

ARCHDEACONS' LICENCES FOR TEMPORARY RE-ORDERING

A Guidance Note

issued by the Diocesan Registry

Parishes planning a fairly minor scheme of re-ordering may like to know that an archdeacon may, except where the parish has no minister, grant a licence for minor, reversible re-ordering for a temporary period not exceeding 15 months.

This procedure is designed to allow a period of experimentation and only applies to schemes which:

- (a) do not involve any interference with the fabric* of the church;
- (b) do not involve fixing any item to the fabric nor the disposal of any fixture;
- (c) do not involve any electrical works.

** The word 'fabric' includes the structure of the church building and should also be regarded as including any permanent fixture attached to the structure of the church building, such as font or screen. The position in the church of the font is governed by Canon F1 and a screen, especially if old, may inadvertently be damaged if moved.*

If the scheme involves the moving of any item, the archdeacon may make it a condition of the licence that it is to be done by suitably competent or qualified persons and that the item will be safeguarded and stored in the church or in such other place as he approves, and can be easily reinstated. The archdeacon may consult the Diocesan Advisory Committee and take account of its advice when considering the grant of a licence and any conditions which may be attached to the licence.

The application for an archdeacon's licence should come from the minister and be supported by a resolution of the PCC. An archdeacon may, for any reason, decline the grant of such licence and in which event he must advise the minister that he may apply to the Chancellor for an interim faculty to authorise the scheme.

Care should be exercised in the case of fixed pews. Because of their age and design they may be important fixtures or items of furnishing, and, even though an archdeacon may be satisfied that they will be competently moved and stored, it may be more appropriate that any scheme for the removal of pews be the subject of an interim faculty rather than by a licence under Rule 7.14. In any event, sufficient enquiries must be made as to whether any rights attach to the use of the pews by third parties, and although the majority of the PCC makes application with the minister, often such a proposal does give rise to opposition within the PCC and within the parish.

If a petition for a Chancellor's faculty for the scheme is made not less than two months before the expiration of the licence, the scheme is deemed to be authorised and can continue beyond the expiration of the period of time granted by the licence and until the determination of the petition by the Chancellor.

At the end of the period allowed for the temporary reordering (usually 15 months), the Archdeacon will send the minister a form which he must complete and return within 14 days stating whether a faculty has been applied for or, if not, the position has been restored to that which existed before the scheme was implemented.

Useful Contact Details:

<p>The Venerable Stephen Waine Archdeacon of Dorset Sherborne Office, St Nicholas' Church Centre, 30 Wareham Road, Corfe Mullen, BH21 3LE</p> <p>Tel: 01202 659427</p> <p>addorset@salisbury.anglican.org</p>	<p>The Venerable P S Taylor Archdeacon of Sherborne Sherborne Office, St Nicholas' Church Centre, 30 Wareham Road, Corfe Mullen, BH21 3LE</p> <p>Tel: 01202 659427</p> <p>adsherborne@salisbury.anglican.org</p>
<p>The Venerable A P Jeans Archdeacon of Sarum Church House Crane Street Salisbury SP1 2QB</p> <p>Tel: 01722 438662</p> <p>adsarum@salisbury.anglican.org</p>	<p>The Venerable R Worsley Archdeacon of Wilts Church House Crane Street Salisbury SP1 2QB</p> <p>Tel: 01722 438662</p> <p>adwilts@salisbury.anglican.org</p>
<p>Mrs S Cannings Secretary to the DAC Church House Crane Street SALISBURY Wilts SP1 2QB</p> <p>Tel: 01722 438654</p> <p>sue.cannings@salisbury.anglican.org</p>	<p>Mr A Johnson Diocesan Registrar Minster Chambers 42/44 Castle Street SALISBURY SP1 3TX</p> <p>Tel: 01722 432390</p> <p>registry@salisbury.anglican.org</p>