

Dear Churchwarden,

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable summer. Below are some bits of information that you may find useful as you look after your church buildings. I have just returned from the National DAC Conference and some of the information from the conference is shared below.

RAAC

Whilst we are not aware of any church buildings that are likely to contain RACC panels in their construction it is possible that some church halls which were constructed during the period between the late 1950's and 1990's, may have it present. The Church of England hasn't provided any formal advice as yet but the following links will provide further information and if you have any concerns then please contact your Quinquennial Inspector.

<https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-guidance/>
[https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-\(raac\)-inve/](https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-(raac)-inve/)

Training Opportunities

I am looking to put together some training sessions to support the work of Churchwardens and would be grateful if you could complete the simple online questionnaire below indicating which if any sessions that you may be interested in attending. Some of the sessions will be online and some will be delivered in conjunction with Ecclesiastical Insurance. I also wondered if people would be interested in attending a full day session covering a range of topics.

[Churchwarden Training Needs \(google.com\)](#)

I have extended the deadline for completion to 15th September as I appreciate many people have been away over the summer.

Faculty Workshops

I will continue to run faculty workshops throughout the year and have arranged two more during the Autumn.

Tuesday 10th October, 7pm at St Mary Magdalene Church, Hart, Hartlepool

Thursday 12th October, 2pm at St Peter's Church, Yarm Road, Stockton On Tees

They can be booked by clicking on the following link <https://durhamdiocese.eventbrite.com>

If you need any individual support with faculty applications, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Church Heating

Now is the time of the year to be testing your heating and arranging servicing of boilers etc. if they have not been done this year. If problems are found now then you have time to arrange for repairs before the heating is actually required.

Webinars

The Church of England have put together a series of webinars focussed on getting to Net Zero Carbon that are free to join. They can be booked and watched via [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](#).

Some new webinars have just been planned including sessions on fundraising for Net Zero Carbon Projects. They are not yet on the website but can be booked via the links in the following document. [Eco Church, Land, and NEW fundraising webinars in Sep-Nov, plus links to past recordings \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

Suppliers and Contractors Database

I regularly get requests from parishes for details of contractors for various types of work on church buildings. We do not recommend any particular contractors but I am happy to pass on details of contractors that you have been happy with.

My database is only as good as the information that I receive and I would therefore be extremely grateful if you could send me details of all the contractors that you have used on your church building in recent years. I will circulate an updated directory in the next few months.

New Church Building Support Officer Post

We have been successful in a bid to the Church of England for funding to allow us to employ an additional Church Building Support Officer to work with parishes on seeking grants and arranging essential work to their buildings. If you know of anyone who you think may be interested in this post please ask them to check the vacancy page of the website over the next few weeks.

Webinar: Churches as Community Business Venues: Hubs Working Together

12th September 2023 1-2pm

I came across this free webinar and thought that some of you may find it quite interesting.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/churches-as-community-business-venues-hubs-working-together-tickets-682113468747>

Community organisations cost of living fund

The National Lottery Community Fund has opened a grant stream for organisations that run critical services around at least one of food and emergency supplies, emergency shelters, safe spaces, warm spaces and financial and housing advice. Exempted charities are eligible to apply, and the applicant organisation must show that it is under increased pressure because of the cost of living crisis. Applications close on 16 October.

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/community-organisations-cost-of-living-fund>

Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum

We have an online Churchwardens Forum using 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](#)

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

Buildings for Mission Secretary

Diocese of Durham

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