

# archdeacons'

## visitation news

Spring 2017 - issue 11

## Dear churchwardens

Welcome to this issue of Archdeacons' Visitation News, which has again been generously provided by Ecclesiastical.

It is always a pleasure to express our gratitude to Ecclesiastical for the service it provides for us, both by way of direct and prompt advice to individual parishes on a wide range of matters and by the support it provides for those with responsibility for oversight in the diocese.



As in previous years, this issue of Archdeacons' Visitation News is a mixed bag. As the new Common Fund formula begins to take effect, there is a reminder of the need for generosity within the diocesan fellowship as we help each other respond to the challenges and opportunities we face. But there is practical help towards achieving this too in the launch of the Parish Giving Scheme, which has proved a helpful tool in other dioceses to increase levels of giving.

We proclaim ourselves to be a growing and outward-looking diocese. Bishop Jan tells us about the Thy Kingdom Come initiative, which stresses the importance of prayer in growing the church and invites us to be more intentional about praying for people we know to come to faith. Alison Redshaw alerts us to an area of mission which is growing in size and significance – ministry to the elderly. Geraldine Pond frames all our endeavours in an understanding of vocation as that calling

each of us has as a baptised Christian to exercise ministry, to work with God to build the kingdom. For most of us most of the time, that calling is carried out beyond the church building. For some (churchwardens, for example!) the call is to a ministry within the church's structures.

Other sections of Archdeacons' Visitation News provide helpful information about some of the routine tasks that come your way as churchwardens. We continue to be grateful for the immense amount of time and care that you devote to your important task. The maintenance of churches as important centres of community life and as signs of the love of God in the world is immensely significant. It is a privilege to work with such devoted and skilled colleagues. Without your work, our mission would be severely impoverished.

We hope those who are new to this office will feel able to treat us as colleagues and will not hesitate to be in touch as the need arises. We are here to help! Please be assured of our prayers as you fulfil your important ministry during the coming year.

Every blessing,



**The Revd Canon Tony Kaunhoven**  
Acting Archdeacon of Chesterfield



**The Venerable Dr Christopher Cunliffe**  
Archdeacon of Derby

## Thy Kingdom Come



When was the last time you prayed that someone would come to faith? Specifically prayed for someone by name, that they would come to know what the Christian faith is all about, and would want to become a disciple of Jesus? Quite a challenging

question, I know, and one which may make a fair number of us shuffle uncomfortably in our seats!

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked us all to set aside the days between the Ascension and Pentecost (25 May - 4 June) to pray specifically for a couple of people by name, asking God to speak to them and to open their eyes to his presence in their lives. We will be doing so in imitation of the first disciples who gathered together after they had watched Jesus ascend into heaven and, we're told, "They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus..." (Acts 1:14)

By committing ourselves to do this, we will be joining in a worldwide movement of prayer, shared during those ten days with the international Methodist church, the Free churches, the Roman Catholic Church, Pentecostal churches and several of the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox churches as well as with Anglicans across the globe. We certainly won't be praying alone!

There will be diocesan resources to help us, and further suggestions of ways in which churches can be involved. Look out too for details of a special pilgrimage event to our cathedral at Pentecost. The diocesan lead is being taken by the Diocesan Missioner, the Revd Jason Kennedy, and Canon Elizabeth Thompson is taking the lead with the Cathedral Pilgrimage.

Meanwhile, further information can be found at [www.thykingdom.co.uk](http://www.thykingdom.co.uk)

**The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane**  
Bishop of Repton

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## Legacies

**Legacies are a lifeline for Church of England parishes. Each year around 5,000 people choose to remember their parish church by leaving a gift in their will: gifts to finance mission projects, maintain beautiful church buildings and grow faithful communities.**

These legacies are worth nearly £50 million annually: they make a real difference to the future work of the Church of England, as regular giving often concentrates on maintaining the existing mission and ministry of parish churches. For many people, leaving a gift in their will to their parish church is a final opportunity to make a lasting gift to God. It is also a way to make a lasting difference to the future of their parish church and local community.

