

cpas

THE CPAS SUPPORTERS' MAGAZINE

Connect



SPRING-SUMMER 2024



CPAS is an Anglican evangelical mission agency enabling churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

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CPAS

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Unless otherwise stated all Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version (NIV).

Proclaiming Christ as Lord

**'FOR WHAT WE
PREACH IS NOT
OURSELVES, BUT
JESUS CHRIST
AS LORD, AND
OURSELVES AS
YOUR SERVANTS
FOR JESUS' SAKE.'**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5

It is so easy to slip into proclaiming ourselves, rather than Christ. To spend all our time talking about church, but forgetting to talk about Jesus. At the start of this Connect magazine, as we give thanks for the work of CPAS, it would be easy for us to make the mistake of proclaiming ourselves.

But as we celebrate 100 years of Christian residential ministry through CPAS, the core conviction running through it all has been an ever-renewing determination not to proclaim ourselves, but to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord.

I am so thankful for the many thousands of devoted followers of Jesus, who have dedicated themselves, through word and deed, to proclaiming Jesus through the work of CPAS. Over the years they have freely given their time, energy, and creativity to make Jesus known, leading to generations of children and young people making life-changing decisions to follow Jesus.

We are taking time in this season to renew our vision for the future of CPAS. Throughout this process, my prayer is that CPAS might continue to serve the church for Jesus' sake, in order that every church might be a pathway to faith, and every child might have the chance to explore Jesus.

As you read the pages of this magazine, I hope that you are inspired afresh by what Jesus is doing in the church today, and that you are as challenged as I am by those words from Paul:

'For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord.'

God bless,



Jon Scamman,
Chief Executive Officer





CPAS in Brief



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CPAS HOLIDAYS

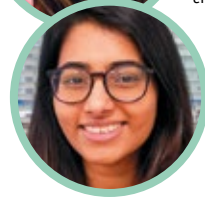
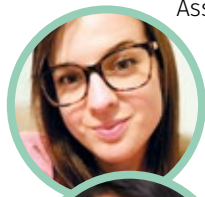
We mark the incredible milestone of a century's worth of CPAS Christian holidays for children and young people. Thanks to your generous donations and faithful prayers, each year thousands of children and young people from across the UK have had their lives impacted by the gospel, making new friends and having lots of fun.

OUR GROWING TEAM

There have been several internal changes at CPAS. We said farewell to beloved colleagues and welcomed a number of new starters into the CPAS community. Included in this was Elspeth, our new Safeguarding Manager, and Dagmer, our new Executive

Assistant to the Patronage

team. To all our new starters we would like to extend the warmest of welcomes, and to those who have moved on, our deepest thanks for their faithful years of service to this mission.



THE THRIVE COLLECTION LAUNCH

Since the last edition of Connect magazine, CPAS hosted an online live launch for the Thrive Collection. Joined by the author, Pam Macnaughton, we introduced the collection, taking time to expand on each of the four resources and answer questions from the 134 guests in attendance.



HOW TO FINANCE YOUR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Two thirds of churches have fewer than five children among their congregation. When churches can invest in children's and youth ministry, there have been exciting signs of growth. The challenge though, is the limited funds churches have available to invest. In light of this, our Fundraising team hosted a webinar called How to Finance Your Children's and Youth Ministry that 135 individuals booked on. It was described as:

'One of the best fundraising seminars I have been to in years!'



OUR BEST BIG GIVE APPEAL TO DATE

As we counted the final seconds until 12 noon on a cold and wet

5 December in 2023, we could not believe what we had witnessed.

CPAS has been involved in the Big Give Christmas Challenge every year since 2017. This was our seventh year taking part. Each year, we have been amazed by God's provision and the generosity from our supporters. This peaked in 2022 when CPAS finished the national giving challenge as the top Christian charity in the country. Out of thousands of charities across all categories, we came eighth overall, raising an impressive £142,000 (including Gift Aid). As we prepared for our seventh campaign, during a cost-of-living crisis and with a smaller Fundraising and Communications team, we did not know whether we could reach that total again. That, however, did not deter us from giving it our all.

