

Parish Magazine - Web site sources

The following web sites will assist with planning and content.

THE ASSOCIATION OF CHURCH EDITORS (ACE)

This is a national network of self-help groups for editors and others involved in the production and publication of local church magazines and newsletters. The Association for Church Editors exists to help all those concerned with producing church communications (from humble news letters to sophisticated magazines) to improve the quality of their writing and the visual appeal of their publications. It will assist you to find sources of suitable copy and to help you network with many other church editors who support and encourage one another in their efforts to communicate the gospel.

<http://www.churcheditors.org/>

SHIP OF FOOLS

And for a bit of fun, or something to cheer you up when you despair of the parish, the Church, or just life in general, try Ship of Fools.

<http://ship-of-fools.com/>

CARTOON CHURCH

Cartoon Church is David Walker's site. He is a regular in *The Church Times*, produces an annual calendar, blogs and Twitters. CartoonChurch contains cartoons and resources for churches and anyone else interested in this church-related material. This includes cartoons to use in parish magazines, church newsletters, other publications or elsewhere.

<http://www.cartoonchurch.com/>

PARISH PUMP

Do you struggle to find good illustrations and articles? Parish Pump can help you!

Each month Parish Pump has cartoons, front covers, articles, illustrations, children's pages, humour, quotes, poems and puzzles suitable for church magazines.

A free trial will let you try it right now in your magazine. If you don't find Parish Pump suitable, you don't need to do anything else – your registration will simply lapse.

Saying that, once you've tried Parish Pump, you'll never want to run dry again. For PP can help you save time and effort in filling those gaps in your church magazine. It can even help you enrich it!

Parish Pump material is used by busy church magazine editors of all the major Christian denominations. If you like it after your Free Trial, take out a Subscription. It costs just £37 a year.

<http://www.parishpump.co.uk/>

THE SHEEPDIP.CO.UK

Offers low-cost, specially written and exclusive articles that you won't find anywhere else.

It also has a special selection of free articles from leading Christian charities that you can use to challenge and inspire your readers.

www.churchnewsireland.org

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The best thing about thesheepdip.co.uk is that you pay only for what you need. There's no costly yearly subscription - you could get the articles you need for your magazine for one low fee. Pay as you go and get what you want.

All articles are written by Christian journalists or experts in their field.

<http://www.thesheepdip.co.uk/>

MISSIONARY AND WORLD NEWS

Don't overlook the missionary societies and relief agencies as sources of news items for the parish magazine. During particular disasters e.g., Haiti in 2010, Christian Aid had an article ready to download for use in parish magazines. See:

<http://www.cms-uk.org/NewsandViews/>

http://www.traidcraft.co.uk/news_and_events

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/>

CHURCH OF IRELAND NEWS

Materials for magazines can be obtained from national and diocesan web sites. The digests of diocesan synod news can be featured as part of the process of communication of diocesan identity and commitment.

<http://www.ireland.anglican.org/index.php?do=news>

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union site is a good source of news, and prayers, including the Daily Wave of Prayer which could be printed each month as part of the MU parish branch report.

<http://www.themothersunion.org>

CARE

CARE is a well-established mainstream Christian charity providing resources and helping to bring Christian insight and experience to matters of public policy and practical caring initiatives. CARE is represented in the UK Parliaments and Assemblies, at the EU in Brussels and the UN in Geneva and New York. On the site are several sources of news, including the section for Northern Ireland.

<http://www.care.org.uk>

SPIRITUALITY

The parish magazine can present a **Spirituality section each month** providing readers with starters for prayer.

The prayer section of the **Mothers' Union** site carries seasonal prayers including Harvest, the daily wave of prayer for the dioceses around the world and aspects of the MU's work. These are presented in downloadable documents. In the Transforming Communities section, you will find prayers and reflections about issues in our world, from the local to the global but always with God at the centre of our lives and our dreams.

<http://www.themothersunion.org/prayer.aspx>

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Exciting Holiness presents notes on the saints' days for each month. These can be adapted for use and accompanied by the collect for each feast day, can provide a prayer approach to the month ahead.

<http://www.excitingholiness.org/first-edition/index.cgi>