

 Diocese of Manchester

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens

Churchwardens are lynchpins and a gift. Without them we could not serve God in our parishes with such confidence.

However, because they're important, they should not be left alone to do everything. The Bible reminds us that teams matter and that none of us, whether lay or ordained, are called to serve Jesus alone.

Consider how Jesus sends out the first disciples in pairs. These demanding missions – in which people not so different from us were sent forth in service of the Gospel – were undertaken in fellowship and mutual support.

Yes, the circumstances facing Jesus's first followers were different to our own, but when we undertake shared ministry, we follow the pattern commended by the Lord. How do we inhabit this pattern? I think the answer lies, in part, in deep prayerful attention to God and one another. God calls us to look out for one another.

This vocation to look out for one another is both about pastoral care as well as a prayerful working together to spot and develop individual gifts so that we share the workload.

When we attend to one another, prayerfully, I believe we are drawn deeper into the life God wants for us. I don't underestimate the challenge of caring for huge buildings or addressing rising costs. Equally, I don't want us to forget the goodness of shared ministry grounded in mutual prayer and support.

As St Paul reminds us, 'We are to bear each other's burdens, so that there is more than one shoulder under the weight of life.' That's our challenge for this year: to be the kind of congregations, parishes, mission communities that support one another to share the load and step forward into God's mission.

This year, let's keep our eyes and hearts open to God's promptings. When we do this, wonderful things can happen. We all have a part to play in this. As we look to Jesus, he reveals the Way of Life, and we walk together.

St Paul also says, 'We are strengthened by one another and able to bear up under the weight of the suffering of this world.' These are challenging times, but I still believe that God provides all we need, and more, for his Kingdom to break into this weary world. In our shared ministry, we know the grace of God.

Venerable Dr Rachel Mann

Archdeacon of Salford and Bolton



**The Venerable
Dr Rachel Mann**
Archdeacon of Salford
and Bolton



The Venerable Karen Best
Archdeacon of Manchester
and Acting Archdeacon of
Rochdale



In Vacancy
Archdeacon of Rochdale





Running a Giving Campaign

Generosity and a deep appreciation for all God has given to us are at the heart of our faith. We serve a generous God who gave His only Son so that we might have life in all its fullness. He longs for us to share this generosity with others.

Often, we are hesitant to ask for financial donations and are not always clear about the needs of our parishes. We know that people want to help, but don't always understand the impact they can make by giving generously to their church.

A recent Anglican Giving Survey highlighted two important findings:

- almost half of those surveyed would give more if they understood the impact of their giving
- most people would increase their church giving to help their local community.

We should not shy away from asking our church members to review their giving or consider moving to regular donations. Nor should we assume that people will respond without prompting; we have to ask, explaining the need for their support and the vision to which they are contributing.

Why not send a letter to the members of your congregation and consider producing a brief leaflet to give out to those attending?

The Giving Survey also found that less than one-third of Anglicans say they are regularly thanked for their giving. An annual thank you letter is a fantastic opportunity to show appreciation for the generosity of your community, share how their donations have helped in the mission of your church, and encourage them to review their giving for the year ahead.

Our website contains everything you need to run a simple giving campaign, including template letters and leaflets. Head to:

www.manchester.anglican.org/giving-campaign

Parish Share

Our parishes' finances are closely linked with those of the diocese and the national Church. It is thanks to the generosity of individuals and our parishes that we have been able to continue our work together across the Diocese of Manchester – reaching out to new people, developing our spiritual lives and serving our local communities. We want to thank you for your financial giving to your church and the wider diocese.



Our parishes contribute to the work of the diocese by giving Parish Share. Over 50p in every pound we spend together as a diocese comes from money generously given in churches each week and passed on to the diocese through Parish Share. We don't get any money from the

Government, although we do get money from the national Church to help support parishes in the most deprived areas in our diocese.

Parish Share helps cover the costs of the clergy in our diocese – their stipend and housing costs as well as National Insurance and pension contributions.

