

In the Ely Consistory Court

An Additional Matters Order 2020

In accordance with section 78 of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and Care of Churches Measure 2018 (“the Measure”) and Rule 3.4 of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015 (“the Rules”), the Chancellor, having sought the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Archdeacon of Huntingdon and Wisbech and the Archdeacon of Cambridge makes the following Additional Matters Order in respect of temporary changes to the layout of the church building or the installation of equipment which may need to be made in order to reopen the church to the public in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Chancellor makes the following order effective from 10th June 2020:

1. Subject to the other terms of this Order, an authorised person may undertake any temporary and reversible alterations required to make a church safe for use by the public in conformity with guidance provided by the government and the Diocese in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic so long as the authorised person gives 7 days’ notice of the alterations to be made and in sufficient detail for the Archdeacon to be able to assess the impact of the proposed alterations.
2. Where the Archdeacon has been notified under paragraph 1 he may:
 - (a) Consent to the proposed alterations;
 - (b) Require the authorised person to provide more detail as to the proposed alterations before the Archdeacon decides whether to consent;
 - (c) Notify the authorised person that the proposed alterations may not be undertaken until he has obtained the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee or such of its members or officers as the Archdeacon thinks fit before deciding whether to allow the alterations and, where necessary consult the Chancellor;
 - (d) Make his consent subject to conditions; or
 - (e) Refuse his consent to the proposed alterations and state briefly in writing his reason for doing so;
3. If the Archdeacon makes his consent subject to conditions under paragraph 2(d), the authorised person must notify agreement to the conditions.
4. If the Archdeacon refuses his consent under paragraph 2(e) the Archdeacon must inform the authorised person that they may petition the court for a faculty for the alterations.
5. There is no requirement to notify of any matter which would be regarded as *de minimis*. Examples are given in the Schedule to this Order. If the authorised person is in doubt as to whether the work is *de minimis*, they should contact the Archdeacon for guidance.
6. The Archdeacon must retain a copy of every notice given under paragraph 1 and of any subsequent documentation.
7. The schedule to this Order provides a list of likely applications and provides some guidance on what may be accepted by the Archdeacons. It is not exhaustive; it does not prevent an

application being made for any temporary and reversible alteration which is not listed on the schedule.

8. Any alterations made under this Order and any *de minimis* alterations which have been made must be reversed by 1st June 2021 or by such later date as is notified by the Chancellor. The authorised person must notify the Archdeacon of the date when the alterations were reversed.

9. Interpretation—

- (a) Any notification of correspondence must be by letter or email, but not by text or any other means.
- (b) “Authorised person” has the same meaning as provided by Regulation 3.1(5) of the Rules—
 - (i) a person acting on behalf of the minister and churchwardens of the parish concerned (or, if there is no minister, on behalf of the churchwardens);
 - (ii) in relation to a building which is included in the list maintained by the Church Buildings Council under [section 38(1) of the Measure], the relevant person or body or a person acting on their behalf; or
 - (iii) a person designated by the chancellor in respect of a parish or other place for the purposes of this Part.

Schedule

Matter	Detail
Hand Sanitiser	A sanitiser must be free standing and not fixed to the fabric of the building
Washing Facilities	If the church does not have access to hot water, a boiling vessel may be brought into the church. The Archdeacon will want confirmation as to the access to a suitable electricity supply and the application must be accompanied by a risk assessment as to its use. Any electrical equipment must be visually inspected for faults (including the plug and flex) and be less than 10 years old or display a sticker for a PAT test within the last 12 months. If temporary mobile washing or lavatory cubicles are rented and parked on church property, they may be connected to electrical and mains supplies so long as it does not require trenches to be dug. Depending where they are sited, it would be advisable to notify the local authority.
Pews/Chairs	May be removed or reconfigured. Where they are fixed they must be capable of removal without damage to the floor or walls and capable of being re-fixed without their stability having been affected.
Altar	In rare cases it may be necessary to move the altar to allow for social distancing by clergy, servers and congregation. An application should have proper regard to the need to take account of its central significance and to ensure that it is treated reverently and given symbolic prominence in whatever configuration emerges. It may be preferable to use another suitable table as a temporary altar.

Matter	Detail
Additional Furniture	If a temporary altar or a communion table is to be brought into the church it must be a piece of furniture which is suitable bearing in mind the reverent purpose which it is to fulfil. Other furniture may be required on which to place hand sanitisers or other items to ensure cleanliness.
Video/Broadcasting	Any hired equipment may be installed so long as it does not involve damage to the fabric of the church.
Picket Stands for votive candles	The Archdeacon will want to know from the authorised person what the parish's view is on the lighting of votive candles. These are expensive items and, if it is to be retained after 1 st June 2021 (or as amended), it will require a petition for a faculty to be made.
Identifying Seating	Where hazard tape or any other temporary marking is used to identify what seating may be used or what routes are to be taken in the church, this is <i>de minimis</i> and no application need be made.
Entry/Exit Points	Temporary entry and exit signs and distance-markings on the ground, so long as a non-permanent wash is used, this is <i>de minimis</i> and no application need be made. If markings on a public thoroughfare are required, the church should check with the local authority whether permission is required.
Parking on Church Property	Where any non-permanent wash or cones are used to mark spaces or the gaps to be left between spaces this is <i>de minimis</i> and no application need be made.

Explanatory Note
(This note does not form part of the Order)

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Ely has made the Additional Matters Order 2020 in order to provide a simple method by which churches can prepare to reopen the churches to the public without being required to petition for a faculty.

The Order does not apply to any structural work which cannot be reversed or any alteration which is likely to cause lasting damage to the structure of the church, and if any such work is being contemplated, then it will be necessary to apply for a faculty.

It is the intention that almost all applications to make temporary reversible alterations will be agreed by the Archdeacons without reference to the Diocesan Advisory Committee or the Chancellor.

The authorised person will make his, and the Archdeacon's, task easier by providing sufficient information without overloading any application with unnecessary detail. Generally, photographs may assist the Archdeacon.

It is impossible to predict how long social distancing and other measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 will need to be in place. The Chancellor has erred on the side of caution and chosen a date which does not coincide with any major church festival. The position will remain under review and, if there is a need to extend it, he will do so.