

DAC MEMBERS - BIOGRAPHIES

Membership of the Diocesan Advisory Committee
for the Care of Churches

2019



WALKER LAPTHORNE, CHAIR

Walker Lapthorne is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a semi – retired Chartered Building Surveyor. He was a Partner of Taylor Lane & Creber, Chartered Surveyors, in Plymouth in the 1980's and a Director of Stratton Creber until 1996. He joined the established Building Company, J D C Builders in the South Hams and became Managing Director after a management buy out in 2000. The company specialised in high quality new build and refurbishment and specialist conservation works. He has had direct experience of working on major church restoration and reordering projects and has worked on many significant listed buildings throughout South Devon and South East Cornwall. He is the Chair of Trustees for the Eden Cottages Alms Houses in Ivybridge.

Walker believes that the development of the Church as the focal point for worship in the community will need to be accommodated by the sensitive adaptation of the buildings to ensure that they remain fit for purpose in modern times. This has to be managed without losing sight of the listed status of many of the churches and the need to ensure that they are conserved for future generations. The reconciliation of this need against the constraints of available budgets will need creative thinking from all Members and Partners of the DAC, to ensure that the appropriate advice is offered. The building stock represents a considerable asset for the Diocese and such assets will need both protection and appreciation of how they can function to serve the mission and ministry as well as the wider community, going forward.

JEREMY PEARSON, DEPUTY CHAIR

For many years Jeremy Pearson worked as a curator in Westcountry museums, latterly with The National Trust during which time he got to know the highways and byways of Devon very well. He has a strong interest in the interior of churches and their treasures, and in particular has had much to do with church silver. Jeremy has long tried to emulate a Northamptonshire squire whose memorial reads 'He honoured the past, rejoiced in the present and built for the future'.

MARK BUTCHERS, ARCHDEACON OF BARNSTAPLE

After curacies in London, Mark Butchers served as Rector of four rural parishes in mid-Devon in the 1990s before moving to Oxford to be Chaplain and Director of Studies in Theology at Keble College. In 2005 he became Vicar of St Peter's, Wolvercote on the northern edge of Oxford, where the parish undertook a major development project to renew their buildings for mission and outreach in the

local community. In 2010, he also became responsible for All Saints', Wytham (another church in the middle of significant refurbishment). He served as Area Dean of Oxford from 2012-15, and then returned to Devon as Archdeacon of Barnstaple in March 2015.

NICK SHUTT, ARCHDEACON OF PLYMOUTH

Nick qualified as a Solicitor in 1983 and was in private practice for 25 years, mainly in the areas of property, Wills and Probate and commercial law. During this period Nick was ordained in 1994 and also obtained an LLM in Ecclesiastical Law in 2001. In 2008 Nick retired from the law, taking a BA Degree in Photography whilst also continuing as the Rector of West Dartmoor Mission Community, a group of 6 parishes on Dartmoor featuring mainly Grade I listed churches and supervised major re-ordering throughout this period. Since January 2018 Nick has been the role of Acting Archdeacon of Plymouth, being appointed to the permanent role in June 2019

CHRISTOPHER FUTCHER, ARCHDEACON OF EXETER

Christopher studied theology at Edinburgh University and Westcott House Cambridge. He was in parish ministry in St Albans Diocese for 30 years before coming to Devon to be Archdeacon of Exeter. He has first-hand experience of the joys of medieval, Victorian and 20th century church buildings and completing a 21st century church extension. He is concerned that churches should continue to be places of beauty as well as fit for modern worship and use.

DOUGLAS DETTMER, ARCHDEACON OF TOTNES

The Venerable Douglas Dettmer was brought up in Kansas in the midwest of America. His theological education was at Yale and since then he has served his entire ordained ministry in the Diocese of Exeter, first as assistant curate in the Ilfracombe Team on the North Devon coast, then domestic chaplain to Bishop Hewlett Thompson, and from 1998-2015 as parish priest in the Netherexe Parishes, a rural benefice in mid Devon which by the end of his time there included eight parishes, ten church buildings and three church schools. As Archdeacon of Totnes from 2015 he seeks to support and enable the work of the church in south central Devon—Torbay and Newton Abbot, the South Hams, much of Dartmoor, and the rural areas around Totnes, Okehampton and Hatherleigh.