Over the last few years, many of our parishes have been struggling to give Parish Share in full. This leaves a hole in the diocese's budget every year that we cannot keep filling by spending reserves.

We have already had to reduce the number of clergy in our diocese and we don't want to have to reduce this further. Unless our parishes give the full amount of Parish Share, we will have no choice. This is why we are asking every parish to look again at the amount of Parish Share they are giving.

If you find that your parish cannot pay your Parish Share, please contact your Area Dean and Archdeacon who will then discuss your parish situation with you and tell you where to find further support.

For more information, head to:

www.manchester.anglican.org/parish-share

Carolyn McGloughlin, Parish Support Officer, is also here to help.

carolynmcgloughlin@manchester.anglican.org



Enhance your church's fundraising efforts

Whether you're raising funds for new facilities, building repairs, youth worker recruitment, or daily running costs, the Ecclesiastical Fundraising Hub provides resources to aid your church's growth in fundraising. This practical hub is organised into user-friendly steps, each offering information, guidance and tools, regardless of your fundraising experience.

Explore a wealth of articles, blogs and supporting documents on various topics such as digital fundraising, capital projects, understanding the grants process and forming fundraising teams. Access a free searchable list of church funders providing grants, along with tailored fundraising support for small rural churches.

Also, to support time-constrained churches and volunteers, looking for quick information on the diverse fundraising landscape, the hub offers concise, insightful bitesize videos addressing key fundraising issues. Additionally, sign up for live, free webinars conducted in collaboration with Philanthropy Company across 2024. For additional help, call the fundraising helpline below.

📞 0345 601 9959

🌐 www.ecclesiastical.com/churchfundraising



An update from grant-making charity, Benefact Trust



BENEFACT TRUST

Every day, Benefact Trust, the charitable owner of Benefact Group, witnesses the crucial role churches and charities play in our communities. Since the Trust was established in 1972, it has awarded over £256m in funding to support these organisations to thrive and make a positive

impact in society. Benefact Trust's grants support a range of causes and there are many heart-warming stories to be found on the website.

🌐 www.benefacttrust.co.uk/news



Nominate your church for a chance to win



The Movement for Good Awards programme is back again with grants of £1,000 and more to give to churches and charities. Ecclesiastical is proudly part of the Benefact Group, who are giving away over £1 million to churches and charities in the 2024 Movement for Good Awards.

£1,000 draws are now open for nominations

- You can nominate your church or favourite charity for the £1,000 draw.
- You can nominate as many charities as you like; it's one nomination per charity per person.

There are six £1,000 draws this year giving away between £50,000 and £120,000 in each. Once you've nominated, share your nomination, and get your friends and family to support too.

Did you know?

The Movement for Good Awards has gifted over £5.75 million to more than 2,500 charities since the initiative started in 2019.

Last year, A Rocha UK was awarded £5,000 in the Environment and Climate special draw. A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working to protect and restore the natural world and is committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment.

Also, in 2023, £11,000 was awarded to 10 church-related charities through the £1,000 Movement for Good Awards; Kilkenny Christian Centre in ROI actually won twice! So please get nominating; next time it could be your church! You can find out more at:

🌐 www.movementforgood.com/ecclesiastical

Contains promotional material

Would you like to sign up for e-news?

The monthly e-news is full of useful information to support you in areas such as fundraising, church security and environmental impact. Signing up is easy and you can unsubscribe whenever you choose. Many of Ecclesiastical's customers have chosen to receive this and we hope you would like to join them.

 www.ecclesiastical.com/signup



Financial support for your 2025 sabbatical

Established in 1987, the Ecclesiastical Ministry Bursary Awards (MBAs) have assisted over 1,400 clergy members in funding a variety of extended leave projects.


The experience of a sabbatical can be life-changing and have a positive and long-lasting impact on your church and community. One of the 2023 recipients, the Rev'd. Heston Groenewald, vicar of All Hallows Church in Leeds, received a bursary to support his local interfaith ministry.

