

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS COUNCIL

Recruitment of new Council members, to serve 2020-22

The Church Buildings Council of the Church of England has three vacancies for new Council members to serve for the remainder of its term ending in May 2022.

- One of these appointments will be made after nomination by the chair and secretary of each Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- One will be appointed by the Secretary of State at the Department for Digital, Culture Media and Sport (DCMS)
- One will be appointed by the present Council.

The latter two appointments will be made after open advertisement. There is the potential for a successful candidate to be considered for the role of vice-chair (see below).

The Council is a national advisory body, to all levels of the church of England. It promotes the care, development and use of church buildings. As a national body it keen to draw its membership to reflect the ethnic and geographic diversity of England.

In February 2020 the General Synod gave the Church the challenge of achieving net zero carbon by 2030. The Council has a role in supporting churches to achieve this and good knowledge of working with historic buildings to reduce their carbon has become a key part of the Council's work.

The description below sets these vacancies in their full context. To complement the skills of existing members applications are encouraged from people with a strong policy background in environmental or financial sustainability related to the use and development of historic buildings.

Members who fill these vacancies will be eligible for consideration for reappointment to the Council when its membership is fully reviewed in 2022. No commitment to reappointment is expected or promised. Applications from the BAME community would be especially welcomed as this would broaden the experience and perspective of the Council.

The person appointed by the Secretary of State at the DCMS will serve on the Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC has a membership of eight Council Members. It advises the Church Commissioners Pastoral and Closed Churches Team on churches that are being considered for closure, and on proposals for closed churches.

Members are expected to be sympathetic to the purposes and aims of Church of England but can be from any religion or none.

Role of Church Buildings Council – summary

1. The Church Buildings Council is responsible for setting national level policies and giving both general and specific advice on the care and development of church buildings. The Council also works at a national level with government and others. Advised by specialist committees, it awards grants towards the cost of the care and conservation of churches and their furnishings. It gives formal advice on casework proposals of high significance or

controversy and through its Statutory Advisory Committee it gives advice on the architectural significance of church buildings being considered for closure.

2. The Council publishes its guidance and advice on the Church of England website and is most readily accessed at ChurchCare.co.uk.

Time commitment / meetings

3. The Council normally meets seven times annually. Meetings are spaced evenly through the year, with no meetings in August.
4. Meetings are normally held at Church House in London and typically take up to three hours depending on the volume of business. (While Covid-19 restrictions are in place it is meeting remotely.) Some business may be undertaken between meetings. Members are called on to undertake some site visits to church buildings.
5. Papers are issued electronically at least one week in advance of the meeting. Total time commitment is estimated at no more than fourteen days per year.

Member skills and experience

6. The Council is committed to supporting church buildings as centres for worship and mission and its members must be in sympathy with this aim. It is essential that the Council collectively has a range of relevant skills and experience.
7. Relevant knowledge and skills for Council members include:
 - policy work relating to managing a large collection of buildings;
 - the liturgical use of church buildings;
 - how to successfully reduce the carbon footprint of heritage buildings across their lifetime, considering their energy use and the sustainability of materials;
 - the resilience and adaptation of heritage buildings to a changing climate,
 - the wider use and development of church buildings;
 - the future of church buildings not regularly needed for worship;
 - raising and granting funds for the conservation and development of church buildings and furnishings;
 - technical or specialist issues relevant to the care of church buildings, access and furnishings.

And an understanding of:

- architectural or art history;
- the wider built heritage sector.
- the importance of voluntary work to the care of church buildings

Role of the Council

8. The below provides detail on the role of the Church Buildings Council:
 - (a) To formulate policy in relation to the strategic use and future of church buildings.
 - (b) To influence national policy as it relates to matters affecting church buildings and funding available to them.
 - (c) To consider consultation by and requests for advice from judges and registrars of the ecclesiastical courts and from Diocesan Advisory Committees in relation to applications or possible applications for the grant of a faculty. This forms a part of each Council meeting.

- (d) To promote the care and conservation of churches and greater knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of and artistic activity relating to churches both within the Church of England and more widely.
- (e) To promote standards of good practice in relation to the use, care, conservation, repair, planning, design and development of churches.
- (f) To support the work of Diocesan Advisory Committees.
- (g) To assist with discussions over the future of church buildings that may no longer be required for regular worship.
- (h) To advise on proposals for legislation that may affect church buildings.
- (i) To create an environment where funders are confident to support church buildings in the long-term.

Terms

Council membership is not remunerated although reasonable out of pocket expenses are paid.

Role of vice-chair

There is a possibility that one of the vacancies will become vice-chair of the Council. This is with a view to, but without a guarantee of, succeeding the current Chair on her retirement during the 2022-2027 quinquennium. To be considered for this role in addition to the skills and experience set out above you will need to show:

- Experience of charring committees at a senior level.
- Good analytical skills and grasp of detail working within a clear policy framework.
- Credibility as a national lead in discussions over the future provision of church buildings by the national church.
- Willingness to participate in the annual conference for DACs held in partnership with a different diocese each year.
- Ability to engage with government over its support of church buildings.

The Chair of the Council is also Chair of the Statutory Advisory Committee on closed and closing churches (SAC), which gives advice to the Church Commissioners and dioceses on the architectural and historic value on church buildings being considered for closure. About twenty church buildings are closed every year. The SAC is a statutory subcommittee of the Council and meets on the same day as the Council. The vice-chair would not necessarily be a member of the SAC.

The Chair is also co-Chair, with the Third Church Estates Commissioner, of the non-statutory Strategic Church Buildings Review Group. This group meets four times a year to consider strategically the work of the Church with church buildings and pastoral reorganisation. The vice-chair would be expected to participate in the work of this group.

Wider context

The secretariat for the Church Buildings Council is provided by the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division, whose Director, Becky Clark, is also Secretary of the Church Buildings Council. The Division has a staff of 14 and also services the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England.

The Dioceses, Pastoral and Mission Measure 2007 sets out the role of The Church Buildings Council in Part VII (Appendix 1: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukcm/2007/1>). Schedule 4 – The Church Buildings Council.

For further information about the Church Buildings Council please visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/church-buildings-council>.

Appointment process

Candidates whose applications are taken forward will be invited for interview in early 2022.