

What is the DAC and what can we do for you?

The DAC is the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. The DAC is a body set up under the Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991 and it gives advice on the architecture, archaeology, art and history of places of worship to the Diocesan Chancellor, the archdeacons and the parishes.

What does the DAC do?

The DAC can often be seen in a negative way and as a bureaucratic hurdle that must be overcome. Some parts of the DAC's role are bureaucratic and we will often need plans, reports and other essential paperwork. But the DAC is here to help parishes care for their buildings in the best way and develop churches as centres of mission that serve God's people. We have a variety of advisers who can offer specialist help on a wide range of topics including heating, audio-visual, bells, archaeology, organs etc (please see the guidance document 'Developing Your Project' for more information on our advisers). We will also help you develop larger projects and proposals such as a reordering scheme or a new entrance/extension.

If you are thinking about making any changes to a church building (including church halls, parish centres etc) you must involve the DAC. Almost all works to church buildings and their contents will require permission. Most people are aware that roof repairs or re-ordering projects need to involve the DAC, but even small jobs such as the installation of a new electrical socket, minor repointing or the introduction of furniture also need permission. Some minor works will not require a full faculty; more information on these can be found on the [Consistory Court](#) pages of the diocesan website.

The DAC has a statutory duty to be involved in all changes to church buildings. The DAC must provide advice on List B works if your archdeacon asks for their input. The DAC must also consider all faculty applications and advise the chancellor on whether or not permission should be given.

We have a comprehensive list of guidance documents that explain the faculty process and how to engage effectively with the DAC. These can be found on the '[Applying for a Faculty](#)' section of our website.

Who is on the DAC?

The core of the DAC is formed by the Chair (Revd Canon Simon Cowling), the five archdeacons and its twelve members. The DAC also includes advisers who have knowledge in areas such as archaeology, bells, organs and other specialisms. The members include architects, representatives of the amenity societies and people with experience in areas such as planning, engineering and conservation. All members and advisers are volunteers who give their time and experience to help parishes care for and develop their buildings.

When should I contact the DAC?

The DAC is able to provide advice and support to parishes at all stages of a project, from initial thoughts, through fundraising and making a faculty application, to completion. The DAC encourages parishes to be in touch as soon as possible when any work is being considered: we are always pleased to hear from you. Please see our guidance document 'Developing Your Project' for further information on how and when to involve the DAC.