

# archdeacons' visitation news

Spring 2017 - issue 13

## Dear churchwardens

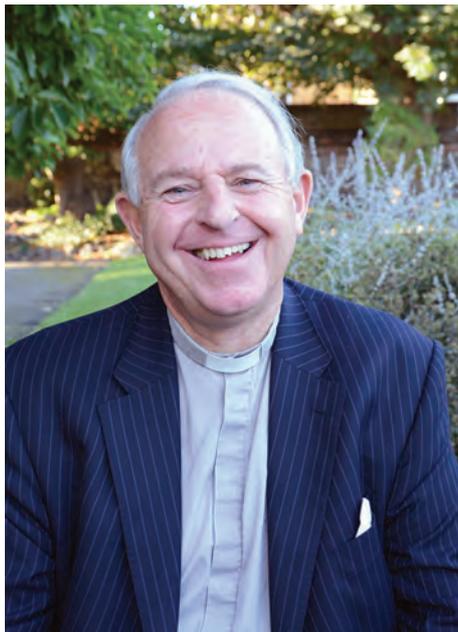
As you now know, I retire as Archdeacon of Tonbridge this summer and will move to North Yorkshire. If any of you can come to the Farewell Service for Jane and myself at Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 1 July at 3.15pm, we will be delighted to see you.

I am enormously grateful to the churchwardens whom I have known and worked with during my years here as Archdeacon since November 2002. Thank you to you, your clergy and your colleagues, both ordained and lay, in your parishes for all that you do in Christ's service.

I hope that in retirement I will be able to offer Christian service, including ordained ministry under Permission to Officiate. My faith and joy in Christ are undimmed. My delight at leading worship continues unabated and my desire to see the Christian faith and Gospel shared is as keen as ever.

Something which clergy of all places discover is how who we are and what we say and do all have an impact on other people, often in ways that we do not recognise at the time. During one visit to North Yorkshire, late last year, I met a couple in the supermarket who said that "people still talked about" the service when I had baptised their daughter 26 years ago and where I brought one or two of the local sheep into the church (it was 'Good Shepherd Sunday'). Another man whom I met on the street spoke of how he still remembered how I blessed him at the communion rail in Ripon Cathedral when he came forward as a non-communicant at a service. That would have happened about 30 years ago. I had no idea of the impact of either of these events on the people concerned, nor that such an impact would be so long-lasting. On other occasions, people have told me how words I have spoken have played their part over subsequent years in leading them in a vocation to ordination.

Many a Christian person, lay or ordained, has done something which has shaped the life of another person for good and which is long, long remembered.



I hope that others may thank you, from time to time, for things you have done that have been important to them, even if not seen by you as such at the time, and that you, in turn, are able to offer your thanks to those who have given you encouragement and inspiration in your own life and Christian service.

May God bless you and the parishes in which you live and serve, now and in the future.

**Ven Clive Mansell**  
Archdeacon of Tonbridge



## Safeguarding

It is everyone's responsibility to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. The local church should be a place of welcome and hospitality, and provide a wide variety of people with a sense that 'they can belong'. However, sometimes there will be individuals who will not behave appropriately, and it is up to everyone else to notice this and, where appropriate, do something about it.

There are four R's which might help the Leadership Team, PCC and others with responsibility in how they manage safeguarding issues:

**Recognise** these things happen. It might be bruises on a young child.

**Respond.** Don't attempt to investigate yourself; refer as soon as possible.

**Record.** Make full notes of what you are told.

**Refer.** You are not expected to be an expert – contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser\*.

\***Janice Keen** – Bishop's Adviser for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

[Janice.keen@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:Janice.keen@rochester.anglican.org)

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**07787445032**

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# The wisdom thing

Many people assume wisdom is an age-related thing, but its acquisition does not come automatically with age like grey hair and wrinkles because some people become confirmed in their unreflective prejudices as they age. As the saying goes: middle age is when a broad mind and a narrow waist swap adjectives.

Spiritual wisdom is a gift from God to those who ask him in faith – as the letter of James informs us – and we have to take the initiative in seeking it. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, freeing us from the unconscious anxieties that frequently distort our decision-making. At a primary level, it is the ability to distinguish between right and wrong. Yet described in this way the gift seems almost banal, like being asked to choose between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader. The reality is more complicated.