Many church members want to know how they can leave a gift in their will to their parish church, but they may be reticent about asking. It is important to make literature available for people who wish to find out more. Additionally, people often only leave a gift in their will if they think that it will be used for worthwhile projects, and not simply to fund operating costs. To encourage people to consider leaving a gift in their will to their parish church, it is helpful for the PCC to agree how potential legacy income will be spent, and to communicate this to the congregation. Knowing how the PCC will spend legacy income can help reassure people considering leaving a gift in their will.

The Church of England provides detailed information about encouraging legacy giving: please visit [www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies](http://www.parishresources.org.uk/legacies) The information available includes a free PCC Legacy Toolkit which provides everything a PCC needs to launch a successful legacy campaign. Helpful resources in the Toolkit include a PCC guide to legacy giving and a short PCC legacy film; there are also legacy leaflets, bookmarks and posters, Bible passages and legacy prayers.



# Your churchwarden's checklist

Churchwardens are some of the most valuable volunteers in any church, bearing much of the burden of running and maintaining the building, not to mention the day-to-day functioning of the parish.



Their responsibilities make their role one of the most varied in the church community. From rising damp to blocked drains, from unserviced boilers to crumbling stonework, they always have plenty on their plate!

The specific duties of a churchwarden vary from parish to parish. To help them – and your church – the leading church insurer Ecclesiastical has put together some guidance on key tasks and responsibilities. If the answer to any of the questions below is 'no', it's a good idea to speak to your churchwarden and work out a plan of action.

### Your church and churchyard

1. At the last annual meeting of the PCC, did anyone present a report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church?
2. (i) Are any essential works for the church building, as noted on the last quinquennial report, in hand or planned?  
(ii) Do you have proper arrangements in place for routine maintenance, including the regular clearance of gutters and down-pipes to prevent blockages?  
(iii) Are arrangements in hand for proper maintenance of the churchyard?

### Presentation and care of church records

3. (i) Are your service book records and registers for burials, baptisms and marriages up to date?  
(ii) Are all your church registers, records and books in a satisfactory condition and properly stored or deposited within the archives?
4. (i) Are your external and internal noticeboards in good order and up to date?  
(ii) Is the current Table of Parochial Fees displayed clearly in the church?  
(iii) Is the Churchyard Directive displayed prominently and publicly?

5. Are you satisfied with arrangements for the care and cleaning of the church's interior, church linen and other ornaments and vessels?
6. Do you have up-to-date church guidebooks available and, if appropriate, are they available in other languages?
7. Is there a logbook for your church and is it up to date?
8. Is there a plan of your churchyard and is it up to date?

### Finances

9. Last year, did you pay your clergy expenses in full?
10. Is all your church insurance up to date and does it give you appropriate cover?

If you'd like to know more about the role of the churchwarden, your diocese can provide you with a guide, and you'll find a number of books available commercially too. If you'd like to raise an issue with your Archdeacon, please contact them directly.

## Did you know...

- The office of churchwarden dates from the 13th century
- Churchwardens are the legal guardians of a church's movable goods
- Most parishes have two elected churchwardens
- Historically, there are two types of churchwardens: the people's warden and the rector's warden
- A particular type of long-stemmed tobacco pipe became known as the Churchwarden Pipe, because churchwardens used them to smoke in church while poking their pipe out of the window.

# The Great Community Mural – win £10,000 for your church

This year, we really want to celebrate the community work of the UK's churches. In order to do this we want you to help us create 'The Great Community Mural'.

## It is time for your church to get creative!

We are inviting all of our church insurance customers to submit a piece of original artwork that celebrates the role their church plays as part of the fabric of its local community. Entries can be created by anyone with a connection to the church and we're actively encouraging collaborations!

The artists can be young or old (or a combination of the two!) and we welcome submissions via any medium: collage, crayons, chalk, felt-tip or embroidery. We're insisting only that the work is original and is true to our theme of celebrating the church as part of the fabric of the community.