As part of our campaign, CPAS hosted its first fundraising challenge event. A small group of CPAS staff members from each

ministry area, including our CEO Jon Scamman, came together in Snowdonia to create the Highest Nativity Scene in the land. Braving temperatures as low as -8°C the team succeeded, and in response a wave of generous donations followed.

And so, on that overcast 5 December afternoon in our Coventry office, CPAS had not only matched, but surpassed, the previous campaign's incredible total. Thanks to your generosity we raised £153,000 (including Gift Aid). From those funds we can continue to finance key areas of ministry, like our Venture and Falcon holidays where a £100 bursary could enable a young person to learn the truth about a God who loves them.

It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without your prayerful and financial support. On behalf of everyone at CPAS, our deepest thanks to you.

David Skoppek, Head of Fundraising and Communications

100 Years of CPAS Holidays

In 1924, a group of young people were invited to step away from the norm and the comfortable, and for a short time, venture into a space where, through exciting and creative activities, and connecting with others, they encountered something of the divine.



*Ventures
& Falcons*

So great and transformational were these experiences that young people kept returning. They shared their stories with their peers and similar experiences began to emerge around the country. And as those young people grew up, they encouraged their own children to take part.

In 2024, we celebrate an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime milestone. 100 years of CPAS Christian holidays. That is a century of children stepping into a new and welcoming

space, away from the distractions of everyday life, to encounter Christ in the Scriptures, sing praises to him, rub shoulders with others who are modelling gospel lifestyles and encourage young peers to carry the torch of the gospel to future generations.

Over the course of this year, we will be taking the opportunity to acknowledge and thank, all those who have helped us reach this significant milestone.





To find out more about what we have coming up, or how to be part of the next century of CPAS holidays, please visit www.cpas.org.uk/100years.





Memories of Pooley Bridge CPAS Holiday



As a 12-year-old lad living in the 1960s, my first experience of being away from home without parents or siblings, was travelling by train from Derby to Penrith to a CPAS holiday.

'It was the summer of 1961, my friend and I were waved off from Derby Midland station to travel to Pooley Bridge, via Stoke on Trent and Crewe.

'Being very shy, I found it hard to settle into the holiday, but as the days went by things got much better. I have memories of singing round campfires at night, having a quiet time each morning, and dorm (a large tent) prayers each night. We peeled potatoes for what seemed like an army, but would then go on super walks and trips; climbing Helvellyn was the best, even though the clouds descended. Bible teaching, quizzes, hearty

singing and testimonies were all part of an experience that had a massive influence on my life.

'I had been a Christian for five years. All my school mates knew I was a Christian, but I can't say that I showed Christ in what I said and did. The CPAS holiday certainly was a catalyst for change.

'Sixty-two years have passed since that first holiday, and I can honestly say that experience changed my life. Christian Summer Residentials became a major part of what my wife and I have been involved in over the years. We've led and served on them, and encouraged our own children, and many others, to take part. I thank God for the opportunity of going to Pooley Bridge all those years ago, and for the staff who gave so freely of their time to nurture and encourage us.'

Philip Bounds

'I HAD BEEN A CHRISTIAN FOR FIVE YEARS. ALL MY SCHOOL MATES KNEW I WAS A CHRISTIAN, BUT I CAN'T SAY THAT I SHOWED CHRIST IN WHAT I SAID AND DID. THE CPAS HOLIDAY CERTAINLY WAS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE.'

One in six children aged 5-16 were identified as having a probable mental health problem in July 2021, a huge increase from one in nine in 2017. That's five children in every classroom! The contemporary pressures faced by young people, post-pandemic, are impacting their wellbeing and their futures. The World Health Organisation reported that one-third of mental health problems in adulthood are directly connected to an adverse childhood experience (ACE).



