

## WAKEFIELD DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman	:	The Reverend Canon John L. Hudson
Members	:	The Venerable Robert J. Freeman – (Archdeacon of Halifax) The Venerable Jonathan D.F. Greener – (Archdeacon of Pontefract) The Reverend Canon Robert E. Gage The Reverend Jon A. Booth Mr. Robert Craggs Mr. T. Malcolm Cruise – Organ Adviser Mr. Peter N. Hirschmann – Joint Amenity Societies' Representative Mr. Wilfrid F. Moreton - Bells Adviser Mr. Brian Pearson Mr. Ian Robertson – Archaeological Adviser Mr. W. Gerald Wood Mr. James Gibson - Local Authorities Representative – (Kirklees Council) acting for Mrs. Kathryn Gibson (Calderdale Council) English Heritage – Representative – Vacant
Secretary	:	Mrs. Linda M. Box Mrs. Julia H. Wilding
Advisers not full members	:	Mr. Bob Middleton – Heating Adviser Mr. David R. James - Sound and lighting Mr. David Barker – Clocks Adviser Dr. Arnold Smith – Deputy Bells Adviser Mr. P. Bentley - Station Commander, Wakefield Fire Station - Fire Safety

2005 has been yet another busy year for the Committee, with the voluntary contribution of all members and advisers being much appreciated by the Chairman, Archdeacons and Chancellor. The DAC is a statutory body which advises the Chancellor in respect of each application by a parish for a Faculty and the advice provided can cover aesthetic, technical and pastoral issues.

Our DAC is fortunate to have invaluable contributions from specialist advisers from a wide range of disciplines, some of whom are also full members of the DAC. The Committee are grateful to those advisers for their continuing work in keeping the DAC updated of current best practice, relevant technologies, policies and legislation.

The Committee has seen a number of personnel changes throughout the year. In March 2005 Mrs. Linda Box, who had served as Secretary for eleven years resigned due to being appointed as Chancellor to the Diocese of Southwell. Her expansive knowledge of ecclesiastical matters and dedication to the role over the years has been indispensable to the Committee and members were pleased to note that Linda will remain working in other areas in the Diocese with her usual enthusiasm. Mrs. Julia Wilding took over the post of DAC Secretary as from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2005 together with being appointed as Joint Diocesan Registrar.

In September members were saddened by the death of one of their most dedicated colleagues, Mr. Gerald Wood. Gerald was Diocesan Surveyor for many years and had served on the DAC since his retirement in 1991. The Committee also lost a further member when the Reverend Canon Robert Gage took up his new post at Newcastle Cathedral in November 2005. We were pleased to welcome Mr. Peter Hirschmann to the Committee as a new Joint Amenity Societies' representative in September 2005. However, we do still need some new blood on the Committee and are looking to recruit three new full members. Any willing volunteers with knowledge of one or more of the history, development and use of Church buildings; Church of England liturgy and worship; architecture, archaeology, art and history and experience of the care of historic buildings and their contents should contact the Chairman or Secretary, together with any person who feels that they could assist the DAC as a specialist adviser.

Feedback has been received from parishes confirming that the various DAC Guidelines which are now available on the new look diocesan website have proved useful as a first point of reference and the Committee continue to work on further guidelines. The Chairman and Secretary attended the National DAC Conference held by the Council for the Care of Churches in Harrogate during September where they made useful contacts with other DAC Chairmen and Secretaries as well as representatives from the national bodies.

The Chancellor's De Minimis Provisions came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 listing certain works that can be carried out within a Church without the need for a Faculty. The regulations do mean that in most instances it will still be necessary to consult the Archdeacon before commencing work and the Archdeacons have therefore seen an increase in their workload as a result but are pleased to note that most parishes are making contact at an early stage to seek advice. The Archdeacons would encourage parishes to continue to contact them – preferably by email – even if the De Minimis Provisions may not specifically require consultation, in order to ensure that all issues have been considered.

This year 126 Faculties have been granted and as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005 there were 149 matters pending. Compared to the 149 Faculties and 298 matters pending in 2004, there has clearly been a reduction in Faculty Petitions submitted to the DAC for consideration as was anticipated due to the introduction of the De Minimis Provisions. Nevertheless the DAC have been kept very busy with site visits and with matters referred to them for general advice as well as consideration of formal Faculty Petitions. The importance of early consultation is stressed again and invitations for an advisory visit from the DAC should be referred to the Secretary. It is also vital that consultations take place with the Amenity Societies as early as possible to avoid any delays in the Faculty process.

In July it was confirmed that the Government proposed continuing the exemption from Listed Building Control for ecclesiastical buildings following a lengthy consultation process. Therefore the important role played by the DAC is set to continue.

John Hudson  
Chairman