

Parish Support Newsletter

April edition



DIOCESE OF
CHICHESTER
KNOW LOVE FOLLOW JESUS



Here's what's to come this month:

APCM and Annual Accounts

There is information on annual reporting and the APCM here: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/apcm/>
<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/annual-reporting/>.

If you require advice regarding producing end of year accounts, the Diocese of Chichester has purchased a 2 year subscription with the Association for Church Accountants and Treasurers for all churches within the diocese to use. ACAT will provide appropriate advice, training and information on accounting, financial, legal and other related issues. For information on how to sign up to ACAT please do get in touch.

Please submit APCM appointments as soon as possible after the APCM due to the one in fifteen year challenge of assembling the General Synod electorate.

Once you have had your APCM, please email your annual return and 2025 accounts to annualaccounts@chichester.anglican.org

In this newsletter you can expect:

APCM and Annual Accounts

Welcome to our new Children and Families Officer

Diocesan Growth Strategy

Hastings Cornerstone workshop

Churchyard Regulations

Church House vacancies

The Parish Support Team



New Children and Families Officer

Hi, I'm Belinda and I am the new Diocesan Children and Families Officer. My role involves offering one to one support for children and families workers, paid and voluntary, and for churches who may need support/encouragement/advice on CYF work.

I will also be providing some guidance on recruiting a CYF worker and the practicalities that go with that.

I look forward to offering a range of training events relating to children's work, from additional needs, mental health & wellbeing (children & young people), schools' ministry and chaplaincy.

I will also be providing bespoke training if there is something your church would like to know more about (such as working in communities with a greater deprivation).

I love to champion Children, Youth and Families workers in their roles and see them flourish in the calling that God has placed on their lives. I will always be happy to meet for a coffee to be a sounding board and to hear about the amazing work you are doing in your parishes.

Diocesan Growth Strategy

Big change often starts small.

The Diocesan Mission Fund provides grants to spark creativity and innovation in parishes. Applications are open for small missional projects under £2,000 - simple ideas that make a big local impact.

For more information please see here: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/programme-streams/small-grants-mission-fund/>

For more information on other funding streams and expressions of interest see our website here: <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/diocesan-growth-strategy/>



Hastings Cornerstone workshop

We will be running our next Cornerstone workshop in Hastings on Thursday 30th April between 10:30am and 12:30pm.

Cornerstone is a great tool to use as a church to look at the culture of generosity in your church as well as identifying actionable steps to improve areas of generosity via the Cornerstone pathways. It also has an extensive grants database if you are looking to fundraise for any upcoming projects.

For more information about Cornerstone, please see [here](#).

If you would be interesting in attending our Cornerstone workshop, please contact Molly Reuter (molly.reuter@chichester.anglican.org).



New Churchyard Regulations

New Churchyard Regulations for the Diocese of Chichester came into effect on Easter Day (5th April) 2026. The new Churchyard Regulations have been drafted in the form of a national template, which can be amended by the Diocesan Chancellor to take local circumstances into account. It is hoped that this approach will lead to more uniformity across the Church of England.

The changes to what is permitted in the Diocese of Chichester are very minimal but the process has changed slightly. In addition to the new Churchyard Regulations, there is a new application form for the introduction of a memorial, as well as a Handbook providing guidance for Incumbents, and a Handbook for the Bereaved. The new documents are available to download from the diocesan website [here](#). Any application for a headstone in a churchyard received on or after 5th April 2026 must comply with the new Churchyard Regulations (otherwise a private faculty will be required) and should be submitted to the relevant member of clergy using the new application form. However, it is suggested that incumbents should accept applications submitted using the previous version of the application form for a grace period of 3 months (up to 4th July 2026). If there are any queries, please get in touch with the Church Buildings team (dac@chichester.anglican.org; 01273 421 021) or the Diocesan Registry (chichesterregistry@wslaw.co.uk; 02075 935 015).



Church House Vacancies

Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser

The Diocese of Chichester is seeking a highly motivated and skilled part time Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser to join our friendly and committed Diocesan Safeguarding Team.

This is an important role supporting our mission to ensure the Church is a safe place for children, young people, and vulnerable adults across Sussex. For more information and to apply please visit: [Vacancy Assistant DSA](#) Closing date: 13th April.

We are seeking a lay or ordained Bishop's Liaison Officer for the LGBTQIA+ Community.

This role is dedicated to pastoral presence, providing representation, and fostering inclusion across the Diocese.

In this part-time (1 day/week) role, you'll:

Offer compassionate pastoral support
Encourage education, awareness & community engagement

Enable listening, learning and training opportunities

Work collaboratively across traditions in the Church of England

We're seeking someone prayerful, empathetic, confidential, and confident in navigating sensitive conversations.

Salary (if employed): £7,547 pa (0.2 FTE)

Apply on [Pathways](#) by 19 April 2026

Interviews: 29 April 2026, Church House, Hove

If you're passionate about inclusive pastoral ministry, we'd love to hear from you!

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