

Dear Churchwarden,

Welcome to any new churchwardens who are receiving this monthly email for the first time. Below are a few pieces of information that you may find useful.

### **Diocesan Environmental Officer**

I am pleased to tell you that Bethan Still has just started work for the diocese as our Environmental Officer. I am sure she will be in touch with you in the coming months as she moves forward our work on the environment and the C of E Net Zero 2030 target.

Thank you to everyone who has completed the heating survey and Energy Footprint Tool. It would provide her with really useful information if every church could ensure that these are completed as soon as possible. One thing that would be really useful for them is if every church could complete the Energy Footprint Tool. They can be found at the following links [Energy Footprint Tool | The Church of England](#) and [Durham Diocese Church Heating Survey \(google.com\)](#)

### **Bats**

Would you like to learn more about the bats in your church?

If you think that bats use the interior of your church in the summer, but you don't know which species, the Bats in Churches Project can help you find out. They will loan a Peersonic device (between June until the end of August) that stays in the church for a couple of nights and records bat calls. The project will pay postage, provide instructions and will look through the sound files and give you the results, along with a poster factsheet about any bat species found. It is free and you don't need any bat knowledge or survey experience. You can find out more and book your equipment by clicking [here](#).

### **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.

### **Love Your Burial Ground Week with Churches Count on Nature 2023 3 -11 June 2023**

Love your Burial Ground Week is a celebratory week which has been running for many years. Caring for God's Acre has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries to celebrate these fantastic places in the lovely month of June – in any way you choose.

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/get-involved/love-your-burial-ground-week/>

### **Faculty Workshops**

The next two of our faculty workshops are:

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>

### **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

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