He visited India and Pakistan to experience and learn more about the diverse cultures and customs that make up the fabric of the local community. On his trip, Heston experienced the Holi festival in India and celebrated Easter with Christians and Muslims in Lahore.

// The MBA grant enabled an amazing adventure around India and Pakistan and so has been a valuable, wonderful investment in my wellbeing and in my local interfaith ministry. **// Rev'd. Heston Groenewald**

The application window for the 2025 MBA programme is now open and closes in September 2024. In 2025, we are particularly keen to see more sabbaticals which aim to support the drive for net zero carbon.

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

 www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Invest in making a difference

Worries about social matters, our planet and the environment are factors most of us think about daily. To do more to help address these concerns, there is increasing interest from people looking to invest ethically in accordance with their principles.

What is ethical investing?

Richard Wood, Director of Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (pictured below), explains, "Put simply, ethical investments allow people to invest without sacrificing their environmental, social, moral or religious principles while at the same time aiming to make a profitable return."



Ethical investment funds can be screened using negative or positive criteria. For negatively screened funds, the fund manager will, for example, be screening investments to avoid a range of activities considered harmful – such as companies involved in manufacturing tobacco.

When using positive screening, fund managers actively identify companies that make a positive

social impact or who invest sustainably and/or responsibly. They will have, for example, good corporate governance and employment practices as well as being active in making a positive impact on the environment.

To find out more about ethical investing, contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services today.

 **0800 107 0190**

 **getadvice@ecclesiastical.com**

 **www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice**

Please note: The value of investments can go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you invested. Your capital is at risk.

Looking for help to go green?

Give your parishioners a warm welcome!

We all want our church buildings to be welcoming spaces for both prayer and for wider community activities, but particularly in the chilly months, keeping buildings warm is a challenge and can be costly and harmful to the environment.

Wherever you are in your journey to reduce your church's carbon emissions, Ecclesiastical would like to help. For example, they would like to spread the word about some interesting innovations that they've come across recently.

Warming chandeliers

St Matthew's has been trialling innovative radiant heating chandeliers in their church in Bristol. These chandeliers use a very gentle wavelength of heat, like that of the winter sun, and they warm just the space needed, not the whole church. They have proved much cheaper to run than a central heating system and can help to lower your carbon footprint.



Through the Movement for Good awards, Ecclesiastical awarded a £35,000 grant to St Matthew's in 2023, which will allow them to make the trial installation permanent. If you would like to consider applying for a similar grant, further information can be found on page 3. Also, if you wish to install this type of heating, please let the Ecclesiastical Underwriters

know, so that they can advise on any potential insurance implications and ensure the system itself is covered.

Heated cushions

Another innovation, helping church communities take steps to reduce their carbon emissions by warming people not spaces, is a heated seat cushion! These are powered by lithium-ion batteries which are widely used as a power source in portable electrical products. However,



if you do choose this option, it is important to select seat cushions and fabrics that have an appropriate fire performance and to follow the guidance on charging the cushions. Cushions should comply with British Standards and have the CE mark. If you think that this is an option for you, you will find guidance about the cushions here:

www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/church-heated-cushions

Ecclesiastical has also developed a new Made Simple guide, which can support you on your journey to make your church buildings more environmentally friendly. It includes information about other alternative heating systems like heat pumps, information about LED lighting and much more.

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

If you have any tips that have helped your church in its environmental journey, why not drop Ecclesiastical an email and they can share your ideas in their monthly digital newsletter.

weboffice@ecclesiastical.com



Insurance made simple!

As church insurance experts, Ecclesiastical is well placed to help you navigate many of the complicated insurance responsibilities of your church. They have created a series of 'Made Simple' guides which highlight potential risks and insurance implications of the day-to-day running of churches.



