

## Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

10.00am, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, Christ Church, McKenna Room

### MINUTES

**Attendees:** Abigail Lloyd, Nicola Coldstream, Louise Durning, Jonathan Chaffey, Sarah Tattersall, Peter Preston, John Pritchard, John Missenden, Alex Wenham, William Whyte, Deiniol Haywood, Charlotte Robinson, Jane Haslam, David Tyler, Nick Wright, Dan Miles, Rachel Fletcher, Diarmaid Macculloch, Lynn Mathias, Julian Munby, Bryan Martin.

**Staff and Observers:** Liz Kitch, Hannah Robertson, Sophie Hammond, Jennie Schillig, Emily Jackson, Mark Humphriss, Hannah Mann

**Apologies:** Bruce Kirk, Geraldine O'Farrell, Guy Elsmore, Peter Groves, Stephen Pullin, Val Plumb, Joyce Christie, James Mackintosh, Helen Ensor, Freya Morris, Esther Robinson Wild, Margreet Armitstead, Mike Holmes

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| 1 | <b>Minutes of meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b> were approved                | Chair |  |
| 2 | <b>Declarations of interest:</b><br>Louise Durning - Oxford St Michael in the Northgate      | Chair |  |
| 3 | <b>Correspondence, policy and other matters for consideration</b>                            |       |  |
|   | Church Buildings Team staffing news  | LK    |  |
|   | Check in session for new members and advisors  | Chair |  |
|   | Survey of meeting start times  | Chair |  |
|   | Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023  | Chair |  |
| 4 | <b>Applications submitted to DAC since the last agenda</b>                                   | Chair |  |
| 5 | <b>Casework - For discussion</b>   |       |  |
|   | Willen St Mary Magdalene   | JS    |  |
|   | Culham St Paul   | HR    |  |
|   | Oxford St Margaret   | JS    |  |
|   | Theale Holy Trinity  | SH    |  |
|   | Oxford St Michael in the Northgate   | JS    |  |
| 6 | <b>Casework - For ratification of officer recommendation</b>                                 |       |  |
|   | Chesterton St Mary   | SH    |  |
|   | Wendlebury St Giles  | JS    |  |
|   | Sibford Holy Trinity   | HR    |  |
|   | Tyringham St Peter   | SH    |  |
|   | Newport Pagnell St Peter   | SH    |  |
| 7 | <b>Pre - application and technical site visits to note</b>                                   | Chair |  |
| 8 | <b>List Bs and NOAs issued under subcommittee and delegated authority since last meeting</b> | Chair |  |
| 9 | <b>Completed project feedback</b>  | LK    |  |

#### Dates of future meetings:

- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024 10.00am - McKenna Room Christ Church
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 10.00am - McKenna Room Christ Church
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 tbc
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 10.00am - McKenna Room Christ Church

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| 3 | <b>Correspondence, policy and other matters for consideration</b> |
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### **New members and congratulations**

The Chair extended welcome to Rachel Fletcher and Diarmaid Macculloch as new members, and congratulated Margreet Armistead on being awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the community in Littlemore.

### **Church Buildings Team staffing news**

The DAC heard that the diocese will shortly be advertising for two new posts in the Church Buildings Team. A Senior Church Buildings Officer, on a permanent full time contract which is in part funded by the Buildings for Mission funding from the Church Commissioners, and a Pastoral and Closed Churches Officer who will be part time on a 3 year fixed term. Natalie Merry and Catriona Turnbull will also be providing consultancy services for case review until the end of July.

### **Check in session for new members and advisors**

It was agreed by all present that this would be helpful. The team will begin some arrangements and communicate shortly.

### **Survey of meeting start times**

The results of the survey of members and advisors views on start time for the DAC meeting was a very mixed bag, and so it was decided not to make any changes at this time.

### **Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2023**

The Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment Rules 2023 came into force on 1 January 2024. These are possibly the shortest amendment rules in recent time, related to monuments conflicting with the role of the church. In practice this is expected to mean monuments raising issues of contested heritage. Unlike past legislative changes to the Faculty Rules, the transitional provisions for these amendment rules are not the same for each stage in the process. If you have a contested heritage case where you have issued the NOA but the case is not yet with the Chancellor please check Section 5 (Transitional provisions) of the [amendment rules](#).

As part of the amendment rules, 4.2(2)(ba) requires supporting documents be provided to the DAC where proposals involve the movement, removal or alteration of a statue, plaque, memorial, monument or other article because it is considered to conflict with the role of a church as a local centre of worship and mission. This supporting document should explain how the intending applicants, in formulating the proposals, have had due regard to the relevant [guidance](#) issued by the Church Buildings Council.

For such cases, the committee's advice must include a statement of

- (a) whether, in its opinion, the explanation under rule 4.2(2)(ba) is adequate, and
- (b) if its opinion is that the explanation is not adequate, its reasons for that opinion.

No formal change has been made to Form 2, these explanations should be added to the Provisos or Reasons part of the Notification of Advice. These supporting documents should be made available when the Faculty cases progress to the public notice stage on the OFS and should be selected as part of the Public Notice File selection form.

