

# THE ARCHDEACONS' FORUM

for the Church of England and the Church in Wales

## Archdeacons' News

Bulletin no. 31

January 2018

from Norman Boakes  
Archdeacons' National Executive Officer

I can never get excited about the new year. It seems to me that it is a very arbitrary human device, with no particular significance. Part of the problem is that many people act as though the change of year makes a difference, when the only thing that will make a real difference is how each of us behaves and acts in our lives, and how far we respond to God's invitation to work for the coming of the kingdom. This reality is brought home to most of us once we return to our normal duties after the Christmas and New Year break, and the realities of daily life impinge on us once more. It is easy to respond to these by feeling a little down and disheartened. But for us, the Christmas season continues right through to the Presentation. May the light of Christ bring us hope and guidance as we face whatever January might be bringing.

*Norman*

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## Archdeacons' Training Events

### **Archdeacons and the Clergy Discipline Measure**

Because they were unable to attend earlier this year, several archdeacons have asked us to run this day again. In consequence we will be offering it on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018 from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm at Church House, 90 Deansgate, Manchester M3 2GH

The day will reflect on the role that the archdeacon may have in relation to CDM and use case studies as a way of exploring what can be most useful and what may be unhelpful in the process.

The day will be led again by Adrian Iles who is the CDM Designated Officer and the Ven Dr Peter Rouch who is Archdeacon of Bournemouth.

The cost will be £25 per person, including lunch. For a booking form, contact Norman at [norman.boakes@churchofengland.org](mailto:norman.boakes@churchofengland.org)

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## Church Buildings

The Taylor Review, ***Sustainability of English Churches and Cathedrals***, has been published. The scope of the Review is limited to *listed buildings of the Church of England only*. The report makes the following ten recommendations:

1. *Community Support Advisers*: “A national network of Community Support Advisers (CSAs) should be put in place to build cross-community relationships, and promote wider and more mixed use of church buildings”.
2. *Process Simplification*: “The Church of England should continue its work to simplify church buildings’ management through the Faculty System. This work should prioritise elements relating to adaptations to allow the building to remain in use both as a place of worship and a community resource, and seek to harmonise the process across all dioceses”.
3. *Legal Clarification*: “The law should be clarified, whether through legislative change or the issue of guidance, to establish that local authorities are not prohibited from awarding funding to churches”.
4. *Fabric Support Officers*: “A network of Fabric Support Officers (FSOs) should be implemented. This network will provide churches with access to skills and resources including maintenance assessment, building management and maintenance, and the ability to guide PCCs as to how to prioritise and fund works”.
5. *Minor Repairs Funding*: “Repairs should be funded as much as possible locally, with the aim of this proportion increasing as, through the work of the CSAs, communities become more engaged. Any balance (to ensure timely execution of works) should come from a Minor Repairs Fund, to be administered on the advice of FSOs”.
6. *Inspection and Strategic Planning*: “FSOs should visit each listed church building within their area of responsibility regularly (expected to be annually), and develop a Minor Repairs Plan, to be updated regularly, together with a rolling ten-year Major Repairs Plan. A review of these plans by church architects or surveyors every five years should be carried out as part of a Quinquennial Inspection”.
7. *Responsibility*: “The PCC of each church, as the body corporate with responsibility for the building fabric, should nominate a named individual to act on its behalf in taking forward routine maintenance and repairs, and to be the key point of contact for the Fabric Support Officer”.
8. *Major Repairs Funding*: “Planned major repairs (long term maintenance) should be financed principally by local fundraising, and topped up where proven necessary from a Major Repairs Fund”.
9. *Cathedrals*: “The Panel considers that a nationally administered fund for works to keep cathedrals safe and open, similar to the First World War Centenary Cathedral Repairs Fund, should be considered as a separate exercise”.
10. *Pilot schemes*: “At least two pilot studies, covering both urban and rural contexts, should be conducted to test and develop the recommendations of this report”.

[With thanks to the Historic Religious Buildings Alliance for this summary.]

### Can you prove it?

Two recent consistory court judgements have made particular mention of the church proving its case (Bath Abbey, nave pews and [Chester-le-Street](#), AV screens).

To assist churches making faculty applications, especially for works that will have an impact that will result in harm to historic fabric, there is a new page on ChurchCare that sets out the [Duffield Questions](#), the legal framework used to deal with such cases. This is a helpful framework for DACs in guiding churches and ensuring that the case made for proposals is ‘clear and convincing’ ([Duffield question 4](#))

## Commonwealth war graves and the OFS

A request has been made by some Chancellors who use the Online Faculty System, to enable the Commonwealth War Graves Commission the ability to review and provide consultation on any faculty applications that incorporate war graves.