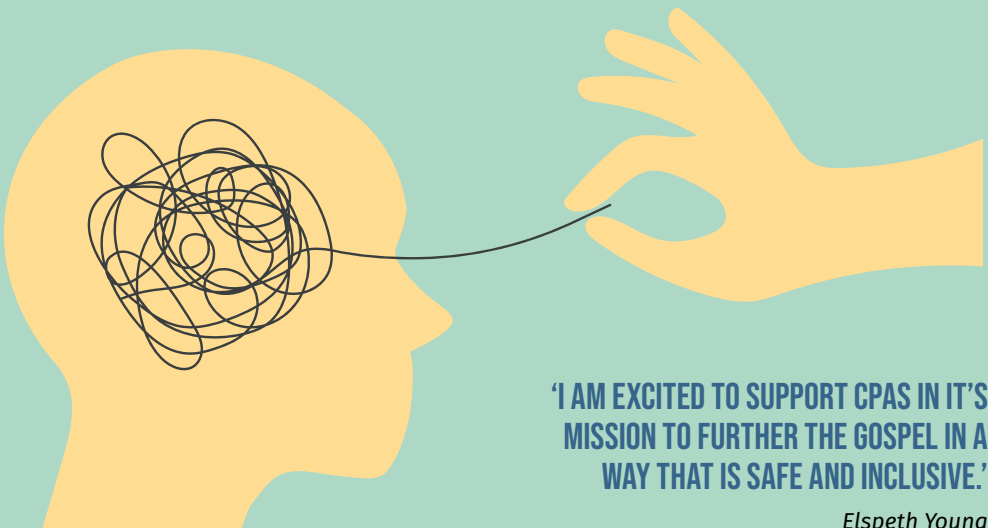
The Safest of Spaces

Ventures and Falcons are supporting an increasing number of young people struggling with mental health conditions and ACEs. We share the hope and love of Jesus, whilst recognising the holistic needs of each child, to enable them to feel safe. We are grateful to host a high calibre of leaders, whose dedication to safeguarding creates a space where young people can share their deepest fears, concerns and hurts; both past and present.

CPAS is committed to ensuring safeguarding at the core of everything we do. We believe every ministry stream requires high quality

training and support to uphold excellence in safeguarding practice.

At the start of 2024, we welcomed Elspeth Young as our new Safeguarding Manager to support both Ventures and Falcons, as well as the wider organisation. Elspeth is a registered mental health nurse with 15 years of NHS experience. She has spent the majority of her career working with hard-to-engage young people with high-risk behaviours in a variety of roles. She became a Christian in 2015, and serves alongside her husband in her local church.



'I AM EXCITED TO SUPPORT CPAS IN IT'S MISSION TO FURTHER THE GOSPEL IN A WAY THAT IS SAFE AND INCLUSIVE.'

Elspeth Young



There Every Step of the Way

C PAS has three distinct areas of ministry. Our work with children and young people through our holidays, our role in Patronage; appointing evangelical, mission-minded clergy into churches across the UK, and lastly but by no means least, our flagship, high-quality leadership development programmes that reach thousands of Christian leaders each year.

Occasionally, we have the joy and privilege of hearing from individuals whose lives have been impacted by each area of our ministry at critical times, which helped shape their next season of faith and service.

As part of our Big Give campaign, we introduced our digital audience to Alex, and we would love to share his journey with you now.



'I AM NOW THE VICAR OF A CPAS PATRONAGE CHURCH AND THE HELP AND SUPPORT, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME, HAS JUST BEEN INVALUABLE TO US.'



The Rev Alex Cacouris' Story

'As I look back at my Christian life, I am so grateful to CPAS for being there at each milestone of my journey.

'It was on a CPAS Venture holiday that I gave my life to Christ when I was 15. Through my 20s I learnt so much about Christian leadership through my involvement in a CPAS Venture holiday.

'I was supported through the CPAS Growing Leaders course to explore a calling to leadership and it shaped my church ministry. Since then, I've gone through numerous CPAS training courses including PCC tonight, the Leading Evangelism Learning Hub and regular online training, which, particularly through the pandemic, was transformative both through my leadership and the vision and direction of the church.

'I am now the vicar of a CPAS patronage church and the help and support, particularly at this time, has just been invaluable to us.'



Please pray

To join us in praying for leaders like Alex, please visit our website to download our most recent prayer calendar: www.cpas.org.uk/pray.





A Day in the Life of Patronage

The Church Times is a weekly newspaper that covers the latest news, comments, features and more on faith, culture and society. Towards the end of the newspaper you will find the jobs section, where dozens of posts are advertised. As the largest patron in the UK, overseeing 700 parishes, which includes over 2,000 churches, CPAS is involved with over 100 appointments

each year. So, when you are looking at the jobs page in the Church Times, there is a strong likelihood that many of those appointments will be managed by Mike Duff, our Patronage Secretary, and Dagmer Dias, Executive Assistant to the Patronage team.