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| 4 | <b>Applications submitted to DAC since the last agenda</b> |
|---|--|

|        | List B (DAC) | List B (Arch) | Faculty DA | Faculty Minor | Faculty Major | Interim/ PP/ Variation | Early stage Enquiry | Resolving Provisos | <b>Total</b> |
|--------|--------------|---------------|------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Oct 23 | 29           | 18            | 10         | 30            | 13            | 2                      | 33                  |                    | <b>135</b>   |
| Nov 23 | 23           | 21            | 17         | 20            | 15            | 8                      | 37                  |                    | <b>141</b>   |

| Quinquennial Inspection Reports reviewed by Church Buildings Officers |   |
|---|---|
| Oct 23  | 3 |
| Nov 23  | 1 |

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|---|----------------------------------|
| 5 | <b>Casework - For Discussion</b> |
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|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>Willen St Mary Magdalene</b> |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|

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|-----------------------------|--|----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-090510</a> | Buckingham   | Grade: I | JS |
| Proposals:                  | Creation of the Hooke Heritage Centre in a separate building in the churchyard with WC and servery facilities for church |          |    |
| Project architect:          | James Mackintosh   |          |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Historic England, CBC (to be consulted), SPAB, Victorian Society, HBAP, Milton Keynes City Council                       |          |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Peter Preston, Margreet Armistead, Louise Durning  |          |    |
| Date of visit:              | 26.10.23   |          |    |

**Previous Minute:** None

**January 2024 minute:**

The DAC ratified the site visit report encouraging the parish to continue developing proposals for an independent building in the northwest corner of the churchyard to house the Hooke Heritage Centre and provide WC and servery facilities for use by the parish. The parish were urged to continue to explore modern design options to provide a contrast to the listed church and honour the spirit of its original architect.

## Culham St Paul

|                             |   |           |    |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-093064</a> | Dorchester  | Grade: II | HR |
| Proposals:                  | Reordering to open church for shared community use. |           |    |
| Project architect:          | James Mackintosh                                    |           |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Victorian Society, LPA (not yet consulted)          |           |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Charlotte Robinson, Jane Haslam                     |           |    |
| Date of visit:              | 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2023                      |           |    |

### January 2024 minute:

The DAC accepted there is scope for change in the church and commended the parish's vision to make changes to their church building for the benefit of the community. To facilitate a manageable reordering project, the DAC recommended that the parish break down their plans into phases. The committee encouraged the parish to consider what the life of the church would look like at each phase of the project, and to split their project objectives into phases. The committee understood that the parish considers the pews to be the element of the church which most restricts their use of the building; therefore, it was advised that the parish focus on the removal of pews in the first phase. It was commented that the pews aren't completely without merit, but the DAC did not object to the idea of partial removal of pews at the west end or north aisle.

The DAC heard that the church's only form of heating is provided by outdated infrared overhead heaters and that a new underfloor heating system is proposed in the nave. The committee shared the view that the parish are much in need of a new heating system, but they had concerns that an underfloor heating system would not be appropriate for the current use of the building. The committee agreed that installation and running costs of an underfloor heating system are substantial, so it needs to be ensured that the use of the church justifies the costs. It was recommended that as the use of the church increases, the parish gain further advice from a heating service engineer on the best long-term heating approach for the building. It was advised that until the use of the church increases, the parish should consider replacing their current infrared heaters with more energy efficient modern heaters.

The committee heard that the DAC organ advisors had visited the church and assessed the proposals for the new organ gallery. The advisors had commented that they believe moving the organ would be a straightforward job, subject to the organ being removed from the church prior to building works to avoid contamination with dust. Once relocated, they believed the organ would sound even better as the higher position would enhance the distribution of its tone through the church. It was recommended that in due course, the proposed plans show the footprint of the organ, so it can be assured the gallery will be deep enough to accommodate the organ and access for maintenance. The committee raised the importance of retaining access to the bells, allowing for their repair and restoration in the future. The DAC agreed that the benefit of opening the tower would be substantial and subject to necessary organ survey, costing, and structural detailing, the proposed alteration was a commendable solution. To facilitate increased community use of the church, the DAC encouraged the parish to include the provision of an accessible toilet in the first phase of works.

The committee viewed the plans for the extension, proposed to be built to the north of the tower. It was agreed that the proposed location is a practical and uncontentious option for an extension to the church. However, the committee were aware that the creation of an extension would be a huge enterprise to take on for a small rural church which has struggled in recent years. The DAC heard that the parish wished to provide cooked/prepared food to support events. It was highlighted that to serve the parish's current needs, other options are available such as the use of catering companies, an internal kitchen or cooking off site. It was resolved that at this stage in the project, the cost of creating an extension of this size was not justified. Therefore, it was recommended that the development of an extension is put aside for a later phase, after the use of the church has increased.

The committee understood that the parish had in recent times been close to closure on account of their low congregation numbers and difficulties in funding the running of the church. The committee understood that these difficulties had been part of the drive to create a shared community church building, as it was anticipated that the increased use of the church would help finance its running costs. The committee raised considerable

concerns that without full support from the community, a good funding plan, and a detailed business case, the project would struggle to meet its aims.

The committee unanimously agreed that the parish need to produce a business plan to evidence the feasibility of a shared community building, not only from a financial perspective, but also in terms of whether the proposed use of the building matches the requirement for communal space in the village. It was highlighted that within a ten-mile radius of the church, there are 54 village halls for hire. It was advised that the parish establish in their business plan how St Paul’s Church fits into the competition, and which geographic area it will serve. The committee asked that the business case includes evidence of wide public consultation, letters of support for a shared community building from the parish council, and local groups and clubs who have declared an interest in using the church. It was also requested that the parish gain initial advice from a quantity surveyor as to the approximate cost of each phase of the project and produce a fundraising schedule. The DAC wished to say that they do not want to discourage the parish from taking on a major project, but instead wished to ensure the parish takes the correct steps to ensure financial viability and community engagement from the start.

It was pointed out that the development of 3500 new homes in the area may provide funding opportunities. It was understood that the new housing may increase demand for community space. It was commented that there was a chance that these needs would be met inside the development itself by the construction of a new town hall or school. It was agreed that the construction of a new community hall would pose a considerable risk to the church’s project. Therefore, the DAC advised that it is crucial that the parish start conversations with the parish council, developers, and county council about the possibility of the church being the main community building that serves the new housing development. It was stressed that the parish would need substantial support and involvement from the parish council.

**Summary**

The DAC agreed there is scope for change in the church and commended the parish’s long-term vision for a shared community church building. They appreciated that the pews restricted the use of the nave for many of the church’s events and felt the works proposed to the tower would have a substantial benefit on the parish and community. The importance of phasing the project was raised, to help the parish manage and meet their aims. The DAC were conscious that this is a major project for a relatively small community. The committee had considerable concerns that without a detailed business plan, greater community engagement and a funding strategy, the project would struggle to meet its aims. Therefore, it was asked that the parish include their business plan in their faculty submission for the first phase of work.

