

DIOCESE OF CHELMSFORD

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE



EXTERNAL LIGHTING TO CHURCHES

GUIDELINES TO ASSIST PARISHES

Revised March 2013

EXTERNAL LIGHTING TO CHURCHES

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This paper sets out the views of the DAC on lighting outside churches, including security, amenity and safety lighting, but not floodlighting which is dealt with in a separate advisory leaflet.

SECURITY LIGHTING

- 2.1 Before embarking on any proposal, parishes are advised to consult their Crime Prevention Officer regarding the best methods of dealing with their particular problem. Vandalism and burglary may be deterred by suitable lighting, either controlled by a time switch or activated by sensors. However, there may be precautions other than lighting that are appropriate. At this stage it would also be advisable to consult the church insurers to see if they are likely to have any special requirements.
- 2.2 The DAC will be concerned with the siting of security lights. Fittings will need to be as inconspicuous as possible whilst being still accessible for maintenance. Under overhanging eaves is often the best place. Cabling will also need to be hidden, so far as practicable, both outside and inside the church. Where the cable is likely to be visible it should be coloured to match with the background. Normally overhead wiring in churchyards will not be considered appropriate.
- 2.3 All electrical work should be in accordance with the IEE Regulations and a certificate obtained for insurance purposes.

AMENITY/SAFETY LIGHTING

- 3.1 Some church paths are long, shaded by trees or curved so that, in the dark, there is need for some lighting. This is particularly the case in the countryside where there is no nearby street lighting. In other cases church paths are public footpaths where lighting is desirable.

- 3.2 In the simplest case the only lights which are needed are over the church door or porch and at the lychgate. In both these cases simple traditional fittings are appropriate, such as a glass dome suspended from a swan neck bracket. The parish should use low-energy bulbs wherever possible. At a gateway to the churchyard the traditional wrought iron overthrow arch carrying a suspended light is appropriate. Industrial bulkhead type fittings in any location should be avoided.

- 3.3. If the path is long and a number of fittings are going to be needed the approach to the design of these should be based on the character of the churchyard and the immediate area. In rural situations low level bollard fittings directing the light onto the footway are most suitable. In urban areas lamp standards might be more in keeping, using traditionally designed columns and lamp housing. The light source should be suitable in colour; some sodium or mercury lighting may not be appropriate. In all cases the lighting level should be kept to a minimum necessary for safety. If there are young trees in the area of the proposed lights the effect of further growth should be taken into account when siting the fittings.

- 3.4 When a scheme is being considered the local planning authority should be consulted at an early stage as planning consent may be needed. If the lights are on a public footpath the local authority should be approached to pay for the installation, maintenance and running costs as the lighting may be considered to be a public amenity.

3.5 Consideration must be given to the lines proposed for the underground cabling which could have archaeological implications and the DAC may recommend an archaeological watching brief as a condition of a Faculty. Cable runs should also avoid disturbance to graves and monuments. Normally overhead wiring in churchyards will not be considered to be appropriate.

3.6 All electrical work must be in accordance with the IEE Regulations and a certificate obtained for insurance purposes.

POLICY

1. The DAC will expect parishes to have consulted the Crime Prevention Officer and their insurers regarding need, type, location and activation when any security lighting proposals are considered.
2. Security light fittings should be sited in inconspicuous locations.
3. Amenity/safety lighting and the type of fittings should be designed to suit the character of the churchyard and the immediate area.
4. Fixing methods and cable runs should be chosen so far as possible to be inconspicuous and avoid disturbance to graves or archaeologically sensitive locations.
5. Overhead wiring will not normally be recommended.
6. All installations to be carried out in accordance with the current IEE Regulations and the relevant certificate obtained.
7. The electrical company chosen to carry out the works being full scope member of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC), Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) or the National Association of Professional Inspectors and Testers (NAPIT).

**This is one of a series of guidelines published by the Diocesan Advisory
Committee**

Copies can be downloaded from the Diocesan website:

www.chelmsford.anglican.org/parishes/dac/dac_notes

**or can be obtained from the
DAC Secretary at the address below**

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