History is littered with good people who have been hoodwinked by the incremental advance of evil – a process that can be as slow as the tide coming in and equally as powerful. Wisdom is in part the ability to unmask sin before it disarms you. C. S. Lewis has also described wisdom as the ability to



distinguish what is trivial in life from what is important.

God does not withhold wisdom from anyone who asks in faith. Yet there is no doubt some need it more than others. Anyone who has assumed public office with a measure of care for others – like churchwardens – knows how challenging leadership can prove. Sometimes there are no precedents to cling to in making a decision; frequently the information is incomplete or mediated by those who have a stake in the answer. Occasionally there is no time to reflect and people must make their best guess. Thank God we can ask him for help.

Of all the gifts those in church leadership might exercise, wisdom may be paramount and, coming from above, inhabits us in ways we can't always articulate. But we know it when we see it. As we make our farewells to Archdeacon Clive, I know I am not at all alone in giving thanks not just for a faithful, loving, persevering ministry, but for the wisdom he has always been so generous in sharing, even when his own time has been constrained. There is much to give thanks for.

**Ven Simon Burton-Jones**  
Archdeacon of Rochester

# Thank you

The work to develop a strategic framework for our Diocese has benefited enormously from *Our Conversation; Our Future*. It was encouraging to see so many people seeking God's will and talking about our hopes for our shared future.



We were heartened to receive responses from individuals, PCCs, young people, local communities, schools, chaplains and more. Many people used the opportunity to talk to partner organisations and local networks about the place of the Church of England in our communities. We know that some of these conversations have already borne fruit, and are excited to see where God leads us.

Bishop James and those working with him are now prayerfully reading through the responses, and discerning the core hopes and vision for our strategic framework. The conversations don't end here; through the coming months Bishop James and colleagues will be seeking to test their initial findings through our Diocesan meetings and networks, and with partner organisations. The new strategic framework will be launched on 4 November 2017, and information will be shared across the Diocese at this time.

Thank you for being involved up until now and for your ongoing support and prayers.

## Re-missioning Chatham town centre

In 2016, the Church Commissioners awarded the Diocese of Rochester a grant of £665,000 towards a £1.3m project to re-establish mission in Chatham town centre.

The strategic project at Chatham includes re-establishing a worshipping community for St John's Church, bringing the building back into use (potentially with an interim solution) and establishing mission activities in the local community. The area around St John's is one of the most deprived in the Diocese in terms of employment rates, income, education and quality of life. The Diocese and local people feel the re-opening St John's Church is key to local identity and a crucial element in the plans for the regeneration of the community.

The Diocese is working with local people to redefine our vision for Chatham; initial mission outreach activities include a conversation café and debt and other crisis advice services, learning from and linking to ongoing work at the All Saints Centre in a suburb of the town.

**Matthew Girt**  
Diocesan Director of Strategy and Implementation

**Claire Boxall**  
Strategic Framework Manager

# The Great Community Mural – win £10,000 for your church

This year, we really want to celebrate the community work of the UK's churches. In order to do this we want you to help us create 'The Great Community Mural'.

## It is time for your church to get creative!

We are inviting all of our church insurance customers to submit a piece of original artwork that celebrates the role their church plays as part of the fabric of its local community. Entries can be created by anyone with a connection to the church and we're actively encouraging collaborations!

The artists can be young or old (or a combination of the two!) and we welcome submissions via any medium: collage, crayons, chalk, felt-tip or embroidery. We're insisting only that the work is original and is true to our theme of celebrating the church as part of the fabric of the community.

We will be combining the best entries with the aim of creating the largest piece of community art that has ever been produced in the UK. 'The Great Community Mural' will be 10 metres in length and three metres high, and will feature as many of the entries as we can include, with the very best five printed at a larger scale, and the overall winner given pride of place in the centre of the mural.



## The Great Community Mural Competition 2017

The winning church will receive a prize of £10,000; with four runners-up receiving £2,500 each. The Great Community Mural will be unveiled at a prestigious London venue before touring to a select number of cathedrals around the UK. So, don't delay, get your church to be creative today!



## The cloth and the community

**Quietly, in every corner of the country, fantastic things are happening. Much of this activity goes unnoticed but its impact is felt by many, weaving its way into the darkest of places and making the world a better place.**

In 2016, Ecclesiastical launched a national competition to celebrate the crucial role our churches have in supporting local communities. We asked churches to share their success stories and tell us how they are reaching out to their local community.

