

Dear Churchwarden,

Below are a few pieces of information that you may find useful as you care for your church buildings.

Faculty Workshops

The next two of our faculty workshops are this week:

Thur 6th July @ 2pm St Catherine's, Crook & Howden-le-Wear

Fri 7th July @ 10am St Cuthbert's, Northwearside

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

I am planning on running some more sessions in the autumn and would be grateful if any of you would be willing to host a session. I would particularly like to run one in the Stockton / Hartlepool area and the Gateshead / Jarrow area, but I'd love to receive offers to host from anywhere in the diocese.

Lead Theft

We have unfortunately had a series of lead thefts from churches over recent months, as have churches in the north end of Leeds Diocese. We are working together to record all instances and these are being shared nationally so that a full picture of these can be understood. Please try to monitor your church buildings as often as possible.

New Churchwarden Training

The Archdeacons have planned two training sessions for new churchwardens towards the end of July.

- Wednesday 26th July, 1.30pm at Cuthbert House
- Thursday 27th July, 7.00pm via Zoom (details below)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87203889026?pwd=K1QvR3kzdFp3ZlMyb29rSktZbndqdz09>

Meeting ID: 872 0388 9026

Passcode: 289242

You will probably have already been contacted by your Archdeacon's PA, but if not please let them know so that we know how many to expect.

New LPWGS online application

The £42 million Government [Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme](#) has been overhauled, with a new website and application portal.

- The new website makes it easier to navigate and find the information - from scheme eligibility to application guidance. The website sits on the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) domain, providing reassurance this is an official and trusted website.
- The new application portal will enable applicants to apply online. This will follow the same familiar format as the PDF form but will be easier to process than downloading and completing a physical document. The option to use the old PDF will remain, but the application portal is planned to be more efficient - with all the information and attachments uploaded and submitted in one place.

There are no changes to the grant criteria. Churches that receive a grant from this scheme are encouraged to write to their MP, thank them for the grant and invite them to the church to see the completed works.

New round of protective security grants

The Home Office has announced a new round of protective security grants for places of worship. Churches are eligible to apply from now until 15 August when applications close. Full information is

available at [Protective security schemes for places of worship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protective-security-schemes-for-places-of-worship). Churches are eligible. You can apply:

- if you have experienced hate crime at your place of worship, or
- if you feel that your place of worship is vulnerable to hate crime; for example, if hate crime has happened at other places of worship or sites in your community, or if people attending your place of worship have experienced hate crime in the local area.

The application must be for a place of worship and/or associated faith community centre located in England and Wales.

To support applicants the Community Security Trust is offering two free webinars on the 'Protective Security Schemes for Places of Worship'. The webinar will discuss the details of the scheme, what is covered and go through how to apply in a step-by-step process. It is currently scheduled to be delivered on: 10th July at 7pm. You can see, and register for this, and all Community Security Trust up-coming webinars in their [new Zoom Hub](#) by clicking [HERE](#)

New crime prevention advice

Historic England has recently published new advice on crime prevention and a separate heritage crime risk assessment. [Heritage Crime Prevention | Historic England](#)

Planning a church fundraising capital appeal

Monday 31st July 2023 10.30- 12.00 noon, online webinar

Gain a greater insight if your capital appeal target is feasible or not; hear more about the different income streams available to you and the techniques to get money from these; understand what people, processes and resources you need before you even start fundraising; see helpful examples of resources to help and execute your fundraising appeal. <https://www.churchgrants.co.uk/training>. Please note that there is a cost for this training.

For Churches: National Churches Trust new Strategy

'For Churches' will guide the work NCT from 2023-2026 but look even further ahead to 2030 and the needs of churches in the next decade. Focussing on three themes, the strategy aims to Build Up, Open Up and Speak Up for church buildings, chapels and meeting houses in all four countries of the UK. <https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org/forchurches>

Energy Footprint Tool

Thank you to everyone who has completed the heating survey and Energy Footprint Tool. It is not too late as the deadline for completion of the EFT is 31st July 2023. They can be found at the following links [Energy Footprint Tool | The Church of England](#) and [Durham Diocese Church Heating Survey \(google.com\)](#)

Churches Database

I am currently trying to create a central database containing information on each of our church buildings. Some of the information we have in different forms but some information is not currently held centrally. The purpose of the database is to allow us to direct information and support most appropriately to churches. Over the next few months, I will be requesting various bits of information and I would be grateful of your responses.

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. I am taking some annual leave from 4th-20th August, so replies to any emails or phone calls during this time will be made on my return.

Kind regards

Martin

Martin Howard

Buildings for Mission Secretary

Diocese of Durham

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