

 Diocese of Derby

archdeacons' visitation news

Dear Churchwardens

An architect once said to a churchwarden, ***“Look after the water that falls on the roof and goes into the gutters, the hoppers and downpipes, then into the drains and away from the building. If you do that, you have done four-fifths of the job, and the church won’t fall down on your watch”.***

Wise words I am sure for all embarking on the wonderful role of churchwarden, but perhaps over the last couple of years it’s been more about risk assessments and **Hands, Face, Space!**

So, it is not all about the fabric and increasingly, wardens need to apply themselves to a wide variety of tasks both practical and administrative. So, I want to say a huge “thank-you” to you all. This newsletter and indeed our visits to your churches are there to offer help and support. We are so grateful for all the time you take to support your ministerial teams, your PCCs and congregations. In this edition, we have tried to comment on and give help particularly to those of you in vacancy, as we know and appreciate the extra burden you carry.

I have now been in the diocese for four years and during that time it has been an immense privilege to get to know some of you more closely – as I have taken services, worked on vacancies with you, or if I have managed to visit your churches for those ‘Archdeacon’s Inspections’!

Your role as churchwardens is crucial for living out the gospel with our diocesan vision to transform lives through growing church and building communities. But this is not going to happen just through the activity of a few enthusiasts. We need to be in this together. So how can you help?

Talk about growth: We have a lot to learn about new ways of being church as we emerge from this pandemic, so talk about what that means for you. How will we enable growth in our worshipping communities? How do we reach new communities, areas of new housing? How do we respond to the many visitors that will return to holiday in Derbyshire?

Pray for each other: Nothing will happen without creative inspiration and the loving energy of God... that is what can build communities... that is our root for growth. So, take time in prayer and offer others new opportunities for prayer.

Plan for the future: There are no easy answers to the problems we face, of reduced resources both in people and numbers, but that doesn’t mean we cannot have hope for a future that can transform lives and make a real difference. So why not start by

asking yourselves what do you spend your time and money on that might enable spiritual and numerical growth?

That’s a good question to ask when using the new Mission Action Toolkit that we are encouraging every parish to engage with and is now available from <https://derby.anglican.org/map>

And finally, it’s pretty important to remind ourselves that it is not all about ourselves. Ultimately, we are here to love God and to love others. We seek for all people and for all creation, the transforming life and love which is the Kingdom of God. That is Good News for all.

Both Peter and I thank you for your partnership in sharing the gospel and for your prayers over this last year. As we journey on together in reshaping our future, welcoming new archdeacons into the fold, adding more capacity to support you, we do so with great Faith, Hope and Love.

Every blessing,

Carol Coslett
The Archdeacon of Chesterfield



The Revd Canon Peter Walley
Acting Archdeacon of Derby
Until May 2022



The Venerable Carol Coslett
Archdeacon of Chesterfield
Becomes Archdeacon of Peak and Dales



The Venerable Karen Hamblin
Archdeacon of East Derbyshire
From 13/01/22



The Venerable Matthew Trick
Archdeacon of Derby City & South Derbyshire
From 13/01/22

Mission Action Toolkit – a starting point for your vacancy?



The Mission Action Toolkit is a set of resources that can help any church to review the ways in which they are called to engage in God's mission within their communities. It's perhaps easy to think that during a vacancy, a church should 'hold station' rather than making any big decisions; after all, there's

enough to do! However, although the Toolkit is valuable at any time, it can be of particular help during a vacancy.

The Toolkit is a more focused, streamlined distillation of **Mission Action Planning for the Diocese of Derby**, which we have been using since 2010. It isn't burdensome and is adaptable for use in any context, tradition or style of church.

The Toolkit helps you to pause and reassess something that's central to the identity and purpose of every single expression of church – engaging in God's mission. Through helping churches to celebrate what God is already doing in and through them and to hear God's call to grow and develop their mission, the Toolkit can help in several ways through a vacancy:

- To pause and reflect on the church's mission at the start of a new chapter
- To hear God's particular mission priorities for the church and focus on them, rather than trying to do everything
- To understand what areas of mission might be for the next season of the church's life, which will help to discern the sort of person God is calling to lead the church
- To help write a profile that communicates not only that the church is committed to mission, but also the particular shape that mission might take (and therefore what gifts, skills and experience might be needed)

You can download the Toolkit by going to <https://derby.anglican.org/map>, including:

- **Quick Start Guide** – an accessible introduction for anyone in the church
- **Introduction for Church Leaders** – intended for lay and ordained leaders
- **Missional Aims Summary** – with a quick at-a-glance picture of their different aspects
- **Resource Sheets** – with Bible reflections, discussion questions and suggested actions

For more information, help and advice in using the Toolkit, contact:

Jason Kennedy

Diocesan Missioner

Email: jason.kennedy@derby.anglican.org

Tel: 07539 483733

Terms Explained

Patronage, Suspension of Presentation and Pastoral Reorganisation



Historically, in the Church of England, there has been a system of patronage carried over from the pre-Reformation Church, with each benefice having a patron. Patronage is the right to present a priest to the diocesan bishop to serve in a particular benefice.

