

Dear Churchwarden,

As we approach the period of APCM's in our churches I would just like to thank you all for your hard work maintaining the church buildings over the last 12 months. For those stepping down from this role, I hope the hand-over to your new churchwarden goes well and do please forward this email on to them.

Below are a few pieces of information that you may find useful.

Training Needs

I want to support Churchwardens in their role and would like to provide relevant training and support. This could take the form of a formal training session on a particular topic or could perhaps be through forming some working groups to look at a specific area together. If you have specific topics that you would like support with then please let me know and I will try to put together relevant sessions over the coming months. Please email me on martin.howard@durham.anglican.org

Heating Survey

Thank you to those who have been able to share information on the heating in your church buildings. So far I have received information from just over 100 churches and a summary of the findings so far is attached to this email. Having this information is really useful in identifying the support we can offer churches, so if you haven't had chance to do it yet I would really appreciate your feedback. Please click on the link below.

[Durham Diocese Church Heating Survey \(google.com\)](#)

Environmental Officer

The Diocese are currently in the process of appointing an Environmental Officer who will be developing a diocesan plan on how we will reach Net Zero by 2030. Once they are in post, I'm sure that they will be in touch to both gather further information on your church buildings and discuss how they can support you in this challenge. One thing that would be really useful for them is if every church could complete the Energy Footprint Tool. This can be found at the following link [Energy Footprint Tool | The Church of England](#)

Climate resilient church

The Church of England webpages on [climate resilience](#) have been updated to include new case studies, including some from the 2022 heatwave. There is a new publication [Climate Resilient Churches](#) that introduces becoming a climate resilient church and creating climate resilient communities.

Bats Challenge Badge

As part of the Bats in Churches project's ongoing engagement with church communities we've created a Challenge Badge for young people, which will enable them to learn more about and engage with their local church and wildlife. It's also a lovely activity for groups such as Sunday School or youth groups to do together. Young people complete a series of activities, including visiting their local church, hunting for bats, crafts, games and activities, then receive a special badge from Bats in Churches once they have completed their challenges. You can find all the information and resources for the Bats in Churches Challenge Badge [here](#).

Maintenance Plan

Having a clear maintenance plan for your church building is essential to ensure that your building is well maintained and minor issues do not end up causing more major problems in the future. It is also really useful to ensure you can budget for the work on the building and avoid unexpected bills.

An example is attached but can also be found here [Maintenancechecklist2022.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Quinquennial Inspections and reports

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the various emails that I have sent out regarding outstanding inspections. I know that many of you have either had the inspections or have them planned in the near future. If you are unsure when your last inspection took place, you can find all of the current reports that I hold on the [Diocesan website](#) which is updated regularly, or alternatively contact me. Once inspections have taken place, I would be grateful if you could forward me a copy for our records.

Faculty Workshops

The first two of our faculty workshops took place in February and the next two sessions are:

Tuesday 18th April, 2pm at St Cuthbert's, Durham

Thursday 20th April, 7pm at St Cuthbert's, Etherley

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

Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum

I recently set up 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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