

Parish Support Newsletter

July edition



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Here's what's to come this month:

Parish Returns Portal

Thank you very much to the many parishes who have sent in their annual accounts following APCM and to those who have completed the parish finance return on the parish returns portal.

The deadline for the parish finance return has been extended to 31st July so if your parish is yet to complete this return, please do so by this date. If you need access to a log in to the portal please contact molly.reuter@chichester.anglican.org.

The energy footprint return has now closed on the portal. If you have not completed the energy footprint return, please contact Sarah Rogers or Molly Reuter who will send you the form to complete.

In this newsletter you can expect:

Parish Returns
Portal

Places of
worship renewal
fund

September PCC
training

Molly Reuter
news

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Ministry

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vacancies

The Parish Support Team

Places of Worship Renewal Fund

If you're about to undertake a capital building project for your church, do consider applying to the Places of Worship Renewal Fund. The PWRF is coordinated by Historic England and supports urgent repairs to listed places of worship. The next deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest is 27 September 2026. Priority is being given to projects that demonstrate significant repair needs, financial need, and strong community benefit, particularly in areas of higher deprivation. If your church is planning a major repair project, now is a good time to explore the opportunity and begin preparing an application.

If your works are already underway and started after 1st October 2025, and are due to complete before 30th September 2026, you may also be eligible to apply for retrospective funding from Historic England.

For further information and guidance on both funding streams, visit the Historic England Places of Worship Renewal Fund webpage at [Places of Worship Renewal Fund](#) | [Historic England](#) or speak to Caroline Roope, Fundraising Adviser for Church Buildings, on caroline.roope@chichester.anglican.org or call 01273 425 796.

There are also other sources of funding available for churches, both listed and unlisted. Do get in touch with Caroline if you'd like to explore what options are available for your church.

Don't forget you can also sign up to Cornerstone, a free online generosity tool which has a large, searchable grants database. You can find out more here, [Cornerstone](#) | [The Church of England](#). Contact Parish Support or speak to Caroline for further information.

PCC training in September

If you were unable to attend the new PCC member training events in June, we have booked some more online training events to take place in September.

To book, see the following links:

For new PCC treasurers:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GSAU>

For new PCC secretaries:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GSAV>

For new PCC trustees:

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/GSAW>

Molly Reuter (Parish Adviser)

Hello everyone, Molly here! I just wanted to say that I will be leaving my diocesan role as Parish Adviser (East) to take up a pastoral role in a school in Hastings. The role will focus on supporting some of the most vulnerable children with their emotional wellbeing, attendance and attainment. Having previously been a teacher, I am looking forward to returning to the school setting to support and encourage young people in Hastings.

It has been a pleasure to work with many of you over the past two and a half years and to support you as you serve your parishes with faithfulness and generosity. My last day will be on Monday 24th August so if I don't speak to you before then, thank you and farewell!

Authorised Lay Ministers

The **Authorised Lay Ministry (ALM) training programme** offers flexible, skills-based formation for lay people who are called to serve in public ministry within their local church. ALMs play a vital role in supporting and enriching parish life, contributing to the Church's mission through a wide range of ministries.

In the current academic year, we are offering **twelve ministry electives**, with **seventeen courses running** in total. New electives this year include **Children's Ministry** and **Leading Intercessions**.

While the shape of ALM ministry varies according to parish context, ALMs typically work as part of ministry teams—leading, supporting, or collaborating as appropriate. They are also encouraged to help identify, nurture, and develop the gifts of others within their communities.

Applications are now open and close on the 12th August for a September 2026 start.

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/authorised-lay-ministry/>

Church House vacancies

Parish Adviser

Are you passionate about supporting churches to thrive? The Diocese of Chichester is looking for a Parish Adviser to provide guidance on charity governance, finance, stewardship and parish support across Sussex. We're looking for someone with experience in charity or church finance, strong communication skills, and a collaborative approach to helping parishes flourish.

Salary: £38,600 per year

Hybrid working & flexi-time available

28 days annual leave + bank holidays

Generous pension scheme

Fixed-term contract (2.5 years)

 Apply by: 12 August 2026

 Interviews: 3 September 2026, Church House, Hove

Find out more and apply via [Pathways](#).

Church Buildings Officer

Do you have a passion for historic buildings, heritage conservation and supporting communities? We're looking for a Church Buildings Officer to join our Church Buildings Team.

You'll work with parishes across the Diocese, providing advice on the care and development of church buildings, supporting faculty applications, managing permissions for building works, and helping to preserve our rich heritage for future generations.

Salary: £38,600 per annum

Location: Hove (hybrid working available)

Benefits: Church of England pension scheme, professional development opportunities, and the chance to make a real impact across the Diocese.

We're looking for someone with:

Knowledge of historic buildings and heritage conservation

Strong administration and organisational skills

Excellent communication and relationship-building abilities.

For more information and to apply visit

[Pathways](#) by 2nd August

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