**Oxford St Margaret**

|                             |  |           |    |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-091881</a> | Oxford   | Grade: II | JS |
| Proposals:                  | Reordering of the west end of the nave to include provision of gallery |           |    |
| Project architect:          | Christian Randall  |           |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Victorian Society  |           |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Charlotte Robinson, Peter Groves, Julian Munby, William Whyte          |           |    |
| Date of visit:              | 30.11.23   |           |    |

**January 2024 minute:**

The DAC ratified the site visit report and delegated resolution of the details to the subcommittee after which a Recommend NOA should be issued. These should include:

1. Proposals for grading of the external ground levels including current and proposed finished profiles.
2. Construction details and specification for the ramp in the south entrance and sprung floor in the south lobby.
3. Details of the alterations to the tower door to allow it to open outward.
4. Construction details and specifications for dry lining and cupboards in the former Baptistery. This should include details of the proposed ventilation to the enclosed space between the dry lining and

the existing paneling. Details of the gallery stair should be provided to confirm that there is sufficient height for the door.

5. Details and method statement for the alterations to the Baptistry screen. While on site it was noted that lowering the top of the screen would result in the loss of important decorative details. The subcommittee commented that the loss of the cornice would be acceptable but if the height of the screen is to be lowered, it should be done from the base rather than the top.
6. Details and specification for construction of the gallery and gallery steps. It was suggested at the site visit that it might be more appropriate to incorporate low-level built-in storage behind the balustrade rather than along the south wall.
7. Details of the kitchen and WCs to include drainage routes, SVP locations, ventilation etc. In particular, details of the connection of the foul drainage and SVP for the WC under the new stairs to the other WCs.
8. Design and construction details for the new joinery including the cupboards in the former Baptistry, symmetrical kitchen and flower preparation pods, servery, storage and bench seats in the aisles and gallery, new Sacristy cupboard in the upper meeting room, and cupboards in the lower meeting room. The joinery in the current vestry is of high quality giving the space the feel of a chapel, any new joinery should honour this. The new sacristy cupboard will enclose the access to the spiral stair effectively creating a room within a room. The implications of this in respect of the fire regulations will need to be checked.
9. Specification and design drawings for upgrading the heating installation to include a specification for the build-up for the underfloor heating and new floor finishes.
10. Details of any proposed new chairs and tables plus proposals for their storage. The subcommittee preferred to see a dedicated storage cupboard for the tables when not in use.
11. A method statement for relocating the reredos to the south aisle.

## Theale Holy Trinity

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|-----------------------------|---|----------|----|
| <a href="#">2022-078169</a> | Berkshire   | Grade: I | SH |
| Proposals:                  | Creation of level access; Installation of servery, accessible toilet, creche space in narthex, and gathering space in west end of nave          |          |    |
| Project architect:          | Christian Randall   |          |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Historic England, Georgian Group, Vic Soc, LPA (not yet consulted)  |          |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Rev Liz Jackson, Mrs Helen Ensor, Ms Charlotte Robinson (Mr John Pritchard and Mr Peter Preston were added to the subcommittee after the visit) |          |    |
| Date of visit:              | 23/02/2023  |          |    |

### Jan 2024 Minute:

The DAC acknowledged the laudable growth and thriving mission taking place in this parish, and commended the spirit of compromise with which the PCC arrived at its latest proposals. However, discussion of the plans was complex and it was considered that more work needs to be done to get the scheme to a point where the DAC can agree to it in its entirety.

The revised proposals involved:

- Removal of five pews (the westernmost four from the main block plus one from the west end) and making a further four pews moveable. This would retain seventeen of twenty-two (total) pews, plus the two frontals, with thirteen pews left en bloc without any alteration.
- Rather than lowering the floor and disturbing the pews and platforms where these are to be retained, the floor will be raised in line with the pew platforms, with the ramped access finishing at this higher level. This will allow much-needed step-free access to the seating but will also mean the majority of the pews are not touched. The raised floor in the central aisle will be red and black quarry tiles, replicating what is there now.

The committee was content to agree to the principle of removing the five pews proposed provided they are to be retained on site, in a location to be agreed. It was, however, considered essential to have sight of the spatial audit which the DAC requested in July, to be assured that the current proposals would meet the church's needs sufficiently and ensure the balance between the creation of free space and retaining a meaningful number of pews. Without the spatial audit, the committee would not be sufficiently informed to advise on the principle and number of moveable pews. On the question of moveable pews, there were concerns about 1) the practical feasibility of this, and 2) whether doing so would be worth the trouble and expense given the limited extra space afforded either by moving them eastward or against the walls of the free area (this is also something a spatial audit will help determine).

In terms of the viability of pew adaption, it was cautioned that they will be very heavy and cumbersome and would require the highest quality joinery additions in terms of making new ends and ensuring their stability once they are detached from the wall panelling and platforms. It was considered that any adaption of the pews must also involve the most discreet of mechanisms, i.e. retractable hydraulic casters or similar, all of which is bound to add to the cost of the work. Concerns were also voiced that the condition of the moveable pews would inevitably deteriorate through wear and tear from regular movement. The DAC is, however, content for one of the pews from those agreed to be removed to be trialled for adaption, prior to considering the making moveable of the additional pews, to ascertain how successful this is. It was accepted that the westernmost pew has already been compromised by adaption for the AV equipment and its fairly poor existing condition and so would not be the ideal pew for the trial adaption.

The DAC, while not discounting the proposal concerning the floor levels, considered that it was by no means certain that raising up the floor in line with the narthex, pew platforms and chancel step made the most sense, either practically or financially. The committee advised that more work was needed to be done in terms of detailed design, ascertaining the impact on the existing set-up (including the west door, chancel step, vestry access, pulpit) before this could be agreed. Aside from the visual changes, there could be structural implications of cutting down the doors, if the floor levels were to be raised, which would need to be investigated.

