**Monmouth Diocesan Advisory Committee**

**Minutes of Meeting held online**

**Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom**

**PRESENT**

The Ven. Jonathan Williams (Chair), The Ven. Sue Pennington, Mr E. Holland, Mr J. Hotson, Mr A. Rogers, Mr P. Webster, Prof. R. Howell.

Mr J. Perons (Secretary)

**APOLOGIES**

Mr Steven Knott, Mr Michael Plageman, The Revd J. Connell, Mr Dean A. Roberts

**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes approved.

**MATTERS ARISING**

No Matters Arising

**CURRENT PETITIONS**

**2020-005565 Parish of Llandogo, St Oudoceus**

**Grade II\*, In a Conservation Area, Monmouthshire, Victorian/Pre-WWI**

*Removal of pews*

Virtual Site Visit Report: 14th January 2021

DAC Secretary explained what they discussed and agreed upon at the site visit. They shared the site visit report with the rest of the Committee for them to read over and confirm they were content with what they discussed. The main outcomes from the site visit were:

* The flexibility of the space was important for the church to continue to be sustainable as a use by the church.
* The chairs will not affect the principal views of the interior of the church. The parish values the pews and the options seem right.
* The parish is currently revising the Statement of Needs/Significance and Justification with CADW’s comments.

There was a discussion on whether the DAC should give a conditional approval subject to receiving the revised statements/documents, or if it should wait to receive these first and then grant approval.

**Agreed:**

To recommend that a faculty be granted subject to revised Statements of Needs, Significance, and Justification being approved by DAC members.

**NEW PETITIONS**

**2020-006037 Parish of Magor, St Mary**

**Grade I, In a Conservation Area, Monmouthshire, Medieval/Victorian Restored**

*Repairs to the church tower clock of St Mary’s Church, Magor, which has not been working for several years. Also, the fitting of an electronic winding device. Manufactured in 1807 and prominent on the tower of our Grade 1 listed church building.*

The DAC were happy and confident in the church using Smiths of Derby to repair the clock.

**Agreed:**

To recommend that a faculty be granted.

**INITIAL CONSULTATIONS**

**Parish of Chepstow, St Mary’s Priory**

**Grade I, In a Conservation Area, Monmouthshire, Medieval/Victorian Restored**

*There has been a recommendation of the installation of Solar Panels on the flat areas of the church roof.*

DAC Secretary explained the enquiry. There was support among the DAC for the church looking to go carbon neutral. However, there were concerns this could risk being an ‘One Item Agenda’, in contrast to looking at the entire heating system. The Church of England has two Heating Officers, and the Church in Wales is due to appoint an Eco-Champion later this year. They suggested it it could be beneficial to wait for this individual to be in post and then discuss it with them as they will have specialist knowledge of this area. They raised the following points about the enquiry:

* The church should consider the wider range of their energy consumption and other sources of energy. Is there a possibility of looking at ground source heat pumps? Biomass could be another option as opposed to Solar Power. The church can research into this further.
* Form a plan of how energy all fits together in the building. Question on why the lighting system is being recommended to be replaced when it was put in 5 years ago. Are these lights efficient?
* Small steps can save money/carbon, e.g., turning lights off for 2 years. It is about being carbon neutral or purely financial? This question is important to understand how much the Solar Panels will save them in terms of church finances.
* Need greater clarity on how impactful the solar panels will be.
* It could be useful to examine Withington Church in Gloucester Diocese as it is the first church to carbon neutral and use it as a case study.
* Sue Pennington (Acting Archdeacon of Monmouth) suggested she would be happy to meet with the church to discuss this situation further.

**Parish of Pontypool, St Michael’s**

**Grade II\*, Not in a Conservation Area, Torfaen, Medieval/Victorian Restored**

*The church is looking to make repairs in its roof, as rainwater had been seeping into the building and causing damp (Photographs in presentation).*

DAC Secretary explained the situation with the church roof. The church’s choice of builder regularly does jobs for them. Sue Pennington (Archdeacon of Gwent Valleys) suggested a site visit for the church to inspect the church. There were concerns of using sand and cement near the cross and of using lead flashing. The church was re-roofed around twenty years ago. It would be helpful to know the materials of the church/church roof. The builder should be able to know this and how the repairs will be carried out. It was suggested an Architect could be cheaper by doing a professional job and proper specifications and documents. This would save costs for the church in the long-term. Sue Pennington will speak to the parish about this.

**List B Application DAC Advice**

**Parish of Netherwent, St Peter’s Llandevaud**

**Unlisted, Not in a Conservation Area, Newport, built in 1843.**

*Replace all existing electric wiring, switch fuse, tails, fuse board sockets, lights, and earth.*

The church needs to look at lowest option/LED carbon neutral and most cost-effective option. Will they be re-using cable wiring or keeping existing wiring? The scale of the work involved seemed expansive for a List B application. Check with Registrar first on whether it should be a List B.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No Other Business

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** 3rd March 2021 at 10:00am.