

DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH
HISTORIC CHURCHES COMMITTEE



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2007

INTRODUCTION

This is the Twelfth Annual Report of the Diocese of Middlesbrough Historic Churches Committee and covers the period of 1st January 2007 to 31st December 2007.

During the course of the year, the resignation of Bishop J Crowley was accepted by the Holy Father in May and then, on 17th November, Mgr T Drainey, the President of Ushaw College, Durham was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI as the Seventh Bishop of Middlesbrough. The Historic Churches Committee is grateful for the past support from Bishop Crowley and looks forward to the future with Bishop Drainey.

The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has produced a directory on the Ecclesiastical Exemption from Listed Building Control. This directory was approved at the Bishops' Conference at its Low Week meeting 1999. A further expanded second edition was published January 2000.

MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Committee are appointed by the Bishop for a three year period of office. The composition of the Committee is in accordance with the recommendations of the Bishops' Conference Directory.

The current membership is in accord with the Diocesan Statutes:

Chairman	:	Rt Rev Mgr D C Hogan
Vicar General/Diocesan Administrator	:	Rt Rev Mgr Canon G Dasey
Moderator of the Curia	:	Rev D Turnham
Finance Officer	:	Dr J Whiston
Buildings Manager	:	Ms S Westcough
Diocesan Art & Architecture Committee	:	Rt Rev Mgr D C Hogan
Liturgy Commission	:	Rt Rev Mgr D C Hogan
Diocesan Council of Priests	:	Rt Rev Mgr D C Hogan
Priests' Representative	:	Rev R Lovatt*
Religious Orders and Communities	:	Rev B Leach OSB
Practising Architect with experience in conservation work of church buildings	:	Mr M Desmond
Lecturer specialising in Art and Architecture of Medieval churches	:	Miss S Weston
Architect with an interest in Art History	:	Mrs P Brown
Professional experience of secular planning system	:	Dr J M Hargreaves
Lawyer	:	Mr J Taylor
English Heritage	:	-
Joint Committee of National Amenity Societies	:	Mr K Knight
Organ Consultant	:	Dr J P Rowntree
Secretary	:	Miss J A Dowson

* appointed July 2007

FINANCE

The Committee has its own specific budget within the Diocesan Administration's overall plan and is supported in its work by a part-time secretary and general Curia assistance.

CHAIRMAN

Mgr D C Hogan was re-appointed Chairman of the Historic Churches Committee from 1st June 2005 for the ensuing three years. Dr J Whiston was re-appointed Vice Chairman for the same period.

MEETINGS

The Committee has met on three occasions during 2007, namely on the 15th February, 14th June and 15th November.

PROCEDURES

The procedures of the Historic Churches Committee are totally in accord with the Directory of the Bishops' Conference. The procedures of the Historic Churches Committee are established by a decree of the Diocesan Bishop. The Historic Churches Committee is accordingly authorised to issue a Faculty for any works required that are granted approval.

Consultations

In every case coming before the Committee, the Secretary consults the appropriate Local Authority, English Heritage, the Ancient Monuments Society and the Victorian Society. Copies of any responses received, following these consultations, are made available to every member of the Committee. Similar arrangements apply in respect of responses made by members of the public following the public advertisement of the proposals.

The consultation on applications coming before the Committee extends to members of the public. Applications are advertised by means of a Notice which is displayed outside each church for twenty-eight days prior to the application being considered by the Committee. In addition, for certain applications ie those which are listed as Grade I or Grade II* or those applications which involve works to the exterior of any listed church, notice is also given in the local press.

Monitoring

The Guidelines require Historic Churches Committees to monitor the implementation of their decisions and keep records of completed works. As a result of this it was agreed that Architects of schemes approved by the Committee would certify at the end of the project, that all the approved work had been completed satisfactorily and that there had been no unauthorised departure from the specification or from any condition applied by the Committee. This arrangement continues to work well.

LISTED CHURCH BUILDINGS

In the Diocese of Middlesbrough there are 26 Listed Church Buildings, 24 of these are in the ownership of the Diocese (Appendix I) and 2 churches are owned by Ampleforth Abbey Trust (Appendix II).

Notification was received from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in November 2007 that St Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Newby, Scarborough had been listed (Grade II).

SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN 2007

The following applications have been received in the period covered by the report:

Grade II applications	-	7
Grade II* applications	-	1
Unlisted	-	1

The following is a summary of the decision of the Committee in respect of these applications:

Approved unconditionally:	7
Approved subject to conditions:	2
Refused:	0
Referred back to applicant:	0

St George, York

A Faculty was issued for repairs to the bell turret in order to make it secure and permanently safe as it was presently a danger to the public. This work was undertaken in March.

