

archdeacons'

visitation news

Spring 2016 - issue 13

Telling your faith story

Rowley Surridge, Truro

"As a young person I didn't go to church or Sunday school, but was blessed in knowing a Christian farming family in Kent. I was encouraged by my mother to attend our local church in Staffordshire where I sought confirmation, became a server and joined the choir. Later, travelling around North Cornwall in my job, I was blessed by rubbing shoulders with many different Christians, Catholics, Methodists, Charismatics and Pentecostals. This led me to experience a deepening of faith in the blessing of the Holy Spirit. At the age of forty I went through a divorce, but later met and married a lady who was to become an Anglican Priest, one of the first in Cornwall. Life is not always easy, but as a committed Christian I have never felt alone or friendless.

"The two Christian families I value most are that of Highertown and the Iona Community. I can't imagine life without God and the support and blessings that this has brought directly from him and through others."



Beth Elliott, St Minver

"My faith story began in my childhood. The Sunday school, church choir and youth group gave me a solid grounding, only faltering on leaving school and home to train as a nurse. Church then took a back seat.

"I finished training, got married, had two children and life was good, but something was missing. My faith was reawakened by my daughter's questions. Challenged about what I did believe, was I willing to let Jesus be in control?"

"I let Jesus in and my faith journey took me in unexpected directions. I have been nourished and sustained in house groups, having a prayer partner and soul friend and good bible teaching at CWR Waverley Abbey, Spring Harvest, Greenbelt, and latterly at Lee Abbey.

"Thus far, I am grateful for all the key faithful people God has placed in my life who have helped me to be who I am today."



Telling our faith stories

The Bishop's 2016 Lent Challenge has been to Speak Out and tell our faith stories. In the pub, at the gym, over a cup of coffee, walking the dog, queuing at the post office – we have found so many opportunities to say something of what our faith in Jesus means to us. We must not stop now!

When he issued the challenge at the end of January, Bishop Tim said: "It is a challenge for us all to regain the habit and confidence of speaking about the things of faith. To speak hope, to speak love, to tell our story. As St Paul puts it, for us to be bold in our hope, to be bold in speaking".

This must become a habit for us. How else are others to understand why we attend church or what God's love can do in our lives?

Continuing the habit, two of our churchwardens have shared part of their faith story with us here.

Add your faith story at www.trurodiocese.org.uk/faith and read more from other people.

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'Tending God's Acre'

Looking after your churchyard

The churchyard can mean so many things to many people – a place to remember their loved ones, a quiet spot for peaceful contemplation, a haven for flora and fauna, a repository of centuries of local history.

For churchwardens and Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) it can be these things and more – including a maintenance and health and safety headache and a conundrum of varying responsibilities.

As ever, the message to the perplexed is 'fear not, help and advice is at hand'. The best starting place, as so often for all matters relating to church buildings and their surroundings, is the wonderful ChurchCare website www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/looking-after-your-church/churchyards

You'll find helpful and practical advice relating to all things churchyards, including information on burials, memorials and wildlife in churchyards.

The diocesan regulations and various forms and guides can also be found on the Diocese of Truro website www.trurodiocese.org.uk/parish-resources/looking-after-your-church/churchyards/



Churchyards: health and safety

Churchyards are beautiful places and evoke strong feelings among those connected with them. They can be difficult areas to manage and, due to the age of many gravestones, also potentially dangerous. We all know this, but don't always act upon this knowledge.



This year the issue of graveyard safety was sadly demonstrated when a serious accident occurred in one of our churchyards when a gravestone fell on a child.

Not all hazards can be eliminated, but Parochial Church Councils (PCCs) do have a responsibility to exercise "reasonable care" to ensure the safety of those who visit, and this applies particularly to the safety of memorials.

A PCC cannot guarantee the safety of all memorials, but a regular and fully documented safety inspection programme will go a long

way to fulfilling your legal obligations. What amounts to "a regular safety inspection programme" is difficult to determine, but Ecclesiastical recommends a twice-yearly inspection in the first year and thereafter annually as being good practice. If this hasn't been the regular practice of your PCC, now is the time to start. Guidelines for health and safety including churchyards can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/zu96yzj> which will take you to a PDF on the Ecclesiastical website.

Living churchyards

On a more positive note, churchyards can provide a wonderful, protected habitat for a wide range of plants and animals.