It was understood that the main reasons for raising the floor are:

1. It wouldn't be necessary to lower the nave pew platforms and narthex floor.
2. There would be no need to deal with the gap at the bottom of the nave wall panelling where it meets the platform.
3. It would provide level access into the pews.

In order to achieve this, the following would be needed:

- Raising the aisle floor, fitting replica tiles over the existing (and possibly lifting and relaying the decorative area of tiling by the font)
- Partially obscuring the outer narthex column plinths
- Detailing a new step down to the Vestry (which could be a trip hazard on account if it has a different going to the rest).
- Detailing the junction with the chancel step and the pulpit.
- Cutting off the bottom of the door into the nave and reworking it.
- Increasing the pitch of the ramp in the porch.

The committee questioned whether step free access into the pews is essential, given that a wheelchair user would not be able to use the pews anyway, and even infirm users are unlikely to find a 4" step with several things to hold onto difficult. It was suggested that it would be possible to design a detail to deal with the gap at the bottom of the panelling where the pew platforms are lowered. (Either a suitably moulded skirting that laps over the bottom of the base rail to the panelling could be fitted or a new timber board with a quirk moulding at the top flush with the panelling could be installed). Concerning lowering the redundant sections of pew platform and the floor in the narthex, it is believed that the north and south areas of the narthex have a suspended timber floor. It was suggested that as there is a vault under the nave, presumably there is a solid floor construction which the aisle tiles are laid onto, and the boarded pew platforms are then built upon that. It

would be important to establish if this is the case, as if so, it was considered that it would be easier and cheaper to lower the redundant platform areas rather than raise the rest, especially as the rest would need to be re-tiled. If this is all correct, then the floor shouldn't need to be raised. While acknowledging that keeping the floor level as it is does nothing to improve sight lines, given that any chairs at the back will be lower than the pews, the committee understands that the main issue here is the visibility of the poppy heads, rather than the height of the pew backs and the heads of those in them.

Questions were also raised by the DAC architects over whether the ramp does require landings by the doors to comply with Building Regulations. It is understood that Mr Randall felt that the ramp being shallower than 1:20 would mean this didn't apply, but it would be useful to have confirmation from the LPA on this point, since it has a bearing on the levels. The CBO is to seek the advice of the Diocesan Disability Adviser on this matter and relay this to the parish and Mr Randall.

It was considered that if it is possible to achieve objectives by lowering the narthex and pew platforms (leaving the platforms intact under the retained pews) then this would make the best sense practically and financially, and in terms of limiting the harm to historic fabric by retaining visibility of the first chancel step, the bottom of the doors and the base of the pulpit. The committee is, however, content to delegate agreement over the treatment of the floor levels and associated works to the subcommittee.

A comprehensive spatial analysis ought to provide:

- Details of all the available venue options including those external venues currently used
- A chart demonstrating which spaces are being used, their size and capacity, how numbers are expected to grow, when they are used, where, by whom, for how long, and their current access arrangements (i.e. do they offer level access?) etc.
- Plans showing the flexible uses of the nave (and how many could be accommodated flexibly in the configurations typical for the different user groups) by the space created from removing the five pews as agreed, and separately by including the proposed moveable pews (this ought to show where the moveable pews would be relocated to when not needed)
- It was recommended that the Archdeaconry Office ought to feature in the spatial audit, as the parish has previously confirmed that it doesn't use the building, but it would be useful to know the reasons for this.
- It would also be useful to understand how useable the space created in the nave would be without the works to create level access, were these to be omitted for any reason.

The committee wished to point out also that the proposed stoop lantern, which it considered somewhat pastiche in style and better omitted, was still included in the latest drawings.

The CBO has yet to reconsult Historic England, the Vic Soc and the CBC on the revised proposals, since it would be preferable to send on the Spatial Audit alongside proposals, and to allow for the resolution of the issue concerning the floor levels prior to this. Once the subcommittee has determined these aspects, the CBO will begin the second round of consultation.

## Oxford St Michael at the North Gate

|                             |   |          |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-090335</a> | Oxford  | Grade: I | JS |
| Proposals:                  | Refurbishment of facilities in tower                            |          |    |
| Project architect:          | Henry Sanders   |          |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Historic England, CBC, SPAB, Victorian Society, LPA             |          |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Peter Groves, James Mackintosh, Nicola Coldstream, Julian Munby |          |    |
| Date of visit:              | 30.11.23  |          |    |
| <b>Previous Minute:</b>     | None  |          |    |
| <b>January 2024 minute:</b> |   |          |    |



During the visit, the subcommittee commented that none of the proposals were likely to be contentious and that the proposed improvements should be welcomed. The DAC resolved to delegate the resolution of the details of the proposal to the subcommittee prior to the issue of a positive notification of advice. The parish and their advisers are encouraged to continue to develop the proposals in consultation with the subcommittee. As the roof cladding is in poor condition and is already causing deterioration of the roof structure, the parish are encouraged to consider submission of this element of the proposals, along with any others which would rely on external access scaffold, as a separate application.

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| 6 | <b>Casework - For ratification of officer recommendation</b> |
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### Chesterton, St Mary

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|-----------------------------|--|------------|----|
| <a href="#">2023:092938</a> | Dorchester   | Grade: II* | SH |
| Proposals:                  | Disposal of pipe organ (ahead of wider reordering project) |            |    |
| Project architect:          | N/A  |            |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | CBC, BIOS  |            |    |
| Subcommittee:               | Barry Williams, Philip Wharton                             |            |    |
| Date of site visit:         | February 2022  |            |    |

#### **January 2024 Minute:**

The DAC agreed to issue a Recommend Notification of Advice, subject to consultation with the CBC and BIOS, both of which are supportive of the proposals. It was agreed that the Diocesan organ advisers are to have oversight of the disposal of the organ by sale, and the replacement digital instrument is also to be agreed with the subcommittee once a specification for this is ready.