With a £20,000 prize fund up for grabs, we were inundated with inspirational projects. The eventual winner, St. John's church in Shildon, who won the top prize of £10,000, had knitted itself into the very fabric of its community. The range of activities not only stretched to every corner but instilled a sense of pride in the people of Shildon, bringing them closer together.

In fact, all of the 372 entries revealed the true value and reach of the work churches are doing. We believe that this should be celebrated and brought to life and as the UK's leading church insurer we are uniquely placed to support and highlight this.

For 130 years, we've had the privilege of protecting our churches and their communities so throughout 2017 we'll be doing even more to highlight and support the fantastic things that they are quietly delivering.

Keep up to date via our website at [www.ecclesiastical.com/community](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/community) or our Facebook page **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical** or via Twitter



@churchmatters

## Artist Tim Steward

Our ambassador for the Great Community Mural project is Tim Steward, a Christian artist who has been exhibited all around the UK and whose work is notable, among many outstanding features, for its celebration of church architecture. Tim will be joining the judging panel for the competition and he'll produce an original piece of artwork that will form part of the completed Mural.

Tim said: "As an artist, I'm thrilled to be the ambassador for The Great Community Mural project. I am passionate about the



role of art within churches and this project is a wonderful way of celebrating the unique place that churches hold in our country's diverse communities."

## How to enter the competition

Entry forms are being sent out during May to all of our customers in their **Church Matters newsletter**. If you don't get the newsletter or want further information about how to enter, go to our website. There you'll

also find more details about The Great Community Mural competition, including a video of Tim Steward talking through some ideas that might inspire you. **The closing date for entries is 21st August 2017.**

[www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/churchcomp)

## Roof alarms

Based on our claims experience, Ecclesiastical believes roof alarms provide the best deterrent to metal thieves. Alarms are highly effective at deterring metal theft and perfect for buildings in remote or rural locations – if the security system is activated, a planned response based on your specific instructions is carried out.

Ecclesiastical maintains a list of approved suppliers who meet our security requirements – call **0345 777 3322** for more information.



# Is the price of lead fuelling theft from church roofs?

The price of scrap lead has reached record highs in the last year or so with prices continuing to increase. Andrew Mulholland, Crime Reduction Consultant at SmartWater Technology Ltd updates us on the outlook for this destructive crime now.



The theft of lead from a church roof is a particularly damaging crime. Not only does it cause a severe financial loss, it can also result in water damage to the church and to contents, some of which can be irreplaceable. Even if your church hasn't been subject to lead theft, you are likely to know one that has. So what is fuelling these attacks and what can be done about it?

The vast majority of metal thefts relate to lead and this is not surprising given the rising demand and increasing resale value of scrap lead. There was a clear price increase around 2010-11 and many will remember the surge of lead thefts with around 2,500 crimes against churches reported that year alone.

A national taskforce on metal theft was established with dedicated police resources assigned to address the problem. There was also new legislation with the Scrap Metal Dealer Act and support provided by companies such as SmartWater with both forensic marking and enforcement activities and from Ecclesiastical with the 'Hands off our Church

Roofs' campaign. Although the price of scrap lead remained high in the years that followed, the number of churches falling victim decreased. In fact, by 2015, the number of reported crimes was around a tenth of what it was five years earlier.

However, since then the national task force has been disbanded, police numbers have reduced and priorities have moved away from metal theft. At the same time, the crimes have also become much more organised and large scale. Although the overall number of crimes has reduced, some counties have seen a significant increase in attacks. These are now much more industrial with teams of criminals working overnight to strip lead from whole roofs.

With new record prices for scrap lead it is likely that criminals will become more interested in it again. Given the increase in crime during previous price peaks, it is essential that churches do not lose their focus on this problem and take steps to do everything they can to prevent theft.

## Forensic marking

It is a condition of your insurance that you apply SmartWater or an alternative forensic marker approved by us. You will not have metal theft cover if you do not follow this condition. Make sure you have applied the solution to any external metal, put up signage in a prominent position and register with the supplier to comply with your policy.



## Here are Andrew's top tips:



- **Be aware** – make sure the local community is 'on the lookout'
- **Take security measures** – remove climbing aids such as wheelie bins
- **Apply a forensic marking solution** – reduce the attraction of handling stolen items
- **Consider a roof alarm** – the ultimate deterrent

Don't forget you can also download Ecclesiastical's Metal Theft checklist from:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/metaltheft)

# A day in the life of an Allchurches Trust Grants officer

Allchurches Trust is the charitable owner of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group which grants a significant proportion of its profits to the trust so that this money can be given back to society for good causes.

