



Diocese of Truro

archdeacons' visitation news

Churchwardens the 'glue' that often holds parish and church life together



The office of Churchwarden can be described in many different ways; rich and varied, rewarding and demanding, challenging and frustrating and sometimes even exciting! Some have used the phrase that Churchwardens are the 'glue' that often holds parish and church life together!

However, with church buildings being closed for public services for the first time in living

memory, being a Churchwarden over this past year has taken on an altogether different dimension. Lockdowns, risk assessments, online worship and 'Zoom' meetings have hitherto not been high on most Churchwardens' agendas!

As the Church seeks to rise to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, so the ministry of Churchwarden can be said to inhabit a unique place. Encompassing both the maintenance and mission of the local church a Churchwarden's calling is not just concerned with maintaining that which is needed for the practical day to day

good running of the church but to share in a vision of what Church could be. Churchwardens can, and should, often find themselves holding the creative tension of being both guardians of the past and agents of change!

Our diocesan vision, 'The Saints' Way', holds out a call for our Church here in Cornwall to 'serve the poor, reach the young and care for the earth.' The need for new vision for our deaneries and parishes in 'On the Way' calls for wise stewardship, generous giving and the flourishing of a multiplicity of ministries both lay and ordained. Now more than ever we need leaders with fresh missional energy and vision who are prepared to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Now more than ever we need Churchwardens. Now more than ever we need you! You are the 'glue' that can help hold things together!

May God bless you as together we seek to serve Him at this exciting time in the life of His Church in Cornwall.

The Ven Paul Bryer
Archdeacon of Cornwall

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Cornwall Calling!

There are times when I envy the relative ease with which some familiar Bible characters seem to discern the will and call of God. In my experience it is not always so easy. I relate far more to Jacob and his night of wrestling than I do with Paul and his dream of a man from Macedonia (and the simple conclusion that this must be the place to which he and his companions were called).

My sense of call to archidiaconal ministry, and indeed to Truro diocese, was akin to piecing together a jigsaw puzzle and the slow revelation of a picture. Applying for the position, I was aware that my experiences of parish ministry, coupled with my work in intergenerational church and Fresh Expressions, equipped me for many aspects of the role, yet a senior position was not something I had ever aspired to or envisaged.

Throughout the latter months of 2020 there was a growing sense that, through the call of the Church, there might be a new future unfolding. A big step of faith was required of me and my husband to leave all that was familiar, safe and known, to begin afresh in Cornwall and attempt to walk into all that God has prepared for us.

Rural Roots

I was born and raised in a village just outside of Salisbury. My father was a farm foreman and I grew up immersed in farm life and very at ease in a rural context. Some of my happiest early memories are of sitting in a tractor cab with my dad or being allowed to activate the grain chute of the combine harvester. The smell of harvesting remains very emotive for me.

I came to faith as a teenager and benefitted from the extraordinary trust of some gracious and mature church members who were willing to take the risk of allowing me to be involved in various ministry roles.

As a student in London, I enjoyed city life and took the opportunity to worship in a variety of church contexts before finally finding a 'home' within a C of E Church in Brixton. After graduation I used my degree in theology and education to inform my work as a youth and children's



worker and then as a national ministry adviser with the Church Pastoral Aid Society. It was with CPAS that I began to take seriously a vision for intergenerational church and to encourage and resource it well.

The call to ordained ministry was something that others sensed for me long before I heard the call for myself. By the time I started the selection process in 2007 it had bubbled away for almost 20 years; perhaps there was a degree of inevitability when I was ordained deacon in 2010 and priest in 2011, but it was certainly not something I took lightly.

My experiences as a curate and incumbent have been joyful, creative and fruitful. Parish ministry is something I love and I have always had the privilege of working alongside some wonderful people, including some wonderful Churchwardens: people who have taught me much. I have also had some profoundly painful times in parish ministry and dark seasons with challenges and obstacles. There is however a narrative of grace in my journey and I have delighted in seeing the people and churches I have served, grow and flourish. That's just what I want for the Archdeaconry of Bodmin too.

Future Flourishing

For all of us who love and follow Jesus and find a place in his Church, we often occupy an uncomfortable position of enjoying our church communities as they are and yet recognising the need for change if others are to know God's blessing and find their place in God's story. As someone who values her creature comforts the discomfort of being a pilgrim people is not lost on me!

