

THE ARCHDEACONS' FORUM

for the Church of England and the Church in Wales

Archdeacons' News

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from Norman Boakes
Archdeacons' National Development Officer

Lent is about joy. Most people do not see it that way. For those who notice Lent at all, the talk is too often about what we are giving up for Lent and it can all sound rather miserable. Or we decide to do something more for Lent and add to the pressures on each day. Both of these disciplines have their place, but they can be too much about "me". Even worse, they can become like New Year resolutions which we make, do not keep and so then feel guilty. This is not always helpful for our daily walk with Christ.

So perhaps a better approach is trying to see the joy in the life we have, the joy in each fleeting moment, the realisation that in each moment God is present and God is working. This too may be far from easy, especially when we face tragic or hugely difficult situations. Yet it is there, if only we pause, look and are open to it.

With all good wishes and prayers for joy this Lent,

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A reminder – in this newsletter, if something has a purple heading and a black text, it is new material; if it has a black heading and grey text, it has been here before.

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Archdeacons' Training

Why do appointments go wrong? Going beneath the processes

Thursday 4th April 2019 at Church House, Westminster SW1P 3AZ

The aim of this day is not simply to remind ourselves of good practice in making appointments, but to go underneath the processes and explore why our processes do not always produce the results we hope for. What might be going on in these cases, and how might we handle things better?

The day will be led by Leann Dawson, Senior HR Manager and Helen Averill, Clergy Transitions Service Manager at the NCIs. The cost will be £25 per person and booking forms are obtainable from Liz Brereton liz.brereton@churchofengland.org

PLACES STILL AVAILABLE

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Church Buildings – useful matters from recent CBC mailings

Connectivity in churches

The *Connectivity in Churches* Project will produce web-based guidance – for PCCs, dioceses and suppliers – on how (and why) to achieve connectivity in church buildings; and on how to engage with the community around the church, where appropriate, to this end.

The guidance will be hosted on the Church of England website and ParishBuying.org.uk divided into the following four sections:

1. Why should my church get connected?
2. What solutions and suppliers are available in my area?
3. What are the legal, commercial steps and permissions required?
4. What funding is available? (E.g. grants).

Alex Velky is writing the guidance and will draw on current resources, with the new guidance ready by the mid-year. [Alex](#) would be pleased to hear from you if you could assist him by providing:

- Material for inclusion in the guidance
- Links to related material
- Resources/case studies for inclusion
- Names of other people Alex should be talking to.

If you think you might be able to contribute [please let Alex know](#)

Conference reminders

We have two conferences in March and bookings are still open.

[The Phoenix Renewed: Sustainability of Post-War Churches and Cathedrals](#)

Mon 18th – Tues 19th March 2019, Coventry Cathedral

The full programme for the event is available [here](#). The conference will include sessions on understanding twentieth century churches and on how to work with and look after them.

[Festival Churches: Mission and Community](#)

The Diocese of Sheffield and the Association of Festival Churches invite all those concerned with the care and imaginative use of churches to a day conference. This will be especially relevant to Diocesan Officers and senior clergy as well as incumbents, churchwardens and PCC members who are considering alternative patterns of worship and how their church might widen its appeal to the local community.

March 25th, Sheffield Cathedral. [Book here](#)

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Comings and Goings

The Revd **Ruth Patten**, currently Priest-in-charge of Great Dunmow and Barnston in the Diocese of Chelmsford, is to be the next Archdeacon of Colchester in the same diocese. Her collation will be on 12th May 2019.

The next Archdeacon of Birmingham is to be Canon **Jennifer Tomlinson**, currently Colchester Area Mission and Ministry Adviser and Bishop's Adviser for Women's Ministry in the Diocese of Chelmsford. Her collation will be in May.

The Ven Dr **Will Strange**, Archdeacon of Cardigan in St David's Diocese since 2009, is due to retire at the end of May.

Please pray for:

- those recently appointed as Archdeacons as they say good bye to their current location and prepare for their new role: Jennifer Tomlinson and Ruth Patten;
- those moving onto new opportunities for ministry, including those in retirement, and especially for Will Strange.

Please pray also for those responsible for filling the vacancies of Bristol, Cardigan, Cornwall, Exeter, Nottingham, Plymouth and Warwick (Archdeacon Missioner) and for the appointment of the right candidate to be the next Archdeacons' National Development Officer.

