

COVENTRY DIOCESAN TRUSTEES (REGISTERED)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Coventry Diocesan Trustees (Registered) (“the Diocesan Trustees”) constitute the “Diocesan Authority” for the Diocese of Coventry under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Incumbents and Churchwardens (Trusts) Measure 1964 and as such the Diocesan Trustees’ statutory function is to hold property and trusts on behalf of parishes.

Parochial Church Councils and Incumbents and Churchwardens may not acquire or sell property without the consent of the Diocesan Trustees. The requirement for consent does not apply if the consideration on the transaction in question is less than such amount as may be specified in, or determined in accordance with, an order made by the Archbishops’ Council from time to time. In the main, however, the Diocesan Trustees’ consent is required.

The Diocesan Trustees exercise their functions sympathetically and only in exceptional circumstances will they not endorse the wishes of a parish.

Property and trusts held by the Diocesan Trustees under the 1956 and the 1964 Measures are held for the benefit of parishes and not for the benefit of the Diocese.

In addition to their function as “Diocesan Authority” the Diocesan Trustees directly administer certain charitable funds.

The Diocesan Trustees are incorporated under the Charitable Trustees Incorporation Act 1872 and, apart from their statutory functions, are governed by Schemes and Orders of the Charity Commission.

The Diocesan Trustees are a registered charity under Charity Registration number 249165.

Parochial Church Councils are not allowed to own land or to hold permanent investments and each Diocese has a Diocesan Authority who holds trust property.

The Diocesan Trustees have greater powers than would be the case if they were purely custodian trustees. It is the duty of the Diocesan Trustees to ensure that the PCC and the Incumbent and Churchwardens are acting prudently in the interests of the parish, in accordance with the particular trust and in conformity with charity law. The Diocesan Trustees seek to exercise their duties in a positive and constructive manner.

The Trustees meet three times each year.

Trustees must be communicant members of the Church of England and otherwise eligible as charity trustees.