

REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD

DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care and Conservation of Churches and Church Buildings)

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Meetings: 8 meetings held per year, 3 in person, 5 via Zoom. 1 has been held so far this year with 7 more planned.

Summary of activities:

The committee continue to provide advice and guidance to the Chancellor and also to parishes. It is difficult to provide accurate figures due to a combination of factors, but 292 new applications were created in 2023, roughly the committee will likely see and comment upon between 20-30 cases per meeting, this does not include delegated cases, List B permissions, and any other questions that may arise as these are all dealt with outside of meetings. The DAC staff team and often in conjunction with DAC members had over 70 on site or virtual meetings with parishes directly in 2023.

It is also difficult to pinpoint specific achievements as there are a myriad of examples, if you were to use that term on a monetary sense then you could look at the progress of the case at Mudeford, All Saints. Following a devastating fire at this church the DAC have continuously provided support and advice to the parish through both on site and virtual meetings, expert advice on crucial issues surrounding the design and approach to the project and arranging for early discussions with external interested stakeholders.

At the other end of the Diocese is the church at Darby Green, this is an unlisted building that acts as a hub to the community. They have applied for large funding to enable them to capitalise on this unique position and really cement themselves in the community, this is a church that already provides excellent support going beyond what most would expect by providing such resources as a sensory room. The DAC have had multiple site visits to discuss the proposals and provide advice on how to approach the different aspects of the

project, from expanding the kitchen, providing a fully accessible building, to potentially improving the current partition between the worship space and the nursery.

The most recent resource church project was at Basingstoke, St Michael, the DAC worked very closely with the parish here and their architect to find a sensitive solution for this space. With the building being a Grade I listed building this required a very sensitive and pragmatic approach to any reordering, the DAC facilitated multiple meetings both on site and virtually and involving external stakeholders. This has then subsequently progressed and been supported by the DAC. All of these represent very large and complicated projects.

A slightly different but innovative case that was supported by the DAC was for the introduction of a soft play area to Bournemouth St Luke. However, just as important to the above could also be the restoration of the bells to Ropley, St Peter for example, a much more modest example. All examples are hugely varying in scale, intervention and cost but equally significant in their own right. In 2023 Winchester DAC hosted the regional DAC event, this brought representatives from all other Diocese in the South East of the country to discuss working practices and have topical discussions and presentations. This event we organised and was held at Ropley church with guest speakers arranged by ourselves. This event was complimented by the Church Buildings Council representative and he stated it as being the most attended event he could remember.

Aspirations:

It would be ideal for the committee to acquire an expert in environmental sustainability and to carry out further succession planning, but broadly to continue functioning in a productive and excellent way to support both the Chancellor and the parishes.

Membership:

Andrew Cobb/Chair
Richard Streatfield/DAC Secretary
Sarah Feltham/Assistant DAC Secretary
Richard Brand /Archdeacon of Winchester
Jean Burgess/Archdeacon of Bournemouth
Gary Philbrick/Assistant Archdeacon of Bournemouth & Winchester
Ian Newman/Synod Representative/DAC Member
Peter Hoadley/Synod Representative & Vice Chair/DAC Member
Elaine Walters/Local Authority Representative/DAC Member
Frank Green/Archaeologist/DAC Member
Nick Carey-Thomas/Architect/DAC Member
Columba Cook/Architect/DAC Member
Gary Seymour/Architect/DAC Member
Jeremy Poll/Architect/DAC Member
Richard Codd/Architect/DAC Member
Phil Watts/Bells Expect/Co-opted Member
Mike Ricketts/Architect & Local Planning Expert/Co-opted Member

Kevin Clark/Structural Engineer/Co-opted Member
Simon Cramp/Landscape Architect & Trees Expert/Co-opted Member
Adam Greenley/Bells Expert/Consultant
Derek Frampton/Clocks Expert/Consultant
Colin Harvey/Organ Expert/Consultant
Sophie Hacker/Art & Glass Expert/Consultant
Jonathan West/Lighting Expert/Consultant
Chris Reading/M&E Engineer & Expert in
Lighting/Heating/AV/Consultant