I see part of my role as being available to church communities and leaders (lay and ordained) to support them in their own wrestling with the future that God is calling us into. Within that I want to advocate boldness and creativity and a willingness to entertain new ideas and initiatives. I am keen to find imaginative solutions to some of the thorny issues that sometimes constrain us.

I also want to encourage intergenerational ministry in every context and help churches to discover their all-age 'genes' in order that people of every generation can grow in faith in Jesus, find a place of flourishing and be part of church communities of blessing.



Thank you to all of you already engaged in this vital work. I so look forward to joining you on the journey.

Revd Kelly Betteridge
Soon-to-be Archdeacon of Bodmin



Our Church Insurance Consultants are right behind you

Meet Ecclesiastical's Church Insurance Consultants – a friendly and approachable team of highly knowledgeable insurance experts who are right on your doorstep and ready to offer guidance and help with any insurance or risk-related issues you might have.



From a simple explanation of the basics of your policy, to guidance on how to combat thieves and vandals, guard against fire, and improve general health and safety, they are there for you, free of charge.

The team – (from top left) Chris, Rebecca, Heather, Lynne, Peter, Nicky, Kay and Derek – are all deeply passionate about customer service, and our country's amazing churches.

Amongst them are theologians, choristers, regular churchgoers, and people who have worked with Christian charities here and abroad, so they really understand your specific needs. And because they're based at regional locations all over the UK, they're also able to tailor their advice to your local requirements.

They have decades of combined industry experience – and standing behind them is Ecclesiastical's 134 years of unrivalled expertise and insight in dealing with everything life might throw at you.

Where possible, the Church Insurance Consultants love to meet customers and talk face-to-face, and are happy to host networking events where you can get to know people from other parishes and share experience, ideas – and smiles.

But if we find ourselves in a COVID-19 lockdown or you're simply unable to meet them in person, they're still there, offering exactly the same services online or over the telephone.

To find out more about the team, and how they could help you and your church, please visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/church/cic or email meetus@ecclesiastical.com (please include your contact details, the name of your church and parish, and policy number if possible), or call them on **0345 777 3322**.



Make your good news a headline story!

This year, Ecclesiastical's church competition shines a light on churches across the UK – their bright ideas and success stories, community heroes and ingenuity in the face of adversity.

It's easy to overlook the important things that keep church communities strong, especially at difficult times, which is why we're looking for your uplifting stories that support church activities and bring the community together.

Tell us about your moments of inspiration, your clever solutions to problems old and new, and the people who've solved them – we want to hear your good news stories that can make front page headlines.

Find out more about the competition and how your church can enter at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp [#churchgoodnews](https://twitter.com/churchgoodnews)

Information at your fingertips

Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently? It's had a bit of a facelift and looks really good. It is also full of advice and information about a wide range of risk management topics and includes Made Simple Guides about building works, people on premises and property. You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. You can also read an online copy of Ecclesiastical's bi-annual newsletter, Church Matters!

Explore the website at www.ecclesiastical.com/church



How online fundraising can boost your church

With summer around the corner, you may be starting to think about future events and how to raise those ever-important funds. Many churches have been looking at running events online, and it might be the best way forward at the moment. Ecclesiastical has put together some great ideas and top tips to get you started or increase your online success.

To get started, have fun and think creatively. What do you do face-to-face and how could that translate to online? Quizzes are great fun and easy to put together. You could have a quiz master read out the questions over a Zoom call, share your screen to display visual questions, or circulate quiz sheets via email and social media. How about streaming an online choir concert, or run craft or baking classes via Teams and sell virtual tickets to your Internet audience? Another idea is to offer the opportunity to request a favourite hymn in return for a donation.

More and more churches are using the Internet to reach not just their congregation and the wider community, but potential supporters literally everywhere. Online community groups and social media outlets like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook are a great way to publicise your activity to a new, wider audience – and particularly younger people who are otherwise hard to reach.

Ask them to sponsor a personal challenge and invite them to come up with their own challenges to benefit your church. Fundraising sites like **JustGiving.com** are quick to set up and can easily be widely promoted online. The Internet is also ideal for keeping everyone up to date, which is essential to keep those donations coming in. If you haven't dabbled yet, maybe have a look at what another church or community organisation has done.

If you find the Internet a bit daunting, once you strip away the jargon it's often much simpler than it appears. For instance, 'streaming' might sound difficult and mysterious, but user-friendly services such as Microsoft Teams are easy to download and can be used by lots of people joining in on their PCs, smartphones, or tablets.