**Last year, Allchurches Trust gave grants totalling more than £13 million to Anglican churches and cathedrals, churches of other denominations, heritage and community projects. Paul Playford is one of three Allchurches Trust Grants Officers who visit groups applying for grants. In this article, we find out more about his typical day.**



➤ **7.15am** Drive from home in Ledbury, Herefordshire, to Allchurches Trust Gloucester office. Time for coffee and a few emails before my first visit.

➤ **9.30am** A crisp winter morning's walk through Gloucester to St. Mary de Crypt, a medieval church with a Tudor schoolroom that stands on the main thoroughfare between the Quays and the Cathedral. These are the two most visited places in the entire county and St. Mary's plans to entice those passing between them to venture in and discover not just a beautiful church but a venue for art, culture and community.

When projects are over £500,000 in total, I make a point of visiting. It gives applicants a chance to describe their vision to me in person and explain in more detail how the project will address local needs.

St. Mary de Crypt's Project Manager Rachel Court and her team have already formed partnerships with local charities working with refugees, dementia sufferers and young unemployed people, who will become users of the newly equipped church. I'm impressed. The Heritage Lottery Fund is too and has given them £1.36m towards their £2m goal.

➤ **11.00am** Back to the office and straight into a presentation to people who have recently joined Ecclesiastical Insurance –

it's important we let Ecclesiastical's employees know of all the good causes their hard work benefits.

➤ **12.00pm** I'm welcomed at Widden Primary School by Special Needs Co-ordinator Karen Hughes. Of Widden's 380 children, 200 are considered 'vulnerable' and of those, the 10-15 with the most significant emotional needs are given special sessions in a Nurture Room. "Allchurches Trusts' grant has made us able to make the room more like a home than a classroom," explains Karen. "With sofas, a dining table and chairs, toys and furnishings, we can help these children to develop the emotional and social skills they need to succeed back in the classroom." I'm humbled by the scale of the problems Karen and her colleagues are tackling but it's obviously working.

➤ **3.00pm** It's now a rainy afternoon in Bristol at John and Charles Wesley's New Room, the meeting house built in 1739 which is the earliest Methodist building in the world.



I'm greeted by David Worthington, the New Room's Manager. As with so many of the grant applicants I meet, David has an extraordinary depth of knowledge combined with a passionate determination to see the project through. Pilgrims from among the world's 75 million Methodists arrive daily and David's on a mission to make the New Room a welcoming place for them with a museum and archive, conference facilities and a cafe. It's a £4.5m project to which Allchurches Trust is proud to have contributed.

➤ **7.30pm** Just time to write up the day's visits for the next Board meeting. Today, not unusually, it's all good news.



## Paul's most memorable visit?

It has to be my first ever visit as a new Grants Officer. It was to the Salvation Army in Droitwich. Their work opened my eyes to the challenges out there and the fact that the church, in all its forms, is having a hugely positive impact. Its contribution often goes under the radar but take the church out of social care and you'd have a huge gap.



## Paul's toughest visit!

I had to visit the church on Lundy Island. The vicar very kindly had arranged for me to be invited onto the bridge by the Captain for the two-hour crossing. Sadly, I was horribly sea-sick. We docked and I had to ask if I could go and lie down! However, once I had recovered, the stunning location and inspirational project fully made up for the travel experience.



[www.allchurches.co.uk](http://www.allchurches.co.uk)



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## Risk Management Helpline

Need help with managing risks at your church? You can now call expert risk management advisers for advice.

**Call: 0345 600 7531**

# Insurance you can believe in

It's our belief that the best insurance is about much more than just words. It's about what we do as well as what we say. Indeed, we have a proven track record of being there for our church customers when they need us most.

Established by the Church of England 130 years ago, we have a unique understanding of how to protect churches. This depth of experience and commitment means that when the worst happens you know that you are in safe hands. We are proud to have been trusted to protect churches and their communities since 1887.

### Expertise that sets us apart

We have a dedicated team of church specialists who can respond to your needs

quickly and compassionately. They only deal with church insurance so they understand the issues that you face. Our experts can provide you with a wide range of free advice and support at any time.