Under rule 9.4 of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015, in appropriate cases, special notice must be given to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. As such, access could be granted across all Dioceses to the War Graves Commission to provide the necessary notice to meet rule 9.4. CCB would see this being treated in the same way as Historic England, the local planning authority or amenity societies.

Whilst the decision remains with each DAC and Chancellor, a general War Graves account has been created to enable consultation for those Dioceses who have requested this feature. Whilst consultation with the War Graves Commission may not be necessary for every Diocese, it would be easier for all involved, to allow the War Graves Commission to be added to each Diocese Consultee list, and contacted when appropriate. This will not only follow rule 9.4, but will allow for the War Graves Commission to be kept up-to-date on the potential discovery of new War Graves. If you would like the War Graves Commission to be added to your consultee list, please email our Digital Projects Manager [James Miles](#)

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## Comings and Goings and Recognitions

Canon Jean Burgess is to be the new Archdeacon of Bolton. Jean is currently Priest in Charge of the parish of St Alkmund and St Werburgh Derby and Dean of Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Derby. It is currently expected that she will take up her new duties in late March.

On 12<sup>th</sup> January, the Ven Darren Miller was collated as Archdeacon of Ashford. We wish him well as he begins his new ministry.

Many congratulations to the Ven Jonathan Chaffey, Archdeacon for the RAF, on being made a Companion of the Bath (CB) in the New Year's Honours' List.

During Ian Chandler's illness, his duties as Archdeacon of Plymouth are being covered by Prebendary Nicholas Shutt.

The Ven Dennis Wight is to retire as Archdeacon of St David's 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Dennis' duties as Archdeacon of St David's will continue to be covered by the Revd Canon Paul Mackness as Acting Archdeacon.

It has also been announced that the Ven John Ashe will retire as Archdeacon of Lynn on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. John has served as an archdeacon since 2009, having previously served in Guildford Diocese. For many years, John kindly coordinated Wit and Wisdom, and his own wisdom and experience will be missed by colleagues, especially in the Eastern region.

Two of the three archdeacons in St Asaph diocese are also to retire this year. The Ven Robert Griffiths, Archdeacon of Wrexham since 2014, is to retire on the 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Ven Peter Pike, Archdeacon of Montgomery since 2012, is to retire on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Please pray for Darren as he starts his new ministry, for Jean as she prepares for moving and her new role, for Ian and for those responsible for treating him that he may be restored to full health, and for

Dennis, John, Bob and Peter as they get ready for retirement. Please pray also for those responsible for filling the vacancies of Anglesey, Bangor, Gwent Valley, Hereford, Lynn, St David's and Sunderland.

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## Courses and events

The following may be of interest:



**London Lectures 2018, Winckworth Sherwood,** Montague Close, London SE1 9BB (by Southwark Cathedral), **starting at 5.30pm**; refreshments available from 5pm. **These lectures are free of charge and open to members and non-members but spaces are limited so prior booking is essential.** <https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/>

- Wednesday 7 March – David Frei, External and Legal Services Director of the United Synagogue and Registrar to the London Beth Din, on The Role of a Beth Din in Jewish Law.
- Tuesday 3 July – Baroness (Elizabeth) Berridge, co-chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on International Freedom of Religion or Belief, on Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- Wednesday 10 October – Dr Peter Smith, barrister of Lincoln's Inn and formerly Dean of Law at Exeter University, on Visitations.

### **DAY CONFERENCE - *Gospel and Law in Theological Education* - SATURDAY 17th MARCH 2018 10.30 am – 4.00 pm**

The Ecclesiastical Law Society is holding its Day Conference at the St Bride Foundation, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 8EQ. Registration and refreshments from 9.45 am.

The Conference will focus on the core function of the Society, namely promoting education in ecclesiastical law. In particular, it will address the training of clergy and others in ecclesiastical law, and showcase best practice in selected topics. Speakers will include:

**The Revd Dr Andrea Russell**, Queen's Foundation Birmingham, who practised as a solicitor before ordination and has recently published her PhD on Richard Hooker. Andrea will outline the context for church law education in the wider setting of ordination training, and the need for clergy to be aware of the legal framework of their ministry.