### Wendlebury St Giles

|                             |  |           |    |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-082037</a> | Dorchester   | Grade: II | JS |
| Proposals:                  | Provision of WC and servery facilities in the north transept |           |    |
| Project architect:          | Charles Darby  |           |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Victorian Society, LPA                                       |           |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Archdeacon of Dorchester, Peter Preston, Julian Munby        |           |    |
| Date of visit:              | 16.02.23   |           |    |

#### **Previous Minute: March 2023**

The DAC resolved to ratify the draft site visit report including the following summary recommendations:

- The parish and its advisers are encouraged to continue to develop the proposals along the lines of the alternative layout (drawing DR-A-02A).
- The statement of significance includes a detailed history of the church but does not assess the significance of the surviving fabric. The surviving 13C fabric in the north transept is of high significance. The niche and tomb recess appear to be in their original locations and visual access to these features should be retained and enhanced, if possible. Concealing these features behind servery units or partition walls is not considered appropriate. The carved corbel/ head may not be in its original position unless it was adjacent to an altar in an earlier chapel. For this reason, it may be acceptable to relocate this feature within the church.
- In addition to burials, there may be significant buried archaeology relating to earlier church buildings. An archaeological watching brief should be provided alongside proposals for services excavations.
- The parish are advised to be careful not to ring fence funds or raise money against specific drawings to allow for changes to be made as the proposals evolve.

**January 2024 minute:**

The subcommittee is content that the revised proposals have responded to the DAC's suggestions and address their original concerns. The following details will be required prior to an NOA being issued:

- Detail drawings and specification for the kitchenette, WC and any cupboards in the vestry.
- Details of proposed services routes for the incoming water main and foul drainage.
- An archaeological watching brief for any excavations in the churchyard.
- Details of any alterations to the incoming electrical services and associated equipment.
- A specification for making good of the floor following the removal of the sections of pew platform at the east end of the nave and in the transept. This should include the repairs to the flagstones in the nave aisle listed in the 2019 QIR.

The DAC resolved to delegate the resolution of these details to the subcommittee prior to a *Recommend* NOA being issued.

**Sibford Holy Trinity**

|                             |  |           |    |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-086216</a> | Dorchester   | Grade: II | HR |
| Proposals:                  | Creation of new WC and kitchenette at the west end of the church. Installation of glazed doors and accessible ramped access. Relocation of font. |           |    |
| Project architect:          | Thomas Elliot  |           |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Not applicable   |           |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Bryan Martin, Jane Haslam  |           |    |
| Date of visit:              | 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2023  |           |    |

**January 2024 minute:**

The DAC resolved to ratify the Church Building Officer's recommendation to issue a supportive notification of advice subject the submission of the following details:

- The door drawing is updated to include the automated door mechanism and push pad.
- Details and proposed locations of the two wall plaques currently displayed on the west wall where the new servery is proposed to be installed.
- The addition of grab handrails to the design of the accessible entrance ramp to support people with mobility difficulties.

The DAC resolved to delegate the resolution of these details to the subcommittee prior to a *Recommend* NOA being issued.

**Tyringham w/Filgrave St Peter**

|                             |  |            |    |
|-----------------------------|--|------------|----|
| <a href="#">2023-090350</a> | Buckingham   | Grade: II* | SH |
| Proposals:                  | Provision of WC in tower, raising of ringing chamber, removal of 7 pews, installation of servery on north wall of west end of nave |            |    |
| Project architect:          | Adrian Ringrose  |            |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Historic England, SPAB, the Vic Soc, CBC   |            |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | James Mackintosh, Julian Munby, Jennie Schillig  |            |    |
| Date of visit:              | 19.10.23   |            |    |

**Jan 2024 Minute:**

The DAC agreed to recommend this scheme for provision of Part M compliant WC facilities in tower, raising of ringing chamber, removal of 7 pews and installation of servery on north wall of west end of nave, subject to:

- the detailed design (including outstanding items such as the stone choice for the new flooring) being agreed with the subcommittee, and
- consultation with Historic England, SPAB, the CBC and the Victorian Society

The Notification of Advice will be subject to the usual conditions concerning bats, CDM legislation and archaeology, and it was agreed that 1) a length of the historic ladder ought to be retained and 2) the relocation of the monuments from inside the tower to the west wall of the nave ought to be specified and carried out by a specialist conservator, in accordance with the advice of the DAC archaeological adviser. The PCC will need permission from the Environment Agency for the proposed trench arch drainage. Lastly, the DAC emphasised that particular care should be taken with the treatment of the tower stonework, which incorporates the only original fabric of the old church.

### Newport Pagnell SS Peter & Paul

|                             |   |          |    |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|----|
| <a href="#">2023:090423</a> | Buckingham                                    | Grade: I | SH |
| Proposals:                  | Disposal of 11 surplus pews in South Aisle    |          |    |
| Project architect:          | N/A   |          |    |
| Statutory consultees:       | Historic England, The Victorian Society, CBC. |          |    |
| Site visit attendees:       | Archdeacon of Buckingham, Peter Preston       |          |    |
| Date of visit:              | May 2022                                      |          |    |

#### January 2024 Minute:

The Committee resolved to issue an NOA recommending the removal of 11 surplus pews, subject to consultation with Historic England, the Victorian Society and the CBC.

