

Preparing a Statement of Significance

to accompany your Faculty Application

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



Introduction

It is a requirement under the AD 2000 Rules that parishes with a Listed Building or which are unlisted but in a Conservation Area include with a Faculty Application their **Statement Of Significance** should their proposals result in a material alteration to the church or affect its setting, or if there are archaeological considerations or any demolition is planned.

Parishes are advised to prepare such a Statement even if no Application is being considered so that if an emergency arises it will be readily available.

The Statement should include:

- The grade, i.e. Grade 1, Grade 2*, Grade 2 or unlisted but in a Conservation Area
- The date of the Listing.
- The description of the church by the Listing Authority (all this information can be obtained from the local Environment Office housed in the Town Hall/Council Offices, there may be a charge for this

The parish should also state its own **valuation of the building**.

It is suggested that the whole Statement fit on **one side of an A4 sheet of paper**. However, it is recognised that this might not be possible in every case.

What to include

Paragraphs might include:

- **Historical:** the background of its building/patronage.
- **Geographical:** its significance within the landscape of the area and parish.
- **Architectural:** some churches hold their place in the development of ecclesiastical architecture. Victorian churches are becoming appreciated for their worth in the 21st century.
- **Environmental:** the conservation lobby is now a strong influence and many churches are at the heart of a Conservation Area. There are Civic Trusts, etc. who keep a watchful eye.
- **Pastoral:** some churches which have been reordered are a focal point for the community some have open/closed graveyard or Garden of Remembrance [or both] with long family connections.

It is advisable not to include details of furnishings, etc., unless they are of considerable significance.

The congregation may, in the future, wish to undertake some reordering and if items have been identified as of major significance it could prove difficult to counteract such a statement once it has been released.