



Esgobaeth Llanelwy / Diocese of St Asaph

Newyddion Ymweliadau visitation news

Becoming wise stewards



One of the positive outcomes many of us experienced after being told to “stay at home” by the Prime Minister in March 2020 was an appreciation of nature, and a newly discovered wonder at the majesty of creation.

We learnt quickly that we don't have to chase around in cars, that we can be more productive working from home and that meetings don't have to be in-person.

As a result of these different ways of living, nature has begun to recover. But what happens now as restrictions are eased? What does it mean to go back to normal?

We are called as Christian people to be wise stewards of God's creation. Psalm 8 is titled in some translations as *Divine Majesty and Human Dignity*. Verses 4–6 remind us of the privilege that God has given us:

**What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?**

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God,
and crowned them with glory and honour.**

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet.**

With privilege comes responsibility. We have exploited the environment for a long time but have now learnt that creation can recover when we change the way we live. The challenge is to redress the balance and to find a new normal which is sustainable for us and for the generations that come after us.

Where to begin? We must begin with ourselves and do everything we can. Only then can we, as wise stewards, begin to influence others to do the same.

Nigel Williams is the Dean of St Asaph Cathedral and chair of the diocesan Eco-Church Group.

Dod yn stiwardiaid doeth

Un o'r canlyniadau positif i lawer ohonom ar ôl i'r Prif Weinidog ddweud wrthym am 'aros gartref' ym mis Mawrth 2020 oedd gwerthfawrogi natur o'r newydd a rhyfeddu fwy at ogoniant y cread. Roeddem ni'n dysgu'n gyflym nad oedd rhaid i ni yrru'n ôl ac ymlaen mewn ceir, y gallem ni fod yn llawer mwy cynhyrchiol yn gweithio o gartref ac nad oes rhaid i gyfarfodydd fod wyneb yn wyneb. O ganlyniad i'n gwahanol ffyrdd o fyw erbyn hyn, mae natur wedi dechrau adfer. Ond beth fydd yn digwydd wrth i'r cyfyngiadau gael eu llacio? Beth mae mynd yn ôl i normal yn ei olygu?

Rydym yn cael ein galw, fel pobl Gristnogol, i stiwardio cread Duw yn ddoeth. Teitl Salm 8 mewn rhai cyfieithiadau yw *Gogoniant Dwyfol ac Urddas Dyn*. Mae adnodau 4–6 yn ein hatgoffa o'r fraint mae Duw wedi'i roi i ni:

**Beth yw dyn iti ei gofio,
a'r teulu dynol, iti ofalu amdano?**

**Eto gwnaethost ef ychydig islaw duw,
a'i goroni â gogoniant ac anrhydedd.**

**Rhoist iddo awdurdod ar waith dy ddwylo;
a gosod popeth dan ei draed.**

Ond gyda baint daw cyfrifoldeb. Rydym ni wedi camfanteisio ar yr amgylchedd ers amser hir ond wedi dysgu erbyn hyn fod y cread yn gallu adfer pan fyddwn ni'n newid ein ffordd o fyw. Y her yw adfer y cydbwysedd a chanfod normal newydd sy'n gynaliadwy i ni ac i'r cenedlaethau a ddaw ar ein hôl.

Ble i gychwyn? Rhaid i ni gychwyn gyda'n gilydd a gwneud popeth yn ein gallu. Dim ond wedyn allwn ni, fel stiwardiaid doeth, ddechrau dylanwadu ar eraill i wneud hynny hefyd.

Nigel Williams yw Deon Eglwys Gadeiriol Llanelwy a chadeirydd Grŵp Eco-Eglwys yr Esgobaeth.

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Harnessing the Power of Church Volunteers

According to the Church of England (www.churchofengland.org) over 80,000 Anglican Church volunteers help provide support and activities for children, young people and families each year in England alone. As the saying goes, 'Volunteers are unpaid – not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.' They make a vital contribution to churches across the country. Without these generous people who are willing to commit their time to maintain church buildings, attend meetings and raise funds, churches simply could not function in the way they do.