**Stephen Borton**, Ecclesiastical Manager, Lee Bolton Monier-Williams

**The Ven Simon Baker**, Chair of the Ecclesiastical Law Society's Education Sub-committee and Archdeacon of Lichfield

**Sue de Candole**, Registrar of the Dioceses of Winchester and Salisbury

The cost is £55 to members of the Ecclesiastical Law Society (£95 non-members)

The details and booking can be made at: <https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/>

**Lyndwood Lecture 2018** – Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch Kt DD FBA on Richard Hooker (1554-1600): Invention and Reinvention – Wednesday 7 November 2018.

**ELS Residential Conference 2019** – to be held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor from 5 to 7 April 2019 – Church and State in the Twenty-first Century: re-imagining Establishment for the post-Elizabethan age.

## Leadership courses at Sarum College

*Christian Approaches to Leadership in the Public Square*

What is the potential impact of faith-based leadership on and within secular institutions at a time when religion is being marginalised and faith is often under attack?

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Hadrian Cook, Tim Harle and Angela Tilby

Speakers:



For further enquires or bookings for these events, contact Alison Ogden [aogden@sarum.ac.uk](mailto:aogden@sarum.ac.uk)

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## Planning in Wales

In November, the Law Commission issued a consultation on *Planning Law in Wales*. The consultation document devotes a chapter to *Works affecting listed buildings and conservation areas* but makes no mention whatever of the ecclesiastical exemption from listed building consent.

Whether the omission was intentional or merely an oversight one can only guess: but if any member might be interested in responding, the consultation closes on **1 March**.

*With thanks to Frank Cranmer and the ELS newsletter Epiphany 2018 for this item.*

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## Website

After a little toing and froing, I am delighted to be able to tell you that our on line pages are now available at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/diocesan-resources/archdeacons-forum>

I am conscious that they already need updating, but to keep better control of the website, all changes need to go through one person in each department. I anticipate that this should not cause too much delay.

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## Future Dates

### 2018

February 22<sup>nd</sup> Welsh Archdeacons @ Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

March 14<sup>th</sup> Archdeacons' Forum Executive @ Church House Westminster

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Eastern Archdeacons @ Ely

April 17<sup>th</sup> North West Archdeacons @ Preston Minster

April 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> South East Archdeacons @ Guernsey

April 26<sup>th</sup> South West Archdeacons @ Taunton

May 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> Southern Archdeacons' @ Sarum College. Salisbury

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Welsh Archdeacons @ Provincial Offices, Cardiff  
 May 9<sup>th</sup> Archdeacons and the Clergy Discipline Measure @ Manchester Diocesan Office  
 June 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> York Province Archdeacons' Conference @ Crowne Plaza, Chester  
 July 18<sup>th</sup> Archdeacons' Forum Executive @ Church House Westminster  
 July 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Welsh Archdeacons @ Llangasty Retreat House  
 September 13<sup>th</sup> North West Archdeacons @ Preston Minster  
 September 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> South West Archdeacons @ Tiverton Best Western Hotel  
 October 10<sup>th</sup> Welsh Archdeacons @ Provincial Offices, Cardiff  
 November 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> New Archdeacons' Conference @ Wilson Carlile Centre, Sheffield  
 November 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Archdeacons' Forum Executive @ Hinsley Hall  
 (OR 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November if General Synod meets).  
 December 12<sup>th</sup> Welsh Archdeacons @ Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury

**2019**

January 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> National Archdeacons' Conference @ The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick  
 Title: **Dealers in Hope** Speakers so far: Bishop Graham Tomlin, Professor Richard Bauckham,  
 Canon Jessica Martin.  
 April 11<sup>th</sup> South West Archdeacons  
 September 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> South West Archdeacons

**2021**

January 25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> National Archdeacons' Conference @ The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

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**Just a thought...**

To questions of economy we bring our understanding of God's abundance and our thanksgiving, to questions of environment we offer the perspective of stewardship, to education we bring our broad understanding of formation, and to the civil life we bring the spiritual disciplines of listening, bridge-building and discernment. Part of the wisdom required is to ask what is truly core to our Christian identity and what is merely habitual or customary. This practice of faithful presence also requires us to surrender our illusion that we can control agendas and relationships. It invites us to see worship as the whole of our lives being placed before God as an offering so that within our local community we can be the body of Christ.

Cheryl Collins in ed. Jessica Martin and Sarah Coakley *For God's Sake* Canterbury Press Norwich 2016

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