

Useful Resources and Information

This resource sheet emerged from the *Understanding Your Church Building* workshop, held in January 2022. It aims to signpost a range of resources to help parishes in understanding their church in order to write informed and effective Statements of Significance and Needs and grant applications, as well as better engaging with visitors and the community.

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Church buildings – handbooks and worship/missional perspectives

These resources consider a range of general topics to help you consider your church within the wider missional and worship perspective but remain highly practical in nature.

- *Buildings for Mission*, Nigel Walter and Andrew Mottram, Canterbury Press £29.99
<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781848257603/buildings-for-mission>
- *Repitching the Tent*, Richard Giles, Published Canterbury Press £20.00
<https://canterburypress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9781853115714/re-pitching-the-tent>
- *The Gate of Heaven: How Church Buildings Speak of God*, Nigel Walter, Grove Books £3.95
<https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/s-118-the-gate-of-heaven-how-church-buildings-speak-of-god>
- *Church Buildings for People: Reimagining Church Buildings as Nourishing Places*, Nigel Walter, Grove Books £3.95 <https://grovebooks.co.uk/products/p-137-church-buildings-for-people-reimagining-church-buildings-as-nourishing-places>

General church history and architecture

For more general information about church development and architecture. These are for those looking to understand more about church buildings and ecclesiastical architecture. They should provide an insight to help you look at and explore your own church building but contain examples from across the country.

- *Discovering Church Architecture: A Glossary of Terms*, Mark Child, Shire Publications £4.49
<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/discovering-church-architecture-9780852633281/>
- *Churches: An Architectural Guide*, Simon Bradley, Pevsner Architectural Guides: Introductions, Yale Books £12.99
https://yalebooks.co.uk/display.asp?K=9780300233438&sort=sort_title&sf1=series_exact&st1=PEVSNER_ARCHITECTURALGUIDESINTRODUCTIONS&m=1&dc=2
- *How to Read Churches: A Crash Course in Ecclesiastical Architecture*, Denis R McNamara, Bloomsbury £7.99
https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/9781408128367?gC=5a105e8b&gclid=Cj0KCQiA8vSOBhCkARIsAGdp6RShJunDM58asS1PsXDjtHL3RCdHp8T7m6nesEox0BhDg19CxxhESGK4aAiEoEALw_wcB
- *Studying local Churches: A Handbook*, Helen Cameron, Philip Richter, Douglas Davies and Frances Ward (editors), SCM Press, £25.00 <https://scmpress.hymnsam.co.uk/books/9780334029601/studying-local-churches>

Church specific information, histories and architecture

These resources are important for helping to understand a specific church building. Use these when writing Statements of Significance and Needs, grant applications or for researching information for materials to engage visitors. They should help you to build a picture of the development of your church and hold interesting stories, such as important benefactors or memorials. Almost all are free and will be referenced by any heritage professional reading your application, so it's helpful if you have already picked out the important and relevant bits of information.

- **Listing Grade and Description** <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/> - will contain descriptive information. In some cases it will be very detailed but it could be brief in others; there are often useful references included to find more info. [if your building is not on this list, i.e. not nationally listed, search to see if your Local Planning Authority has a local list including locally important buildings]. The map search can be especially useful for finding your church, listed monuments in the churchyard and any nearby listed buildings or other nationally designated heritage sites (such as scheduled ancient monuments) which can contribute to the sense of place surrounding your church building.
- If your church is in a conservation area, the church could be described in **Conservation Area Appraisal Document** from your Local Planning Authority (this should be online). If you are unsure if your church is in a conservation area, search the internet for '[local council name] conservation areas' to find a list of conservation areas – and often maps – near you. A Conservation Area Appraisal Document will help identify how the church contributes to the special nature of the area. **Local Plans** can also show conservation area boundaries and other different designations in the area.
- The **Buildings of England series**, often referred to as **Pevsner** – held in local libraries, or contact DAC team. Pevsner is a key resource for architectural descriptions of buildings. Often concise, the description will often help identify the significant parts of the building. There are revised editions for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire which updates Nikolaus Pevsner's observations from 1940s-70s.
Hertfordshire, revised by James Bettley (2019)
Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough, revised by Charles O'Brien (2014)
- **The Historic Environment Record** <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/CHR/>. This tool searches a range of heritage records and resources, including church buildings and churchyards.
- **Old maps of England** (<https://www.oldmapsonline.org/en/England>) – are a really interesting way to explore the development of the areas surrounding church buildings and – for 19th and 20th century churches – sometimes even the churches themselves. The development of the area surrounding the church may give some useful insights into how the church has changed over time to meet changing needs, how the church is viewed and used by the community and much more.
- Your Local County Wildlife Trust website might provide information about your churchyard, including if it has been designated a Wildlife site.
- **Local guides, including church or parish histories, visitor leaflets** - check to see if someone has already researched the history of your area which may include useful information and an interesting perspective on the building. You may have a visitor leaflet in your church which contains a wealth of information about your church building. Please do take care when using these, however, noting their age – some may be several decades old – and any possible misinformation. Where possible, try to find alternative sources to confirm this information. The most reliable of these types of guides will contain references to say where the information was found and places you can look for your own research.
- **The Church Heritage Record** (<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/churches>) – this is a national system designed to cover various topics including architectural history, archaeology, art history and surrounding natural environment. The Church Heritage Record may not be detailed for your church building but it can have some useful information and links to further sources.