We will be combining the best entries with the aim of creating the largest piece of community art that has ever been produced in the UK. 'The Great Community Mural' will be 10 metres in length and three metres high, and will feature as many of the entries as we can include, with the very best five printed at a larger scale, and the overall winner given pride of place in the centre of the mural.



## The Great Community Mural Competition 2017

The winning church will receive a prize of £10,000; with four runners-up receiving £2,500 each. The Great Community Mural will be unveiled at a prestigious London venue before touring to a select number of cathedrals around the UK. So, don't delay, get your church to be creative today!



## The cloth and the community

**Quietly, in every corner of the country, fantastic things are happening. Much of this activity goes unnoticed but its impact is felt by many, weaving its way into the darkest of places and making the world a better place.**

In 2016, Ecclesiastical launched a national competition to celebrate the crucial role our churches have in supporting local communities. We asked churches to share their success stories and tell us how they are reaching out to their local community.

With a £20,000 prize fund up for grabs, we were inundated with inspirational projects. The eventual winner, St. John's church in Shildon, who won the top prize of £10,000, had knitted itself into the very fabric of its community. The range of activities not only stretched to every corner but instilled a sense of pride in the people of Shildon, bringing them closer together.

In fact, all of the 372 entries revealed the true value and reach of the work churches are doing. We believe that this should be celebrated and brought to life and as the UK's leading church insurer we are uniquely placed to support and highlight this.

For 130 years, we've had the privilege of protecting our churches and their communities so throughout 2017 we'll be doing even more to highlight and support the fantastic things that they are quietly delivering.

Keep up to date via our website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/community](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/community) or our Facebook page **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical** or via Twitter



@churchmatters

## Artist Tim Steward

Our ambassador for the Great Community Mural project is Tim Steward, a Christian artist who has been exhibited all around the UK and whose work is notable, among many outstanding features, for its celebration of church architecture. Tim will be joining the judging panel for the competition and he'll produce an original piece of artwork that will form part of the completed Mural.

Tim said: "As an artist, I'm thrilled to be the ambassador for The Great Community Mural project. I am passionate about the



role of art within churches and this project is a wonderful way of celebrating the unique place that churches hold in our country's diverse communities."

## How to enter the competition

Entry forms are being sent out during May to all of our customers in their **Church Matters newsletter**. If you don't get the newsletter or want further information about how to enter, go to our website. There you'll

also find more details about The Great Community Mural competition, including a video of Tim Steward talking through some ideas that might inspire you. **The closing date for entries is 21st August 2017.**

[www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp)

## Roof alarms

Based on our claims experience, Ecclesiastical believes roof alarms provide the best deterrent to metal thieves. Alarms are highly effective at deterring metal theft and perfect for buildings in remote or rural locations – if the security system is activated, a planned response based on your specific instructions is carried out.

Ecclesiastical maintains a list of approved suppliers who meet our security requirements – call **0345 777 3322** for more information.



# Is the price of lead fuelling theft from church roofs?

The price of scrap lead has reached record highs in the last year or so with prices continuing to increase. Andrew Mulholland, Crime Reduction Consultant at SmartWater Technology Ltd updates us on the outlook for this destructive crime now.



The theft of lead from a church roof is a particularly damaging crime. Not only does it cause a severe financial loss, it can also result in water damage to the church and to contents, some of which can be irreplaceable. Even if your church hasn't been subject to lead theft, you are likely to know one that has. So what is fuelling these attacks and what can be done about it?

The vast majority of metal thefts relate to lead and this is not surprising given the rising demand and increasing resale value of scrap lead. There was a clear price increase around 2010-11 and many will remember the surge of lead thefts with around 2,500 crimes against churches reported that year alone.

A national taskforce on metal theft was established with dedicated police resources assigned to address the problem. There was also new legislation with the Scrap Metal Dealer Act and support provided by companies such as SmartWater with both forensic marking and enforcement activities and from Ecclesiastical with the 'Hands off our Church

Roofs' campaign. Although the price of scrap lead remained high in the years that followed, the number of churches falling victim decreased. In fact, by 2015, the number of reported crimes was around a tenth of what it was five years earlier.

