Parish Support

Changes in Parish Support

Elizabeth Harvey, Director of Parish Support, Governance and Administration, writes:

Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that we have promoted Dan Crooke as the DAC Secretary and team leader of the Church Buildings team as of 1st June.

Since Dan joined us in January 2020, Dan has made a significant contribution to the Church Buildings team and has established good relationships with the parishes, the DAC members, Registry, the Chancellor and the Archdeacons.

During the last 12 months, the Church Buildings team has worked hard to clear the backlog of case work; reduce average response time of parish enquiries from four weeks to less than four working days; and improve the quality and speed of producing the DAC agenda, minutes and NOAs.

CBC recognised our Church Buildings team as the busiest in England during 2020. The team continued their work throughout the pandemic and DAC meetings successfully moved to online with 158 cases discussed at meetings during 2020.

We recognise that our Church Buildings team members are all relatively new in post and we will continue our arrangement with the DAC Secretaries from Portsmouth to provide the team with expertise and experience for the foreseeable future.

You will also be aware that Jill Hockham will be retiring at the end of this year, 2021. Jill leaves big shoes to fill with 30 years of experience as well as her passion and commitment to her role, the Diocese and church life.

Miriam Longfoot will take on pastoral and patronage duties and oversee the Church Buildings team. A full-time Governance Assistant Officer role will be advertised to support Miriam with pastoral, patronage, and governance duties. We will recruit for this role as soon as possible to ensure there is a 4–5-month handover period between Jill and the new role holder.

With Miriam's experience, familiarity, and in-depth understanding of CofE governance and the recruitment of a full-time assistant, we believe this will provide the expertise, capacity and resilience to support clergy and parishes in matters of synodical governance, CRR, data protection, pastoral reorganisation and patronage.

We will also start the recruitment process for the IT Support Officer role.

For your reference, an updated org chart of the Parish Support, Governance and Administration team, that includes the above-mentioned changes, is here.

Elizabeth Harvey
June 2021