

Handout
Prepared by the DAC team

Directive from the Chancellor Ruth Arlow

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Salisbury

Directions concerning TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during the reopening of churches

Individual parishes, PCCs and their clergy will need to prepare in advance for the re-opening of churches in order to protect those attending. They will need to have regard to whatever guidance the House of Bishops (and the government) issues.

Each parish and church will have different needs and often it will be necessary to make changes to the church building and/or churchyard. Usually it will be possible to do this swiftly and simply. Sometimes permission will be needed to make those changes. The Court is anxious to ensure churches can reopen and will seek to ensure that any necessary permission does not cause delay if at all possible.

The requirement for permission will be dependent upon the type and scope of the changes proposed, but the differing levels of permission are broadly set out below with some (non-exhaustive) examples of what might be included. The faculty jurisdiction continues to apply. *Please check with your Archdeacon or the DAC office before undertaking any works.*

Some work will be considered to be **de minimis** and no permission will be required, e.g.:

- Temporary signage or floor markers, not permanently affixed to historic fabric;
- Roping or cordoning off areas or seating;
- Introduction of handwashing stations or sanitising stations at entrances and exits;
- Introduction of freestanding noticeboards or barriers to improve flow or appropriate movement through the church.

Some work may require the permission of your **Archdeacon** under **List B** or by the grant of a **Licence for Temporary Minor Re-ordering**, e.g.:

- Temporary removal of some pews or other furniture to facilitate appropriate spacing or to create corridors of movement.

Some work may require **Faculty** permission, e.g.:

- The introduction of broadband or audio/visual equipment to facilitate recording or broadcasting from the church;
- The introduction of a sink to provide handwashing facilities.

Temporary measures relating to the health crisis and which require a faculty may be dealt by the grant of an **Interim Faculty**. An application for such a faculty may be made in any matter that the Court allows, and provided that the Archdeacon and/or DAC office has been consulted I am happy to accept applications by email to the DAC office at DAC@salisbury.anglican.org setting out clearly what is proposed and, if your church is listed, explaining any potential effects on the special character of the church. You should receive a response within a week and

hopefully sooner. Permission will usually be given for 12 months. Before the permission expires parishes must either restore the church to its previous condition or obtain an extension of time from the Registry.

Usually an **Interim Faculty** must be followed by an application for a Final Faculty. *I direct that that requirement shall not apply to interim faculty applications for urgent and temporary works required for public health reasons arising from the current pandemic.* This is on the understanding that the works do not adversely affect the special character of any church which is listed.

Public Notice usually needs to be given when a faculty is applied for. This needs to be adapted to reflect the current unusual circumstances. *I direct that the requirement for the giving of Public Notice under rules 6.1 to 6.6 shall not apply to faculty applications for urgent and temporary works required for public health reasons arising from the current pandemic. Instead, Public Notices must be displayed in the ways otherwise required during the pandemic as soon as an application is made but the works may commence as soon as permission is granted. Should objections be received the matter must immediately be referred to the Court for further Directions.*

The Worshipful Canon Ruth Arlow

Chancellor of the Diocese of Salisbury

June 2020

The Church of England has issued detailed guidance documents to help churches re-open and ensure all activities are conducted in a safe and hygienic way.

Links to the guidance documents below:

1. **Guidance on permissions for temporary works in churches and cathedrals -**
https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Permission%20for%20temporary%20changes%20to%20cathedral%20and%20church%20buildings%20v.1_0.pdf
2. **Keeping your church clean -** <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Keeping%20church%20buildings%20clean%20v1.pdf>
3. **Using church buildings for individual private prayer and funerals -**
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Opening%20Churches%20for%20individual%20prayer%20and%20funerals%20v.2%20BH.pdf>
4. **Guidance for PCCs, incumbents and cathedral Chapters: opening church buildings for works to the building and interior -**
https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Access%20to%20church%20buildings%20for%20construction%20%20professional%20contractors%20v.2_0.pdf
5. **COVID-19 Q&A on Individual Prayer by Members of the public in Church Buildings -**
https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/COVID%2019%20Q%26A%20on%20Individual%20Private%20Prayer%20v2_0.pdf

6. Risk Assessment of Opening Church Buildings to the Public: individual prayer and funerals - including a risk assessment template -

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-churches>

7. Can organists enter Church Buildings for organ practice and maintenance - Yes, from 13 June this is allowed under government guidance.

Organists must get permission to enter the building from the incumbent or Church Warden, and their access must be coordinated with those responsible for cleaning. If the organist will be on their own in the building, then a lone working assessment should be done. An example can be found online at <https://www.ecclesiastical.com/documents/lone-working.pdf>