However, since then the national task force has been disbanded, police numbers have reduced and priorities have moved away from metal theft. At the same time, the crimes have also become much more organised and large scale. Although the overall number of crimes has reduced, some counties have seen a significant increase in attacks. These are now much more industrial with teams of criminals working overnight to strip lead from whole roofs.

With new record prices for scrap lead it is likely that criminals will become more interested in it again. Given the increase in crime during previous price peaks, it is essential that churches do not lose their focus on this problem and take steps to do everything they can to prevent theft.

## Forensic marking

It is a condition of your insurance that you apply SmartWater or an alternative forensic marker approved by us. You will not have metal theft cover if you do not follow this condition. Make sure you have applied the solution to any external metal, put up signage in a prominent position and register with the supplier to comply with your policy.



## Here are Andrew's top tips:



- **Be aware** – make sure the local community is 'on the lookout'
- **Take security measures** – remove climbing aids such as wheelie bins
- **Apply a forensic marking solution** – reduce the attraction of handling stolen items
- **Consider a roof alarm** – the ultimate deterrent

Don't forget you can also download Ecclesiastical's Metal Theft checklist from:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft)

# A day in the life of an Allchurches Trust Grants officer

Allchurches Trust is the charitable owner of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group which grants a significant proportion of its profits to the trust so that this money can be given back to society for good causes.

**Last year, Allchurches Trust gave grants totalling more than £13 million to Anglican churches and cathedrals, churches of other denominations, heritage and community projects. Paul Playford is one of three Allchurches Trust Grants Officers who visit groups applying for grants. In this article, we find out more about his typical day.**



➤ **7.15am** Drive from home in Ledbury, Herefordshire, to Allchurches Trust Gloucester office. Time for coffee and a few emails before my first visit.

➤ **9.30am** A crisp winter morning's walk through Gloucester to St. Mary de Crypt, a medieval church with a Tudor schoolroom that stands on the main thoroughfare between the Quays and the Cathedral. These are the two most visited places in the entire county and St. Mary's plans to entice those passing between them to venture in and discover not just a beautiful church but a venue for art, culture and community.

When projects are over £500,000 in total, I make a point of visiting. It gives applicants a chance to describe their vision to me in person and explain in more detail how the project will address local needs.

St. Mary de Crypt's Project Manager Rachel Court and her team have already formed partnerships with local charities working with refugees, dementia sufferers and young unemployed people, who will become users of the newly equipped church. I'm impressed. The Heritage Lottery Fund is too and has given them £1.36m towards their £2m goal.

➤ **11.00am** Back to the office and straight into a presentation to people who have recently joined Ecclesiastical Insurance –

it's important we let Ecclesiastical's employees know of all the good causes their hard work benefits.

➤ **12.00pm** I'm welcomed at Widden Primary School by Special Needs Co-ordinator Karen Hughes. Of Widden's 380 children, 200 are considered 'vulnerable' and of those, the 10-15 with the most significant emotional needs are given special sessions in a Nurture Room. "Allchurches Trusts' grant has made us able to make the room more like a home than a classroom," explains Karen. "With sofas, a dining table and chairs, toys and furnishings, we can help these children to develop the emotional and social skills they need to succeed back in the classroom." I'm humbled by the scale of the problems Karen and her colleagues are tackling but it's obviously working.

➤ **3.00pm** It's now a rainy afternoon in Bristol at John and Charles Wesley's New Room, the meeting house built in 1739 which is the earliest Methodist building in the world.



I'm greeted by David Worthington, the New Room's Manager. As with so many of the grant applicants I meet, David has an extraordinary depth of knowledge combined with a passionate determination to see the project through. Pilgrims from among the world's 75 million Methodists arrive daily and David's on a mission to make the New Room a welcoming place for them with a museum and archive, conference facilities and a cafe. It's a £4.5m project to which Allchurches Trust is proud to have contributed.