Supporters can buy virtual 'tickets' – or make donations – via dedicated online fundraising platforms like **TapSimple.org** or **Eventbrite.co.uk**, which offer a one-stop process from hosting your event to processing payments and contributions. Many of them will handle Gift Aid for you too.

If your church has a specific project to pay for – a new sound system, why not try to 'crowdfund' via a website? These harness the power of a crowd of funders rather than individual donors. They take a matter of minutes to set up, using sites like **Crowdfunder.co.uk**, and provide a permanent home for your story, where you can post updates and images of your project for your supporters.

If this still feels too technical, ask around – someone in your congregation or local area who regularly uses a computer or a smartphone for work or leisure may already use these tools and can help you get started. Youngsters might jump at the chance to get involved, if only to show their parents and grandparents how it's done!



Fundraising in a Box

Earlier this year, Ecclesiastical sent out a 'Fundraising in a Box' kit to its church customers containing four booklets giving guidance and support to make the fundraising journey easier. For more information and guidance, including some really helpful webinars, please visit the Ecclesiastical fundraising hub at **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising** (if you are an Ecclesiastical customer and require further copies of the box, please contact us via the website).

Have you heard the e-news?

E-news is a monthly email full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical church customers and anyone in your church community. To receive it is easy – all you need to do is register on their website at **www.ecclesiastical.com/signup** 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 on the sign-up website to anyone you think might like it.



Three cheers for roof alarms and SmartWater®!

Churches with these systems have found it's had a positive impact on reducing the risk of metal theft.



SmartWater® recently helped Police convict four criminals responsible for stealing metal from 35 churches located in Midlands, East Anglia and the South-West¹. And a roof alarm helped St Bartholomew's in Lancashire to scare off attackers not once, but three times in the same month.

St Bartholomew's has a 'monitored roof alarm' which sends out an audible warning on site, and alerts the alarm-receiving centre of movement on the church roof. The centre contacted the church's key-holder, and neighbours called the Police. As a result, offenders were arrested on site with tools in hand.

Lead and copper roofing are materials that characterise our beautiful churches – but thieves love it too, and churches are often a target. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, Ecclesiastical anticipate organised crime will return to target less well-protected areas of lead. The good news is there's positive actions you can take to protect your church.

A roof alarm is one, particularly if your church has significant amounts of metal. Ask Ecclesiastical for a list of approved installers. An approved forensic security marking solution such as SmartWater® is another. This is a clever liquid like DNA that you apply to external metal. It's unique to your church so items can be traced back to you. You must register it with the supplier and display signage, which acts as a deterrent. Using a forensic solution is a condition of your theft of metal cover. If you choose SmartWater®, Ecclesiastical will register it for you, saving you £120.

Thieves are likely to use a vehicle to carry their heavy stolen metal away. Restrict vehicle access with locked gates, fences and bollards.

Consider installing security lighting and cut back trees that might conceal criminals as they work.

There is more advice on the website: www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmetaltheft and also St Bartholomew's full story: www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/metal.pdf

¹ BBC News, 6 January 2021.

Risk helpline

The Ecclesiastical Risk Advice Line is available 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

Call: 0345 600 7531

Email: risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com

Taking a sabbatical in 2022

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and they are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2022. You can find out more about the awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on the website.

Find out more: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Rebuilding stronger from COVID-19

Churches and Christian charities throughout the UK and Ireland have received more than £3.8 million in funding to support their communities to rebuild stronger in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Allchurches Trust's Hope Beyond programme has supported more than 500 projects aimed at tackling loneliness, boosting mental health and building digital resilience. While the programme has now closed, Allchurches – the charitable owner of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group – is currently considering the next phase of its COVID-19 response.

St Luke's Healthcare for the clergy has received £20,000 Hope Beyond funding to offer counselling and therapy to support clergy and their families suffering as a result of COVID-19, giving them increased resilience and skills as they help the most vulnerable.



Shine – the community organisation working with St Stephen's Church in West Bowling, Bradford – will use its £5,500 Hope Beyond grant to transform a basement room into a counselling space, which leads onto a tranquil garden ideal for wellbeing groups.

To find out more about funding, and advice and resources for churches, head to www.allchurches.co.uk

Financial services

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides expert, independent financial advice including for pension, investments, life assurance and mortgages to the clergy, church people and PCCs.

Call: 0800 107 0190

Email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice



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.

