

GUIDANCE RE WORKING WITH ARCHITECTS AND SURVEYORS

The DAC wishes to offer parishes some guidance and information about how to make the most of working with your church architect/surveyor for the maintenance and conservation of your beautiful, treasured church buildings.

Extract from the Churchcare website (www.churchcare.co.uk which you may find helpful on many subjects):

Architects and surveyors are highly qualified professionals who have completed a number of years of study and practical training before becoming registered and able to practice. Many have additional qualifications, for example in the conservation of historic buildings. Those who care for our churches are generally members of the Ecclesiastical Architects' and Surveyors' Association (EASA); others are also members of one or more of the amenity societies, for example the Georgian Group or the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB). All these organisations have their own websites.

Most architects/surveyors will be pleased to receive an invitation to attend a PCC meeting to meet members and to answer any questions about church fabric or repairs. Unfortunately, many parishes do not invite their architect/surveyor and a valuable opportunity for building up a close working relationship is missed.

The DAC would like to encourage you to involve your architect/surveyor at an early stage of any proposals, such as reordering, decoration and lighting schemes and even if you think the particular area of work is minor it is good practice to let your architect know your thoughts. When the time comes for the Quinquennial your architect/surveyor knows in much more detail what has happened since his/her last visit. It is very important that the architect/surveyor knows what standard work is being carried out and that the correct materials are being used for your particular building.

The DAC encourages parishes to copy all faculty applications to their inspecting architects/surveyors before they are discussed with the DAC. The architect/surveyor can then be asked to provide a response to accompany the faculty confirming that they have no objections of the proposed works, or indeed provide their full specification and drawings.

The DAC does appreciate that there may be an additional cost involved but it can be money well spent for the future safeguarding of the church building.

If you have any comments or queries, please do not hesitate to be in touch with the DAC Secretary: Lisa McIntyre - lisa.mcintyre@leeds.anglican.org - 0113 3530277 .