➤ **7.30pm** Just time to write up the day's visits for the next Board meeting. Today, not unusually, it's all good news.



## Paul's most memorable visit?

It has to be my first ever visit as a new Grants Officer. It was to the Salvation Army in Droitwich. Their work opened my eyes to the challenges out there and the fact that the church, in all its forms, is having a hugely positive impact. Its contribution often goes under the radar but take the church out of social care and you'd have a huge gap.



## Paul's toughest visit!

I had to visit the church on Lundy Island. The vicar very kindly had arranged for me to be invited onto the bridge by the Captain for the two-hour crossing. Sadly, I was horribly sea-sick. We docked and I had to ask if I could go and lie down! However, once I had recovered, the stunning location and inspirational project fully made up for the travel experience.



[www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk)



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## Risk Management Helpline

Need help with managing risks at your church? You can now call expert risk management advisers for advice.

**Call: 0345 600 7531**

## How to contact us

### Customer services

**Call: 0345 777 3322**

(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)

Email: [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)

### Report a claim

**Call: 0345 603 8381**

At any time on any day of the week

Email: [faithclaims@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:faithclaims@ecclesiastical.com)

Dedicated church customer website:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/church](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church)

Facebook: **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical**

 [@churchmatters](https://twitter.com/@churchmatters)

# Insurance you can believe in

It's our belief that the best insurance is about much more than just words. It's about what we do as well as what we say. Indeed, we have a proven track record of being there for our church customers when they need us most.

Established by the Church of England 130 years ago, we have a unique understanding of how to protect churches. This depth of experience and commitment means that when the worst happens you know that you are in safe hands. We are proud to have been trusted to protect churches and their communities since 1887.

### Expertise that sets us apart

We have a dedicated team of church specialists who can respond to your needs

quickly and compassionately. They only deal with church insurance so they understand the issues that you face. Our experts can provide you with a wide range of free advice and support at any time.

And when the unthinkable happens, we want the best outcome for you – to pay you quickly and without fuss – so that you can get on with running your church.

To us, doing the right thing is simply what we do. To our church customers, it's what sets us apart.

## Church Insurance Made Simple

Have you looked at our new series of Made Simple guides designed to make understanding your church insurance easier? Based on feedback from customers, the guides look at the insurance aspects of legal protection, building works, church events, community outreach and more. You can read them online or download the guides at:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple)

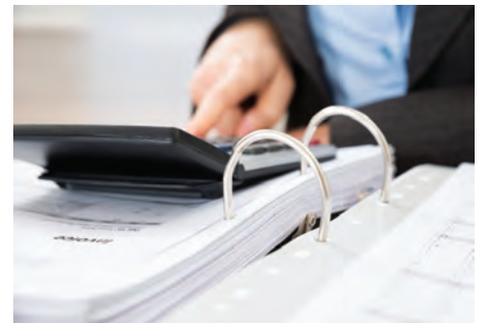


## Need financial advice you can trust?

Perhaps you're worried about getting the best return on your savings or you'd like to make sure you're investing ethically. You might be thinking about taking out a mortgage, protecting your family or planning for retirement. Whatever your concerns, Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services can bring you independent financial advice from a company you know and trust.

Our team of independent financial advisers offer expert advice and help with your personal finances and can find suitable solutions from across the relevant market.

Our advice doesn't stop at personal finance; we also help PCCs and their members review their investments and find ways to improve potential returns. Please note, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future performance. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



Like all advisers, we charge a fee for providing financial advice, and your adviser will talk you through the charges and make sure you understand them before there is any commitment on either part. The first meeting or conversation is at our expense.

**Contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services** Call: **0800 107 0190** or email: [getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)

# Vocation

Vocation is a word which is most often associated with being ordained, but vocation is not first and foremost about being a vicar!



Do you have a vocation? You may think not – but I believe that you most definitely do!