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Courses and events

The following may be of interest:



Bookings for all ELS events may be made at:
<https://ecclawsoc.org.uk/events/>

London Lectures 2019 are held at 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.

- Tuesday 21 May - Ms Sarah Horseman, of the Sheldon Community, on *The CDM – a Sideways Look*

- Wednesday 3 July 2019 - Professor Norman Doe on *The Unifying effect of Christian Law for Ecumenism*

Northern Province Lectures 2019 are held at the offices of the Diocese of Leeds, 17-19 York Place, Leeds, LS1 2EX, starting at 5.30pm. These lectures are free of charge and open to members and non-members, but spaces are limited so prior booking is essential.

- Tuesday 16 July 2019 – Bishop Nick Baines on *The Function of Ecclesiastical Law in Effective Parochial Ministry*.
- Wednesday 6 November 2019: Northern Province lecture – Charles George QC, Auditor of the Chancery Court of York, on *Do we still need the Faculty System?*

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

Leadership courses at Sarum College

Contact Alison Ogden for all booking enquiries
aogden@sarum.ac.uk 01722 424826



Re-imagining Church in a Changing Culture

<http://www.sarum.ac.uk/event/2019-re-imagining-church-in-a-changing-culture>

This module aims to go beyond such ‘headlines’ to equip students to understand and critique patterns of decline and growth which are characteristic of the church in the 21st century using both theological and sociological tools. The Church in the UK will be ‘read’ in the wider context of social, religious and cultural change and compared with the situation in Europe, America and the developing world. Both the challenges facing the contemporary church and the responses offered will be critically examined, with particular reference to patterns of community, mission and ministry.

Monday 1 April - Thursday 4 April 2019

Tutor: Colin Greene

Change and Conflict

<http://www.sarum.ac.uk/event/2018-change-and-conflict>

This module critically examines theoretical and practical aspects of change through a number of disciplines, especially theology, ecclesiology, missiology, ecology, psychology and complexity theory. The various strands are brought together to provide a holistic view of the origins and potentially transforming role of conflict. Throughout the course, students will apply the concepts to their own situations to increase shared learning and to provide practical insights for their own practice.

Mon 17 June 2019, 2:00pm - Thu 20 June 2019, 1:00pm

Tutor: Tim Harle

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General Synod Report

A full and varied Synod in late February produced these changes which might be relevant for archdeacons:

Church of England Parochial Fees – Changes for 2020 to 2024

General Synod approved a new scheme for parochial fees for the years 2020 to 2024 inclusive.

The new scheme is regulated by **The Parochial Fees and Scheduled Matters Amending Order 2019** which is described in the associated **Explanatory Memorandum**. The Order amends the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 and comes into operation on 1st January 2020.

Among the changes

- no fees are payable in respect of a funeral of a person aged under 18, instead of under 16 as at present;
- parochial fees now include those occasions in which funerals take place in funeral directors' chapels and where burials take place in burial grounds other than churchyards or local authority cemeteries, for example woodland burial grounds. [See opinion: **Burial and cremation: funerals in undertakers' private chapels**];
- Paragraph 11 explains that it would be more appropriate to use the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rather than the Retail Prices Index (RPI) as the year-on-year escalator for the fees. Should the CPI go down (i.e. if there is deflation) the fees payable will remain at the same level as in the previous year. This means that the actual fees for 2020 will not be known until the autumn, after the CPI figures are published.
- the 2014 Order provides for a PCC to receive a fee (currently £30) when a funeral service takes place at a crematorium or cemetery. This payment is to cease on the grounds that there is no clear justification for a PCC to receive a fee where a funeral takes place in a building or other place for which it has no responsibility.

The Archbishops' Council will continue to publish a table of fees for each year.

[By way of information, the fee for the issue of a Marriage Certificate (set by the Registrar General) has been increased to £11.00 with effect from 16 February. Also, it is now the same fee whether the certificate is issued at the time of the marriage, or at a later date.]

