



The Carlisle Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
from the Chair, The Reverend Andrew B Norman

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Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Churchwardens,

This comes with my greetings and prayers for 2025.

It is good to be in touch to let you know, and provide you with some information, about an exciting project that the Diocesan Advisory Committee are planning to launch this year, with the generous support of *Ecclesiastical Insurance*.

After some months of planning and conversation, I am very pleased to say that the DAC are launching their Church Buildings Awards, offering us an opportunity to celebrate the efforts of so many (including yourselves) in caring for, preserving and serving the wonderful church buildings of our Diocese. This has been something that the DAC has hoped to do for a number of years, so we're grateful to be able to do this as we now look to the year ahead.

If your church has completed a significant project in the last three years (since January 2022) then we would very much like to hear from you. This is not necessarily about the grandest or most expensive projects, though we would love to hear about those too. It could be an imaginative re-ordering that has enhanced your building, the introduction of toilet facilities or social space that has made a difference to your church community or an eco-project that has helped to reduce your carbon emissions and the cost of your energy.

We are looking for best practice, and to present awards, in the following areas:

- 1. Building** (to include reordering, new build, extension, insertion or intervention)
- 2. Care and Conservation** (to include repair/restoration of building fabric and fittings)
- 3. Sustainability** (to include towards net zero, re-use of materials and innovative solutions)
- 4. Churchyard** (to include imaginative use, re wilding, nature conservancy)
- 5. Access and interpretation** (to include access, inclusion, flexibility/multi use, interpretation, tourism)

Your project might fit into more than one category and that's fine, however you will only be able to receive an award in one category. We are intending to reward winning entrants with an afternoon tea at Rydal Hall on Thursday 12th June. Bishop Rob will be joining us, as well as the Chancellor, James Fryer-Spedding, and members of the DAC.

The closing date for entries is Monday 31st March 2025, with the winners being notified in mid-May. We may ask to come and see your church, so as to give us chance to talk to you about your project.

If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Morven Anson, our DAC Secretary, on the e-mail and telephone at the top of this letter.

I warmly encourage you to consider applying. The DAC exists to serve the Diocese and our treasury of buildings and I hope that these Awards provide a further means for us to hear about, and rejoice in, the dutiful, diligent and imaginative ways you support the churches of our county, for the glory of God and the loving service of our communities.

With every good wish and prayer,

As ever,
