



THE DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Some questions answered.....

[re]source

Resourcing our PCCs in the Diocese of Chelmsford

WHAT IS A DAC?

- Each diocese has a body called the *Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches* (known as the DAC). The Diocesan Advisory Committee is a **statutory body** set up under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991.



WHO ARE WE?

- The DAC comprises the 7 Archdeacons and members with a wide range of skills including:
 - Architecture
 - Archaeology
 - History of art and architecture
 - Historic buildings conservation
 - Structural engineering
 - Arboricultural management
 - Bells and bell frames
 - Church lighting and heating
 - Church clocks
 - Stained glass design and conservation



WHY HAVE A DAC?

It is a key component of the process of

The Ecclesiastical Exemption –

an exemption that frees the Church of England from the process of Listed Building Control for buildings that are in regular use for public worship.



~ THE DAC'S DILEMA ~

PASTORAL NEED

VS

THE NEEDS OF THE BUILDING



OUR ROLE?

- The DAC's primary role is to give advice on the architecture, archaeology, art and history of places of worship to the diocesan chancellor and to parishes in respect of Faculty applications. It also seeks to give parishes advice on the care and repair of their churches and churchyards.
- In giving this advice, it is the duty of the DAC to balance the needs of worship and mission with those relating to the care and conservation of the fabric of the church and its churchyard.



DIVERSITY IN THE MODERN AGE

Churches are many things to many people ~

- Primarily they are the house of God, but -
- They are, as Simon Jenkins writes, “ a dispersed gallery of vernacular art”
- They are increasingly places of physical as well as spiritual refreshment.
- They are places for cultural enrichment.
- They are places for an increasingly wide range of events – beer festivals, concerts, fashion shows, farmers markets, dances, etc etc.....



HOW DOES THE DAC UNDERSTAND ITS ROLE AND HOW CAN IT HELP?

- It is an **ADVISORY** body
- It's advice is **FREE**
- It brings **EXPERTISE** and **EXPERIENCE**



WHEN TO TALK TO THE DAC ~

SOONER OR LATER?

- The DAC actively encourages early engagement – **Why?**



BENEFITS OF EARLY ENGAGEMENT

- The DAC has experience of looking at a wide variety of proposals for works to churches, and
 - We may be able to refine the parish's thinking and clarify the needs
 - We may be able to suggest a better way to meet the parish's needs
 - We may be able to suggest a cheaper way of meeting the parish's needs



STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND NEED

- They are key documents in the process of managing change to your church
- They are a requirement when making an application for a Faculty.
- If there is a need to engage with other bodies – the Church Buildings Council, Historic England, any of the statutory amenity societies or the local planning authority – they will insist on seeing these statements before any discussions take place



THE ESSENCE OF SIGNIFICANCE

- What is it that give a building a sense of ‘specialness’? Is it ~
- It’s architectural diversity or its completeness?
- The quality of its furnishings or fittings, including monuments?
- The changes it has experienced over the years?
- Less tangible things – historical associations? It’s setting or location?



THE STATEMENT OF NEED

- Why is the work needed? Does it justify the changes proposed?
- Numbers/ quantities/frequency



SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE: CHANGE = HARM?

- The National Planning Policy Framework requires planning authorities to balance harm against public benefit. The DAC will make similar judgements.
- Parish needs to accept that changes to churches are likely to cause some harm, especially if the church is listed.
- The key is to identify benefits against which any harm can be balanced.



WHERE ELSE CAN I GET HELP?

- Your architect
- The Church Buildings Council
- www.statementsofsignificance.org
- Feasibility study grant from the diocese



HOW YOU CAN HELP THE DAC.....

Information,
information and
information



A WORD ABOUT LIST B.....

ROUTINE!



EVERY CASE
ON ITS
MERITS



IT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE A GREAT
IDEA.....