Encouraging volunteers

So what can churches do to encourage people in their communities to organise a prize draw or have a charity bake-off? Leading church insurer Ecclesiastical has put together six key points that could help your church inspire people to volunteer their time and skills.

1. Be clear about what you're trying to achieve and what the benefits will be

If you're holding a fundraising event and need people to help, make sure to put the event into context. Explain the state of the church's funds, how much you're hoping to raise and how the money will be spent. An event to raise £1,000 to repair a much-loved stained-glass window will probably get more support than the annual autumn fair.

2. Make sure your volunteers feel appreciated

If someone volunteers to arrange flowers in the church every year without fail, it can be all too easy to take their contribution for granted. So make sure to thank everyone and make them feel that their work is appreciated. Why not give them a special thank you in the parish newsletter?

3. Try not to link volunteering to set times

Many people struggle to attend at a specific time each week. Flexibility is often the key for would-be volunteers, particularly for people who are working every day or who have growing families. If a task could be carried out at any time during the week, let the volunteer choose when they do it.

4. Be clear right from the start about the level of commitment you're hoping for

People who volunteer for one hour a week and find they're actually giving five will soon become unhappy with the situation. They might even withdraw their support.

5. Make the most of social media

Online communication channels like Facebook, Twitter, blogs and your church's own website can be great places to ask for help and to engage with the local community. Don't forget more traditional forms of communication too, like newsletters, posters and even the local paper.

6. Approach local businesses

A number of companies will often donate money to good causes, but many also now encourage their staff to volunteer. If you have a specific project in mind, a business may be very willing to help.

Your volunteers are protected

Once you've found your volunteers, you won't need to worry about insuring them. Ecclesiastical's church insurance policy treats authorised volunteers as if they were employees, offering protection against injury and what is known as third-party liability – damage or harm they might cause during their work for the church.

As Marcus Booth of Ecclesiastical explains: "Don't let risk stand in the way of recruiting new volunteers. They're the lifeblood of the church, and Ecclesiastical gives you the cover to protect both them and the church."



For further information

You can find a useful video on Ecclesiastical's 'inspiring volunteers' webpage at www.ecclesiastical.com/latest-news/inspiring-volunteers/

Our Church Insurance Consultants are right behind you

Meet Ecclesiastical's Church Insurance Consultants – a friendly and approachable team of highly knowledgeable insurance experts who are right on your doorstep and ready to offer guidance and help with any insurance or risk-related issues you might have.



From a simple explanation of the basics of your policy, to guidance on how to combat thieves and vandals, guard against fire, and improve general health and safety, they are there for you, free of charge.

The team – (from top left) Chris, Rebecca, Heather, Lynne, Peter, Nicky, Kay and Derek – are all deeply passionate about customer service, and our country's amazing churches.

Amongst them are theologians, choristers, regular churchgoers, and people who have worked with Christian charities here and abroad, so they really understand your specific needs. And because they're based at regional locations all over the UK, they're also able to tailor their advice to your local requirements.

They have decades of combined industry experience – and standing behind them is Ecclesiastical's 134 years of unrivalled expertise and insight in dealing with everything life might throw at you.

Where possible, the Church Insurance Consultants love to meet customers and talk face-to-face, and are happy to host networking events where you can get to know people from other parishes and share experience, ideas – and smiles.

But if we find ourselves in a COVID-19 lockdown or you're simply unable to meet them in person, they're still there, offering exactly the same services online or over the telephone.

To find out more about the team, and how they could help you and your church, please visit: www.ecclesiastical.com/church/cic or email meetus@ecclesiastical.com (please include your contact details, the name of your church and parish, and policy number if possible), or call them on **0345 777 3322**.



Make your good news a headline story!

This year, Ecclesiastical's church competition shines a light on churches across the UK – their bright ideas and success stories, community heroes and ingenuity in the face of adversity.