Call: 0800 055 6503

Email: info@epsfunerals.com

www.funeralplans.co.uk



Car insurance

The Clergy Motor Insurance provided by Ecclesiastical 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.¹

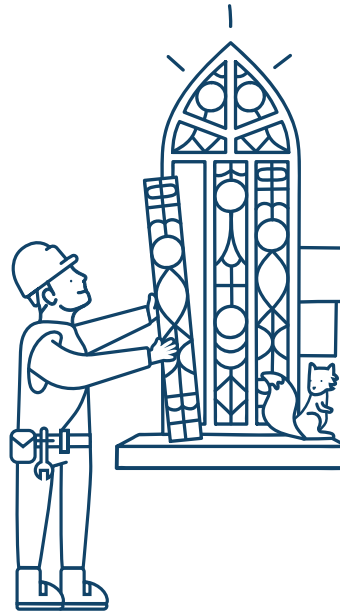
Call: 0345 450 9396

www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance

¹Subject to terms and conditions.



Protect your home and support your church with Trust130



Ecclesiastical has donated more than £430,000 to churches around the UK as part of their Trust130 campaign and it's been particularly helpful during the pandemic. Even the smallest amounts can make a big difference.

St Mark's and All Saints churches in West Parley, in the Diocese of Salisbury, are like many other churches – Treasurer Derek Warner is looking at a shortfall of between £15,000 and £18,000 for the year. Ecclesiastical's recent Trust130 donation of £650 went into general funds, and was a welcome addition.

'It's been extremely tough,' said Mr Warner. 'We have had no congregations, so obviously that means no collections. But even more importantly, we have lost all of our income from church hall lettings. We have survived by eating into our capital, and I'm looking at ways of cutting our budgets for 2021.'

'Donations such as the Trust130 money from Ecclesiastical Insurance are absolutely vital – they are really interested in helping churches and their communities and we're very grateful to them.'

Trust130 continues into 2021 to help and support churches

Ecclesiastical is really pleased to be extending the offer to run throughout 2021. Supporting your church is easy. Simply take out a home insurance policy¹ with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to the church of your choice. And, of course, the more people who take out home insurance policies, the more funds that are raised. So even if you've got a really ambitious goal – like raising funds for a new church roof – there's nothing to stop you.

Want to know more?

It really is wonderful to hear how this programme is helping customers and the things that matter to them. You can hear more about what some customers are saying in a brand-new film clip on Ecclesiastical's website – simply go to the website to watch:

www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

If you would like a home insurance quote or more information, simply call 0800 7830 130 and quote AVNEWS21.

¹Subject to terms and conditions – please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

Trust130.
Limitless donations.
Endless possibilities.



The Parish Support Service

The Parish Facing Support Service (PFSS) was launched in late 2020, and is designed to strengthen the relationships between parish-based officers and the Church House team. Our aim is to provide a responsive support service to meet the needs of the parishes we serve by offering, to all parish officers and clergy, a named point of contact within the Church House team. These Deanery Liaison Advocates (DLAs) will get to know you well; they will seek to understand the sort of help you need and they will answer your questions quickly and efficiently. If they don't know the answer to any particular question, they will know who to ask and they will signpost you to that person.

The DLAs and the DLA Buddies (who cover when DLAs are on leave) are trained in customer service skills and are well informed about, and connected to, the various departments within Church House.



How to beat online risks



Did you know that nine out of ten churches are using digital channels like live streaming and social media?¹ Are you one of them? If you are, we hope you're enjoying the digital world and all the exciting and engaging ways to connect to people it offers – quite a

difference to years gone by! Like anything, there are things to consider to keep it safe and secure, so you'll be pleased to know that your policy with Ecclesiastical will cover most of the insurance bits.

Your standard cover will protect you for things like copyright and data protection breaches, issues around wrongful acts by trustees, and loss and damage to equipment. You also have the option to add specialist cyber-crime cover. The power of technology offers a variety of great ways to interact with all aspects of your local and wider communities – especially younger people. You might use it

You may find that you already know your DLA as they all have other roles but, if you haven't yet been in contact, please do say hello – by phone or email! They are looking forward to hearing from you.

Archdeaconry of Bodmin

East Wivelshire	Sarah Welply
St Austell	Alex O'Byrne
Stratton	Sarah Welply
Trigg Major	Rebecca Evans
Trigg Minor & Bodmin	Rebecca Evans
West Wivelshire	Sue Thorold

Archdeaconry of Cornwall

Carnmarth North	Mel Pomery
Carnmarth South	Jane Horton
Kerrier	Mel Pomery
Penwith	Sue Thorold
Powder	Alex O'Byrne
Pydar	Sue Thorold

Sue Thorold, DLA for West Wivelshire, Pydar and Penwith, says: "I have personally found becoming a DLA a really positive experience. From the feedback I have had, I think the service has been well received by the parishes too.

