

## **SOME NEW LANGUAGE in working with church-buildings admin in Birmingham diocesan office**

### **General**

Diocese	Legal entity of the established church. All 42 mainland dioceses together (plus some abroad) constitute the Church of England. Bishop: David Urquhart [from Sep-06]
Diocesan	Abbreviation for the diocesan bishop.
See	Role of, or area in which, a diocesan bishop performs his “cure of souls” (i.e. works).
Episcopal	Concerning the bishop (usually of a diocese).
Benefice	Subdivision of a diocese which attracts a “living” (which a priest is given, as a stipend, rather than having to earn it, as a salary). A benefice usually has a vicar (rector, if an ancient benefice; priest-in-charge if benefice is “suspended”).
Incumbent	Vicar or rector of a benefice. That person owns legal freehold of parsonage and church.
Parish	Subdivision of a diocese. Most benefices have one parish; a few have more.
Parish church	Primary place of Anglican worship within the parish. Can be more than one per parish, or a parish can be without any.
Mission church	Secondary place of CofE worship in a parish. Traditionally a closer site to many living in the parish, making it easier for them to walk to church each Sunday.
PCC	Parochial Church Council. Legal body within a parish, responsible for activity of local church.
Churchwarden	Office of the person legally responsible for the fabric of the church building, and other matters.
TVI	Total Voluntary Income (usually quoted per parish).
BC	Bishop’s Council. Committee of c.36 folk advising a diocesan bishop.
CC	Church Commissioners (for England).
DS	Diocesan Synod. Equivalent to local government.
GS	General Synod. Equivalent to central government.
Measure	Church equivalent to Act of Parliament.
[4-digits]	Core numbering system for diocesan parishes (i.e. real parishes, plus 10% more which behave as if they are legally constituted but are not [locally termed quasiparishes]).
[4-digits]A	Suffix to local ref. nos. for places (or sites) of worship “according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England” (i.e. Anglican).
[4-digits]B	Suffix to local ref. nos. for parsonages (i.e. incumbents’ residence)
[4-digits]C	Suffix to local ref. nos. for DBF houses (i.e. curates’ and other priests’ residence)
[4-digits]X	Suffix to miscellaneous priests’ houses if property still has a nominal parish link
[postcode]	Miscellaneous priests’ houses (often for senior clergy), or office buildings.

### **Green files**

DAC	Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. Advises the diocesan chancellor on grant of faculties. Chaired by Dr Jim Berrow.
CCEJM1991	Care of Churches and Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1991. Church law which drives the DAC’s work.
FJM1964	Faculty Jurisdiction Measure 1964. Allied to CCEJM1991.
Petition	Application (usually via the DAC) to alter the church or its land.
Faculty	Permission to alter church, its contents, or land. Church equivalent of listed building consent.
Public Notice	Document to be displayed at church where change is proposed. Formerly called “citation”.
Registrar	Hugh Carslake (Martineau [solicitors], No 1 Colmore Row, B4 6AA).
Clerk	... to the registrar. Mary Law (0870-763 1483).
Chancellor	His Hon Martin Cardinal. Bishop’s most senior legal officer. Lifetime job. “Determines” petitions, using advice from DAC and others.
NASs	National Amenity Societies. Bodies having a right since 1969 to be consulted in some planning matters. Comprises the Victorian Society [VicSoc], Georgian Group, Council for British Archaeology [CBA], Ancient Monuments Society [AMS], Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings [SPAB], Twentieth Century Society [C20 Soc].
P[2/3-digits]	Prefix for DAC cases which are petitions.
R[2/3-digits]	Prefix for DAC cases which are requests for formal advice (about a proposal).

### **Yellow files**

PSC	Pastoral Sub-Committee. Makes recommendations to the DPC about how to better organise clergy, parsonage houses, parish boundaries, etc.
Order	Short legal document stating a change in church structure of persons’ working.

Scheme	Leads to an order. Set of proposals (originally “draft proposals”, then “bishop’s proposals”) which are couched in legal language and enacted by Commissioners.
Suspension	Period in which benefice is legally prevented from having a prospective new incumbent “presented” by the patron to those parties entitled to comment.
CBC	Church Buildings Council (formerly Council for the Care of Churches).
PM1983	Pastoral Measure 1983.
DPC	Diocesan Pastoral Cttee.
PC	Pastoral Committee (of the Church Commissioners).
CCPD	Church Commissioners’ Pastoral Division (Westminster, London).
CCRCD	Church Commissioners’ Redundant Churches Division (Westminster, London).
DRCUC	Diocesan Redundant Churches Cttee. Recommends to BC what should be done with buildings (and their contents) no longer required for Anglican worship.
U[2/3-digits]	Prefix for PSC/DRCUC cases.

### **Church architecture**

Conservation	Careful treatment of building or contents so as to slow its ageing, reduce damage to it, and retain its historical story.
Reordering	Altering the internal layout of church furnishings (usually so as to practice alternative liturgy, but more recently to allow non-worship events in the space).
Reredos	Decorated screen (stone or timber) behind High Altar.
Corbel	Block of sculpted stone high on a wall, supporting [roof] structure.
Mullion	Vertical timber or masonry component between “lights” of a window.
Cartoon	Watercolour design for stained glass [window].
Lancet	Slender window with arched or cusped top (often of stained glass).
Embrasure	Recess cut into a wall, in which sits a window (perhaps with a window seat below).
Aumbry	Cubby-hole adjacent to altar for storing consecrated sacramental elements (bread/wafers and wine), until taken out to administer Communion to housebound.
Chancel	Also called Sanctuary or Choir. Area up steps (at “Crossing”) toward High Altar.
Transept	Short, lateral “arms” (to N and S) of cruciform plan shape of a traditional church.
Curtilage	Land immediately surrounding church building (i.e. on its own plot).
Churchyard	Land immediately surrounding church building. Does not have to contain burials.
Interment	Burial or scattering (or strewing or funnelling) of ashes of a person’s remains.
Plan	Also called footprint. Bird’s-eye view of layout of church (or site).
Nave	Main rectangular area in which worshippers (“congregation”) sit.
Aisle	Corridors though nave. Can be N and S, or central, aisles.
Hood-mould	Arched masonry (or other material) atop an internal or external porch.
Label-stop	Masonry detail at bottom of carved ridge following outline of arch or doorway.
Pew-plinth	Timber box to which pews are screwed. Often with a void beneath.
Diapering	Geometric pattern of colour or texture in tiles or brickwork to roof or walls.
Sanctus bell	Small external bell (in its own mini tower [bellcote]), rung to alert parishioners to celebration of Eucharist.
Oculus	Eye-shaped window, high, usually with stained glass.
Rood screen	Perforated and decorated timber/metal screen, often high, topped with 3 effigies (central one being Christ).
Triptych	Three-part painting or other iconic artwork depicting a religious scene.
Hatchment	Historic heraldic design, wall-mounted in the nave on an often diagonal board
Colour	Regimental flag or banner.
Buttress	Angled brick- or stonework, usually external, supporting wall at ground level.
Basilica	Roman (therefore early) style of building in which Christian worship practised.
Reformation	King Henry VIII’s ‘departure’ from Roman Catholicism; birth of Protestantism.
Canon [Law]	Core values/rules defining nature of the Church of England.
Chalice	Silverware goblet used for wine at Holy Communion (= Eucharist).

### **Tim Clayton**

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