

Dear Churchwarden (and those who look after your Church Buildings),

Below is my monthly round up of information that might be of interest to you.

Thank you for completing the Energy Footprint Tool for 2023

Thank you to everyone who has completed or encouraged others in your parish to the Energy Footprint Tool. We have now had over 90% of churches complete this tool which gives us a much more accurate picture of our carbon output as a diocese. It will also help Bethan and I target support to parishes.

Diocesan Grants

Just a quick reminder that we have two diocesan grants currently available to support work on your church buildings. The **Minor Repairs and Improvement Grants** can be used for most repairs and improvements to a church building. The **Quick Wins Grants** can be used to support relatively small projects that will reduce the carbon output of your church building or church hall.

Further details and application forms can be found on the diocesan website [Church Buildings Resources - Diocese of Durham \(durhamdiocese.org\)](https://www.durhamdiocese.org) (scroll down to the Grants section) or by emailing martin.howard@durham.anglican.org

The Disability Project Parish Grants Scheme

From September 2024 parishes in the diocese will be able to apply for grants to support changes to their buildings that allow all people to access the buildings and engage in services and activities. There will be some smaller grants of £5000 and larger grants of up to £50,000. Further information will be available shortly at [Disability Project Parish Grants Scheme | The Church of England](#) and I will circulate details on how to apply in September.

Training Opportunities 2024

I will be finalising details of training sessions planned for the rest of the year in early September, so if you would like a session on a particular topic, please let me know and I will try arrange an event. I try to host sessions around the diocese so if your church would like to host a session, then please let me know.

You can book a place at any of the sessions by clicking on the booking link or if you prefer then just email me.

Date	Time	Venue	Event	Booking Link
Monday 16 th September	2.00pm	St Peter's, Jarrow	Annual Maintenance Schedule	https://bit.ly/48st1v4
October	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop	TBC
November	TBC	TBC	Undertaking Church Building Projects	TBC

Boilers and Heating Systems

Whilst it might seem strange to be talking about heating at a time of the year when we have probably just turned our heating systems off for the summer. During the summer is the ideal time to get heating systems serviced and this should include the whole heating system every few years as well as the annual boiler servicing. Now is also a great time to start looking at alternative low carbon systems, so that you know what would be suitable for your building and a rough idea of the likely costs of such a system.

Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum

It has been really good to see this forum being used more regularly to share or request information or advice. The online Churchwardens Forum uses Google Groups to allow you to ask questions and share information with other Churchwardens. If you would like to sign up and you can do so by clicking on the following link. [DDChurchwardenForum - Google Groups](#) If you are already on the Churchwarden Forum, why not ask a question. The more it is used the more useful it becomes.

Finally if you need any support regarding work on your buildings, please get in touch with me and I will do my best to find you the information that you require.

Kind regards
Martin

Martin Howard

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