

## STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is a document that is required when applying for a faculty for work of any significance to a listed church.

Although it may seem something of a chore to prepare, many parishes have found it to be a really useful exercise. You may find out something about your church which you have not known up until now - and it also helps you to really appreciate what you have in your care. The statement will also be invaluable to the Chancellor when he is considering applications - as it will paint a word picture of your church and make him aware of its history and the things that make it special.

The document should ideally be not longer than two sides of A4 and you should append a ground plan of the church (and churchyard if applicable) and photos of the interior and exterior - and/or any special features.

There should be two elements to the Statement, as follows -

### **The church in its environment**

This might include -

- ✚ where the church is situated
- ✚ its impact on the community
- ✚ its importance to the community
- ✚ its history - eg the nave built in XXXX, side aisles added in XXXX, etc
- ✚ details of the community that the church serves
- ✚ the use of the church by congregation and the wider community

### **The church itself**

This might include -

- ✚ a general description
- ✚ details of, for example, stained glass, font, pulpit, pews etc
- ✚ details of bells, clock, organ etc (including age, maker and any changes)
- ✚ details of any items of special interest, eg hatchments, historic documents
- ✚ war memorials
- ✚ any special/important/unusual churchyard memorials
- ✚ any elements which are individually listed, eg churchyard walls, lychgates
- ✚ any significant archaeology
- ✚ the general condition of the fabric
- ✚ any problems with access

Please note these lists are not exhaustive - you will tailor your Statement of Significance to your own particular building.

This will provide you with an excellent document which can be held and used to support repeated applications. It would, however, be advisable to add a paragraph or two about the specific area upon which any individual application will impact.

Sources of information for your statement would include -

- ✚ the appropriate county edition from Pevsner's 'Buildings of England' series
- ✚ the County Records Centre
- ✚ the English Heritage website's "Images of England" project
- ✚ the Listing Description of the church, available from the County Council Planning Department or from the DAC Secretary at Diocesan House.
- ✚ and don't forget - members of your church and local community, some of whom are mines of local information!

One caveat though - treat all of these as guides only - things do change or go out of date.

Above all, look at your church through **your** eyes, and use **your** words to describe it.