Anyone who has been through the process of finding and appointing a vicar will know that it is anything but straightforward. The process

involves three different parties and is broken down into two stages (preparing to appoint and making the appointment). Within the two stages are 13 components, all of which must be followed through promptly, to avoid any unnecessary delays. As patron, CPAS' role is to nominate or present the candidate; the Bishop appoints or licenses him/her; the parish receives him/her as their new incumbent. If



all parties agree, there is a very good chance for a successful appointment. The aim of the CPAS Patronage team is to work closely and collaboratively with both the Parish representatives and the diocese.

Why is this so important?

As patron, CPAS shares the responsibility for the continuity of the spiritual life of the parish, and finding the right leader is utterly crucial to this. We have observed over the years how, when the right person is found, incredible things have occurred. Congregations have been enthused and empowered. New ministries have been launched. Individuals have stepped up into leadership roles and communities have been impacted and transformed for the glory of Christ. The opposite is also true!

Taking over from Kathy Burch, our longstanding former PA, Dagmer Dias was recruited for the role after having worked in a church during an appointment process.

‘Prior to CPAS, I was a family worker for a church in Coventry for two years. ‘When our vicar left, I had the opportunity to



Left to right: Mike Duff, Kathy Burch, Dagmer Dias and Jon Scamman

AS PATRON, CPAS SHARES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONTINUITY OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE PARISH, AND FINDING THE RIGHT LEADER IS UTTERLY CRUCIAL TO THIS.

be a small part of the vacancy process as I was a PCC member of the church. I attended a pre-vacancy meeting and was involved in designing a parish profile. We waited patiently for someone to be appointed.

‘When I heard about CPAS and the Patronage team’s role in the involvement of vacancy processes, I was immediately drawn to it. I had a passion to see churches find the right person to continue leading them, bringing the community together and sharing the gospel of Jesus. It is a privilege to be part of the Patronage team to help in these appointment processes that make a difference to many in the long term.’



Overall Leaders' Conference

Eighty Overall Leaders gathered at the Village Hotel, Coventry, for the Overall Leaders Conference.



Last summer, 2,880 children and young people were welcomed into caring and safe spaces, where they could hear and respond to the gospel, all whilst making new friends and having enormous amounts of fun. This would not have been possible without the Overall Leaders of our Venture, Falcon and School Venture holidays.

The Overall Leaders Conference, which took place on 24-25 November 2023, is a special time in the CPAS calendar. It allows us to meet with, collectively celebrate and give thanks to God for all he does in each season. It is also a time of learning and refinement where together, we explore how we can make CPAS holidays even better.

We began the evening with a time of testimonies and sung

worship. The next day was packed full of content led by several guest speakers. Musician, Michael Tinker, encouraged us to lean into children's imagination. Chris Green, vicar and author, explored how we intentionally create cultures and environments where leadership is multiplied.

Sarah Thrift, Minister for Children and Accessibility at All Saints Crowborough, offered helpful ideas in the form of small adjustments that work to break down barriers and make our holidays more inclusive and accessible.

'It was a fantastic event. Months of planning went into this conference and the feedback from our volunteers has been really encouraging.'

*Hope Brown,
Ventures and Falcons Lead*

“ FEEDBACK:

'IT'S GOOD TO BE SHARPENED BY UNITY WITH OTHER LIKE-MINDED, BUT VARIED PEOPLE.'

'I FOUND IT VERY USEFUL TO ENGAGE WITH OTHER LEADERS. IT WAS ALSO NICE TO LEARN FROM A BROAD RANGE OF HOLIDAYS.'

'ENCOURAGING TO HEAR OF SHARED EXPERIENCES. GIVES RENEWED SENSE OF BEING PART OF A WIDER TEAM AND HAVING SHARED VISION/MINISTRY.'



Ventures & Falcons ²⁰²⁴

Discipleship holidays for 8-18s



With 80 incredible holidays to choose from, Ventures and Falcons give young people the chance to make friends, have masses of fun and explore life with Jesus.

