

Connected



cpas

Spring 26

190 Years of Mission

Welcome to the new edition of **Connected**, our Supporter Update.

This year we celebrate an incredible 190 years since CPAS was founded. This milestone represents almost two centuries of God's enduring faithfulness to the mission of CPAS: bringing the gospel to the door of every person in this country.

We are so thankful to the thousands of staff, volunteers and supporters who have sacrificially given time, energy and financial support to CPAS in those 190 years.

Last year, thanks to you, we held our most successful Big Give Christmas Campaign in December, raising an extraordinary £180,000 that will bless and equip churches for mission.

In 2025 your support enabled:

- **2,700 children and young people** to experience a Venture and Falcon holiday full of fun, faith and friendship.
- **215 training events** attended by thousands of Christian leaders and the launch of new courses, training and partnerships with Dioceses.
- **62 licensing services** across CPAS parishes, marking new chapters in the lives of churches in vacancy.

CPAS was first founded by Lord Shaftesbury in response to an unprecedented societal change in the Victorian industrial revolution. We are facing another societal change today – there are growing signs of an openness to spirituality, creating an opportunity for churches to be more confident and bold than ever in their mission.

Thank you for partnering with us in this critical time. None of this is possible without you.



Jon Scamman,
Chief Executive Officer



News

Recent months have signalled several significant updates in the life of the CPAS Staff Team.

In March, we celebrated the retirement of Janette Marshall, following 20 years of faithful service as CPAS Finance Manager. She is succeeded by our new Finance Manager, Stephen Watkins.

The Patronage Team also welcome two new members in April: The Rev Nick Williams as Patronage Development Officer, and Natalie Glass as Senior Team Administrator.

Please join us in praying for those stepping into crucial new roles that will serve the wider ministry of CPAS.

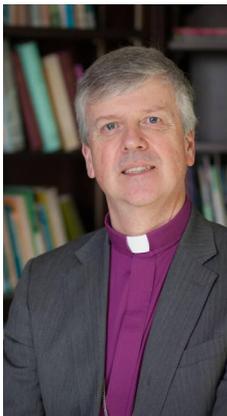


We've achieved the
**Safeguarding
Standards
Award**
2025-2028

The Safest of Spaces

We are thrilled to announce that we have achieved the Thirtyone:eight Safeguarding Standard Award, a nationally recognised safeguarding quality award, demonstrating our commitment to creating safer places.

Safeguarding is integral to our mission, ministries and leadership, and is strengthened through openness, accountability and learning. Achieving the award is not the end point, but a strong foundation on which to continue building a healthy, transparent, and values-led safeguarding culture.



Giving Thanks for Bishop Andrew Watson

We are deeply saddened by the death of The Rt Rev Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford.

Bishop Andrew served as vicar of a CPAS parish in St Stephen's Twickenham, as Chair of CPAS Trustees, and most recently as our President. We give heartfelt thanks for his life and ministry, for his faithful proclamation of the gospel, and for the wisdom, humility and generosity with which he led and served. His unwavering support of CPAS and his deep commitment to seeing churches thrive and leaders flourish have left a lasting legacy.

Our prayers are especially with his wife, Beverly, their children and wider family, and with the Diocese of Guildford at this time of profound loss.

Serving a Community, Sharing Christ

St Mary Magdalene Gorleston

Written by Amy White

When The Rev Matthew Price arrived at the CPAS parish of St Mary Magdalene, Gorleston in 2018, there was an elderly congregation of 20. Today, it's a thriving community hub with around 80 members – a quarter of whom are under 16s – and more than 100 regular volunteers.

'Our vision is transformation,' Matthew explains. 'We want to be a community transformed by, and seeking to transform, our neighbourhood with the extraordinary love of Christ.'





That vision has taken root in one of Norfolk's most deprived parishes. The church runs a Trussell Trust foodbank three days a week, a weekly lunch club serving 60 people, a youth club bursting at capacity, a toddler group and regular drop-in sessions offering support. Many who first arrived in need have found faith, with 10 baptisms taking place last year and another 10 expected this year.

'In communities like ours, people are more open about life's struggles, which makes the hope of the gospel feel all the more relevant,' says Matthew. 'We've simply tried to love and serve our neighbourhood, and God has used that in extraordinarily powerful ways.'

