



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

Happy New Year to you all, I hope that you all had a lovely time over the Christmas period. Below is some information that I hope you will find useful as you look after your church buildings.

Church Building Training 2026

The Church Building Training Programme for 2026 is shown below. If you have any other suggestions that you feel would be useful in your roles looking after your buildings then please let me know.

Date	Time	Venue	Event	Booking Link
Tues 17 th Februar	6.00 - 7.30pm	Cuthbert House	Achieving Net Zero in your Church Building	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My0xMDE/t
Mon 9 th March	6.30-8.00pm	Zoom	Church Insurance & Security -EIG	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My0xMDQ/t
Mon 20 th April	6.00 – 7.30pm	Cuthbert House	Faculty Workshop – New Online System	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My0xMDI/t
May	TBC	TBC	Undertaking Church Building Projects	TBC
Saturday 6 th June	10.00am-4.15pm	Cuthbert House	Diocesan Heating Day	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My0xMDY/t
June	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop – New Online System	TBC
Tuesday 23 rd June	6.30 – 8.30pm	Zoom	Health & Safety and Fire Risk Management - EIG	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My0xMDU/t
Thurs 9 th July	6.00 – 8.00pm	Cuthbert House	Grant Workshop	https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/NzY5My05OQ/t
July	1.30pm	Cuthbert House	New Churchwardens Training	Please see information from Archdeacons nearer the time
July	6.30pm	Zoom		
September	TBC	TBC	Annual Maintenance Schedule	TBC
October	TBC	TBC	Faculty Workshop – New Online System	TBC

I try to host sessions around the diocese, so if you are willing to host a session then please let me know.

Updated DAC Heating Guidance

You will find attached to this newsletter a copy of the updated DAC Heating Guidance which includes details of how to apply for a faculty to replace your heating system. In particular it explains the term “Due regard” and what this means in terms of any heating applications. This guidance comes into place now and it is expected that all new applications for heating will follow this guidance. Copies of the attached documents can also be found on the diocesan website.

Energy Footprint Tool (EFT)

The Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) opens for data entry on Monday 12th January and I would encourage you to enter the data as soon as possible. If anyone has problems accessing the EFT on the Parish Returns Website, please let me know and I will do my best to help. I appreciate that in many parishes it is the Treasurer who enters this data and I will be contacting them directly this week regarding this.

Disability Project Grants

I have been informed that the Disability Project has now closed applications for both the large and small grants. Any applications that are currently being considered will be discussed at the January or February grant panel meetings and the outcome will be communicated with the parish.

Church of England Guidance

The Church of England has updated its guidance on the following topics

- Heating <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/heating>
- [Mobile phone masts and other connectivity advice](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/connectivity)
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/connectivity>
- The guidance on organs has been refreshed and is now available as a as a single document
- https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2025-12/organs_guidance.pdf
- The [organs website page](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/organs) has been refreshed and includes a specific section on heating and organs.
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/organs>

Quick Wins Grants

I am pleased to inform you that we have received confirmation of further funding for the Quick Wins Grants during the next Triennium. I will let you know when applications for the grants will open.

Free Funding and Support Event for Places of Worship

Northumbria Historic Churches Trust is delighted to be co-hosting a special event with The National Lottery Heritage Fund for places of worship across the North East of England.

Whether you are actively planning a grant application, have applied to us previously under our former system, or are simply curious to learn more about who we are and how we can help, this event is for you.

Taking place on 15 January 2025 at Newcastle Cathedral, the event offers a valuable opportunity to:

- Learn about the grants and support offered by Northumbria Historic Churches Trust, including who is eligible to apply and the types of projects we can fund.
- Understand our eligibility criteria and application process, with the chance to ask questions directly.
- Reconnect with us if you have applied in the past and would like to understand how our funding works today.
- Meet representatives from the Trust and find out how we support Christian churches of all denominations across the region, from the Tweed to the Tees.

You will also hear from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, the UK's largest funder of heritage, who will:

- Introduce the wide range of funding opportunities available.
- Explain the four investment principles behind *Heritage 2033*, their current 10-year strategy.
- Offer the chance to discuss early project ideas with members of their Engagement Team.

To book a place, please click on the following link [Places of Worship: the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Northumbria Historic Churches Trust at Newcastle Cathedral event tickets from TicketSource](#)

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

Email: martin.howard@durham.anglican.org

Phone: 07586090996

