

## Vision to Reality

11 Jan 2020

### How the DAC can help (script)

The DAC as a body of experts and the DAC staff team are available to help parishes with advice about all church building projects, both the proposals and the process.

1. As the parish develops its vision and needs and works towards a brief for a project, the DAC can offer a site visit to discuss with you what you want to achieve, the possible options, scope of the work and places to contact or visit who have done a similar thing.
2. The DAC, through the Support Officer, can assist with advice about procurement of professional services, whether for an initial feasibility study or for the main project.
3. At an early stage, the DAC will suggest you prepare a Statement of Significance about the church building, its context and its contents; and a Statement of Needs. These are vital base documents for a faculty application, but they are also very useful as a thinking process for the PCC. The Statement of Significance asks you to set out what is significant and valued about the church, which you don't want to harm in making changes. The Statement of Needs gives you the opportunity to set out what you want to achieve; what outcomes you are working towards; and what options you have looked at in order to decide on your chosen project. All this is important in developing a good brief for your architect; telling a story to potential funders about your project, what you want to achieve and how it will benefit people; and communicating your project to external bodies.
4. The formal faculty process now follows a process which we have used informally for a number of years for larger projects: involving any relevant external bodies at an early stage, preferably at a site visit, and following up with project details for consultation with external bodies at the same time as the DAC. That way any amendments raised by one body can be reviewed by everyone, so that where possible the project can move forward with everyone's support. The external bodies who may be involved include Historic England and the local authority Conservation Officer as consultees within the faculty process; national amenity societies such as the Victorian Society or the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings; specialists such as the Diocesan Archaeological Adviser or Natural England; and the local planning authority. If planning permission is needed, pre-app advice can go in parallel with DAC advice and planning permission usually needs to be in place before the Chancellor considers the faculty application.
5. Even when permissions are in place and the project is moving forward, further consultation is sometimes needed where the project has to change because funding is not available to cover the whole project; or on site, for example when unexpected archaeology, often unmarked burials, means rethinking technical details. Again, the DAC will work with you and your professional advisers, as well as with the Registrar and the Chancellor, to try and find a solution.