Caring for and making changes to your church building

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Caring for your church building

• Maintenance
• Repairs
• Alterations

• To adapt for today's needs of worship, mission and community
• To comply with the law
Repairs

- Repairs need authorisation unless they are very minor (List A)
- Otherwise, routine repairs will need an Archdeacon’s Letter (List B) and more extensive repairs will need a faculty
- In most cases, get a specification
- Don’t use:
  - Portland cement on old buildings
  - Emulsion paint on old buildings
  - Unqualified electricians in any building
Alterations and development

• What is needed to make your church fulfil its role as a local centre of worship and mission?
  • Improving access and welcome
  • Re-ordering for worship, outreach or wider use
  • Additional facilities
  • Statement of Needs

• Get to know your building and churchyard

• Understand your building
  • Statement of Significance

• Whose building is it?

• Alterations need permission
  • Archdeacon’s Letter or Faculty
What is a Faculty?

• A legal document
• Issued by The Chancellor
• Authorises you to:
  • undertake repairs, or
  • make changes:
    • Addition
    • Alteration
    • Disposal
When do you need one?

- Whenever you plan to make a change to the church or the churchyard

Types of permission:
- Minor matters – List A – Just do it!
- Minor matters – List B – Archdeacon’s Letter
- Anything else – Faculty
Why do you need a faculty?

- Faculty Jurisdiction
- Ecclesiastical Exemption
- Local Authority Planning Permission
How do you get one?

- Involve the DAC

The Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
What is the DAC?

• Committee appointed by the Bishop and the Bishop’s Council

• A Statutory Body regulated by:
  • The Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991
  • The Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches and Measure 2018
  • Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015
The Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure

“Any person or body carrying out functions of care and conservation under this Measure ... shall have due regard to the role of a church as a local centre of worship and mission.”
What does the DAC do?

• We offer *(free)* advice
• *We visit you (if invited)*
• We discuss your proposals
• We issue paperwork
• *We do not issue Faculties*
• We make sure your quinquennial inspection is done
Who are we?

- **Chairman** - Dr Christopher Green
- **Ex-officio members** - The Archdeacons
- **Committee (15)**
  - Specialists in Architecture, Archaeology, Conservation Bells, Lighting, Sound, Heating, Organs, Design, Art History, Re-ordering,
  - Synod representatives
- **Consultants (10)**
  - Specialists in stained glass, clocks, archives, textiles, soft furnishings, fire prevention
- **Secretariat**
How do we work?

• Standing Committees
• DAC Meetings
• Liaison with:
  • Historic England
  • Amenity Societies
  • Local Authorities
  • The Registrar
How and when should you involve the DAC?

• Contact us at the office:
  • Phone
  • Via the DAC on-line portal at: https://myd.io/stalbans/
  • e-mail
  • Letter
  • In person (come to a meeting)

• Statements of Significance and Needs

• Get us involved EARLY
Churchyards

You may have…
- No churchyard; Closed churchyard; Open churchyard

Closed Churchyard
- No new graves
- Family burials
- Garden of remembrance
- Maintenance by local authority
- Still under Faculty Jurisdiction

Open Churchyard
- New burials
  - Blue forms for permitted headstones
  - Faculties for other memorials
- Garden of remembrance
- Maintenance by PCC including safety of memorials
Resources

https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/

DAC Advice Leaflets

The Diocesan Advisory Committee is a source of advice for parishes on the care of their buildings and churchyards.

The DAC produces leaflets to help with a wide range of needs: (in alphabetical order down the page)

- Alterations to your building
- Archaeology
- Asbestos
Caring for your church building

- Maintenance and repairs
- Get to know your building and churchyard
- Alterations and development
- Faculties
- The role of the DAC

Questions?