And when the unthinkable happens, we want the best outcome for you – to pay you quickly and without fuss – so that you can get on with running your church.

To us, doing the right thing is simply what we do. To our church customers, it's what sets us apart.

## Church Insurance Made Simple

Have you looked at our new series of Made Simple guides designed to make understanding your church insurance easier? Based on feedback from customers, the guides look at the insurance aspects of legal protection, building works, church events, community outreach and more. You can read them online or download the guides at:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/madesimple)

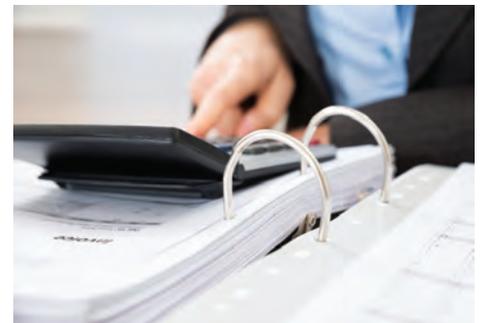


## Need financial advice you can trust?

Perhaps you're worried about getting the best return on your savings or you'd like to make sure you're investing ethically. You might be thinking about taking out a mortgage, protecting your family or planning for retirement. Whatever your concerns, Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services can bring you independent financial advice from a company you know and trust.

Our team of independent financial advisers offer expert advice and help with your personal finances and can find suitable solutions from across the relevant market.

Our advice doesn't stop at personal finance; we also help PCCs and their members review their investments and find ways to improve potential returns. Please note, the value of investments can fall as well as rise and past performance is not a guide to future performance. Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.



Like all advisers, we charge a fee for providing financial advice, and your adviser will talk you through the charges and make sure you understand them before there is any commitment on either part. The first meeting or conversation is at our expense.

**Contact Ecclesiastical Financial Advisory Services** Call: **0800 107 0190** or email: [getadvice@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:getadvice@ecclesiastical.com)

## How to contact us

### Customer services

**Call: 0345 777 3322**

(8am-6pm Monday to Friday except Bank Holidays)

Email: [churches@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:churches@ecclesiastical.com)

### Report a claim

**Call: 0345 603 8381**

At any time on any day of the week

Email: [faithclaims@ecclesiastical.com](mailto:faithclaims@ecclesiastical.com)

Dedicated church customer website:

[www.ecclesiastical.com/church](http://www.ecclesiastical.com/church)

Facebook: **Church Matters with Ecclesiastical**



@churchmatters

# A new horizon – chairing the diocesan board of finance



In April 2016 I retired after a mainly public sector career and took up several voluntary roles. Principal among these was taking oversight of our Diocese's finances – more properly known as chairing

the Diocesan Board of Finance. This is really interesting as our Diocese is going through challenging financial times. However, I am pleased to say that progress is being made.

I have lived and worshipped in the parish of Frindsbury with Upnor and Chattenden for over 18 years and have been a Reader since 2004. An accountant by profession, I arrived here in 1998 after becoming Chief Executive

of Medway Council, a job I did until 2006. I then moved to work in central government, and in the regeneration and commercial sectors. However, we have continued to live in Medway. I am so glad, in retirement, to have given up the resulting commute to London.

I am married, and Rob and I have two grown-up daughters. I enjoy singing and running, and do some orienteering – running with a map.

In 2017 our Diocese aims to balance its income and expenditure for the first time for a few years, and move to a longer-term strategy for sustainable finances. There are many committed and gifted people in our Diocese, both staff and those involved in governance, not least Bishop James himself, who are giving generously of their time to help with this task, and I am enormously grateful to them.

**Judith Armitt**

## Arts in Mission

**Made in our Creator's image, we have a creative nature that, when given expression, can add huge value to our lives. Some people believe they are not creative – perhaps because they can't draw or are not interested in the arts – but this is a very limited definition.**

Rochester Arts in Mission takes a broad perspective because we know that there is a host of exciting ways to express our creativity.

There are so many inspiring and beautiful projects already happening around the Diocese. They enable people to use their gifts and to learn new skills. They grow friendships and a sense of community. Often those on the fringe of or outside the church are drawn in by the telling of God's story through a different way. Yet, even when there is no overt sacred focus to the project, God works in the gaps.



