

Dear Churchwarden,

Happy New Year, I hope that you have all managed to have a good break over the festive period. This update once again gives you some bits of information that I have come across which I hope you may find useful as you look after your church buildings

### **Quinquennial Inspection Fees**

Every year the DAC review the range of fees that should be charged by inspectors during the year. For 2024 the Inspection Fee Range is set at £795 - £1520 (+VAT if applicable). The range allows for the variation in the different building types that we have within the diocese. It obviously takes a lot longer to inspect a large Grade I listed building than a small modern building. Regardless of the type of building the report will take a similar time to write.

### **Log Books**

At a recent meeting with our Quinquennial Inspectors, it was raised that very few churches have an up to date log book containing all of the work that has been carried out on the building. The log book should contain all of the work that has been carried out on the church building and needs to be kept in an easily accessible location. Sample pages that can be printed off can be found at the following link and then placed in a ring binder with copies of any invoices. [church-log-book-blank.pdf \(d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net\)](https://d3hgrlq6yacptf.cloudfront.net/church-log-book-blank.pdf)

The log book is also a great way to help remind you of the names of contractors that you use for regular tasks such as servicing the boiler, testing fire extinguishers. The log book is also very important if you are finishing as churchwarden and handing over to someone else.

It may be appropriate to keep the log book as an electronic document, however you need to consider how this information can be shared with others when required.

### **Training Opportunities 2024**

Below is the list of training sessions that have currently been planned to support you as you look after your church buildings. You can book a place at any of the sessions by clicking on the booking link.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Booking Link</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	2.00pm	Holy Trinity, Southwick	Achieving Net Zero in your Church Building	<a href="https://bit.ly/3uLAXIZ">https://bit.ly/3uLAXIZ</a>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	2.00pm	Holy Spirit, Crawcrook	Faculty Workshop	<a href="https://bit.ly/3tmBTTS">https://bit.ly/3tmBTTS</a>
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	Holy Trinity, Wingate		<a href="https://bit.ly/488Ef8g">https://bit.ly/488Ef8g</a>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm	All Saints, Lobley Hill	Achieving Net Zero in your Church Building	<a href="https://bit.ly/47MRM57">https://bit.ly/47MRM57</a>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	12.00pm	Zoom	Producing a Net Zero Carbon Action Plan	<a href="https://bit.ly/3Nxil68">https://bit.ly/3Nxil68</a>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	7.00pm	Cuthbert House		<a href="https://bit.ly/41COr6s">https://bit.ly/41COr6s</a>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	7.00pm	Holy Trinity, Darlington	Achieving Net Zero in your Church Building	<a href="https://bit.ly/46OGJHa">https://bit.ly/46OGJHa</a>
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	6.30pm	Zoom	Fire Risk Management and Health & Safety	<a href="https://bit.ly/3TFf1to">https://bit.ly/3TFf1to</a>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	All Saints, Preston on Tees	Understanding your buildings	<a href="https://bit.ly/3S0m8vD">https://bit.ly/3S0m8vD</a>
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	12.00pm	Zoom	Faculty Workshop	<a href="https://bit.ly/3GSAbNq">https://bit.ly/3GSAbNq</a>
Late May / Early June	TBC	TBC	Churchyard Management	TBC
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	1.30pm	Cuthbert House	New Churchwardens Training	Please contact your Archdeacon
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	7.00pm	Zoom		Please contact your Archdeacon
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	2.00pm	St Peter's, Jarrow	Annual Maintenance Schedule	<a href="https://bit.ly/48st1v4">https://bit.ly/48st1v4</a>
October	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop	TBC
November	TBC	TBC	Undertaking Church Building Projects	TBC

I am still looking for venues for the sessions later in the year (they can be repeated in different parts of the diocese), so if you would like to host one or more of these please let me know.

### **Energy Footprint Tool for 2023 Energy Usage**

The energy footprint tool (EFT) is currently being updated and will not be available to enter data until February. Completion of the energy footprint tool will however be very important as much of the funding, that is being released to support the drive to becoming Net Zero, will only be provided to churches with a completed EFT and therefore a baseline from which to measure the impact.

To complete the tool you will need to have a full year of utility bills, service attendance data, and some basic details about the building. I can provide you with the approximate area of your church building if required.

It is important that you include all buildings that you are responsible for the energy use as a PCC, as these all contribute towards your carbon output.

If you require any support in entering the data, please contact Bethan Still (Diocesan Environmental Officer) or myself.

It is also not too late to enter 2022 data if you didn't manage to do it last year!

### **Diocesan Church Building Grants**

You may have read in the press that the Church Commissioners have made available some additional funds under the Minor Repairs Grant Scheme and we have been successful in bidding for some additional funding to support church buildings within the diocese. It is not a huge amount but it has allowed us to increase the maximum grant to £5,000 (£6,000 for unlisted churches who are unable to reclaim VAT).

The percentage of the project costs will now be on a sliding scale based on the deprivation rank as follows.

<b>Deprivation Rank</b>	<b>Maximum % Grant</b>
6,236 to 12,307	25%
5,012 to 6,235	30%
3,812 to 5,011	35%
2,558 to 3,811	40%
1,232 to 2,557	45%
1 to 1,231	50%

This new system means that churches in different areas will receive grants of different amounts for similar work. For example three churches both doing £8,000 worth of work to their buildings would receive different levels of grants.

Church A (deprivation rank 10,000) would receive a 25% grant of £2000.00

Church B (deprivation rank 1,200) would receive a 50% grant of £4000.00

Church C (deprivation rank 4,500) would receive a 35% grant of £2,800.00

Under the previous system they would all have received a grant of £800.

If you are unsure of the deprivation rank of your parish, please get in touch and I can confirm this.

The updated application form can be downloaded from the website. [church-buildings-panel-grant-loan-application-form-202428718323268.docx](https://www.church-buildings-panel-grant-loan-application-form-202428718323268.docx) ([live.com](https://www.live.com))

### **Oil Boilers**

As part of the routemap to Net Zero Carbon the Church of England has stated that no new oil fired boilers should be installed from 2026 onwards. If you have an oil fired boiler, now is a good time to start exploring alternative options for heating your church so that you have a plan in place when the boiler eventually does need to be replaced.

### **£25.5m VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme**

The £25.5m VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme scheme is now open to help voluntary, community, and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in England improve their energy efficiency. It is part of the package of over £100 million of support announced by the Government at the Spring Budget to help frontline delivery organisations...

<https://www.faithaction.net/news/general/2023/12/07/25-5m-vcse-energy-efficiency-scheme-is-now-open/>

This may be of relevance to those churches whose buildings are used for community projects.

### **Durham Diocese Churchwardens Forum**

We have 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](#)

If you are already on the Churchwarden Forum, why not ask a question. The more it is used the more useful it becomes.

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

Phone: 07586090996