That commitment to serving the community recently made national headlines. When an oil tanker crashed off the Norfolk coast, a cubic metre of frozen meat was donated to St Mary Magdalene's in May 2025. Volunteers carried boxes down the gangplank, the church emptied its freezers, and soon they were serving oxtail soup and roast beef lunches to some of the borough's most vulnerable.

'I learnt how to butcher an oxtail myself,' reflects Lottie Eaton, chef of the church's lunch club. Lottie first came to the lunch club as a client, describing herself as a recovering addict with a troubled past. Volunteering in

the kitchen gave her confidence, community and a new faith. 'It has changed my life,' she says. 'Now I run the kitchen. I have got my family back - it's not something I would have dreamed of 10 years ago.' Today, Lottie is sober, employed for the first time in her 40s, and a regular member at St Mary Magdalene's.

Matthew shares, 'In my experience, people often volunteer because they're in need of community. I believe every church can offer that.'

As a CPAS patronage church, Matthew says that connection has been hugely beneficial in helping the church's evangelism focus. 'The CPAS Leading Evangelism Learning Hub helped myself and the PCC grow more intentionally in mission. It helped crystallise the balance between social action and evangelism,' he explains.

During Covid, many furloughed locals became volunteers for St Mary Magdalene's - many not Christians but inspired by the church's community impact. Through that, there has been a steady trickle of volunteers who have since come to faith.

'It's become a ministry in itself,' explains Matthew. 'It was CPAS training that encouraged us to be more deliberate about gospel opportunities, asking how we can gently direct people closer to Jesus in every situation. Whether that's inviting them to an exploration course, a social event, or sharing your story, it's about creating that fertile ground for God to be at work.'

For Matthew, that's the heart of it. 'When you love a community and seek to serve its needs, it's a phenomenally powerful thing,' he says. **'As we hold together social action and evangelism, we're seeing God transform lives in ways we could never have imagined.'**

Reshaping Parish Ministry

Leadership Insights

Written by Rev Canon Jo McKee,
originally published in Premier Christianity.

When you picture a parish vicar, what do you see?

Maybe it's the endearing chaos of *The Vicar of Dibley*, the quirky humour of *Father Ted*, or the tired but faithful heart of *Adam Smallbone* in *Rev*. Whatever your favourite image, it probably involves one vicar, one church, and one community.

However, that picture is changing fast.

Across the Church of England, a significant shift is reshaping parish ministry: the rise of the Multi-Parish Benefice, or MPB. Nearly 70% of parishes are now part of these MPBs. Instead of one vicar leading one church, we have one vicar overseeing many churches – sometimes a surprising number, like 27!

The implications are clear: clergy can no longer do it all alone, and neither should they try. Ministry – and mission – are changing, and so must we.



From 'Me' to 'Us': The Rev Laura Bushell Hawke's Story

When Laura was appointed vicar of the new Kernow Gateway Benefice in 2024, her task was to bring together six parish churches, each with its own story and tradition.

Oversight ministry comes with its challenges and it's easy to focus on pressures like fewer clergy and tighter budgets. However, Laura sees this not as a story of loss, but as a season of invitation, growth and participation.

‘I say to people in my parishes, “God has given you a gift – I can see it – and now’s the time to use it.” Some say they’re too old or couldn’t do the training to lead, but part of my role is giving them permission to stop hiding their light.’

To help build unity, Laura used the PCC Tonight materials from CPAS – designed to strengthen church councils and foster shared vision and strategy. What started as cautious listening slowly became genuine connection, laughter, and trust.

‘The PCC Tonight sessions changed how we relate to each other,’ she says. ‘At first, it was hard to get people to speak up. By the final session, I could barely get them to stop!’

One sign of this new togetherness is a choir formed from members of all six churches. They now sing at combined services, a living symbol of moving from ‘me’ to ‘us.’

‘That choir says it all,’ Laura reflects. ‘It’s not about “my church” or “your church” anymore. It’s about who we are together. That move from “me” to “us” – I just love that.’

To navigate this new model, Laura also joined the CPAS Oversight Ministry training course, a space where leaders reflect, learn, and share experiences.

‘It was such a gift to be with others in the same boat. The fantastic and insightful sessions gave me space to breathe, to be refuelled, and to keep going with fresh vision.’



Sarah Pix, CPAS Leadership Enabler who leads the training and has had firsthand experience as a vicar overseeing multiple parishes, understands this well.