It's easy to overlook the important things that keep church communities strong, especially at difficult times, which is why we're looking for your uplifting stories that support church activities and bring the community together.

Tell us about your moments of inspiration, your clever solutions to problems old and new, and the people who've solved them – we want to hear your good news stories that can make front page headlines.

Find out more about the competition and how your church can enter at www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp [#churchgoodnews](https://twitter.com/churchgoodnews)

Information at your fingertips

Have you visited the Ecclesiastical website recently? It's had a bit of a facelift and looks really good. It is also full of advice and information about a wide range of risk management topics and includes Made Simple Guides about building works, people on premises and property. You will also find information about church, home, commercial and legal insurance and how to make a claim. You can also read an online copy of Ecclesiastical's bi-annual newsletter, Church Matters!

Explore the website at www.ecclesiastical.com/church



Contains promotional material

How online fundraising can boost your church

With summer around the corner, you may be starting to think about future events and how to raise those ever-important funds. Many churches have been looking at running events online, and it might be the best way forward at the moment. Ecclesiastical has put together some great ideas and top tips to get you started or increase your online success.

To get started, have fun and think creatively. What do you do face-to-face and how could that translate to online? Quizzes are great fun and easy to put together. You could have a quiz master read out the questions over a Zoom call, share your screen to display visual questions, or circulate quiz sheets via email and social media. How about streaming an online choir concert, or run craft or baking classes via Teams and sell virtual tickets to your Internet audience? Another idea is to offer the opportunity to request a favourite hymn in return for a donation.

More and more churches are using the Internet to reach not just their congregation and the wider community, but potential supporters literally everywhere. Online community groups and social media outlets like Twitter, Instagram and Facebook are a great way to publicise your activity to a new, wider audience – and particularly younger people who are otherwise hard to reach.

Ask them to sponsor a personal challenge and invite them to come up with their own challenges to benefit your church. Fundraising sites like **JustGiving.com** are quick to set up and can easily be widely promoted online. The Internet is also ideal for keeping everyone up to date, which is essential to keep those donations coming in. If you haven't dabbled yet, maybe have a look at what another church or community organisation has done.

If you find the Internet a bit daunting, once you strip away the jargon it's often much simpler than it appears. For instance, 'streaming' might sound difficult and mysterious, but user-friendly services such as Microsoft Teams are easy to download and can be used by lots of people joining in on their PCs, smartphones, or tablets.

Supporters can buy virtual 'tickets' – or make donations – via dedicated online fundraising platforms like **TapSimple.org** or **Eventbrite.co.uk**, which offer a one-stop process from hosting your event to processing payments and contributions. Many of them will handle Gift Aid for you too.

If your church has a specific project to pay for – a new sound system, why not try to 'crowdfund' via a website? These harness the power of a crowd of funders rather than individual donors. They take a matter of minutes to set up, using sites like **Crowdfunder.co.uk**, and provide a permanent home for your story, where you can post updates and images of your project for your supporters.

If this still feels too technical, ask around – someone in your congregation or local area who regularly uses a computer or a smartphone for work or leisure may already use these tools and can help you get started. Youngsters might jump at the chance to get involved, if only to show their parents and grandparents how it's done!



Fundraising in a Box

Earlier this year, Ecclesiastical sent out a 'Fundraising in a Box' kit to its church customers containing four booklets giving guidance and support to make the fundraising journey easier. For more information and guidance, including some really helpful webinars, please visit the Ecclesiastical fundraising hub at **www.ecclesiastical.com/church/fundraising** (if you are an Ecclesiastical customer and require further copies of the box, please contact us via the website).

Have you heard the e-news?

E-news is a monthly email full of tips and information for all Ecclesiastical church customers and anyone in your church community. To receive it is easy – all you need to do is register on their website at **www.ecclesiastical.com/signup** and if at any time you decide you no longer want to receive it, you can click the 'unsubscribe' button at the bottom of the email. Feel free to pass on the sign-up website to anyone you think might like it.



