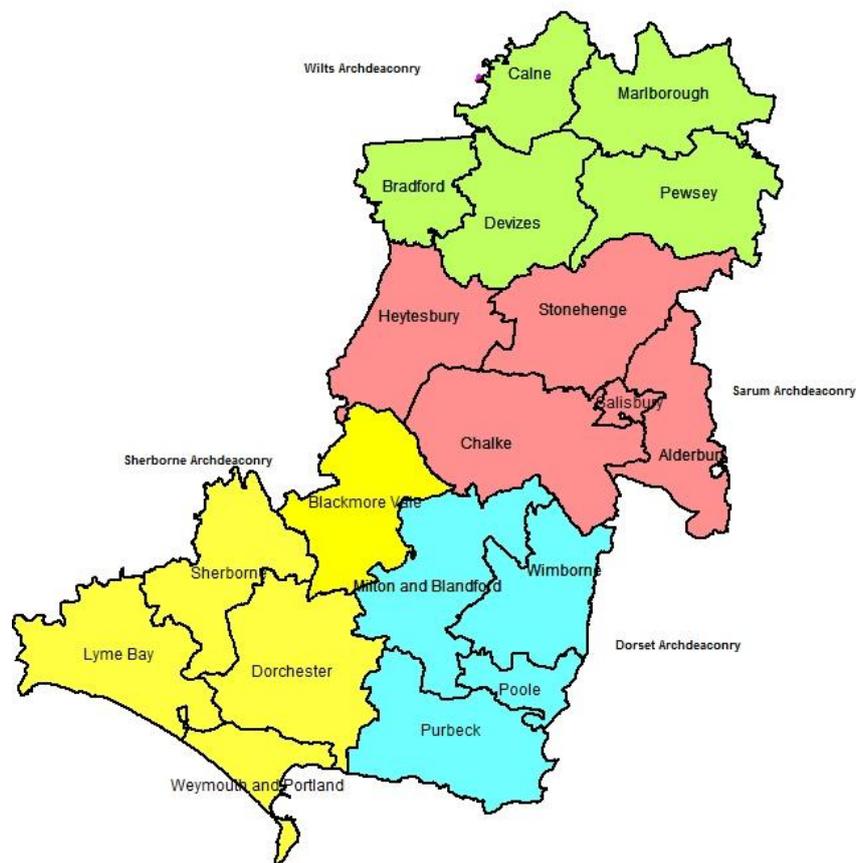


BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About the Diocese of Salisbury

The Diocese of Salisbury extends over 2,000 square miles, with a population of about 932,000 and includes 95% of Dorset, 75% of the unitary authority of Wiltshire, the unitary authority of Poole, 40% of the unitary authority of Bournemouth, a small part of west Hampshire and one parish in Devon.



Poole is the largest urban area, followed by Weymouth and Portland, Salisbury and Trowbridge (the county town of Wiltshire), with many smaller towns including Dorchester (the county town of Dorset), Wimborne and Devizes. In Wiltshire especially, the rural areas are grouped round a number of market towns to which the rural population looks for shopping and most services.

The Diocese contains the World Heritage sites and areas of Stonehenge and Avebury in Wiltshire and the Jurassic Coast in Dorset and tourism is an important element in the economy of the Diocese. There is a good deal of business innovation and many successful small businesses.

Agriculture is important in much of the Diocese. Over 20,000 jobs in the Diocesan area depend on the presence of the Armed Services and the Ministry of Defence and government agencies.

Unemployment is low. Many schools, in all sectors, are outstanding. As everywhere, through all stages of education attainment gaps between pupils from deprived backgrounds and their more affluent peers persist.

This is a relatively affluent part of the country. It is a good place to live and work. Yet in both urban and rural areas there are pockets of relatively serious deprivation resulting in the need for the Church to be involved in provision e.g. food banks and help in linking the unemployed young with employers seeking to

expand their activities. This is more visible in urban areas such as West Howe, Littlemoor, Trowbridge Adcroft and Bemerton Heath which are among the 5% most deprived parishes in the country.

Rural deprivation is more hidden. For example, public transport networks do not work adequately for those without private transport, making it difficult for these people to access services and meet the requirements for welfare benefits.

Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches (DAC)

There are approximately 570 church buildings in the Diocese of Salisbury across 460 parishes. 87% of the church buildings in this Diocese are listed as Grades I, II* or II, representing a major privilege of heritage, but also a major burden of expense which has often to be borne by relatively small parishes or benefices. Nevertheless the standard of repair and maintenance is generally high. Because of this heritage many of the efforts of parish clergy and laity have to be devoted to the buildings, leaving diminished resources in the parishes for other forms of ministry and mission.

The DAC is a statutory body which exists to provide support to parishes in the care and development of their church buildings and to advise the Diocesan Chancellor and the Archdeacons in relation to church buildings and other places of worship, their contents and churchyards.

The duties of the committee and its constitution are governed by the current Faculty Jurisdiction Measure and Rules. Faculty jurisdiction is more than two centuries old but it became more regulated by Government during the 20th century. The current Rules are comprehensive and the operation of faculty and the role of the DAC are well defined.

Members of the DAC are appointed for their knowledge and expertise in the care and use of places of worship. They include clergy and laity from across the Diocese and nominees from English Heritage, the National Amenity Societies and local authority. The DAC is also supported in its work by a number of specialist consultants.

The committee plays an important role in advising on faculty matters, when its formal advice is required by the Diocesan Chancellor, and on proposals which may lead to applications for faculty at a later stage, when informal advice is offered to parishes. It is important to remember that the DAC only acts in an advisory capacity; the final decision about a faculty petition (application) is made by the Diocesan Chancellor, although in certain defined areas an Archdeacon's faculty will be granted. DAC advice may also be sought by the Archdeacons or Diocesan Chancellor about other works which do not require a faculty.

Each year around 450 applications for a variety of works, from routine maintenance to major redevelopment schemes, are considered by the DAC.

The Team

The DAC Team consists of a DAC Secretary and a DAC Assistant Officer. As well as their statutory responsibilities in the processing of cases and supporting the DAC Committee, the posts also provide a comprehensive support service to clergy, churchwardens and parish volunteers, offering advice and guidance on caring for church buildings, navigating Faculty Jurisdiction and signposting relevant resources and further support.

Further information about the diocese and the DAC may be found at <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/>