‘There are plenty of challenges leading many churches,’ Sarah says. ‘Time is tight, decisions multiply, and clergy trying to do it all alone burn out – you simply can’t be in five places at once!’ Yet this isn’t a new way of working. It’s deeply rooted in the early Church.

‘Paul was the original oversight minister,’ Sarah explains. ‘His churches were scattered, and he supported them by writing, visiting, and encouraging local leaders. Done well, oversight ministry empowers others to lead. Maybe it’s time to rediscover this today.’

This is why CPAS developed the Thrive Collection, which includes a book, prayer guides, a downloadable course. Explore the full collection at www.cpas.org.uk/thrive or get in touch with leadership@cpas.org.uk to discuss how we can support your ministry.

60 Summers of Sandiley Venture

A Place to Belong

Written by Amy White

Sandiley Venture is marking an extraordinary milestone - 60 years of life-changing holidays. Run by CPAS for 10-16s, Sandiley has transformed the lives of thousands of young people in a field in North Yorkshire, where tents, laughter and worship rise together into something truly special.

Every summer, around 85 young people and 50 leaders gather for eight days to share food, faith and fun – featuring barn dances led by Chris “Waggers” (long-standing leader) and quiet spaces for reflection.

During his 45 years of volunteering at Sandiley, Waggers has played an elf, a time-travelling scientist, a superhero and a headmaster, to name a few. ‘You give them a great holiday,’ says Waggers, ‘and you also help them grow

as Christian disciples. The fruit it bears just keeps going – many have gone on to become vicars or youth leaders.’

For Jack, one of the Overall Leaders, Sandiley has been personally transformative: ‘I first came as a Junior Leader when I was 16 - it’s a big part of my life. We get to witness many people’s first time preaching or leading, because it’s a safe space and with a real family feel. It’s given me so many leadership opportunities and a real passion for seeing people come to know Jesus - now I’m training to be a vicar.’

Just this summer, one young person shared, **‘It’s the highlight of my year and a really special place.’** Another said, **‘I learned that we can’t be separated from God’s love.’**



Through decades of change, from its move from Sands End to Filey 20 years ago following the foot-and-mouth outbreak, to this year's Christmas in July celebrations (involving a snow machine and a full Christmas dinner!), the heart of Sandiley remains the same: creating a space where young people from all backgrounds can belong, be loved and meet God.

'Some things change,' says Jack, 'but ultimately we still gather in a field, tell young people about Jesus and they go away changed.' He recalls the testimony of one girl this year who said she really struggles to make friends at home, but at Sandiley she made loads. 'What does that say about a community that loves Jesus?'

Please join us in thanking God for 60 years of Sandiley, and all that he has done through these life-changing holidays.



Reimagining Children's Ministry

Supporter Spotlight



Clare Luther, children's author, Christian speaker and long-time supporter of CPAS, is championing connection, creativity and Christ-centred engagement in children's ministry.

In 2016, Clare's daughters went on a CPAS Venture. Moved by their experience, Clare volunteered as a Venture leader and saw how supportive leaders impact children. She recalls, **'They felt valued and heard. As the week went on, you could see the trust building as relationships were formed. The children were excited to hear the good news of Jesus.'**

This conviction shapes Clare's own ministry approach, partnering with schools and churches to deliver workshops which bridge the emotional and conversational gap between children and adults.

At Holy Trinity Claygate, a CPAS Patronage parish, Clare helped lead an All-Age service using her rhyming gospel book, *Say What?!*

'She brought the Bible to life in a creative and accessible way,' says The Rev Patrick Bateman and Rev Katherine Miller. 'The children and adults were fully engaged.'

With the Church of England aiming to double the number of children in its congregations by 2030, children's ministry is a priority for every parish. Clare offers practical encouragement that you don't need revolutionary ideas, just a willingness to meet families where they are.

'Try a themed family fun day, a bake-off competition, or a gospel rhyme workshop. Why not invite the parents to stay and encourage family-focused ministry?'

From volunteer to financial and prayerful supporter to mission enabler of CPAS Patronage churches, Clare exemplifies the diversity expressed within CPAS supporters and mission partners.

'CPAS' work truly bears fruit and brings eternal hope in a messy world,' says Clare. 'It's a wonderful cause to give towards. You're not just donating - you're investing in eternity.'

Learn more about Clare's books and workshops by visiting:
www.clareluther.co.uk.