Three cheers for roof alarms and SmartWater®!

Churches with these systems have found it's had a positive impact on reducing the risk of metal theft.



SmartWater® recently helped Police convict four criminals responsible for stealing metal from 35 churches located in Midlands, East Anglia and the South-West¹. And a roof alarm helped St Bartholomew's in Lancashire to scare off attackers not once, but three times in the same month.

St Bartholomew's has a 'monitored roof alarm' which sends out an audible warning on site, and alerts the alarm-receiving centre of movement on the church roof. The centre contacted the church's key-holder, and neighbours called the Police. As a result, offenders were arrested on site with tools in hand.

Lead and copper roofing are materials that characterise our beautiful churches – but thieves love it too, and churches are often a target. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, Ecclesiastical anticipate organised crime will return to target less well-protected areas of lead. The good news is there's positive actions you can take to protect your church.

A roof alarm is one, particularly if your church has significant amounts of metal. Ask Ecclesiastical for a list of approved installers. An approved forensic security marking solution such as SmartWater® is another. This is a clever liquid like DNA that you apply to external metal. It's unique to your church so items can be traced back to you. You must register it with the supplier and display signage, which acts as a deterrent. Using a forensic solution is a condition of your theft of metal cover. If you choose SmartWater®, Ecclesiastical will register it for you, saving you £120.

Thieves are likely to use a vehicle to carry their heavy stolen metal away. Restrict vehicle access with locked gates, fences and bollards.

Consider installing security lighting and cut back trees that might conceal criminals as they work.

There is more advice on the website: www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmetaltheft and also St Bartholomew's full story: www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/metal.pdf

¹ BBC News, 6 January 2021.

Risk helpline

The Ecclesiastical Risk Advice Line is available 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (except bank holidays).

Call: 0345 600 7531

Email: risk.advice@ecclesiastical.com

Taking a sabbatical in 2022

Ecclesiastical's Ministry Bursary Awards provide financial support for members of the clergy taking extended study leave, and they are now accepting applications for sabbaticals taking place in 2022. You can find out more about the awards, check the eligibility criteria and apply on the website.

Find out more: www.ecclesiastical.com/mba



Rebuilding stronger from COVID-19

Churches and Christian charities throughout the UK and Ireland have received more than £3.8 million in funding to support their communities to rebuild stronger in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Allchurches Trust's Hope Beyond programme has supported more than 500 projects aimed at tackling loneliness, boosting mental health and building digital resilience. While the programme has now closed, Allchurches – the charitable owner of Ecclesiastical Insurance Group – is currently considering the next phase of its COVID-19 response.

St Luke's Healthcare for the clergy has received £20,000 Hope Beyond funding to offer counselling and therapy to support clergy and their families suffering as a result of COVID-19, giving them increased resilience and skills as they help the most vulnerable.



Shine – the community organisation working with St Stephen's Church in West Bowling, Bradford – will use its £5,500 Hope Beyond grant to transform a basement room into a counselling space, which leads onto a tranquil garden ideal for wellbeing groups.

To find out more about funding, and advice and resources for churches, head to www.allchurches.co.uk

Financial services

Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services (EFAS) provides expert, independent financial advice including for pension, investments, life assurance and mortgages to the clergy, church people and PCCs.

Call: 0800 107 0190

Email: getadvice@ecclesiastical.com

www.ecclesiastical.com/financial-advice



Funeral planning

Ecclesiastical can help you make financial provision for your funeral, reducing the worry for your family and ensuring your wishes are provided for.