The guides also offer help with activities and projects that PCCs often become involved in, which include:

- Climate change and your church
- Administering insurance
- Building works
- Church events
- Church property
- Church valuation
- Community outreach
- Digital technology
- Legal expenses
- People on church premises
- Unoccupied buildings

You can find lots more information at:

www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple

Herschel Infrared



Funeral planning

As you know, funerals can be costly, but Ecclesiastical can help you make provisions to reduce the financial worry for your family when the time comes and ensure your wishes are provided for.¹

¹ Terms and conditions apply – see website for details.

☎ **0800 055 6503**
✉ **info@epsfunerals.com**
🌐 **www.funeralplans.co.uk**

Car insurance

Ecclesiastical's Clergy Motor Insurance has been tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, unlimited windscreen cover and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹ To find out more about the benefits of this policy, get in touch with Ecclesiastical.

☎ **0345 450 9396**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance**
¹ Subject to terms and conditions



Month by month support



So you can better look after your church and parishioners, Ecclesiastical has again produced their easy-to-view calendar to help you plan maintenance activities throughout the year.

🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-calendar**

Insure your home with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to a church of your choice

Trust130 is just one of the ways in which Ecclesiastical gives back to the community; for every new direct home insurance policy taken out, Ecclesiastical offers to donate £130 to an Anglican church or cathedral of the policyholder's choice.¹

Since 2017, Ecclesiastical has donated over £500,000 to more than 2,500 churches in the UK.

A £130 donation really helped **St Peter's Church in Parwich**. Church Treasurer **Stuart Chambers** told Ecclesiastical:

“ If you're short of numbers, it's a big job keeping everything ship-shape. I have a ride-on mower, but you can't get to the actual graves on that so inevitably they can look a bit unkempt, which is a real shame. ”

With the £130 donation, St Peter's was able to keep its graveyard looking neat and tidy by paying for a man with a strimmer.

Award-winning home insurance

As well as supporting your church, when you take out a home insurance policy with Ecclesiastical you are joining one of the most trusted home insurance providers with the happiest customers.²



Ecclesiastical continued to top the Fairer Finance league table in Spring 2024 for home insurance for a record 19th consecutive time, retaining the gold ribbon status. Their buildings and contents cover is also a Which? Best Buy and it was voted the best home insurance in the Times Money Mentor Awards in 2023.³



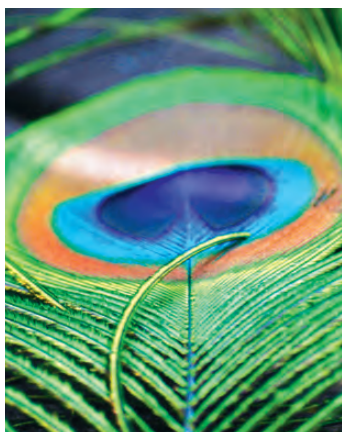
Get a home insurance quote

Ecclesiastical is a specialist insurer who understands the needs of those working in the church and for the church. Their policy helps to protect your home and takes into account the extra duties you carry out for the church.

☎ **0345 777 3322** and quote **CHOPS24**
🌐 **www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance**

¹ Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130-terms ² www.fairerfinance.com/ratings/customer-experience-ratings/home-insurance ³ www.ecclesiastical.com/homeinsurance

The Theology of Art



God is an artist. He delights in all that is made and each creation tells us something of his glory. Art moves us beyond practicality. Art is both beautiful and meets us in our minds and bodies – sometimes for healing.

In the moments when we create or enjoy, our entire soul is fed and nourished, sustaining us for the journey ahead.

“God could have easily spoken a monochrome cosmos into being. He could have made an all-grey universe – grey planets, grey animals, grey-on-grey rainbows in a grey sky. Even oranges would be called ‘greys’. This Greytopia could’ve been perfectly efficient and functional from an engineering perspective. Why, then, make our multi-hued universe? Why the colour spectrum? Why red strawberries, orange oranges, and yellow lemons? Why mandarin fish, peacocks, and chameleons? Because, as Genesis repeats seven times, ‘God saw that it was good.’ Evidently, God cares about more than efficiency and functionality. He also cares about beauty.”

Thaddeus Williams

Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours... Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.

