

Diocesan Advisory Committee Environmental Policy Statement

Ely DAC (having consulted with the Chancellor of the diocese) has agreed the following policy to address the Net Zero commitment of General Synod and the allied crisis in biodiversity.

All involved in the Faculty process “must have due regard to the role of a church as a local centre of worship and mission.” The Church of England, as part of the Anglican Communion, has adopted the Five Marks of Mission, of which the fifth is “To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.” To address this mission each application to the DAC must consider in a proportionate manner “what would be required to reach net zero emissions by 2030” and to protect and enhance biodiversity.

Faculty rules require that “where proposals involve making changes to a listed church ... applicants must provide the Diocesan Advisory Committee” with Statements of Significance and Needs. The CBC Guidance on Statements of Needs says that this is the place to answer “How is it reducing the carbon footprint, contributing to the Church’s commitment to reduce [to net zero by 2030]?” The DAC expects every type of application to address the Fifth Mark of Mission in a proportionate manner.

In advising on an application, the DAC will consider the proposals to reduce carbon and protect biodiversity as a major “resulting public benefit” under the Duffield Questions. The DAC will advise whether the proposals could be developed to provide more public environmental benefit and whether the environmental proposals could be adjusted to minimise any detriment to the significance of the building. Any harm the mitigated proposals might make to the significance of the building will be weighed against the public environmental benefit.

In summary, the DAC welcomes General Synod’s commitment to Carbon Net Zero and will support parishes so that all appropriate applications address environmental issues in a proportionate way, and it will give due weight to this when weighing up its advice.