

ANNUAL REPORT

Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches 2017

Chair: Mr Frank Eul



It is very seldom that the Exeter Diocesan Advisory Committee advises against changes proposed in a formal Faculty Application. The committee will go a long way to understand the need for alterations and additions to a church. Whilst statute and case law inevitably lead a DAC to a conservation agenda, the need for modern facilities is in the forefront of a parish's mission strategy and the DAC work hard with parishes to identify how this could best be accommodated within a listed building.

This will often mean that committee members and consultants will spend not an inconsiderable amount of time on giving informal advice as a proposal develops. The committee are fully aware that bringing new, and particularly younger people into church, does need a modern approach both to worship and facilities, but with a lot of thought, this can be achieved without losing the peace, calm, and tranquillity of a beautiful building.

Devon has a portfolio of some of the most beautiful churches in the country, with individual incredible histories of building and rebuilding, and it is thanks to the informed advice of members of and consultants to the committee, that some of these churches are now used as concert venues, school rooms, play centres and occasional cafés in addition to the primary use of worship.

The members of the committee, and the consultants who advise the committee on issues as different as church bells, archaeology, electric wiring, heating, and audio-visual equipment technology, are volunteers, consulting for the Diocese without payment. Their 'reward' is achieving the successful interface between tradition and 'new', and I am very grateful for their support during another busy year.

Frank Eul, Chair

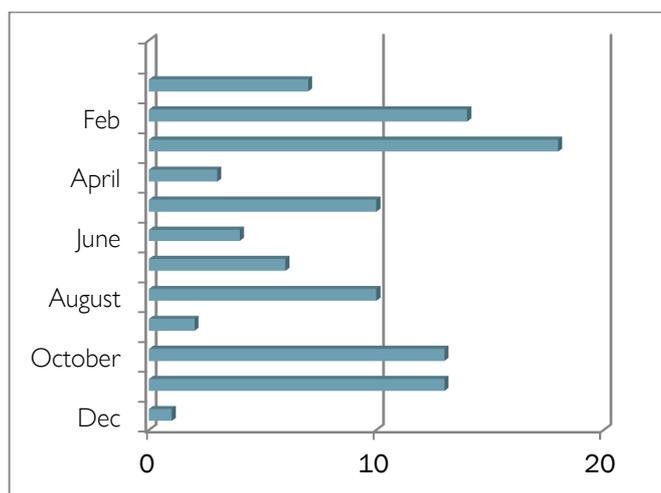
Review of 2017

During 2017, the Church Buildings office received **101** applications for a DAC Notification of Advice (the first step in making a faculty application), via the Online Faculty System (<https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org>). **92** of these were new applications, and **9** were re-submissions from 2016. Whilst the majority of applications were from PCCs, **17** were from external applicants, such as individuals requesting items

such as new memorials in the church, headstones which fell outside of the Churchyard Regulations, installation of mobile phone or broadband equipment, or applications from Local Authorities carrying out works within closed churchyards.

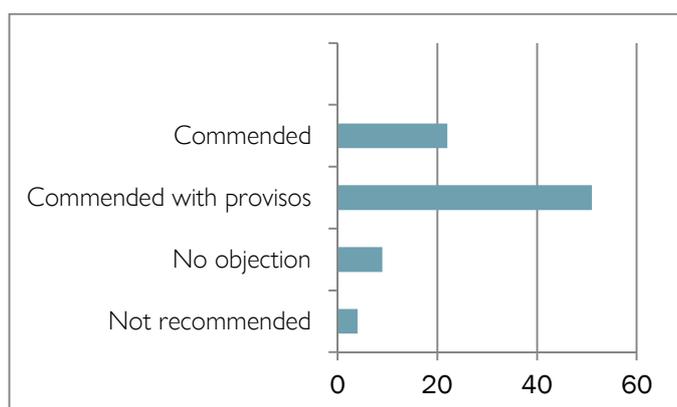
Although costs are not provided with every application, at least **£3,111,000** worth of works were being planned by PCCs and other applicants.

Applications received by month



Of the **92** new applications, **74** received a DAC Notification of Advice (NoA) in 2017, with **18** having been undetermined, or unresolved by the end of the year. Of the **74** receiving their Advice (to either Commend, Commend with provisos, Not object, or Not recommend), **63** were determined by the DAC at the first committee meeting considering the proposal. The remaining **11** were discussed 2 or more times before the Advice was issued.

All **9** re-submissions from 2016 were issued with a Notification of Advice in 2017, resulting in a total of **86** NoAs issued during 2017. The breakdown of the Advice given is as follows:



Once the DAC have issued their Advice, the applicant then submits their faculty application to the Diocesan Chancellor, via the Registrar, for a final decision. In 2017, the Chancellor and his Deputy issued **48** faculties relating to applications submitted in 2017. Of the applicants who had

received their DAC Advice during 2017, **17** had not made a submission to the Registrar by the end of 2017.