### 7 Site visits undertaken (1<sup>st</sup> November 2023-14<sup>th</sup> December 2023)

|          |                                     |  |    |
|----------|-------------------------------------|--|----|
| 14.11.23 | Wooburn St Paul                     | Removal of pews                          | HR |
| 15.11.23 | Hampton Gay St Giles                | New porch - retrospective                | JS |
| 16.11.23 | Banbury St Hugh                     | Re-roofing                               | SH |
| 27.11.23 | Witney St Mary                      | Next phase of Inspiring Change Programme | SH |
| 29.11.23 | Culham St Paul                      | Re-ordering/extension                    | HR |
| 30.11.23 | Oxford St Margaret                  | Internal re-ordering                     | JS |
| 30.11.23 | Oxford St Michael in the North Gate | Refurbishment of the tower               | JS |
| 14.12.23 | Coleshill                           | Collapse of boundary wall                | EJ |
| 14.12.23 | Great Coxwell                       | Collapse of boundary wall                | EJ |
| 14.12.23 | Littleworth                         | Removal of pews                          | EJ |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 8 | <b>List Bs and NOAs issued under subcommittee and delegated authority since last meeting</b> |
|---|--|

| Parish  | Archdeaconry | Listing   | Ref         | App type        | Case type   | Works  | Status                        |
|---|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Princes Risborough: St Mary                   | BUCKINGHAM   | Grade II* | 2022-078961 | Faculty - DA    | R&C         | Conservation East Window   | List B issued                 |
| Langley Marish Castle View Estate: St Francis | BUCKINGHAM   | Ungraded  | 2023-092284 | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Installation of gate to prevent unauthorised access to rear of church  | NOA issued                    |
| Tilehurst: St George                          | BERKSHIRE    | Ungraded  | offline     | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Memorial testing   | NOA issued                    |
| Reading: St Giles                             | BERKSHIRE    | Grade II  | offline     | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Memorial Testing   | NOA issued                    |
| Reading: St Laurence                          | BERKSHIRE    | Grade I   | offline     | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Memorial testing   | NOA issued                    |
| Reading: St Mary the Virgin                   | BERKSHIRE    | Grade I   | offline     | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Memorial testing   | NOA issued                    |
| Caversham: St Peter                           | BERKSHIRE    | Grade II* | 2023-091911 | Faculty - DA    | Churchyard  | Memorial testing   | NOA issued                    |
| Chavey Down: St Martin                        | BERKSHIRE    | Ungraded  | 2023-086545 | Faculty - DA    | Development | Lease for nursery  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Shipton-on-Cherwell: Holy Cross               | DORCHESTER   | Grade II  | 2020-048636 | Faculty - Major | Development | Installation of WC and water supply  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| High Wycombe: St Andrew                       | BUCKINGHAM   | Ungraded  | 2022-080555 | Faculty - Major | Development | Internal and external alterations to create new facilities and upgrade north entrance in accordance with the plans prepared by JBKS dated August 2023. | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Hungerford: St Lawrence                       | BERKSHIRE    | Grade II* | 2020-052416 | Faculty - Major | Development | Redevelopment of the west end of the church and balcony  | Faculty issued                |
| Oddington: St Andrew                          | DORCHESTER   | Grade II* | 2023-084951 | Faculty - Minor | R&C         | Movement in walls of porch   | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Oxford: St Mary Magdalen                      | OXFORD       | Grade I   | 2023-090771 | Faculty - Minor | Liturgical  | Replacement of statue with larger model  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Shaw-cum-Donnington: St Mary                  | BERKSHIRE    | Grade II  | 2022-078576 | Faculty - Minor | R&C         | Replacement of church hall windows   | NOA issued                    |

|  |            |           |             |                 |                  |   |                               |
|--|------------|-----------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Stratfield Mortimer: St Mary                             | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II  | 2022-073586 | Faculty - Minor | H&S improvements | Addition of handrails to west door  | NOA issued                    |
| Twyford: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary           | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | 2023-086008 | Faculty - Minor | H&S improvements | Install rope guides   | Faculty issued                |
| Watlington: St Leonard                                   | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-088589 | Faculty - Minor | OBC              | Restoration of bells  | NOA issued with provisos      |
| Henley-on-Thames: St Mary the Virgin MAJOR PARISH CHURCH | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-091039 | Faculty - Minor | AV               | Renewal of telecommunications license   | NOA issued                    |
| Windsor: Holy Trinity                                    | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II  | 2023-091041 | Faculty - Minor | M&E              | N37 upgrade of the Telefonica element of the installed telecommunications infrastructure in accordance with the drawings from NET CS dated June 2022. | NOA issued                    |
| Newton Blossomville: St Nicolas                          | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-091065 | Faculty - Minor | Churchyard       | Removal of two trees in churchyard  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Sulhamstead Abbots: St Mary                              | BERKSHIRE  | Grade I   | 2023-092201 | Faculty - Minor | Churchyard       | Damage to graves caused by car in churchyard  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Taynton: St John the Evangelist                          | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-091497 | Faculty - Minor | Churchyard       | Stabilisation of monument   | NOA issued                    |
| Garford: St Luke   | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-091582 | Faculty - Minor | OBC              | Bell needs to be turned and rehung on new fittings.   | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Moulsford: St John the Baptist                           | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-091613 | Faculty - Minor | Churchyard       | New interment of ashes area and small memorial stones for graves  | Petition submitted to Dio Reg |
| Dunton: St Martin HAR                                    | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-091093 | Faculty - Minor | R&C              | Regularisation of drainage investigations permitted under interim faculty 2022  | NOA issued                    |
| Woughton-on-the-Green: St Mary                           | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | offline     | Faculty - Minor | Churchyard       | Emergency repairs to foul drain   | Faculty issued                |

