

The role of the DAC

Each Church of England diocese in England, and the Diocese of Sodor and Man, has a Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches, usually known as the DAC.

The DAC is an advisory body. It gives advice to churches about proposals for works to their church building, its furnishings and its fittings. This includes advice on heating, lighting, AV equipment and conservation of historic objects. The DAC also gives advice on work in churchyards, including above and below ground archaeology and trees. The DAC gives its advice in the context of the church being a centre of worship and mission. Its members must be sympathetic to this although it is not a requirement of membership to be a practising Christian.

Permission to undertake works is given by either the diocesan chancellor or an archdeacon. The Chancellor will have to consider for permission any proposals that will affect the character of a listed building or involve conservation of an object of historic significance. The archdeacon can deal with proposals that will affect the building but not change its character. The DAC, or a DAC member, will be involved in advising in each scenario.

You have the potential to make a positive contribution to the work of a DAC if you have professional knowledge or experience in the care, development and use of church and historic buildings and in conservation of historic church furnishings or the provision of new artistic work in churches. A fuller list of relevant skill is available [here](#)

Each DAC will have some presence on its diocesan website. There is a list of all DACs [here](#)

DACs meet between 5 and 11 times a year, usually in the diocesan office (currently subject to public health measures). Members are usually expected to undertake site visits to churches in the diocese as part of DAC membership. Many DACs also offer roles for specialist advisers in technical and conservation matters. Advisers are not always required to attend meetings of the DAC, but give written advice, usually after a site visit. The work is voluntary although reasonable out of pocket expenses will be met, agreed in advance.

If you would like to be considered for membership of a DAC please send your CV and a covering letter of no more than 1 side of A4 to say why you are interested, what skills you would bring and indicating something about your approach to proposals for works in historic buildings. Please also indicate which part of England you would be prepared to serve in, bearing in mind that you would need relatively easy access to the diocese.

Your expression of interest will be shared with the DACs that you express an interest in. Please confirm that you are willing for your letter and CV to be shared for this purpose.