

TELECOMS TIP

Many people still expect to be able to get in contact with the vicar, other member of the ministry team, or someone on the PCC, on the phone seven days a week (sometimes 24/7!).

Mobile phones are now widely in use but there is a tendency for the vicarage or office number still to be seen as widely accessible, whilst often the mobile is seen as more private. The cost also of having multiple devices or landlines is for many clergy or PCCs prohibitive, as well as being confusing for those wanting to make contact.

There are options available, such as call divert, but this is only possible if the phone is not there for family or household use.

Revd Chris McQuillen-Wright has found one other solution. He is responsible for a multi-parish benefice in North Cornwall and is away from his home desk more hours than not. Having a young family, coming home to answer phone messages is not only not realistic but also impacts on his wellbeing as, like many clergy, he can feel the need to be available even on days off.

He now uses [Landline Anywhere](#) (other providers have similar schemes). This gives him a dedicated local phone number, but not actually a phone line. Instead, calls go straight through to his mobile, or to others in the team. He can change which number the call goes to as often as he likes.

When he receives a call to his mobile from this number he is informed that is that number that has been rung, and he gets an email and a text message to that affect too. This is particularly helpful when he has a missed call. Chris says “it has completely changed for the better the way I work, and how we work together in the parishes, and improved my home-work balance. I would definitely encourage others to look into it”.

If you would like to chat to Chris about how the scheme works you can contact him at vicar@towanblystra.org or, of course, on the “landline” phone number 01637 479555.