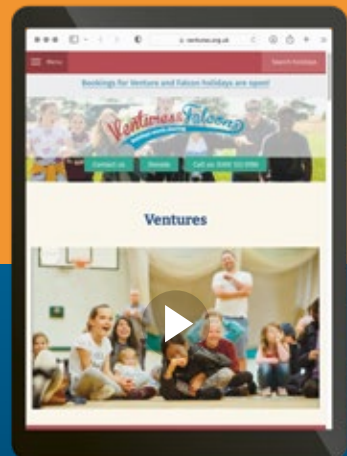
'ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS FOR ME WAS SEEING TEENS PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER, MANY WITH TEARS AS GOD TOUCHED THEIR HEARTS.'

Venture leader



Could you, or someone in your congregation, volunteer to serve as a leader?

We need help with tasks such as teaching the Bible, cooking or administration. Please visit www.ventures.org.uk/volunteer to find out more.



   @CPASVentures

www.ventures.org.uk/volunteer

Our 18th Programme is Underway

The Arrow Leadership Programme

As you read this, the Arrow Leadership Programme will have launched its 18th cohort. The programme, developed in the USA, running worldwide, and brought to the UK by CPAS, is for leaders aged 25-40 who are committed to Christian discipleship and have a deep desire for greater Christ-like leadership. The aim of the programme is to equip emerging leaders to be led more by Jesus, lead more like Jesus and to lead more to Jesus.

Combining residential, peer cells, mentors and leadership partners over an 18-month period, Arrow participants are provided with a highly intentional development programme. It examines and empowers them in areas of character, self-care, spiritual disciplines, personal management, working with and leading others and much more.

As the team make their final preparations, and participants get ready to embark on, what we know will be a transformative journey over the next 18 months, we invite you to keep this Arrow cohort in your prayers

'FROM THE MOMENT I ENTERED THE PROGRAMME, I WAS WELCOMED INTO A COMMUNITY OF PASSIONATE INDIVIDUALS WHO SHARED A COMMON COMMITMENT TO PURSUING CHRIST-LIKE LEADERSHIP.'

James Ellin, Associate Vicar, Worcester

'THE ARROW PROGRAMME COULDN'T HAVE COME AT A BETTER TIME FOR ME AS A YOUNG WOMAN FINDING MY FEET IN PRIMARY LEADERSHIP. IT'S SET ME FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME.'

Thea Edwards, Vicar, Farnborough



10,000 Christian Leaders Equipped



If you were still struggling to adjust to the post-pandemic landscape, then you may have benefitted from James Lawrence's recent webinar on How to Lead in an Era of Complexity. If you were recruiting new staff, then you could have discovered Charles Burgess' sold-out webinar on How to Line Manage People. Finally, if you were a minister and you felt God was leading you onto something different, then Mike Duff's online workshop, Moving On, would have been right up your street.

'Leadership at any level in Christian ministry is a complex endeavour, filled with so many opportunities and unique challenges.

Our Leadership Enabler, Matt Hogg in action online.

Each year, the team do a tremendous job, providing a wide range of webinars, courses, on-site and online events that draw upon the most up-to-date thinking and research. CPAS Leadership Enablers work to address the complexities of Christian ministry head-on, and in doing so, they offer inspiration, reassurance and encouragement to thousands of Christian leaders every year.

'Furthermore, in response to the financial challenges experienced by so many churches around the nation, all of this is made available at discounted and heavily subsidised rates thanks to your generosity. On behalf of the team and all those we serve, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks.'

Jo McKee, Head of Leadership Development

If you visit www.cpas.org.uk/events you will see a whole host of upcoming online events and webinars organised and delivered by our team of Leadership Enablers.

Standing in the Gap

A less anxious presence amidst the uncertainty of LLF



We recently shared with you the responses from a survey we undertook of our patronage churches. Our heart was to understand where our churches stood on this matter, and how CPAS can best engage with parishes and their leaders to support their conversations, represent their views, underpin them with prayer and maintain a focus on mission and evangelism.

Since we last wrote to you, the story of LLF has moved on and the divide between those in favour of the prayers and those against has increased. At CPAS, for the sake of clarity, we have attempted to be transparent with both our churches and you, our supporters, in relation to our position on the matter. You can find this information on our website at www.cpas.org.uk/prayers-love-and-faith-statement-cpas-trustees.