Call: 0800 055 6503

Email: info@epsfunerals.com

www.funeralplans.co.uk



Car insurance

The Clergy Motor Insurance provided by Ecclesiastical is tailored specifically for the clergy and includes benefits such as business use, no admin charges and up to £500 cover for church goods in the car.¹

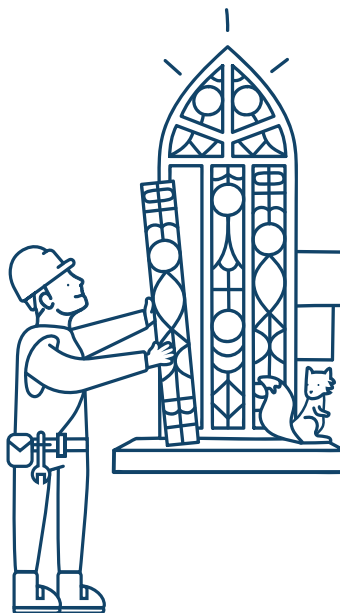
Call: 0345 450 9396

www.ecclesiastical.com/church/car-insurance

¹Subject to terms and conditions.



Protect your home and support your church with Trust130



Ecclesiastical has donated more than £430,000 to churches around the UK as part of their Trust130 campaign and it's been particularly helpful during the pandemic. Even the smallest amounts can make a big difference.

St Mark's and All Saints churches in West Parley, in the Diocese of Salisbury, are like many other churches – Treasurer Derek Warner is looking at a shortfall of between £15,000 and £18,000 for the year. Ecclesiastical's recent Trust130 donation of £650 went into general funds, and was a welcome addition.

'It's been extremely tough,' said Mr Warner. 'We have had no congregations, so obviously that means no collections. But even more importantly, we have lost all of our income from church hall lettings. We have survived by eating into our capital, and I'm looking at ways of cutting our budgets for 2021.'

'Donations such as the Trust130 money from Ecclesiastical Insurance are absolutely vital – they are really interested in helping churches and their communities and we're very grateful to them.'

Trust130 continues into 2021 to help and support churches

Ecclesiastical is really pleased to be extending the offer to run throughout 2021. Supporting your church is easy. Simply take out a home insurance policy¹ with Ecclesiastical and they will donate £130 to the church of your choice. And, of course, the more people who take out home insurance policies, the more funds that are raised. So even if you've got a really ambitious goal – like raising funds for a new church roof – there's nothing to stop you.

Want to know more?

It really is wonderful to hear how this programme is helping customers and the things that matter to them. You can hear more about what some customers are saying in a brand-new film clip on Ecclesiastical's website – simply go to the website to watch:

www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

If you would like a home insurance quote or more information, simply call 0800 7830 130 and quote AVNEWS21.

¹Subject to terms and conditions – please visit www.ecclesiastical.com/trust130

Trust130.
Limitless donations.
Endless possibilities.



How to get social with your media

Do you have a Twitter account? Have you ever posted a photo on Instagram? Do you like to keep up-to-date with friends on Facebook? If you're already using social media in your personal life, then you might be interested in seeing what it could do for your church. More and more churches are using social media platforms, and you could find they have a powerful role to play in the life of your church. From papyrus through to television, the Church has always used the media of the day to share its message. The prevalent media of today is undoubtedly social, with millions of people signed up to Facebook and Twitter. The good news is that most social media platforms are free and require very little technical knowledge. All you need is an engaging way with words.

Here's some advice on how to take the next step.

Plan ahead

Before you start tweeting or posting, it's important to have a plan in place. Think about what you're trying to achieve, and which social media platform/s are the best one/s to help you. For example, if you know that many of your parishioners are already on Facebook, that might be more effective than trying to build an entirely new online community via Twitter.

Start with a website

If you're going to use social media to engage people with your church, it's a good idea to have somewhere to direct them so they can find out more. That's why a website is really useful. It should be more than an online brochure. Try to make it engaging and interesting, and regularly update it so people come back for the latest news.

Your website should be easy to read, without any jargon, and contain information that would attract people who don't come to church. It should also be a focal point for your congregation, so they can find out about everything that's going on.

There are many low-cost or even free tools you can use to build a website, such as WordPress. Some of the tools may take time to get to grips with, but you might be lucky enough to have a computer-savvy person in your congregation who could help.