St Theresa of Avila 1515-82

Pentecost

Spirit of God
put love in my life.
Spirit of God
put joy in my life.
Spirit of God
put peace in my life.
Spirit of God
make me patient.
Spirit of God
make me kind.
Spirit of God

make me good.
Spirit of God
give me faithfulness.
Spirit of God
give me humility.
Spirit of God
give me self-control.

From Galatians 5:22-23

The Venerable Karen Best

Archdeacon of Manchester
and Acting Archdeacon of
Rochdale



It's a Lovely Ministry



Amit Chawan serves as Churchwarden and Reader at St James', Moss Side in Manchester, the parish he has attended for the last 15 years.

When he first moved to the area from Pune, India, Amit worked at MRI as a nurse

and began attending St James' as he had been invited by friends. Amit now works as a teacher to medical students, a job which he loves and which he carries out alongside his roles in church.

Amit says, “My job provides that joy of sharing the compassion of Jesus even though they might not remember me when they’ve gone home. Jesus also calls us to grow in him and answer his calling.”

For Amit, a significant part of answering this calling was to become a Reader in church. “Reader ministry appealed to me as it was a way to demonstrate that you don’t have to be ordained to serve the Lord.”

Then Amit became the Churchwarden. Knowing that this would mean being part of a team of officers, Amit accepted an invitation to take on the role.

As one of two Churchwardens at St James', he says “The first year was a bit of a learning curve but I love it since then. I’ve got a colleague Churchwarden and we’ve just grown together as a team, it’s a lovely ministry and sits very well with my Reader ministry too. It’s a double job but I love it.”

Amit feels like many people are on the journey to volunteering in their church without realising, through observing others doing the work and knowing that this is something they would enjoy doing too. He encourages others to take the first step by taking on a small role at first to give a little back to their church and lighten the load on Churchwardens.

“I learned from my experience if you’ve got a supportive team and trust that the Lord is calling you to look after his church and his family, then you should give it a try.”

Find out more about focal leaders

Every church benefits from having a person who acts as the focal point for mission and growth, working with the congregation and drawing in the wider community. Experience and research in other dioceses suggest that the presence of a focal leader in church life is linked with increased growth of all kinds.

Focal leaders are now active in parts of the diocese and have varied roles depending on the needs of their parish.

Alan Davey, Focal Leader at St Paul's, Rawtenstall:



"When the role of focal leadership was first discussed, it stood out to me as something that was absolutely needed. I've got a bit of a passion for lay involvement in the church."

Focal leadership can adapt to suit the needs of each church, and for Alan, there are two important aspects of focal leadership: to encourage people to participate in the church, and to

recognise when people are doing too much so he can look for ways to help lighten the load.

Alan draws people into the action of the church and encourages people to pursue what they are passionate about.

"I view my position as leading a team of good people with different skills who do things in church, and I help people to use their talents.

"If you have a good team around you who are hard-working and gifted, it's about giving them the confidence to find how they can help and encouraging them to give it a go. I just let them know that we're all in this together."

Robina Jones, Focal Leader at St George's, Unsworth:

"I am there for the congregation, acting as a person of welcome, someone they can ask for help and advice on anything related to the church."



For Robina, being a point of contact for the congregation comes naturally. She is used to being at the front through leading the all-age service, and people often approach her to ask about upcoming events or services. She is also a visible face of the church for both regular attendees and newcomers thanks to her role in welcoming and greeting people every Sunday.

Prayer also plays a huge role in Robina's focal leadership, having undertaken prayer courses so that she can pray alongside and for people within the congregation. "Prayer is very important for me... I want my congregation to know that I'm there for them with that as well."

Robina would encourage anyone involved in their church to consider taking on the focal leadership role, saying, "It doesn't cost me anything – I just give my time and basic knowledge, and if you want to help your church and congregation, it's a wonderful position to take!"

Find out more at:

 www.manchester.anglican.org/focal-leadership



For more information

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

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **X:** @churchmatters



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