Caring for God's Acre run a Cherishing Churchyards Week each year. This year the week runs from **4 to 12 June**. It's not too late to join in. There are lots of resources to help you run activities during the week (and beyond), and it is a good way to encourage people into your churchyard and church and promote an understanding of how we manage our churchyards throughout the year.

You could organise a treasure hunt or mini beast safari, run a game or two of 'tree bingo' or nest box making. You could combine the week with a project and encourage volunteer activities such as memorial recording, bramble or path

clearing or perhaps workshops on singing, the dawn chorus in your churchyard or plant identification. The list is endless and Caring for God's Acre has resources available to help you. To find out more about taking part in Cherishing Churchyards Week, go to: www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/index.php/cherishing-churchyards-week/cherishing-churchyards-week-2.html

These 'living churchyards' are also a great opportunity to reach out to your local school or nursery. A 'Caring for God's Acre' education pack may be downloaded from the diocesan website at www.trurodiocese.org.uk/running-your-parish/graveyards-gardens/

Our churchyards provide a chance to care for a small but vital part of God's creation.



We can also insure your home!

Just call us for a quote on **0800 917 3345** or go online at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchworker

Keeping up to date

Don't forget our Church Matters website has a wide range of information, guidance and tools you can use to help you look after your church.

Full of risk management guidance and useful information, you can quickly find out about important topics like health and safety. Many customers also now get regular updates by email – just let us have your email address if you too would like to be updated in this way. For further information:

Our website:

www.ecclesiastical.com/church

Customer services:

call **0845 777 3322** or email churches@ecclesiastical.com

Claims:

call **0845 603 8381** (24-hour service) or email churchclaims@ecclesiastical.com

Our customer service lines are normally open Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, except for bank holidays. However, claims can be registered at any time during the day or night.



Arson advice for churches from Loyd Grossman OBE

We have enlisted the help of Loyd Grossman OBE, Chairman of The Churches Conservation Trust, to present a new video for us on the major disruption that arson can bring to churches and their communities.

Arson poses a major security challenge for church communities. Fires can be started deliberately, either by arsonists or thieves concealing their crime and churches are often viewed as a soft target. In the event of a serious fire, a church may take 2-3 years or more to fully restore causing major disruption to services and other church activities. Loyd explores these issues and provides some practical tips to reduce the risk of arson affecting your church.

Visit our website at www.ecclesiastical.com/churcharson to find out more and also download our arson checklist.

Building Works Made Simple

Churches call us all the time for advice about works they are having planned so we have introduced another in our Made Simple guide series to provide help and advice about the insurance implications.

The guide sets out when you need to contact us and the issues that might arise, such as different types of contract, hot works and scaffolding. Our website also includes simple forms to complete where you need to apply for confirmation of insurance cover to get faculty approval and for you to tell us about more significant building projects. Just visit www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple where you can view this and the other guides in the series.

The Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2015

Don't forget, if your church is employing a contractor you have duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The Regulations aim to protect the health and safety of people working in construction and others who may be affected by their activities.

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE)

website www.hse.gov.uk explains what clients need to do and you can find out more in our Building Works Made Simple Guide.



Independent Financial Advice

Do you need help with your finances? Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services can offer you totally independent financial advice on investments, retirement and protection. They can also help parishes who have funds to invest. Please note, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future performance.

For more information call: **0800 107 0190** or email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

Simplifying faculties

'Make things simpler for clergy and church officers' was (the then) Archbishop Rowan's request in 2010.

He wanted to release people from spending so much time on administration and legal requirements, so that we could focus on the real task of the Church in sharing God's good news with people. In the life of the Church, six years is a very brief time indeed, and already the simplification process is bearing fruit in terms of applying for faculties.

Last year the Diocese of Truro was chosen to pilot an online faculty system. All applications in our diocese are now made this way, and churchwardens have found that, once initial hesitations are overcome, it is indeed a time-saving process.

"It made things so simple in my experience... and I could not believe it when the outcome fluttered onto my screen much sooner than 'the letter' would have reached me."

David Watters, St Germans

"We like the new system which also keeps us up to date as to what stage the application has reached."

Clare Lee, St Dominick

"The online forms are intuitive and the guidance clear. I was able to complete the



Online faculty system

details required speedily. Best of all our architect also had direct access and could input the specification directly... it seemed no time at all before the signed, sealed faculty appeared in the post."

