

Parish Support Newsletter

February edition



February 2026

Thank you to all parishes who have completed their mission statistics returns on the parish returns portal. We really appreciate the time you have taken to do this. The returns will help our senior leadership team with strategic planning.

Thank you also to those of you who have generously sent in your parish pledges. We still have a number of pledges outstanding and we would kindly ask for you to send your pledges in as soon as possible to your deanery treasurer and copy in our accounts team. As you may be aware, the pledges from parishes across the diocese help to inform the diocesan budget.

The Parish Support Team

In this newsletter
you can expect:

End of listed
places of
worship grant
scheme

PTO fees

Mission statistics
on the parish
returns portal

Easy fundraising

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and mid year
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End of Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and announcement of new Places of Worship Renewal Fund

The Government announced on 22 January that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme (which refunds VAT spent on works to listed church buildings) will close on 31st March 2026. We would encourage any parishes with eligible invoices to submit a claim as soon as possible, as the funding may run out before the end of March. There is a tracker [here](#), which shows how much funding remains in the pot and how many claims are in progress.

At the same time, the Government also announced that a new grant scheme, called the Places of Worship Renewal Fund, will give out up to £92 million over the next five years.

The implication of this announcement is that parishes will have to pay VAT on all repairs to listed churches but could apply for a grant from the new Places of Worship Renewal fund, which is expected to involve a competitive application process. We will hopefully be able to share more information about the new fund and how parishes can apply in due course.

Please see the Government announcement [here](#) and some helpful analysis from the National Churches Trust [here](#).

PTO fees



Please see the new fees on the website for 2026. There are no fees claimable by the PCC for weddings or funerals for PTO priests taking services - it comes from the statutory fees.

Information can be found on our website here
<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/parochial-fees/>

If you have a PTO taking weddings and funeral services during a vacancy, the fees charged to the undertaker or wedding couple remain the same, as for a stipendiary priest on the 2026 fee structure above. However, the DBF portion of the fee is split 80% to the PTO priest, where applicable, and 20% to the Diocese of Chichester. The PCC portion remains unchanged; the quick table has the calculations of the 80/20 split for you.

Please remember to make your return of fees to the Diocese for quarters ending March, June, September and December and corresponding BACS payment.

If you have any questions on parochial fees, please do get in touch.



PARISH RETURNS PORTAL

Mission statistics - Parish returns portal

Thank you to everyone who has completed the mission statistics return on the parish returns portal. We really appreciate the time that you have taken to complete this. If you have not yet completed the mission statistic return and need 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.

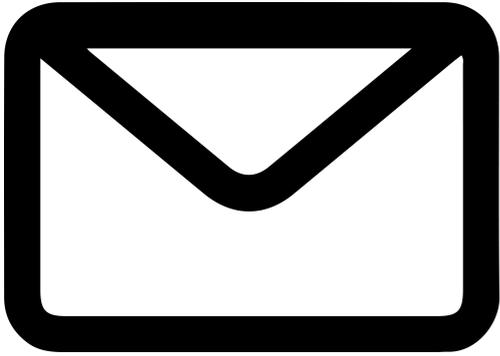
The online portal link is <https://parishreturns.churchofengland.org/>



Easy fundraising

Over £300k donated to churches in the last 12 months!
During 2025, churches and religious groups using easyfundraising benefitted from over £300,000 in completely free, unrestricted funding. All thanks to their congregation and their families simply shopping online – no events, or grant applications, in fact no extra cost or effort at all. If yours was part of the success, a huge well done! If not, be sure to get your share this year. Register with easyfundraising and 8,000+ retailers, including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Eden, M&S and Tesco, will donate to your church with every online shop - with some selected retailers offering donations in-store too. Find out more and register at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/diocese-of-chichester>

Casual vacancies and mid year post holders



This email is sent to PCC post holders only - please feel free to circulate among your PCC members.

If you have filled a casual vacancy or had a new post holder start since the APCM, please email databaseadministrator@chichester.anglican.org with their details so that they can be added to the database and to ensure that we have their correct contact details.

Thank you for reading!

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