Being who we were made to be is about expressing all that God has put within us. We want to encourage this through this ministry. Through our website ([www.rochesteraim.com](http://www.rochesteraim.com)) we are forming a network where ideas and resources can be shared and creative projects are showcased. We are also offering a consultancy for those who would like to start a creative project in their community. To discuss this further, book a Creative Quiet Day or share what your parish is doing, contact **Revd Mandy Carr**, Arts in Mission Co-ordinator, at [mandy@carrfamilyonline.co.uk](mailto:mandy@carrfamilyonline.co.uk)

*“God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.”*

The ordination services are introduced with those words. In our Diocese we take that call of all God's people seriously because we can only be effective as a missional church if we all follow our vocation, both lay and ordained.

There has been some streamlining of the discernment process for ordained ministry in the Diocese recently. The quarterly 'It's Your Calling' days continue to be the starting point for all thinking about vocation. Prospective Ordination candidates see a Vocations Adviser and then meet the Diocesan Director of Ordination and Vocations, Revd Pamela Ive, or one of the Archdeaconry Assistant DDOs.

### **Tonbridge:**

Revd Sarah Partridge & Revd Tim Hatwell

### **Rochester:**

Revd Dr Helen Burn & Revd Andrew Avery

### **Bromley and Bexley:**

Revd John Musson & Revd Susan Twynam

In 2016 three new diocesan vocation leaflets were produced:

### ■ **Is God Calling You?**

- **Lay Ministry**
- **Ordained Ministry**



If you want to think about where God might be calling or encourage somebody in their journey, you can start by visiting the Vocation pages in the Ministry section on the diocesan website, where you can download the leaflets and find out more about Vocation Advisers. Each deanery has a Vocations Adviser and you can speak to them or Canon Mark Griffin (Lead VA) or your incumbent to take things further.

### **Revd Pamela Ive**

Diocesan Director of Ordinands

### **Revd Canon Mark Griffin**

Lead Vocations Adviser

# Churchwardens are key members of any church family...

Sometimes they take on the role of a 'parent', sometimes 'grandparent', and sometimes I'm sure they would prefer to be 'the child' – not least in terms of having the opportunity to be irresponsible, although this probably doesn't happen with too many churchwardens!

In any family we will have different places in the pecking order or in our responsibilities and roles. I would like to think this is a good thing in church life as we gather for worship, not only on a Sunday but also with the other routine events and not least PCC meetings etc.

Last autumn my son, Ben, his wife, Gill, and our two grandchildren, Amelie and William, moved in with us because they were having building work carried out on their family home. It was interesting as we anticipated their arrival because inevitably there were a number of

questions, not least what their time with us would do to our schedule. And this is true for the church family when new people join the church or you lay on a new event which brings in different people with different demands... How will that work out? Churchwardens are often in the forefront of managing that shift in relationships.

A critical question was 'will we need a rota to use the bathroom?!' For many churches that is not a question that can be put because they are still struggling to get toilet facilities into their medieval church or the infamous kitchen

station so as to prepare refreshments! I know some of you have been struggling with trying to work through some of these issues.

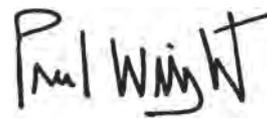
Of course you can anticipate and plan for some of these shifts and opportunities. For us, my son (ever practical) suggested they have their own fridge in the utility room. It wasn't a question of us being 'mean' towards each other, but actually their particular food requirements were going to be different from ours. This leads me to wonder whether there are things we need to separate in church life simply because it makes sense. Sometimes we can worry about offending for no good reason.

The huge plus for us was seeing the grandchildren grow, literally, before our eyes. Amelie was just over three years old, and William about four months. We had to adapt in terms of sleeping arrangements and learning to give way, and we need to be able to do that in church – dare I say giving away our favourite seat or pew on a Sunday morning or not being so bothered when somebody has already taken it.

And talking of moving out and moving on, Clive, the Archdeacon of Tonbridge, and his wife Jane are retiring in a few months' time. They have been good friends to many in the Diocese and certainly to me and to Simon. We wish them well as they move into their retirement. The old adage of 'nothing ever stays the same' comes to mind, even if in church life that often seems to be the preferred option!

Thank you, churchwardens, for all that you do and for the people you serve. As long as we remember we are part of God's family, then we should be OK!

With every blessing,



**Ven Dr Paul Wright**  
Archdeacon of Bromley and Bexley



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