

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 94% 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 and further details of this support will be sent out during the autumn.

### **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](mailto:martin.howard@durham.anglican.org)

### **The Disability Project Parish Grants Scheme**

Parishes in the diocese can now 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 can be found at [Disability Project Parish Grants Scheme | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org) and if you click on the link you will find application details. Any completed applications should be sent to me. I will be meeting with the project lead monthly so you should expect an initial response within a month of application.

### **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 <sup>th</sup> September	2.00pm	St Peter's, Jarrow	Annual Maintenance Schedule	<a href="https://bit.ly/48st1v4">https://bit.ly/48st1v4</a>
October	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop	TBC
November	TBC	TBC	Undertaking Church Building Projects	TBC

To help me plan the training programme for later this year and 2025, I would be grateful if you could complete this simple survey. <https://forms.gle/8NSdcXfkS68r631Y9>

### **National Churches Trust: Church Awards: Deadline 5 September 2024.**

The National Church Awards are looking for 15 winners across five categories, with several awards reserved for churches in the four home nations.

The awards recognise achievements in conservation, tourism and volunteer work. Nominations are welcomed from churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK. This includes those cared for by a single building Trust, and we will accept one nomination from multi building Trusts. And for the many church groups in the UK that don't have a dedicated space for worship, nominations can still be made through the Volunteer and Lifetime Achievements categories.

The awards will be presented at a prestigious ceremony held in the chapter house of Lincoln Cathedral on 22 October, an event which will also be live-streamed.

<https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/impact/awards>

### **Heritage Open Days**

As the Heritage Open Days will be starting on 6<sup>th</sup> September some of our churches may be involved with this festival, Ecclesiastical Insurance have a selection of guidance to support churches. The guidance can be found here ;

- [Church events | Risk Management \(ecclesiastical.com\)](https://www.ecclesiastical.com)
- [Fire risk articles for churches | Risk Management | Ecclesiastical](https://www.ecclesiastical.com)
- [Church Risk Assessments | Risk Management \(ecclesiastical.com\)](https://www.ecclesiastical.com)
- [Managing Safety at Your Church | Risk Management | Ecclesiastical](https://www.ecclesiastical.com)

### **Filming in churches**

The guidance includes links to guidance already available online and includes a couple of bonus links on how to be an extra, should that be of interest to you. It can be found [here](#)

### **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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