

## **Scam alert**

Following on from the email scam that saw criminals use Bishop Karen's name in an email to try and exhort money, other parishes have now been targeted with emails claiming to be from their incumbent.

Members of The Cannings and Redhorn Team are just one set of parishes to be targeted.

Team Rector Richard Curtis explains:

"4 of my parishioners (a PCC Treasurer, a person who is Churchwarden and Treasurer, a Churchwarden, and a member of one of my congregations) received messages purporting to be from me asking for the transfer of money. 3 of these messages were emails but one was a text message.

"Each one was personally addressed to the recipient and had just a few details that made the recipients start to wonder if they were real. One person replied and had a short exchange of emails before they were convinced that this was a scam, but that was a person who lives alone and they were concerned that this might have been from someone local, as there were a number of details mentioned in the emails.

Richard is keen that everyone is on their guard against these scammers:

"My suspicion is that the fraudster has used details from the benefice to target people so this is rather more clever than the normal mass emailings that we get every now and again. I've emailed all my PCC members to reinforce that I will never ask them to transfer money to another account.

"Since these messages were more personally targeted it might be that others around the diocese have or will be similarly targeted. It might be useful to make others aware of this more targeted attempt to remove money from people."