

Use of Closed Churches for Public Worship

Diocese of St Albans

1. Church in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust may have up to six services a year for public worship. These should be for special occasions and should *not* be instead of the regular worship in the parish church. These services will generally be for carols, harvest, patronal festivals and Songs of Praise etc.
2. All occasional offices should be held in the parish church. The only exceptions are
 - i. for someone who was a *regular* worshipper in the church before it closed.
 - ii. for those people who were personally involved in a campaign to keep the church open and resisted its closure.
 - iii. for someone who has formal responsibility to personally look after the closed church, including holding the key for visitors.
 - iv. when there is an open churchyard and a spouse or family member is being buried in a family grave, then the church may be used for the funeral. For all new burials, the funeral service should be held in the parish church.

+Alan St Albans

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