A patron can be an individual or body (e.g. a local landowner, the bishop, a clergy person

in a particular office, a university, college, patronage society such as CPAS, etc), a joint patronage (where patrons act together or in turns) or a special patronage board (made up of several patrons sharing the patronage between them and acting as one body).

In some circumstances, the Diocesan Mission & Pastoral Committee (which in the Diocese of Derby is Bishop's Council), after consultation with interested parties (the patron, bishop, archdeacon, area dean, lay chair, incumbent or priest in charge and PCC) will recommend that presentation is suspended. Suspension of presentation allows time for consideration of a change in ministerial provision, pastoral reorganisation or a change of the parsonage house for the benefice. Suspension is initially for a period of five years, although suspension may be lifted before then if the reason for the suspension has been concluded. A suspension can be renewed for an additional period of five years if more time is needed. Suspension of presentation does not

mean that a benefice goes without a clergy person; in a benefice where presentation has been suspended, the clergy person serves as Priest-in-charge rather than as rector or vicar.

Pastoral reorganisation refers to the process of, for example, redefining parish, benefice, deanery or archdeaconry boundaries. There may be reason to unite two or more parishes into a single benefice or to reorganise groupings of churches so that benefices are altered. A pastoral order can also be used to designate a different parsonage house for a benefice. Often the process of pastoral reorganisation is the legal formalisation of an informal arrangement of how churches have been working together for an extended period of time (e.g. a church or churches moving from one grouping of churches to another).

Extensive consultation is an extremely important part of suspension of presentation and pastoral reorganisation. In every instance, all interested parties (including the PCC) will have the opportunity to make their views known.

We recognise that patronage, presentation and pastoral reorganisation are not things that churchwardens and PCCs regularly have at the forefront of their minds and that these processes can seem confusing.

We're here to help – if you have questions, please drop us an email or pick up the phone, and we'll be happy to help guide you.

Kat Alldread

DAC Administrator

Email: Kat.Alldread@derby.anglican.org

Vacancy Survival Tips...

The experience of St Thomas Church, Brampton

As we emerged from that first lockdown, blinking into the light, our two wonderful clergy told us they were leaving. Both losses were expected and I had started to tap into the wealth of experience we have in our church. I had a meeting with our area dean and began to formulate a plan.



Mille Guthrie

Creating the Parish Profile

One of our previous rectors referred to the parish profile as the 'shop window' for the parish. I started looking at the myriad of different styles other churches had used for their profile during previous few years. I spoke to as many vicars as I could, asking them what they would like to find in a parish profile. What became apparent, quite quickly, was that photos of congregations and people engaged in activities

together really do tell stories and give an immediate sense of the parish to a prospective minister (consent for all who appear in photos must be received in writing). We formed a small team of five people – all with different skills – and put the profile together between us. Having a team is invaluable and we spent many hours getting the profile to where we wanted it to be. We then sent it to the PCC for their comments and suggestions. It is an exhaustive process and needs to pass through many hands before it's finished. From the PCC, it goes to the area dean and archdeacon and finally to the bishop, they all had a few suggestions on how it needed to be slightly tweaked. However, throughout the process it was always very much our profile and our recruitment for our parish.

Advertising the Role

The Diocese of Derby is making significant changes as we confront our new post-pandemic reality and as all businesses have had to adapt and adjust, so too has the Church. As a result of attempting to dance on a moving carpet, many churches in interregnum had a 'Suspension of Presentation' – we were not an exception and found we were recruiting a Priest-in-charge rather than a rector.

Choosing the Interview Panel and Organising the Interview Day

On every interview panel there will be your area dean and archdeacon plus two reps from the PCC. Once the panel is decided upon, it shortlists, writes the interview questions and organises the interview days. We had the candidates arrive at lunchtime for an informal lunch with some parishioners, gave them a tour of the church, vicarage and parish before a wine and nibbles evening with another group drawn from the wider church. The Bible study and formal interview happened the following day. Immediately following the final formal interview, we decided whom we would like to recruit.

Church During Interregnum

Whilst the recruitment process is underway, the parish still needs to be led and managed; services need to happen, flowers need arranging,

gutters need clearing etc. Everything your incumbent used to do is now the wardens' responsibility. If you are fortunate, you may have – as we did – a retired clergy willing to undertake some of the responsibilities. We were blessed indeed to have a newly retired member of the clergy who generously carried on leading and preaching on Sundays, in addition to officiating at funerals and interring ashes – along with offering advice and practical help on running the parish.

