

From your Diocesan Support Teams

From your Chancellor: Faculty Applications and Public Notices

A fundamental part of any faculty application for permission to do works to our church buildings or churchyards is the giving of proper notice to those within our communities. All parishioners, whether part of our worshipping community or not, have a right to be heard in relation to such changes.

This notice is usually given by the display of formal public notices, both within and outside the relevant church building. Whilst church buildings are closed and people are being directed to stay at home, those notices are not going to serve their purpose.

No parish or parishioner is best served by the emergence of objections after works have started (or, worse, after they have been completed) because of a lack of reasonable notice and, as such, the Diocesan Chancellor issued directions on 31 March providing for alternative means of giving notice during this lockdown period. A copy of the directions can be found on the [DAC page](#) of the Diocesan website.

They apply to applications issued through the Registry on or after 23 March. In broad terms, it will usually be adequate to publish notice of the application through a church website or public social media page and/ or by publication in a local online newsletter alongside the usual external notice. Any parishes which are anticipating a faculty application at the moment should contact the Registry or the DAC for advice.

Ruth Arlow
Diocesan Chancellor