

The Diocesan Registrar and the Chancellor of the Diocese

The Registry is the legal office of the Diocese. Its officers are appointed, and its work is governed by a large number of statutes and measures, notably the Ecclesiastical Judges and Legal Officers Measure 1976. Under orders made by the General Synod, the Registry's work includes (but is not limited to):

- giving general legal advice to clergy, parish officers, boards and councils throughout the Diocese
- assisting clergy and answering parishioners' enquiries relating to marriage
- functions as Registrar of the Diocesan Synod
- consecration of churchyards
- operation of the faculty jurisdiction.

All such advice is given free of charge to parishes and Diocesan officers. It is always best to ask for advice from the Registry sooner rather than later, as legal problems, if left unaddressed, can become increasingly difficult to resolve.

The Chancellor is the judge for the Diocese in matters of church law and the principal role is the responsibility for the faculty jurisdiction which is the Church of England's equivalent of planning permission. Any significant addition or alteration to the fabric, fixtures and fittings of a church requires permission in the form of a faculty. The power to grant faculties is shared between the Chancellor and the Archdeacons. They are advised by the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches. The Chancellor also acts as the Bishop's legal advisor