|                                      |            |           |             |                         |                   |   |                                |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Buckland: St Mary the Virgin HAR     | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2023-084183 | Faculty - Minor         | Disposal of items | Disposal of 2 altar rails & 2 pews  | Registrar to issue faculty     |
| Compton: St Mary & St Nicholas       | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II* | 2023-089285 | Faculty - Minor         | M&E               | Digging of trench for 3-phase electricity cable   | NOA issued with provisos       |
| Drayton: St Peter (Deddington)       | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2022-076098 | Faculty - Minor         | Churchyard        | Tarmac path in churchyard   | NOA issued with provisos       |
| Fifield: St John the Baptist         | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-089681 | Faculty - Minor         | Disposal of items | Disposal of surplus prayer desk in vestry   | NOA issued with provisos       |
| Hampton Gay: St Giles                | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-090241 | Faculty - Minor         | New facilities    | New porch - retrospective   | NOA issued                     |
| Britwell Salome: St Nicholas         | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | offline     | Interim                 | R&C               | Failing ceiling   | Interim faculty issued         |
| Little Linford: St Leonard           | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | offline     | Interim                 | R&C               | Trial holes re works to floor and access  | Interim issued and regularised |
| Caversham: St John the Baptist       | BERKSHIRE  | Ungraded  | 2022-068592 | List A;#Enquiry - email | R&C               | relaying the roof finish on the South pitches of the Chancel, Nave, South Aisle and both pitches of the South Transept.           | Enquiry resolved               |
| Oxford: St Margaret                  | OXFORD     | Grade II  | 2023-090543 | List B                  | R&C               | Renewal of north aisle roof   | List B issued                  |
| South Newington: St Peter ad Vincula | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2022-078176 | List B                  | R&C               | Repair or rebuild pinnacle  | List B issued                  |
| Streatley: St Mary                   | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-086863 | List B                  | Churchyard        | Restoration and renewal of boundary fence   | Awaiting Archdeacon            |
| Swinbrook: St Mary                   | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-090380 | List B                  | R&C               | Painting of church porch  | List B issued                  |
| Wood Green: Holy Trinity             | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2022-076390 | List B                  | R&C               | Work to guttering   | List B issued                  |
| Kencot: St George                    | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-083214 | List B                  | R&C               | Stonework repairs, tower door replacement and decoration of high level ironwork in accordance with the specification and schedule | List B issued                  |

|                                 |            |           |             |        |          |   |                     |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|--------|----------|---|---------------------|
|                                 |            |           |             |        |          | of works by Arnold Bartosch Ltd dated September 2023.       |                     |
| Clewer: St Andrew               | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II  | 2023-091826 | List B | AV       | Replacement sound system                                    | List B issued       |
| Ruscombe: St James the Great    | BERKSHIRE  | Grade I   | 2023-092309 | List B | Lighting | New light fitting on altar                                  | List B issued       |
| Idbury: St Nicholas             | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2023-091141 | List B | R&C      | Recovering of chancel roof and associated masonry repairs   | List B issued       |
| Shipton-under-Wychwood: St Mary | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2023-091987 | List B | R&C      | Re-cover chancel roof and works to downpipes and gutters    | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Marcham: All Saints             | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-092036 | List B | R&C      | Repairs to copings  | List B issued       |
| Hughenden: St Michael           | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-092641 | List B | OBC      | Work to bells   | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Barton Hartshorn: St James      | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II  | 2023-092101 | List B | R&C      | Pointing in of movement cracks                              | List B issued       |
| Didcot: All Saints              | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-092794 | List B | R&C      | Lychgate Repairs  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Garford: St Luke                | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-092735 | List B | M&E      | Extension of external lighting to south elevation of church | List B issued       |
| Beech Hill: St Mary the Virgin  | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II* | 2023-091883 | List B | Heating  | Installation of under pew heating                           | List B issued       |
| Radnage: St Mary                | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | 2023-092799 | List B | R&C      | East window repairs   | List B issued       |
| Woodstock: St Mary Magdalene    | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-093172 | List B | M&E      | Failure of electrics in bell tower                          | List B issued       |
| Hailey: St John the Evangelist  | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-090075 | List B | R&C      | Fallen chancel cross  | List B issued       |
| Iver Heath: St Margaret         | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II  | 2023-092471 | List B | R&C      | Lychgate repairs  | List B issued       |

|  |            |               |             |                     |                  |   |                     |
|--|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|------------------|---|---------------------|
| Long Crendon: St Mary the Virgin       | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I       | 2023-089644 | List B              | R&C              | Draught proofing the exterior door in the south wall of the Chancel         | List B issued       |
| Streatley: St Mary                     | DORCHESTER | Grade II      | 2023-092891 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Felling of dead cypress tree  | List B issued       |
| Cogges: St Mary                        | DORCHESTER | Grade I + SAM | 2023-090705 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Memorial bench  | List B issued       |
| Steeple Barton: St Mary                | DORCHESTER | Grade II*     | 2023-092356 | List B - Archdeacon | AV               | Internet  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Beaconsfield: St Michael & All Angels  | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II      | 2023-092398 | List B - Archdeacon | Lighting         | Replace ceiling lighting  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Reading: St Laurence                   | BERKSHIRE  | Grade I       | 2023-091571 | List B - Archdeacon | H&S improvements | Installation of CCTV  | List B issued       |
| Pangbourne: St James the Less          | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II*     | 023-091622  | List B - Archdeacon | OBC              | Installation of peal board  | List B issued       |
| Aston Clinton: St Michael & All Angels | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II*     | 2023-091596 | List B - Archdeacon | AV               | Installation of broadband   | List B issued       |
| Ipsden: St Mary the Virgin             | DORCHESTER | Grade II*     | 2023-092428 | List B - Archdeacon | AV               | Internet installation   | List B issued       |
| Steeple Claydon: St Michael            | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II*     | 2023-091453 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Felling dangerous trees and reduce height of one tree                       | List B issued       |
| Aston Clinton: St Michael & All Angels | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II*     | 2023-091825 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Work to trees   | List B issued       |
| Oxford: St Michael at the North Gate   | OXFORD     | Grade I       | 2023-091755 | List B - Archdeacon | H&S improvements | Installation of Fire Alarms   | List B issued       |
| Wallingford: St Leonard                | DORCHESTER | Grade II*     | 2023-091827 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Work to trees causing problems overhanging footpath and neighbours property | List B issued       |
| Princes Risborough: St Mary            | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II*     | 2023-091966 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign                     | List B issued       |
| Radley: St James the Great             | DORCHESTER | Grade II*     | 2023-091967 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard       | Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign                     | List B issued       |