Each one of us has a vocation! A vocation is a 'call' and I believe that we are all called. We are called to be a fully human-human being. Jesus came to show us what it is to be a human being. Being human is about being able to live in relationship with each other and with God who created the world and loves us. It's especially about being able to love and be loved, which is best expressed and experienced for many, but not for all, in our family life through which we are called to be a parent or child, a husband or wife, a brother or sister. A vocation may be to live in a family or a community or as a single person. Some are called to be lay, some to be ordained. It is the relationships and experiences of life that shape us and make us the person we are. Some of life's experiences are tough and difficult to understand, but nothing is wasted because we can learn more about ourselves and others when we reflect on things that happen to us and discover more about God who is with us. Some of the hardest and most disappointing moments are the times of great learning and deepening of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Human beings are not only able to love and be loved by others, but are also able to hope. Hope and imagine things differently.

Vocation may also be understood through the work we do. Vocations come in many shapes

and sizes, as many and varied as the people who are called and gifted do them. There are too many to include all of them here, but some are called to use gifts of hospitality and welcome, others music, poetry, mathematics, sport or the arts. Some are called to be nurses and doctors, teachers, bankers, shop workers and so on, the list is endless, and some may be called to the religious life as a nun or monk... or indeed as a vicar! Vocation is about 'call', and for Christians it is specifically about call by God to a particular area of ministry or work that is not understood as just a 'job'; it is a way of being and living.

So we give thanks at this time of year for all who respond to God's call to serve as members of the body of Christ as churchwardens – bishops officers in lay ministry to work alongside the clergy and Readers and all team members.

Churchwardens are to share in the spiritual care and leadership of the people of God and to live out their vocation through encouraging the gifts and vocation of others and being an inspirational role model too!

The most amazing thing about understanding our vocation is that we are able to feel complete, fulfilled and at peace and able to cope with lots of changing circumstances with positive understanding and confidence of who we are in Christ.

So vocation is much more than being a vicar; it's about becoming more the person God created us to be. Vocation does not stay the same forever but changes through life; it is ongoing.

My role as Director of Vocations in the Diocese of Derby is about encouraging people who come to me to listen to God, to hear his voice and call and to offer themselves in service to God with gratitude and thankfulness.

## **Revd Canon Geraldine Pond**

Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Derby

## **Resourcing ministry to the elderly**

As all of us are aware, congregations, and society in general, are ageing. Resources are often aimed towards children, teenagers and young families and not towards the older members of society.

The Disability Discrimination Act applies to older people too; it's important that access, lighting, print and sound are all suitable. The best of worship is useless if not everyone can participate. If you're not sure if the loop is working, please ask a hearing aid wearer; generally they don't

complain, they just suffer in silence – literally!

Worship in residential and nursing homes, especially with those suffering from dementia, need to be short with plenty of familiar hymns. Kevin Mayhew has a CD set, 'Hymns we've always loved', if musicians or instruments aren't available. I've got six years' experience of leading worship in a dementia nursing home and I'm happy to help or advise.

## **Revd Alison Redshaw**

Missioner for Retirement Communities

## **Introducing the Parish Giving Scheme**

In May 2017, the Diocese of Derby will become a member of the Parish Giving Scheme. The scheme was established in 2008 by the Diocese of Gloucester to serve parishes with a professional donation management and Gift Aid service, which combats the challenge of static giving by allowing donors to increase their giving in line with inflation. By the end of 2016, a further 12 dioceses had become members of the scheme.

### **How does the scheme work?**

Once a parish has registered to participate in the Parish Giving Scheme, church members can choose to make their donations to the parish through the scheme. Donations are made through the scheme using a direct debit mandate: they can be monthly, quarterly or annually. On the first day of the month, the scheme collects the donations by direct debit. It also requests any eligible Gift Aid on donations from HMRC. The collected donations and the Gift Aid received from HMRC are credited by the scheme to the bank account of the specified parish by the end of the month.

### **What are the benefits of the scheme?**

The unique feature of the Parish Giving Scheme is the option for donors to commit in principle to increasing their donations annually in line with inflation. This is a voluntary decision for each donor. For donors who have opted in to the annual inflationary increase, the scheme increases their donations at the beginning of the year in line with the retail price index (RPI) for January of that year. The annual increase has a significant impact on the life and future of the Church by beating the effects of inflation on parish finances.

