

## **DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER**

### **GUIDANCE NOTES ON PIPE AND DIGITAL ORGANS** **(Issued by the DAC with the approval of the Chancellor)**

To all Incumbents, PCCs and Organists.

The repair (other than routine maintenance), modification, major overhaul or replacement (whether or not on a like-for-like basis) of a pipe or digital organ, is subject to a recommendation by the DAC and the granting of a faculty.

One of the glories of the Church of England is its music and this owes much to the fine organs of distinction in so many of our churches. PCCs are encouraged to do all they can to maintain pipe organs in a good and serviceable condition and this can be done with regular care and maintenance. The Council for the Care of Churches issues at least two publications on organs: 1) "Church Organs" and 2) "Organs, Repair/Replace? A Guide for considering the future of..." Both are recommended reading. If, however, following consultation with the Organs Adviser, the state of affairs is such that the PCC considers it has no alternative but to abandon the pipe organ and consider a digital organ, the following procedures should be noted:-

1. Seek the further advice of the Organs Adviser. He may be able to help find a new home, if appropriate, for the pipe organ or find you a second-hand pipe organ. He will also be able to give you advice about obtaining a new, though maybe smaller, custom-built one which need not necessarily be beyond a parish's means. He is also willing, however, to give you advice and guidance on the different digital organ manufacturers.
2. Arrange for representatives of the PCC and the organist to visit other churches with digital organs in order that comparisons may be made. The Organs Adviser will be able to give you a list of churches in the diocese with digital organs by different manufacturers. There are considerable differences in price, design and sound, and it is important that the right choice is made for an individual church.
3. Some manufacturers will agree to a demonstration in the church. The Organs Adviser should be invited to such a demonstration. Other manufacturers do not do this as they provide custom-built models for individual churches.
4. Do not enter into any verbal or written agreement or contract until a faculty has been issued.
5. Offers of free hire of a temporary instrument should not oblige PCCs to purchase a permanent instrument from the same firm.
6. Following consultations with the Organs Adviser, the PCC should submit in triplicate, a specification of the proposals for comment by the DAC. The documents should include a paper setting out the PCC's reasons for changing to a digital organ.

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