|   |            |           |             |                     |                   |   |                     |
|---|------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------|
| Tilehurst: St Michael                             | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II  | 2023-091951 | List B - Archdeacon | OBC               | New peal board for coronation of King Charles III and 100th peal of bells | List B issued       |
| Steeple Aston: St Peter & St Paul                 | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-092183 | List B - Archdeacon | OBC               | Peal board to commemorate King Charles III                                | List B issued       |
| Little Marlow: St John the Baptist                | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-091738 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Reduce height and spread of yew trees                                     | List B issued       |
| Long Hanborough: Christ Church                    | DORCHESTER | Ungraded  | 2023-092304 | List B - Archdeacon | AV                | Installation of new sounds system   | List B issued       |
| Garsington: St Mary                               | DORCHESTER | Grade II* | 2023-092100 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Installation of noticeboard   | List B issued       |
| Farnham Common: St John the Evangelist            | BUCKINGHAM | Ungraded  | 2023-092274 | List B - Archdeacon | Lighting/ Heating | New heaters and LED lighting  | List B issued       |
| Warfield: St Michael the Archangel                | BERKSHIRE  | Grade II* | 2023-092949 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Planting of acer tree   | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Little Tew: St John the Evangelist                | DORCHESTER | Grade II  | 2023-093027 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign                   | List B issued       |
| Fulmer: St James                                  | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-093028 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign                   | List B issued       |
| Gerrard's Cross: St James                         | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2023-093029 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Installation of Commonwealth War Graves Commission Sign                   | List B issued       |
| Witney: St Mary the Virgin<br>MAJOR PARISH CHURCH | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2023-093144 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Installation of two hoop cycle stands outside the church                  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Childrey: St Mary the Virgin                      | DORCHESTER | Grade I   | 2023-093209 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Work to trees including felling   | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Wash Common: St George                            | BERKSHIRE  | Ungraded  | 2023-093033 | List B - Archdeacon | Lighting          | Update church lighting  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Monks Risborough: St Dunstan                      | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | 2023-093259 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Tree works  | Awaiting Archdeacon |
| Monks Risborough: St Dunstan                      | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | 2023-093260 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard        | Additional tree works   | Awaiting Archdeacon |

|                                   |            |           |             |                     |             |   |                            |
|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|---|----------------------------|
| Frieth: St John the Baptist       | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II  | 2023-092406 | List B - Archdeacon | Churchyard  | Felling of dead trees and pruning of other recommended areas  | List B issued              |
| Monks Risborough: St Dunstan      | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | offline     | Private Petition    | Churchyard  | Memorial outside regs (Aston)   | NOA issued                 |
| Slapton: Holy Cross               | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2017-008588 | Variation           | OBC         | Rehang bells  | Awaiting Diocesan Registry |
| Milton Keynes Village: All Saints | BUCKINGHAM | Grade I   | 2022-079943 | Variation           | R&C         | Replacement of soakaway as part of lowering of porch floor-variation  | Amended faculty issued     |
| Fawley: St Mary the Virgin        | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2021-627801 | Variation           | Development | Permanent relocation of the Walter Almack memorial plaque   | Amended faculty issued     |
| Marston: St Nicholas              | OXFORD     | Grade I   | 2019-045917 | Variation           | Reordering  | Removal of pews and restoration of floors   | Amended faculty issued     |
| Drayton Parslow: Holy Trinity     | BUCKINGHAM | Grade II* | 2017-008286 | Variation           | Development | Variation of faculty for extension re drainage and footprint changes; regularisation of kitchen units in tower. | Amended faculty issued     |

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 9 | <b>Completed Projects feedback</b> |
|---|------------------------------------|

**Castlethorpe SS Simon and Jude - WC & Kitchen**

*The physical outcomes of our redevelopment project have exceeded our expectations - we now have a fully functioning Church building that is fit for purpose and of which Church members and the wider community are proud. Worshippers and visitors have commented on how welcoming the light and airy building is. It is difficult now to imagine it without the kitchen and bathroom while some of our Church goers and those coming to our well-attended community events who have mobility issues are delighted that they can access the North Aisle via the wheelchair-friendly ramp, which means they can also benefit from the kitchen and disability-friendly toilet. We are thrilled that these additions do not detract from the medieval interior and intimate nature of our Grade 1 listed Church, and pleased that the building has been future-proofed for many years.*

*The real outcomes however are what these improvements are enabling us to achieve. The Church building finally better reflects our desire to welcome everyone, and means we can respond to their spiritual and social needs to a much greater extent than previously. The PCC remains committed to realising our vision of expanding both our membership and our outreach through the Church's role as a hub for village activity, encouraging greater participation in services and new religious activities, and introducing more people to the*

*Church and its values via various events. We believe this will lead to deeper faith, increased community spirit and reduced loneliness and anxiety.'*

**Peasemore St Barnabas - Community space project**

*'I am writing on behalf of Peasemore St Barnabas PCC to express our thanks to all the Faculty staff who have supported us in our church community space project.*

*The project is now complete and we are using the new facilities regularly to welcome the community back into our church through events such as concerts, lunches and coffee mornings - none of which were possible without the new open space, kitchen and toilet. This has allowed us to begin to bring the church and community back together. Our step free access means that for the first time in centuries we can welcome everyone including those with limited mobility. We have also found evidence of the previous Norman church onsite which emphasises that it has been part of our village community for over a thousand years and we intend to take this forward confidently into the future.'*

**Latimer St Mary Magdalene - Conservation of altar and pew kneelers**

*'You'll be pleased to know that they returned them last Sunday, Advent Sunday, at a special service for their re-dedication. The Prices thoroughly enjoyed their work on them and our congregation is delighted with the results. To my mind, the degree of restoration is just right so that they look as though they've been in their current condition for decades.'*

**Pyrton St Mary - New servery & floor repairs**