The Parish Giving Scheme is delivered locally (in the parish), but administered centrally (in Gloucester), thus reducing the administrative burden on parishes, in particular on treasurers and Gift Aid secretaries. All donations made through the scheme to a parish are credited to the parish bank account in a monthly single transaction. Any Gift Aid on eligible donations made through the scheme is reclaimed monthly and credited to the parish bank account in a single transaction. Information about the donations made through the scheme is sent monthly to treasurers.

*Article continues overleaf...*

Continued...

If the Parish Giving Scheme becomes a parish's principal funding route, the parish will benefit from 'inflation-proofed' giving, maximising cash flow and minimising administration. This can release the parish to focus on other important priorities.

### What is the cost of participating in the scheme?

There is no cost to parishes wishing to participate in the Parish Giving Scheme! Because of the benefits of the scheme to parishes, and hence to the diocese, the cost of membership of the scheme is being paid centrally by the Diocesan Board of Finance.

### How does our parish participate in the scheme?

Following our diocesan 'launch' event later in the year, the Parish Support Office will be inviting parishes to participate in the Parish

Giving Scheme. The decision to participate in the scheme is one that requires reflection and prayer: it is an opportunity to review financial giving to support mission and ministry and can be a comfortable way into what can often be an uncomfortable conversation! As Henri Nouwen puts it:

"... when we seek to raise funds we are not saying, "Please, could you help us out because lately it's been hard." Rather, we are declaring, "We have a vision that is amazing and exciting. We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you – your energy, your prayers, and your money – in this work to which God has called us."

Once the PCC has passed the resolution to participate in the scheme, there is a straightforward Parish Registration Form to complete and then church members can be invited to complete direct debit mandate forms.

### Where can I find further information?

Further information about the Parish Giving Scheme is available from the Parish Support Office in Church House, Derby and from the Parish Giving Scheme website: [www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/for-parishes](http://www.parishgivingscheme.org.uk/for-parishes)

**David Mundy**  
Parish Resource Officer



## Common Fund – resourcing mission & ministry

### All things come from you, O Lord, and of your own do we give you

Being good stewards requires us to decide what we will do with all that God has entrusted to us. The familiar offertory response above reminds us that all we have is sourced from God's provision.

As a diocese, we are dependent on the Common Fund, which accounts for 55% of our total income, to finance mission and ministry across the whole diocese. As Bishop Alastair has said, "Our Common Fund is the means through which everyone can play an appropriate part in providing the resources which enable a witness to Christ's presence in every community – through our churches, our schools, our ministries, our service and outreach. We need to pray that a common commitment expressed through a Common Fund will bind us together in a generous way of living for the sake of others, locally, across the diocese and beyond."

The new Common Fund formula is being introduced this year. Those of you who attended the Open Deanery meetings will be aware of diocesan spending plans and why the Common Fund is so important. We hope that through such meetings, the Common Fund video and all the resources made available, that there is a far better understanding of how our Common Fund is used. Resources are in place to assist parishes and we would encourage you to contact the Mission & Ministry Team for more information.

Of course, with the change in the way that we are 'sharing out the share', there will be those parishes that will see an increase in the amount they are requested to pay and those that see a decrease. There will be a period of transition as parishes adjust to the new amounts, but we would request that those parishes who are faced with reductions in the amount they have been requested to pay consider 'freezing' payments at the current level so that they can help their neighbours who are faced with increases. Being generous in this way will help ensure that we can continue to support all parishes – everyone pays and everyone receives.

At meetings of our Business Committee, we regularly monitor our expenditure plans to make sure that they are in step with the income received. Many parishes make regular monthly payments of Common Fund either in full or in part. This is extremely helpful in helping us as a diocese meet the costs of stipends, salaries, pension contributions and all other costs that occur every month.

**David Meredith**  
Director of Finance

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