



Dear Churchwarden (and those who look after your Church Buildings),

As usual I have listed some useful information below, but if you would like any specific advice regarding your church buildings then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Grant Funding Workshop

I am regularly asked about grant funding that is available to churches for work on their church buildings. Chris Young our CBSO and I have arranged a Grant Funding Workshop for Monday 8th December (6.00-7.30pm) at Cuthbert House. The aim of this session is to go through some of the key bits of information that you will need for any grant application as well as looking at a general strategy for grant funding. The second part of the session will allow us to look at specific projects that you may be wanting to undertake and to help you develop a grant funding plan for that project.

The book a place please click on the following link or simply email me and I will sign you up. <https://bit.ly/48hiTZf>

Church Building Training 2026

I am starting to put together the Church Building Training Programme for 2026 and if you have any training sessions that you feel would be useful in your roles looking after your buildings then please let me know. I will be running some faculty workshops again and some sessions looking at the heating choices for your buildings, but I would really like to focus the sessions on what you need in your role as churchwarden, property team or as an incumbent. I would be grateful if you could let me know details of any sessions that you would like me to run by the end of November so that the programme can be planned before the end of the year.

Ventilation Guidance

Getting the ventilation and draughtproofing right for your building is vital in ensuring the ongoing condition of the fabric is maintained as well as ensuring that our heating costs are kept to a minimum. The Church Building Council has produced some updated guidance that I would encourage you to look at to ensure that your building ventilation helps maintain the fabric of your building. The guidance can be found at [ventilation v1 280525.pdf](#)

Contractor Recommendations

Have you had a really good contractor working on your Church Building? If so, then please send me their details so that I can share them with other parishes.

Many of you have asked me for details of suggested contractors over recent years, however I can only share the information that I have!

I will be sending out an updated list of contractors with the December Newsletter.

Nation Churches Survey

Earlier on this year the National Churches Trust Carried out the National Churches Survey to obtain a better understanding about the condition and use of church buildings across the country. Some initial information was shared at the "Great Expectations" conference this week but the full results of the survey will shortly be available at the following link [The National Churches Survey: giving every church a voice | National Churches Trust](#)

Are you ready for the colder weather?

Sorry if I keep pestering you about heating but it is really important that you have a plan in place should your heating system fail this winter. Starting looking at different heating systems is much more stressful if you are trying to make decisions quickly. If your heating system is over 20 years old it may be difficult to obtain spare parts. If you would like me to visit to discuss the different types of heating system which might be suitable, then please let me know. If you have an oil boiler this is particularly important as you will not be able to replace an oil boiler after the end of this year.

Good Green Tariffs

The most recent Environment Bulletin includes an [animation about green tariffs](#) as part of resources to support the [Great Switch](#) campaign. If you would like to sign up for the CofE Environment Bulletin, do so [here](#).

Quick Wins Grants

We have now had confirmation that we will be receiving further Quick Wins Grant Funding from the Church Commissioners for the next Triennium. I will let you know when applications for Quick Wins grants will reopen.

Heritage Hero Award 2025

Nominations are open for the Ecclesiastical Heritage Heroes Awards 2025, celebrating the outstanding volunteers who are the backbone of our heritage sector. These awards are a great opportunity to demonstrate how communities can take ownership of the historic environment around them and make a real difference. As a Heritage Alliance member, through the Church of England membership, you are eligible to nominate your volunteers for these prestigious awards through two categories:

- **Heritage Heroes 2025 Award** - Celebrating exceptional volunteer contributions in 2025
- **Heritage Heroes Young Person Award** - To celebrate the contribution of an individual volunteer under the age of 30 who has gone above and beyond for a heritage organisation

Nominations close on 30 November. Guidance on eligibility is [here](#) and the nomination form [here](#).

Benefact Trust

[The Benefact Trust](#) is one of the largest grant providers for churches in the UK. Recently, The Benefact Trust and Church Grants have been working closer together to look at how churches are supported to apply for their funding. Specifically, they want to understand further:

- The key challenges churches are facing at the moment?
- What specific information/ support might you benefit from before applying?
- How can they better communicate with applicants in the future?

If you are free and willing, then on the morning of Thursday 13th Nov 10.30-12.00 noon, Church Grants will be hosting an interactive meeting with The Benefact Trust. They would like to secure representatives from 15x churches to be part of this Consultation.

If you would like to be considered for this excellent opportunity, to help shape one of the most influential Christian funders' grant processes, then please fill out this very quick and simple form: <https://forms.gle/7HTMdQiyxTqfitaU7>

Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum

It was been really good to see this forum being used more regularly earlier in the year, but it has been a bit quiet recently. If you have a question, the chances are someone else in the diocese knows the answer. 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

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