As well as building the website, you will also need a domain name for your website. You will have to pay for your domain to be hosted, which will probably be around £30 a year.



Twitter

Twitter is a micro-blogging service that has grown enormously over the last few years. A quarter of the UK population say they use it regularly¹. Once you've set up an account at www.twitter.com, you'll be able to post short 280-character messages and follow other people and organisations you're interested in to see what they are saying. To get you started, why not have a look at what Church Matters is saying at www.twitter.com/churchmatters. If you click the 'follow' button, you'll see every Church Matters update.

Facebook

Nearly 40 million people in the UK use Facebook², and almost half are over 55³. To start using Facebook, go to www.facebook.com, where you'll need to create your own personal account. Once you've done that, you'll be able to set up a Facebook page for your church. You'll then be able to post messages, connect with people and organisations, post photographs and advertise events.

Blog

A blog is an online space in which you can write regularly about things that interest you, or display pictures and videos. A blog can be completely separate from all your other activity, or you can integrate it into your church's website, it's up to you. The most popular blogging software is all free: WordPress, Blogger and Tumblr.

Lots of advice and support

You'll find a huge amount of free advice about how to use social media and websites online. The Church of England also offers training courses in the web and new media at www.churchcommstraining.org

¹Source / ²Source / ³Source : Avocado Social – 'The latest UK social media statistic for 2019'



None of us can ignore the risk of cyber-attack (as much as we may want to!)

Cyber risk is real and attacks are significantly increasing in frequency. It is estimated around 80% of attacks can be prevented or mitigated by basic risk management practices that we could all be doing with little effort or cost.

Everyone faces risks

Most cyber-attacks are 'scatter gun'. Cyber criminals don't care who you are until they know whether they can get through your defences. They may be sending out millions of emails a day to target victims. These emails don't discriminate between a corporate CEO, volunteer in your church or an Archdeacon. Follow a link in one of those emails... and suddenly your cyber threat becomes real. Your attacker will want to know all about you now – and how they can exploit or steal from you and the people whose information you hold!

Understand what is most important to you and why

What would happen if someone stole all the personal data you hold about staff, volunteers and the vulnerable people you support? What if abusive messages were sent to those people from somebody posing as your church? Or if those people had their bank accounts hacked because you lost control of their personal information? What if your organisational accounts, records and files were irreversibly corrupted by a computer virus?

Think about the worst ways that your church, diocese or cathedral could be compromised by a cyber-attack and then work backwards to minimise your risks and protect your finances, reputation and operational capacity. It's not a cheerful task, but it is necessary.

Get the basics right with these five free and easy things you can do

These five simple steps from the National Cyber Security Centre (www.ncsc.gov.uk) will go a long way to protecting you from cyber-attack... and they won't cost a penny:

1. Use firewalls to secure your Internet connections from potential threat
2. Ensure all devices (computers, laptops, tablets and phones) have the most secure settings enabled
3. Use passwords for every device and change them regularly
4. Control access to your information; discriminate between general access for staff and volunteers, and restricted administrative access with password protection
5. Install updates as soon as you receive them. Manufacturers send you updates to protect you from the latest vulnerabilities they've discovered – don't ignore them!

You can download more guidance on how you can protect yourself from the threat of a cyber-attack here:

www.ecclesiastical.com/risk-management/cyber-security/



Protect yourself with Cyber Insurance cover

Ecclesiastical's Cyber Insurance cover is comprehensive and flexible and will dovetail with your existing insurance policy. You can choose a cover limit appropriate to your level of risk, which can include equipment replacement costs, investigation costs, legal advice, liability and data breach costs, and data restoration.

Call us on 0345 777 3322 to speak about your level of risk and whether Cyber insurance cover is right for you.

For more information

Call: 0345 777 3322 **Email:** churches@ecclesiastical.com

Facebook: Ecclesiastical **Twitter:** @churchmatters

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