

Dear Churchwarden,

Welcome to any new churchwardens who are receiving this monthly email for the first time. If you are no longer the churchwarden please forward this to whoever has taken over as it takes a few weeks after the APCM's to get all the contact details updated.

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

Grant Information

The church of England has recently updated its grant information for churches which I have attached to this email. It doesn't as yet appear to have been updated on their website as yet.

If you have been in receipt of any external grants recently, please let me know so that I can update the diocesan grant information sheet.

The Northumbria Historic Churches Trust have recently updated their website and have now increased their small grants to a maximum of £10,000. The next round of applications closes on 30/6/23 and for more information visit [Helping to keep churches across the North East in good repair | The Northumbria Historic Churches Trust \(northumbriaht.org.uk\)](https://www.northumbriaht.org.uk)

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

Webinars

The Church of England has put together a series of webinars to support churches in their planning for Net Zero 2030. You can sign up for as many as you like and if you have missed any then a recording of most of them is available. Please visit [Webinars on getting to net zero carbon | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org.uk/webinars) for more information

Heating Survey / Energy Footprint Tool

Thank you to those who have been able to share information on the heating in your church buildings, but 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 \(google.com\)](https://www.durhamdiocese.org.uk/heating-survey)

The Diocese has recently appointed an Environmental Officer who will be in June. 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](https://www.churchofengland.org.uk/energy-footprint-tool)

Telecoms Equipment

I am currently trying to get an upto date database of information relating to our church buildings and will be asking you for some more information over the coming months. I have written to some of you already regarding this but if you have any telecoms equipment installed in your church tower or grounds, please let me know.

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](#)

Energy Bills Discount Scheme and support for Energy and Trade Intensive Industries

This may be of interest to a small number of churches who are major tourist sites. Further information about the scheme can be found <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-bills-discount-scheme>

Review of Contested Heritage guidance

The Church of England Cathedral & Church Buildings Division is reviewing the [Contested Heritage guidance](#) issued by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England and the Church Buildings Council, first published in May 2021. They would appreciate your feedback to help them refresh this guidance by [completing the survey](#).

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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