

Bats in the belfry (or anywhere else)

If you have any questions please contact the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC):

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For more information about the care of churches visit the DAC pages on the Diocese of Manchester's website: www.manchester.anglican.org



Bats: a source of contention

Bats are a source of great contention at the present time.

On the one hand, they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and churches are regarded by Natural England (formerly English Nature) as a suitable habitat for them.

On the other hand, there is a Movement Against Bats in Churches, with whom English Heritage are in sympathy, because of the potential damage to furnishings, etc.

This is a national problem and one which national authorities must resolve.

If in the meantime bats are creating problems in your church, **let your Archdeacon know.**

Useful sources of information:

Agreement on the Conservation of European Bats (EUROBATS)
www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/gwd/exotic/cms.htm#3
www.eurobats.org

New Conservation Regulations 21 August 2007?
[www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-management-licensing/habsregs.htm](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-management/licensing/habsregs.htm)

Bats, Buildings and Barn Owls

A guide to safeguarding protected species when renovating traditional buildings (pdf document)
www.english-nature.org.uk/About/teams/team_photo/BatsBarnOwls.pdf

Bats in churches

Guidelines for the identification, assessment and management of bat-related damage to church contents (pdf document)
www.english-heritage.org.uk (type 'bats' in the search box)