St John of Beverley, Beverley

A Faculty was issued for the installation of a new stained glass window in the Lady Chapel to replace plain panes. It is anticipated this work will be undertaken in 2008.

St John of Beverley, Beverley

A Faculty was issued for the reinstatement of the original Font into the main body of the Church. This work commenced in October and it is anticipated will be completed in 2008.

St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough

A Faculty was issued for access improvements to the main entrance to the Cathedral Church and to the entrance to the Church Hall. This was issued subject to consultation being undertaken with the local planning authority as to the most appropriate material to be used for the handrails. Consultation duly took place and it is anticipated the work will be undertaken in 2008.

St Vincent de Paul, Hull

A Faculty was issued for the restoration and modification of Church windows, both for the safety of the building and the congregation. Weather proofing was also permitted as part of the Faculty.

St Wilfrid, York

A Faculty was issued for repairs to the East Gable window for the safety of the building and the congregation.

The Monastery Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley

A Faculty was issued for the replacement of Upvc windows which were presently located in the Chapel, the Sacristy and toilet facilities with timber frames. The work commenced in July and was completed in November.

The Monastery Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley

A Faculty was issued for repairs to the kitchen roof of this property and to the Sacristy roof in order to make both waterproof and sound. This work was again undertaken in the summer.

The Shrine of St Margaret Clitherow, York

A Faculty was issued to enable essential maintenance work, which was urgently required, to be carried out in order to make the building wind and waterproof, secure and habitable.

Advice given for future projects

In addition to the above applications, the Committee's advice was sought on the following:

- Installation of a mobile antennae at Sacred Heart, Middlesbrough. After lengthy discussions at Committee meetings and a subsequent site visit involving Committee members and representatives of the telecommunications company to discuss concerns, it was decided not to proceed with the installation.
- The Committee took a keen interest in the proposed re-development of the South Bank area of Middlesbrough and how this would have an impact on St Peter's Catholic Church, one of three listed churches in the area. The Diocese has engaged the services of a professional consultant whose expertise lies within the areas of historic environment policy and practice so as to provide a professional source of advice in caring and providing for this important listed building in this socially deprived area.

With regard to the proposed scheme of renovation and restoration of St Charles Borromeo in Hull, it was agreed to wait until the outcome of the Review of Diocesan Churches in case this would have an impact on the Church's current listing. Mr P Pace was invited to act as consultant to the scheme, which he duly accepted.

QUINQUENNIAL INSPECTIONS

The following inspections have been presented to the Committee throughout this year:

- St John of Beverley Roman Catholic Church, Beverley
- St Peter's Roman Catholic Church, South Bank, Middlesbrough
- The Church of Our Lady of Mount Grace, Osmotherley
- The Lady Chapel, Mount Grace Priory, Osmotherley
- St Simon and St Jude, Ulshaw Bridge

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC CHURCHES

Members of the Committee act as friends and informal advisors to the Historic Churches (see Appendix III).

PARTNERSHIP PROJECT: AN ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC REVIEW OF ALL CHURCHES IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MIDDLESBROUGH

With the active support and encouragement of English Heritage, The Architectural History Practice Limited (AHP) was appointed in the summer to undertake the review of nearly all the churches within the Diocese. With the agreement of the Abbot of Ampleforth and his Council, the review was extended to include Ampleforth Abbey and the Benedictine churches and priories within the Diocese of Middlesbrough. The Historic Churches Committee received generous support and advice from the Patrimony Committee and English Heritage who throughout the project have provided invaluable guidance. The AHP commenced its review in October and it is anticipated that this substantial project will be completed by the Spring of 2008. A full report on this ambitious undertaking will be provided in the 2008 Annual Report.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Diocese of Middlesbrough wishes to record its appreciation to all the organisations that offer advice and assistance to enable repairs to be carried out to its churches. Particular mention and gratitude is expressed to the Patrimony Sub-Committee for their continual assistance and encouragement in the work of our Diocesan Committee. At the same time, we are deeply indebted to English Heritage and the amenity societies for their unfailing encouragement and guidance. In addition, we are deeply grateful for the assistance and guidance of Mr D Smallwood, the Diocesan Archivist, in conducting research on behalf of the Historic Churches Committee.

We look forward to a continuous working relationship with all related organisations.