"Getting to know the people in the deaneries, offering support and signposting to resources is especially important because if that makes life easier for the hardworking volunteers and clergy then surely it has to be a good thing."

for youth groups, choir practice, church council meetings, to host virtual services, a website, or to raise funds and run online events. As with most things, managing the risks that come with it is about more than just insurance, so you might also want to think about things like copyright permissions, licences and safeguarding. Here are a couple of example scenarios:

A piece of film used in a digital presentation might require permission or licensing, and GDPR legislation creates serious rights and responsibilities when naming people online – data protection errors can be costly. The same is true of an inadvertent libel – if it's published on a church website or social media, it's visible forever.

Innovative worship and communication inevitably mean more computers, routers and other hardware to be lost, stolen or damaged – not to mention software, which can be corrupted by viruses and is often expensive to clean or replace.

It's important to have policies in place to identify procedures and responsibilities, and to understand where your insurance cover ends and when a more specialist policy may be beneficial.

Our online article provides more guidance and support from Ecclesiastical, Church of England and Charity Commission, visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-digital-risks

¹Ecclesiastical research, August 2020

Parish Giving Scheme helped churches in 2020



The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) launched in Truro diocese in 2015 as a new way for donors to give to churches through the use of Direct Debit. This year sees the much-anticipated launch of the online giving platform through PGS with donors able to sign up online. This will be particularly helpful for parishes encouraging gifts from the wider community and visitors as well as their regular givers. The unexpected events of 2020 demonstrated that those parishes using regular giving through PGS or standing orders fared much better than those largely reliant on cash donations.

St Luke's Boscoppa is a small church with a big heart for serving the poor. For meeting with people where they are (not where it is). But this requires prayer warriors, it requires volunteers giving hours and hours of their time and gifts to see God's Kingdom come in its community, and it takes money!

St Luke's financial response to the COVID-19 pandemic was a complete act of God's grace.

The church family gave 25% (£2,400) more during 2020. There was a 30% increase in new donors to the Parish Giving Scheme – something which has been endorsed as the church's preferred method of giving since its launch.

All of this enabled the church to meet the additional costs of moving its outreach work and its ministry to people's doorsteps and gardens, to deliveries by Royal Mail (and of course to Zoom!).

To anyone without faith they would have looked at the church's accounts in March 2020 and thought 'they are going to have a significant loss of income'. But it never occurred to the PCC to limit what the income was spent on if it was what the church felt God was calling them to.

The parish says: "If we are honest, we have prayed for years for the day to come that we wouldn't have to fundraise to pay our

MMF and our local ministry and outreach work. Who'd ever have thought that would happen during a pandemic. Grateful for God's grace!"

For help and support with PGS and stewardship, please email pgs@truro.anglican.org or stewardship@truro.anglican.org or visit the Parish Giving Scheme website: www.parishgiving.org.uk/home/



Churchwardens – unsung heroes!

Churchwardens are some of the most valuable volunteers in any church, bearing much of the responsibility of running and maintaining the building, not to mention the day-to-day functioning of the parish. The wide range of duties Churchwardens undertake makes the role one of the most varied in the church community. From rising damp to blocked drains, un-serviced boilers to crumbling stonework, they always have plenty on their plate!

Matthew Clements has written a book, *Rotas, Rules and Rectors*, to, "help the Churchwardens of the Anglican church to thrive, rather than merely survive in the role."

With gentle humour based on solid experience and pragmatism, his book unravels what it is that Churchwardens actually do and what their job can entail. There are many pitfalls for the unwary... and just as many joys as well. Filled with practical wisdom and shrewd common sense, *Rotas, Rules and Rectors* has practical advice for Churchwardens and for those thinking of taking up the role or closely involved in parish work.

Copies of his book can be purchased online www.beingachurchwarden.com and any proceeds go to the Re-Ordering Fund at St Edburg's Church, Bicester.

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

Whilst Ecclesiastical has used reasonable endeavours to ensure that the information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication, please note: (a) the information is not intended to constitute a definitive or complete statement of the law on any subject, (b) the information may over the course of time become incorrect or out of date; and (c) neither Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc. nor its subsidiaries or parent company can accept any responsibility or liability for action taken or losses suffered as a result of reliance placed on the information provided in this newsletter.

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