STUART BLAYLOCK

Dr Stuart Blaylock has served on the DAC as the nominee of the Joint Committee of the Amenity Societies since 1999. He is an archaeologist by profession, with specialist interests in historic houses, churches, and cathedrals, building materials and interior decoration, as well as maintaining a parallel career in Near-Eastern archaeology. He is the author of three books and numerous scholarly articles in these fields. After many years in Exeter, he now works as an independent consultant. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and consultant archaeologist to Truro Cathedral.

SIMON CARTLIDGE

Simon Cartlidge is Historic England nominee to the DAC. He studied architecture and planning at Liverpool University and worked as a conservation officer before being awarded a SPAB Lethaby Scholarship in 1994. Having practiced as a conservation architect in the private sector and with English Heritage he established his own practice in 2005. He has a particular interest in the repair and adaptive reuse of historic buildings and monuments in line with SPAB conservation philosophy.

SASHA CHAPMAN

Sasha trained as an archaeologist specialising in recording buildings and worked for the Trust for Wessex Archaeology and the Museum Of London. For six years she worked for the English Heritage Building Conservation Research Team undertaking diverse projects including field tests on mortar trials at Hadrian's Wall and also coordinating research and technical advice including laser graffiti removal at Avebury and Stonehenge. She has authored and co-authored a number of reports, technical advice notes and reviews including the National Library of Sand and Aggregate for matching mortars. She is a former chair of the UKIC (now ICON) Stone and Wall Paintings Section. Following a career break bringing up four children she now works freelance undertaking research and producing technical reports including Statements of Significance.

PIERS DENNY

Piers Denny has a BA in History and History of Art from London University. Following training as a stonemason at Weymouth, Venice and Chartres, he has worked in stone conservation and historic building repair for forty years. Recent work includes a major conservation project over three years at the White Tower for Historic Royal Palaces, as well as the repair of numerous West Country Churches. Piers has an enduring interest in the diversity of building materials and techniques and the challenges faced in the repair of Devon's Churches.

KEITH DODD

Keith Dodd is a retired Chartered Building Services Engineer and acts as DAC's Heating and Mechanical Building Services advisor. Originally a Mechanical Services Design Engineer with one of the major contractors, he moved into consultancy before forming his own practice in 1991 (employing up to 25 design engineers). In 2008 the practice was bought out by a multi-national consultancy and he continued in the role of Technical Director until retiring in 2011. He is also visiting specialist for the School of Architecture at Plymouth University helping students with the Mechanical Services elements of their final year projects.

DAVE FARNHAM

Dave Farnham, electrical, lighting and heating adviser, has a background of electrical contracting and electrical engineering services, including lighting and electrical heating design. He is a member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology. Outside work Dave has served twenty two years as a magistrate. He has an interest in historic buildings, particularly churches and has been a church bell ringer for many years.

BRIDGET GILLARD

Bridget Gillard is the local authority representative on the DAC. After studying History of Art and Architecture at Westfield College, University of London, Bridget worked for English Heritage who sponsored her to take an MA in architectural building conservation at de Montfort University, Leicester. She then worked as an historic urban surveyor in Cornwall on two pioneering characterisation projects; the Cornwall Industrial Settlements Initiative and the Cornwall and Scilly Urban Survey. Whilst subsequently working as a conservation officer she studied for a PhD at Plymouth University exploring the effectiveness of the Church of England's guidance for writing statements of significance, and taught as an associate lecturer on the building conservation MA course. She is now the Registrar of the Devonshire Association, a member of the DA's Building Section committee and a committee member of the Devon Building Group. She has a particular interest in the consideration of use and the making of comparative assessments when determining the significance of historic churches, and in encouraging public engagement in the researching of historic churches and their significance.

