



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE CARE OF CHURCHES**

Notes on

**TEXTILES
FURNISHINGS
MEMORIALS
TEXTILES
(including carpets)**

Whether the textile is to be of a traditional or modern design it is essential that it is comfortable within its surroundings. This means that the scale, the shapes within the design and the colours are right for the situation.

The selection of colour needs to reflect what is permanent within the church. This means that the choice of colour for a carpet, for instance, should pick up a colour from the stained glass window, most probably the east window if the carpet is for the sanctuary, chancel or nave or from the rest of the floor if some of the tiles are to be left exposed. If the aim is to make the church lighter then very often to pick up on the colour of the stone is very satisfactory. The colour needs to be broken and textured so that the carpet doesn't show every mark whilst in use. A mid-tone colour is the most practical.

It needs to be remembered that the congregation brings colour into the church with their clothing, so that bright reds or blues can be too strong and detract from the focal point of the altar, whether it be in the sanctuary or the nave.

It is important that any kneeler scheme has an overall colour scheme with unified sides and a border to the top of the kneeler as this will link the kneelers together visually. Totally individual designs, though lovely in themselves, can have a distracting spotty effect.

Now that many churches are having chairs, the upholstery needs to be carefully considered. A tweedy finish of slightly broken colour is the more practical. Again the colour needs to work with the building as a whole and the fact that the one chair being looked at is to be multiplied by a hundred or so means that a strong colour may be too dominant.

Advice and help in selecting colours and designs is always available. If the church has a sewing group and wants to make embroidered items, it is always worthwhile to have help with the designs at an early stage so that the best results can be achieved for the many hours of work which are to be put into the embroidery.

FURNISHINGS

With the re-ordering of various areas within a church it is important that any new furnishings and woodwork are of a calibre to enhance the building. What we select to add to our churches now needs to reflect the best quality of design and craftsmanship that we are able to produce today.

Local craftspeople have always contributed to the beauty of their buildings and that is as important today as it ever was, but it needs to be remembered that the 'knocked-up' bookshelf may only be planned to be temporary but unless care is taken it could still be there in a hundred years!

If a member of the parish is helping out by making a new piece of furniture it is important that they are helped with the drawing and design that is required to be submitted with the faculty.

It is important that any new wood should tone in, as far as possible, with the existing woodwork in the building. This means using English woods and selecting the right type. Chairs can easily be stained by the maker to a required matching colour, as long as it is planned at the time of ordering the seating.

Details of designers, makers and manufacturers are available from the DAC office and may be of help.

MEMORIALS

Any memorial could well be viewed as a thanksgiving for a christian life and should be considered as a contribution to liturgy in the wider sense.

The Chancellor has strict rules about memorials on walls, so to avoid having feelings hurt after a bereavement, guidance towards other gifts is important. It is well worth considering, rather than a plaque, whether a gift of a piece of furniture, a textile or another item that the church needs to enhance its worship might be more fitting.

Rather than having a large number of tiny brass memorial plates screwed onto every item, a memorial book listing the gifts makes a more practical contribution as one can easily read and remember what has been given and it would be an asset to the history of the living church.

If a faculty for a memorial plaque is granted on grounds of exceptionality then it needs to relate to the neighbouring plaques in size and material. The quality of the design and lettering, together with the sentiments expressed, is important and there are many skilled hand cutters in the diocese who work to the necessary aesthetic levels.

If a memorial is required, preliminary consultation with the DAC is always advisable and helpful and can avoid unnecessary delays should unsuitable designs be submitted for faculty approval.