Andy Thompson, St Neot



Clare Jones

Clare Jones, the new DAC secretary, is always ready to offer guidance and support over the phone to help overcome any teething problems new users may have as they register, upload documents

or decide where information should go.

In addition to the online applications, on 1 January this year new faculty jurisdiction rules came into play which make it possible to do work on our churches without making faculty applications. List A itemises the work that can be done on a church without the need for consultation, but with listed conditions. List B itemises work that requires consultation with the Archdeacon (and through the Archdeacon with DAC members), but that does not require the granting of a faculty (or the posting of public notices). Consultation must take place through the online system, and conditions may be placed upon the way in which the work happens, but this is much simpler than making a full faculty application. Already churches are finding the benefits of this simplification. Further details can be found at www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/faculty-rules-2015

Donations and grants

The **Parish Giving Scheme** marked its first anniversary in the Diocese of Truro in April, and in that time over 30 parishes, including the Cathedral, have signed up.



All are now enjoying the benefits of having donations made directly to the church and Gift Aid collected on their behalf and paid in full every month.

Those joining are given the option to increase their contribution annually in line with inflation, which maintains the value of their gift to the Church.

St Minver was the first church to sign up and treasurer Berin Gowan shares their experience:

"It's a very personal thing, how you see your giving. There is an inherent reluctance

to change and to just carry on with what you've always done, and of course that's why giving stays the same. Some people realised they hadn't increased their giving for five years so this was the opportunity to step up. From a treasurer's point of view, PGS is brilliant, and from a cashier's point of view cashing up at the end of a service it's brilliant, but you have to carry people with you."

For more information, go to www.trurodiocese.org.uk/mission/stewardship/parish-giving-scheme/

For those parishes involved in innovative working and in need of extra resources, **Archbishop's Council Mission Fund (ABCMF)** grants are available.

The aim of the grants is to provide extra resources for innovative parish working,

encouraging churches to try new things leading to the growth of the Church. In the last year we've been able to financially assist new toddler groups, Open the Book projects, parenting courses, Cornwall Deaf Church conference, Food Association and Nightstop, among others.

It is an easy application process and for more information go to www.trurodiocese.org.uk/mission/funding/ or contact Rebecca Evans on rebecca.evans@truro.anglican.org or 01872 360039. Rebecca can also give advice on any other funding requirements.

More information on matters such as parish administration and Gift Aid can be found on the Church of England's Parish Resources website at www.parishresources.org.uk

Key events in 2016

Cherishing Churchyards Week
4-12 June

Queen's 90th birthday celebrations
12-15 June

Diocesan Roadshows
5, 11, 13, 17 October
8, 15 November

Diocesan Synod
5 November



Queen's birthday celebrations

The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations take place on 12-15 June and I know many of you are involved in organising events to mark the occasion.

Our churches will join others across the nation in mounting exhibitions that show something of our lives over the last 90 years.

Why not have a faith story exhibition? What a brilliant opportunity to find a new way to tell the faith stories of various individuals and of our churches.

We know people are already hard at work organising their exhibitions. It would be such a shame if these displays didn't remain in our churches for the rest of the summer – helping all our visitors to understand what our faith is about and how it affects our lives.

www.trurodiocese.org.uk/faith

Copyright

In these days when it is so easy to reproduce sound, text or images, it is just as easy to contravene copyright requirements.

We have got used to thinking about the copyright implications of reproducing the words of hymns on service sheets or projecting them on a screen, but there are so many other areas to consider in this digital age. A poem printed onto a pew sheet, which is then uploaded onto your church's website, could make you vulnerable to a hefty fine! Music that is played in the hall for a keep fit class, pictures that are photocopied for the Sunday Club to use in church, background music that is played in church while it is open for visitors, a film club in the parish rooms... all these things (and more) could be subject to copyright legislation.

It is only fair and right that copyright owners are paid for the work that they have engaged in to write their hymn/compose their music/draw their picture/create their poem/record their CD. As churches we should take care to act fairly in this area (and protect ourselves from possible litigation). The most comprehensive service



Copyright CCLI

of copyright licensing provision for churches comes from CCLI (formerly Christian Copyright Licensing International). It fully understands the needs of churches and offers a range of licenses to suit each church's particular needs. It provides an 'at a glance' guide plus a churches 'healthcheck' and other facilities on its website:

churches.uk.ccli.com/



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 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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