

Your church can help stop the decline in our wonderful swifts

Swift numbers are declining rapidly, mainly due to the loss of nesting sites because old buildings are demolished or “done up” and new buildings have no suitable places for them. Church towers are ideal for internal swift boxes. Further information, plus guidance from the DAC as below.

The [Action for Swifts site](#) has information and links to your nearest groups (based in Swanage, Shaftesbury, Salisbury & Wilton, Bradford-on-Avon). They would love to hear from you. If there are no swifts currently nearby, a call system is used to attract a first pair. Swifts are very clean birds, so droppings are not a problem.

Your DAC advises:

“As things currently stand, the installation of a bird box would need a full faculty from the Chancellor. However, from 1st April the new Faculty Jurisdiction Rules will apply, which bring amendments to the contents of Lists A and B. From that date, the installation of bird boxes will be accommodated in List B - ref B1(19) - and so would only need sign-off from the relevant archdeacon. This should be sought through an application via the Online Faculty System.

“Any church considering the installation of bird boxes is welcome to contact the DAC office for further / church-specific advice. Parishioners could also drop in to one of the DAC’s monthly ‘surgeries’ in Church House. Details on our [Diocesan webpage](#).”