‘In such a divisive and highly contested situation, there was very little to feel encouraged about following General Synod in November. However, I would like

to express my heartfelt thanks to James Lawrence and Jo McKee from the Leadership Development team, who swiftly responded by hosting an online event called, Leadership Principles for Having Good Conversations When There is Disagreement. Nearly 200 individuals, serving in a variety of leadership positions and holding differing views on the subject, booked onto one of the two webinars scheduled immediately after General Synod.

‘The response to these one-hour webinars was incredible and the feedback received afterward was affirming and encouraging. Regardless of where individuals stood on the matter of Prayers of Love and Faith, people felt equipped to go into their settings and have conversations in a manner worthy of Christ.

‘This was CPAS at its best, providing meaningful and timely resources that make a tangible difference to Christian leaders.’

Please pray



Pray that leaders, regardless of their stance, will go into their settings and have conversations in a manner worthy of Christ.

The Rev Canon Graham Archer

Supporting CPAS



CPAS supporters are part of something wonderful! Do you long to see people across the UK hear about Jesus through local church ministry? Here are some ways to pray, give and serve.

WAYS TO PRAY

Pray for CPAS' vital ministry every day with our free quarterly prayer calendar. Download from www.cpas.org.uk/pray or contact us to receive a printed copy by post.



Follow us on PrayerMate (available on iOS and Android devices) for daily prayer points straight to your phone.

LEAVE A LEGACY

By leaving a gift to CPAS in your Will through your solicitor, you will be helping many men, women and children come to faith in Jesus beyond your own lifetime. Help us to continue our essential kingdom ministry for generations to come.

Contact the Rev Martin Kavanagh at mkavanagh@cpas.org.uk to find out more.



GIVE NOW

Inspired by our work? Give right now at www.cpas.org.uk/give, call 0300 123 0780 (9am-4pm Monday to Friday), or send a cheque payable to CPAS to the address on page 2.



Regular Giving

Regular gifts are fantastic because they help us plan ahead, so we can be as effective as possible in enabling local church mission.

Contact supporter.relations@cpas.org.uk to set up a Standing Order to give monthly, quarterly or annually to CPAS.

Gift Aid

If you are able to Gift Aid your one-off or regular giving, you can boost your donation by 25p for every £1 you donate.

Church Giving

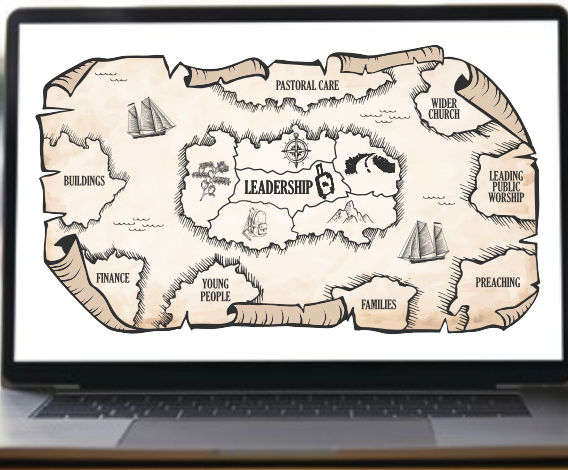
Give one-off or regular gifts as a church by phone, cheque or by contacting David Skoppek at dskoppek@cpas.org.uk. We also offer free materials to help you spread the word.

We take seriously the opinions of our supporters and would welcome any opportunity to hear your thoughts on how we can improve our engagement with you.

cpas

The Guide

FREE
TASTER



A ground-breaking new leadership resource

'Really well presented and engaging.'

'I really like the bite-sized pieces of information and the chunks of learning that can be done as and when.'

WHAT

A leadership journey equipping leaders through **engaging, practical** and **easy-to-access** online sessions.

WHO

For anyone **leading** a congregation, community or church plant – who isn't the vicar! (Think leaders of Fresh Expressions, church plants, new worshipping communities, congregations etc.)

WHY

Leadership is an **exciting** and **challenging** adventure where there is always more to learn.

The Guide will launch this Autumn. Please direct leaders to our website where they can find out more and access the FREE taster.

www.cpas.org.uk/theguide