



DERBY DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

CHAIRS IN CHURCHES

(Guidelines for parishes seeking DAC advice)

1. The DAC's role is to treat every case on its merits and not impose a universal doctrine of what is fitting and acceptable.
2. But the DAC would be failing in its duty if it accepted too readily the first demands of current fashion. Compromises given goodwill, can adapt or modify rather than destroy.
3. The quality of the church building itself will often govern the choice of replacement seating.
4. One of the main disadvantages of chairs often desired in churches is that they can transform the character of a historic interior. There can be a conflict between the austerity, dignity and beauty of the architecture and the domesticity of padded chairs.
5. The question needs to be asked whether the importance given to comfort in church takes precedence over other considerations.
6. It is said that modern upholstery wears better than that formerly supplied by church furnishing firms. Time alone will tell. Cheaper chairs may start to look shabby after a relatively short period of use.
7. As with fitted carpets the acoustic effects of large numbers of upholstered chairs should not be disregarded.
8. The DAC has acquired a large file of catalogues offering chairs and other seating for churches. It is clearly best for parishes to consult the Secretary for these before making any final decisions.

Contact: Mrs V Davis – DAC Secretary

Tel. 01332 388650 e-mail: dac@derby.anglican.org