Coming up



You and Ordained Ministry

Date: 18/04/2026

Price: £30

Location: Emmanuel Church, Bicester, OX26 3HA

Wondering about ordained ministry? If you're sensing God's call, or others are encouraging you, it can feel like a lot to navigate: discerning whether this is God's leading, understanding what ordained ministry involves, exploring vocation amid uncertainty in the Church of England, wondering how neurodivergence fits in, figuring out the selection process, and simply knowing where to begin. If you're not ready to talk to someone in the diocese but want a safe, independent place to ask questions, we're here. With experience and a commitment to helping people discern God's purposes, we invite you, whatever your age or confidence level - to join us for an inspiring and informative day exploring ordained ministry in the Church of England.



Intercultural Church

Date: 19/05/2026

Price: FREE

Location: Online

Are you a Christian leader aged 40 or under looking to connect with other young leaders? What does it mean to be an intercultural community shaped by God's heart for the nations? Drawing on insights from the Tower of Babel and experience in a multilingual, multi-tradition church, Ali Taylor will explore church identity, mission, and unity in a complex multicultural world. The session will consider how leaders can cultivate churches that embody Kingdom unity and justice.



Fruitfulness Without Burnout

Date: 09/06/2026

Price: £25

Location: Online

Church leadership can feel like an endless list of demands, with blurred boundaries and competing priorities. This session explores how to bring order and clarity to your vocation, helping you discern what really matters, set healthy boundaries, and sustain productivity over the long haul. Designed to be practical and applicable, it offers tools to strengthen your focus and ensure your 'yes' carries real weight.



Working with people who are Neurodiverse

Date: 30/06/2026

Price: £20

Location: Online

Working relationships in church teams are vital but often complex. This session with Jo McKee explores how to collaborate well by understanding different communication and thinking styles. With insights on trust-building, navigating differences, and the importance of neurodiversity, we'll look at how inclusive practices help teams flourish.



Church Growth and Engaging with under-30's

Date: 17/06/2026

Price: £20

Location: Online

Many churches are seeing new openness to the gospel among under-30s, alongside major shifts in how this generation relates and leads. Join Matt Hogg and Anna Shaw for an online session exploring current church growth, key insights, and how to understand, disciple, and mobilise under-30s in ways that genuinely connect.

School-Church Partnerships

We're excited to launch our new School Ministry work, equipping churches to build lasting partnerships with local schools, especially Church of England schools.

Churches and schools shape the same children; when they collaborate, they strengthen the whole child.

Schools are often the first place where young people encounter and explore the Christian faith, making them an important space for spiritual growth. This gives churches a unique opportunity to engage pupils and shape their understanding of God and the gospel.

Building on over 100 years of youth ministry and a decade of School Ventures, our vision is simple: to provide practical, sustainable tools that align with local leadership capacity and help churches engage effectively with schools.

Working with leaders of churches and schools who can make strategic decisions, our School Ministry provides:

Practical training, designed to bring church and school leaders together. From shorter, free webinars to year-long pathway programmes, training is available no matter a leader's availability.

Quality and ready-to-use **resources and teaching materials** to help churches connect with local schools, particularly on residential.

Grant funding for churches that build strong connections between churches and schools, helping build strong partnerships with schools that enrich pupils' faith and create lasting kingdom impact in local communities.

Learn more at cpas.org.uk/schools





Make an Impact This Summer

This summer, thousands of children and young people will join a Venture or Falcon holiday across the country. These holidays are special, life-changing weeks where they make friends for life, have fun and explore life with Jesus, some for the first time.

We need over 2,000 volunteers who can make these holidays happen! Could you be a dorm leader, give some time to support admin or help cater?

There are lots of roles available.

Change a child's life this summer and visit www.ventures.org.uk/volunteer for more information.

God is stirring something in this nation. Have you heard the stories?

There is fresh move of God as people are more open to faith and spirituality in decades.

We need to be ready to steward this move of the Holy Spirit. We need Christ-centred, mission-minded churches and leaders to proclaim the gospel and serve their communities.

This Easter, with so much opportunity, we are inviting you to partner with CPAS, to reach 3,000 new leaders in training, events and coaching.

£95

Can give one-to-one support with an incumbent providing insight and encouragement.

£200

Can provide discipleship opportunities for young leaders starting out on their leadership journey.

£500

Can provide in-depth training to churches raising confidence in sharing their faith.

Donate

To make a donation online please scan or visit cpas.org.uk