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- **Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS) archive on Church Heritage Record** (<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org/CHR/SourceDetails.aspx?sourceid=35478>) – the digital archive of the ICBS via the Church Heritage Record. In some instances, these records provide the only evidence for the layout of a church before restoration or demolition.
- **Quinquennial Inspection reports** – as well as providing you with information about the condition of your church building and identifying issues, the Quinquennial Inspection report is a good place to discover more about the architecture of your church building. Your architect or surveyor may also have included some information about the history of the building through their work on the report.

Bedfordshire Churches Only

- ***Bedfordshire Churches in the Nineteenth Century*** by Chris Pickford (Bedfordshire Historical Records Society series) – held in [local libraries](#), or contact the DAC team. Chris Pickford's A-Z of churches in Bedfordshire in the 19th century is an excellent resource, providing detailed descriptions, accounts and relevant newspaper articles to provide a picture of your church up to 200 years ago.
- **Local Archives** <https://bedsarchives.bedford.gov.uk/ArchivesAndRecordOffice.aspx> for Faculty records and other records relating to the building. These may help track changes to the building in the 20th century. Deposits of Faculty records from the Diocesan Office are in the Hertfordshire Archives: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.aspx>

Hertfordshire Churches Only

- **Local archives**, e.g. Hertfordshire Archives (hold Faculty records across the diocese), to identify work that has been carried out, dates, development and plans: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies/hertfordshire-archives-and-local-studies.asp>
- **The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME)** – <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/rchme> - provides an inventory of English monuments, including many in church buildings, thus providing a useful resource for understanding the monuments in your church building.

Grant applications/project funding

The *Repairs, maintenance and project funding* section of the diocesan website (<https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/repairs-maintenance-grants/>) provides useful links and information relating to grant funding, including:

- Advice on National Grants for Church Building Repairs and Alterations <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/national-grants/>
- Advice on Local Grants for Church Building Repairs and Alterations <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/local-grants/>
- Advice on grants for facilities, services and churchyards: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/grants-for-specific-types-of-project/>

Statements of Significance and Needs

The following provide useful guidance when preparing your Statements of Significance and Needs. The DAC Team are happy to help provide advice and feedback once you have prepared your Statements. Where possible, try to look at a couple of these before starting your statements so that you know the types of information required and how you would like them to be structured.

- **DAC Advice Leaflet on Statements of Significance and Needs** – available at: <https://www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/dac-advice-leaflets/>. The leaflet explores what is meant by significance and outlines the types of things to include, including questions to help you in writing your Statements.
- **Church of England guidance** – available at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/statements-significance-and-needs>. The Church of England provide some useful templates for creating Statements of Significance and Needs and methods of assessing significance. Note: scroll down the page to ‘What is a Statement of Significance?’ to find the standard template – the first link at the top of the page is for major projects, such as large extensions or major reordering.
- **Historic England Guidance**
 - Assessing significance in church buildings: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/places-of-worship/making-changes-to-your-place-of-worship/principles-for-making-changes/assessing-significance/> - sets out the things Historic England consider to be important in Statements of Significance and the types of information they like to see.
 - Statements of Heritage Significance: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/> - this advice note is primarily aimed at heritage statements for the secular planning system but has useful insights into identifying significance and alternative approaches.

Examples of parish websites

The following examples demonstrate the range of options available when considering how to present information about your church building online. For more information about this, see the related presentation on *Fundraising and Engaging Visitors*. These are examples only and you should consider how you want to present your church building bearing in mind your MAPs and values.

- Houghton Regis – church information on parish website (<https://www.allsaintshr.co.uk/all-saints-parish-church.html>)
- Dunstable Priory – heritage information on parish website, including virtual tours (<http://www.dunstableparish.org.uk/heritage/>)
- Totteridge – history on church website (<https://www.totteridgechurch.org.uk/history>) and Explore Churches (<https://www.explorechurches.org/church/st-andrew-totteridge>) which is a national resource for churches who want to publicise their building with a particular visitor focus.

Additional information and advice is available from the DAC team. Contact details are available at www.stalbans.anglican.org/dac/who-s-who-in-buildings/.

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