In total, there were **262** items of casework discussed during the 8 committee meetings and sub committee meetings – as well as discussion of the applications for a Notification of Advice, this included requests for Informal Advice on outline proposals, variations of faculties already issued, and issuing of Archdeacon's Permissions for Temporary Reordering (APTRs).

Archdeacon's Permission for Temporary Reordering (APTR)

7 APTRs were issued by the Archdeacons during 2017. These permissions, which are valid for a period of up to 15 months, allow a PCC to experiment with a change to the interior of the building, such as a removal of a small number of pews. Provided no permanent changes are undertaken, and the furniture is stored for the duration of the approval, then this can be a useful tool in helping parishes to assess what benefits a change can bring, and to seek the opinions of the church, and wider, community.

Informal Advice

The DAC encourages PCCs to apply for early advice on proposals to make changes to their building, so that they can be involved in the discussions at an initial stage. Parishes can also access the early advice of our specialists on matters relating to their bells, organs, heating, and lighting, and these visits are free of charge to the PCC. In 2017, **81** requests for Informal Advice were received. **30** of the **101** applications for a Notification of Advice in 2017 had received the DAC's Informal Advice previously.

List B approvals

Many items of work which do not need authorisation by way of faculty need to be approved by the Archdeacon under the 'List B' process, after consultation with a DAC member or officer. This List covers many repairs to the fabric of the building, works within churchyards, and alterations to existing heating and lighting systems. Of the **132** List B applications received during 2017, **125** had been approved by the end of 2017 (the remaining 7 having been undetermined). Although costs are not provided with every application, at least **£721,801** worth of works were being planned by PCCs and other applicants.

Telecommunications

2017 saw **8** applications from NET Coverage Solutions Ltd, with proposals to install equipment within church towers on behalf of mobile phone operators. Due to the complex discussions involved in these cases, a sub committee of DAC members and consultants was established to deal with these matters outside of the main committee meeting structures. During the year, the DAC issued **7** Notifications of Advice to allow NET to apply for a faculty on behalf of the PCC.

Training for New Churchwardens

In October, the two Church Buildings Advisers organised and participated in training held in three locations across the Diocese, aimed at New Churchwardens, with 80 people attending. With the assistance of other staff from the Old Deanery, introductory sessions were given on Finance, Safeguarding, Church Buildings, and Parishes and the Law.

DAC Annual Tour

After the success of the first Annual Tour in 2016, a day was spent in October 2017 visiting completed projects at a variety of churches. This included seeing the adaptation works to accommodate the new Resource Church at Plymouth, St Matthias; hearing about the repairs to the North Aisle roof, and reordering to accommodate wider community use at Ugborough, St Peter; the completed reordering, including a new stone and tile floor at Ashburton, St Andrew; and finally the repointed tower and new lighting at South Brent, St Petroc.



New flooring at Ashburton, St Andrew

"I leave this training with a bit more confidence to sort some 'fabric' problems which impact on the local community, and with a better understanding of my role."

Site visits

A large part of the work of the committee members, consultants, and officers, is making visits to parishes to offer Informal Advice on proposals when they are at an early stage. In 2017, there were group visits to **31** churches, including to Cullompton, St Andrew to look at proposals for a new garden of contemplation, and Kingskerswell, St Mary to look at proposals for a major reordering and extension. In addition, there were **78** individual visits made by committee members or consultants, often to advise on improvements to church heating and lighting. There is no cost to PCCs for such a visit, and parishes are encouraged to make contact with the Church Buildings office at an early stage in their plans, and to make use of this free service. The Church Buildings Advisers are also available to visit parishes for a very early initial discussion on how to start a project, including advice on funding, and how to make a faculty application. **38** of these visits were undertaken by the Advisers in 2017.

Quinquennial Inspections

Every 5 years the PCC will commission an approved inspector to visit the church and carry out an inspection of the whole building, its fixtures and fittings, the services to and from the building plus the churchyard, as required under the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955. The inspector will provide the PCC with copies and will also send an electronic copy to the Archdeacon and the DAC. Of those parishes whose inspections were due in 2017, the DAC had received **40** reports out of **103** due (39%) by the year end. The total number of reports received during 2017 was **107**, however this will include those overdue from previous years.

The number of architects and surveyors approved to undertake quinquennial inspections currently stands at 42, with two new inspectors added to the list in 2017.



"Thank you very much indeed to Dave for his time and effort in visiting and preparing this advice for which we are very grateful and to you and the DAC for their considerations and time. We are now looking at ways to find the additional funding for this work which will greatly enhance the Church and its future role in ministry".

Chairman: Frank Eul

Senior Church Buildings Adviser: Louise Bartlett

Church Buildings Adviser: Charlotte Vickers