Relaxation of requirement for services to be held in every parish church each Sunday

Existing legislation had required that Morning and Evening Prayer be said each day in every church and Holy Communion be held each week in every church. Under the new legislation, the same services need only need be held in one church within a benefice, at the same regularity. This normalises the already widespread practice of services moving from church to church within a benefice on consecutive days and weeks. Such arrangements had previously required special dispensation from a bishop, which will no longer be required. The measure may be found at: **Amending Canon 39, GS2047BB**

Information about the changes to ecumenical relations with other churches has already been circulated but may be found here if needed.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/GS%202117.pdf>

<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-01/GS%202117x%20.pdf>

Revision of the Church Representation Rules

The draft *Church Representation and Ministers Measure* and draft *Amending Canon No.39* received final approval at the February General Synod. Among many other things the new Rules:

- simplify requirements to publicise aspects of the church electoral roll, financial statements and other matters
- give greater flexibility to shape the structure of PCC to local needs – model rules which can be amended locally with Bishop's Council agreement.
- reduce the burden of meetings for multi-parish benefices by allowing joint councils
- change the date by which APCMs and Annual Meetings of Parishioners have to happen to the end of May each year.

- all matters relating to parish governance are now in one section.
 - includes the provision that lay members of a PCC must be in the majority.
- These Rules are expected to come into force during 2020.

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Legal Advisory Commission – opinions

The Legal Advisory Commission is continuing to publish new guidance on a variety of matters, including

- Parish Church: Right to Enter
- Weddings and Funerals: Additional Charges.

Their opinions are available at:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-services/legal-opinions-and-other-guidance>

There is also a very helpful review of the current position in relation to charging additional fees at weddings or funerals on the *Law and Religion UK* blog at:

<http://www.lawandreligionuk.com/2019/03/05/new-advice-on-extras-for-weddings-and-funerals/#more-48620>

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Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2018

The Church of England (Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure 2018 received the Royal Assent on 10th December. Section 6 of the Measure makes various amendments to matters concerned with clergy terms of service. It is intended to bring these into force on 1st March 2019, including a provision which ensures that the manner of resignation for incumbents is now similar to that for other common tenure office holders.

Other sections of the Measure relating to the conduct of funerals and parochial fees will come into effect on 1st May 2019. Section 4 provides that a clerk in holy orders, and a duly authorised deaconess, Reader or lay worker may perform a funeral service if they have been asked to do so by those responsible for arranging the funeral and the minister concerned has, as far as practical, informed the relevant minister of the parish where they resided and sought his or her goodwill.

Section 8(2) amends the Ecclesiastical Fees Measure 1986 so that parochial fees do not apply where a service is conducted by a university, college, school or hospital chaplain in the course of his or her employment.

You will find the full text of the Measure at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2018/7/contents/enacted>

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Sons & Friends of the Clergy is now the Clergy Support Trust

After much consultation and some months of planning, it has been announced that



This name is not only more inclusive; it also describes better what they do. More information is available on their new website: <https://www.clergysupport.org.uk/>

Future Dates

2019

March 21st Eastern Archdeacons @ Ely

April 8th South West Archdeacons @ Taunton

April 11th Welsh Archdeacons @ Provincial Offices, Cardiff

June 10th & 11th Southern Archdeacons @ Farnham Castle

July 18th – 19th Welsh Archdeacons @ tbc

September 17th – 19th New Archdeacons' Conference @ Hinsley Hall Leeds

September 21st – 24th Eastern Archdeacons' @ tba

October 2nd South East Archdeacons @ tba (possible date tbc)

October 3rd – 4th South West Archdeacons @ Tiverton Best Western Hotel

October 9th Welsh Archdeacons @ Provincial Offices, Cardiff

October 31st North West Archdeacons

December 11th Welsh Archdeacons @ Lion Hotel Shrewsbury

2020

June 1st – 3rd Northern Archdeacons' Conference @ Hinsley Hall

2021

January 25th – 27th National Archdeacons' Conference @ The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

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Just a thought...

In new and challenging territory, such as an unwelcome difficulty, or the discipline of Lent, we have to work out how to survive, how to live and flourish. That means clearing away what will distract us and impede new growth, and focusing on how to find a path through. We have to forge a way through any desert experience, often without much of a map. To make a straight path through, by the most direct route, you have to leave behind what you no longer need. There are times when clearing out is done for us by events – such as a death or diagnosis – that have created a hole in our lives. We have to take stock of what resources we have to meet the present situation. Self-awareness is the quality that enables us to recognize where we are, what has changed for us and what to do now. Some self-discipline will enable us to take the first steps to do it.

Justine Allain Chapman *The Resilient Disciple* SPCK London 2019:12f

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Confidentiality notice

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