

Parish Support Newsletter

January edition



DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER
KNOW LOVE FOLLOW JESUS



Here's what's to come in the 2026!

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas. As we look forward to 2026, we look forward to meeting more of you as we roll out more training, workshops and deanery based parish support events which we are currently planning.

As we look back at our finances for 2025, whilst preparing and examining our accounts, this year we can approach stewardship and generosity with renewed vigor to hopefully encourage more of our churches to be in a position of financial sustainability.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter!

The Parish Support Team

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you can expect:

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Parish pledges for 2026

Thank you to all parishes who have made regular Parish Share payments last year. The DBF is dependent upon Parish Share to fund ministry and mission across the Diocese.

Please send your 2026 Parish Share pledges to your Deanery Treasurer as soon as possible.

As over 80% of diocesan income comes from parish share, information on the level of parish pledges is particularly important to judge whether our budget for 2026 is realistic.

Please remember that you can pay your Parish Share by direct debit which reduces the administrative burden on the PCC.

If you would like to set up a direct debit then please email accounts@chichester.anglican.org.

PARISH RETURNS
PORTAL



Parish Returns Portal – Mission Statistics

The Church of England online portal for 2025 has opened for parishes to enter their Mission Statistics data. The deadline for these returns is 31st January.

Anyone new to the portal who needs access please do get in touch and we can set you up as a user. Similarly, anyone who is locked out do let us know and we can reset it for you.

The online portal link is
<https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>.

ACAT support for treasurers

ACAT is the charity for Christian treasurers of Christian churches. ACAT aims to advance the Christian faith across all denominations by providing members with the most appropriate advice, training and information on accounting, financial, legal and other related issues.

The Diocese of Chichester has purchased a 2 year subscription for all churches within the diocese to use. Benefits include a handbook covering everything a treasurer might need, a regular newsletter containing essential updates for treasurers, access to a team of expert advisers as well as training courses and online tutorial videos.

If you would like to benefit from this subscription, please see the attached document which will talk you through how to login and access the available ACAT resources. When creating an account, **do not enter your card details**. Complete the block code box with Chichester1 and then click apply. It then removes the need for the credit card.



Independent examiner ministry

We are being contacted by parishes regularly who are having trouble finding an independent examiner.

We are looking for people who might have some spare time to independently examine a set of accounts, the majority of which are very small scale income and outgoing.

We are hoping to put together a list of people who might be able to help out parishes in need.

If you think you might be able to help please do get in touch. The hope is that we can foster some relationships, that would be helpful to parishes, but also very rewarding to the people who have the necessary skills to share.



HR employment rights

As the Employment Rights Bill brings significant changes to workplace obligations, it's essential for parishes to understand how these developments apply in practice.

Join us for a free one-hour webinar on Wednesday 28th January 2026, hosted by Warner Goodman LLP. WG's Employment Law and HR specialists will outline the key areas of compliance and provide clear, practical steps to help your parish prepare for the forthcoming Employment Rights Bill and understand its implications for those working or volunteering within church settings.

[Please register here](#)

Church House Vacancies



We are looking for a highly competent Administrator to support the Lay Ministry and Training Officer. This role is offered at 15 hours a week for a 12-month period to cover maternity leave. This is a fantastic opportunity to join the Apostolic Life team at Church House and support lay ministry and training across the diocese and make a real difference in our mission.

The job description is here: [Vacancies - Lay Ministry and Training Administrator - Diocese of Chichester](#)

Please send your CV and a covering letter outlining how your qualifications, experience, skills and knowledge match the job description and person specification to recruitment@chichester.anglican.org by midnight on 25th January 2026.

Interviews will be held at Church House, Hove on 3rd February 2026.

Goodbox digital devices



We have been re-allocated two refurbished Goodbox Core devices by the National Giving Team.

The cost to the parish would be £55 which includes the delivery fee as well as a £10 service fee per month.

This device works in an offline as well as low-signal location.

If you would be interested in acquiring one of the devices please let us know.

Thank you for reading!

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