HUGH HARRISON

Hugh Harrison joined St. Sidwell's Art Works in 1970 and took over the company in 1972 on the untimely death of Dick Read. He changed the name to Herbert Read Ltd in memory of the three generations of the Read family who started the company in 1891. He was taught by the old craftsmen some who with their fathers have been with the company since it started. Hugh trained a new generation of craftsmen, many still with him in his conservation company having left Herbert Read Ltd in 1995; his latest recruit, the son of his senior conservation joiner. After 46 years working in Devon churches Hugh and his team have worked in quite a number. Hugh has co-authored a book on the choir stalls in Amiens cathedral and contributed to several others including the English Heritage Practical Building volume on the conservation of woodwork. His most recent contribution was to the book on Episcopal Thrones which describes in detail the throne at Exeter cathedral. Hugh has contributed to ICOMOS missions to Beijing and Russia and has designed and supplied woodwork to many New York churches and Washington and Jacksonville Cathedrals. He and his team won the John Betjeman Award for Conservation for 2016 and were also Commended for another project. He has been a churchwarden for nearly 25 years, is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and is forbidden by his family to mention churches at home.

JO HIBBERT

Jo Hibbert followed her first degree at Sheffield University with a student placement at English Heritage in 1991. This developed into full time employment until 1997. Following an ICOMOS Summer Scholarship working with the New York Landmark Conservancy in Manhattan, she completed her formal architectural education working in private practice. Continuing to work in the field of Conservation, she was a SPAB Lethaby Scholar in 2002. She is now the Conservation Director for Levitate as well as working independently for a number of churches. She has over twenty years of extensive experience working with Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Grade I, II* and II Listed buildings; other historic buildings and settings, including private houses, chapels, churches, municipal buildings, farm buildings and castles.

KEITH RUSHFORTH

Keith Rushforth serves on the DAC as Diocesan Synod Lay representative. He was first elected to Exeter Diocesan Synod in 2003 (previously having been on Portsmouth & Winchester Synods) and is also a member of the Exeter Diocese Board of Patronage. He is a Chartered Arboriculturist with a vocation for trees, best considered as anything living which is temperate, woody and knee high. Keith has lived near Cullompton since 1999 and worships at St. Andrew's, Cullompton. He is also a member of the Truro DAC as the Ecology adviser. His reason for being on the DAC is so that our heritage of buildings may be kept fit for purpose in order that people may know and experience the love of Jesus.

JOHN SCOTT

John Scott was brought up in Devon and retains strong ties to it and a passion for its heritage and local identity. He has been in private practice as an architect since the mid-1980s, and over that time has built up a wealth of experience in work for churches and other historic buildings, with a particular (but far from exclusive) interest in the buildings of the 19th century. He is an accredited Conservation Architect and acts for approximately 30 churches spread across 5 Dioceses, and one (Greek Orthodox) cathedral.

SUE SPACKMAN

Sue Spackman is a retired architect who ran her own practice from Tavistock. As a practitioner she was involved with seeing both new build and work to existing buildings through from initial design to completion on site. In her retirement her interest in historic buildings is such that she is a trustee on the Devon Historic Buildings Trust and on the Paignton Picture House Trust. She is an examiner for the Birmingham Central University's School of Architecture. In her spare time she will be found walking somewhere with her dog.

JEREMY TREW

Jeremy has a background in environmental science and spent several years in civil engineering research. He has worked for the Church of England as a lay-worker, curate and vicar in inner city,

suburban and rural parishes before moving to Exeter Diocese where he now serves as Vicar of Seaton & Beer. He has been involved in the reordering of two church buildings, and a major restoration project for another; with the attendant joy, frustration and incredulity those experiences can engender. He is less passionate about church buildings than he is about the communities which use them and the purposes for which they are used.