles that are pre-charged should be considered as an alternative. If candles are used, they should be kept in holders designed for purpose and sited well away from furnishings, especially curtains. They must be extinguished before leaving a room.



By planning ahead and taking sensible precautions, it is possible to reduce energy costs and minimise risks to your property and its occupants, avoiding the enormous inconvenience and financial impact of property damage. **Find out more at [ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/energy-savings-guidance](https://www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/energy-savings-guidance)**

### For more information

**Call:** 0345 777 3322 **Email:** [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)  
**Facebook:** Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters



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