If you do have someone in your congregation who is retired clergy – ask what they are willing to do – you may be pleasantly surprised. We emailed all our church family with a request for help with leading, preaching, providing music, etc, and created a four-monthly rota. I emailed every member of the clergy I had ever met and most of them came and celebrated one communion service for us. Our area dean has been very generous and has worshipped with us many times. Your area dean is the person you can call on for help with finding clergy to lead communion services, weddings, christenings etc. Local clergy are also worth approaching as they may have the odd Sunday when they can come and help out. We have four readers who have led and preached too, along with a youth group that ran two services. We have also had many people preaching for the first time during this interregnum. It's been a revelation.

Along with the generosity of many of the church family, we have worked hard as wardens and PCC to lead from the front and be actively involved in everything that is happening at church. Not just Sunday worship, but the many clubs and activities that keep our church vital and outward facing – meeting regularly with the team running the church day to day is vital when you don't have an incumbent. Everyone needs to have the same hymn sheet and be holding it the right way up. People will moan and gossip and complain. Don't take it personally – your only job is to keep the show on the road. Be gracious and encourage your congregation to be kind to each other. Keep everybody up to date with what's happening whenever you can, as often as you can, by every method available to you. Delegate whenever possible. The more other people do, the more connected to the church and the process they will feel and the less moaning they will do. Don't just mark time waiting for a new minister – pray without ceasing, be proactive, start something new. It's relentless – but it will end.

Mille Guthrie

Churchwarden, St. Thomas Church, Brampton

DON'T MISS

Churchwardens' news, information and events can be found on our website. **Please visit** www.derby.anglican.org/en/church-admin/resources-for-churchwardens



St James' Church, Bonsall: a café is born!



At the beginning of 2021, it became evident that something had to be done. No services, no weddings equals no income! As with many small rural church communities in the country, our finances were becoming very precarious.

After much thought and head-scratching, one of our regular congregation thought of the idea of a church café. It seemed to me there were many obstacles to overcome, but she was very enthusiastic and had lots of ideas on how it could be achieved. A small group of volunteers came together to think about food hygiene, health and safety and Covid rules.

And so, St James' Church Café was born.

We are open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday of each week from 12 noon to 3.00 pm (summer opening may be different). We serve hot drinks, cobs, soup and of course cake. Everything is homemade and served by the small band of volunteers in the group plus two or three extra helpers from our village community.

Two of our local elderly residents have soup and cake taken out to them weekly and Bonsall School staff have Monday lunch from us. Books, cards and local crafts are also on sale. We now have a regular customer base not only from within the village, but walkers and visitors often return to see us. Local toddlers come to play in our children's corner while their parents drink coffee, and Bonsall Book Group changed its meeting time to coincide with opening hours. Books and cake, what could be better? We are very proud to report that over the festive period we were asked by a local business to provide the boxes of goodies he gave to his clients for Christmas, gift wrapped by one of the group. They looked fabulous.

The whole venture has not only provided great cake for all who call, but it has brought us all together, raised much-needed funds to help keep our beautiful church open and provided a welcoming space for village folk and visitors alike.

Jane David

Churchwarden, St. James' Church, Bonsall

Email: janedavid47@gmail.com

Tel: 01629 822983

Emerging from Lockdown...

A Churchwarden's story

At the start of 2020, John and I became joint wardens of St Michael and All Angels in Kniveton. I had been in post for a year or so, but I had leaned heavily on the more experienced warden. His sudden illness meant I had to step up, and John valiantly volunteered to support me.

And as soon as we began, coronavirus struck.

When we were told to close, we did, but as soon as we could, we worked with members of the church to create a safe environment and opened daily for private prayer. This meant risk assessments, daily cleaning rotas, posters and registers, ribbons to restrict access, and lots of sanitiser, but we did it and we have remained open daily ever since.

John and I have different skills but that's what makes us such a great team: John knows and cares for the community and ensures we take every opportunity to make the church central to village life. I keep up with the admin and paperwork.

Maybe our naivety has helped. We weren't restricted by the way we'd always done things because we simply didn't know, we just had to work it out and find a way that worked for us. There's a wealth of help online if you're not afraid to search, and we aren't alone. If you reach out to the community, someone always has the skills, the imagination, or the time and energy you need.

As we head into a slightly more 'normal' future, we do so with a repaired heating system and LED lighting, we are about to have our roof repainted (another learning point) and hopefully the stonework restored and repointed. But most importantly our worshipping community has grown from 20 to over 30. Who knows what this year will bring?

Mrs Jane Stoney and Mr John Astle



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.

Ecclesiastical Insurance Office plc (EIO) Reg. No. 24869. Registered in England at Benefact House, 2000 Pioneer Avenue, Gloucester Business Park, Brockworth, Gloucester, GL3 4AW, United Kingdom. EIO is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. Firm Reference Number 113848.