

ASH DIEBACK

There is currently much concern about the spread of the *Chalara fraxinea* fungus in ash trees (commonly known as “ash dieback”).

The Government has an action plan which involves the removal and destruction of diseased young ash trees, but there are currently no plans to remove mature trees, which are important for wildlife. As there are many ash trees in churchyards around the Diocese, parishes should keep alert to the signs of the disease and may find the following websites helpful in identifying likely symptoms of the disease:

Woodland Trust: <http://treedisease.co.uk/threats-to-our-trees/ash-dieback/>

Forestry Commission: [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf/\\$FILE/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf/$FILE/pest-alert-ash-dieback-2012.pdf)

If a parish has concerns about any of its ash trees, then the advice is to send photographs or descriptions, plus the location and contact details to jenny.griffiths@arocha.org –with “TREE” in the subject line. Emails will be acknowledged and any suspect cases sent on to DEFRA/Forestry Commission contacts.

DAC Office

The Diocese of Peterborough