

Churches and Pastoral Committee – within the Diocesan Strategy

Strategic Aim 4 ‘The Diocese will seek to build God’s Kingdom in Community and Public Life.’

Where the Gospel is proclaimed and lived out, any Church building, where the faithful gather for prayer and the administration of the sacraments, can be an outward and visible sign of God’s presence in that community.

The Churches and Pastoral Committee will encourage Ministry Areas to maintain that presence:

- Through its regular cycle of Quinquennial Inspections and its advice on funding repairs both through the provision of small seed corn grants and through its ability to identify other sources of funding using the GrantFinder database.
- The Committee will maintain a list of approved Architects and Surveyors capable of both carrying out the inspections and seeing through subsequent work. Those engaged on subsequent work need not be on the list of those selected to carryout Quinquennial Inspections. In order to make the Quinquennial Inspection system viable a limited number of inspectors are given the work with a preference to churches within a specific area so as to save on the inspector’s costs. (It is likely that the payment for Quinquennial Inspections is a loss leader to the inspectors.) Other architects and surveyors known to the committee are equally capable of overseeing repair work. Parishes are free to choose their own architect/surveyor so long as they ensure that the person appointed has suitable Professional insurance and the necessary experience. (This is also a response to Strategic Aim 5 ‘The Diocesan mission and ministry will be sustainable and resourced as it supports item 5.2 ‘evaluate, monitor and audit procedures working to a time frame that links into the budget cycle.’)
- The Committee will work with those in the Ministry Areas who wish to adapt their churches towards more community focused buildings. Members of the Committee will visit the relevant churches and discuss with the local people the possibilities for the building. Copies of the English Heritage/Diocese of Hereford Publication ‘Crossing the Threshold’ will be made available to the Ministry Area as it provides an excellent explanation of the work involved. Also available will be a copy of the booklet ‘Is Your Church a Millstone or a Springboard a health check to test how well a church building is fitted to your Vision and Your Ministry’.
- There is also a Churches and Pastoral Committee leaflet to assist with looking at a church and wondering whether it should close. Finally also available is the Gower Ministry Area produced a template to enable them to evaluate their churches.

- Also available from the Churches and Pastoral Committee is a leaflet 'A Fund Raising Summary' designed to help devise a strategy for fund raising over time and also available are copies of the St Asaph Diocesan publication 253 Ways of Raising Funds For Your Church.

The Committee will work with the RB in providing suitable training courses particularly on buildings and members of the committee will make themselves available to mentor as their skill base can offer.