

Reordering project update: Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting

Dear friends,

Firstly, thank you for your prayerful and practical support for the meeting on Thursday 20th August with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC).

Geoff Lanham, Nick Brown, Ian Kay and Gary Marsh, along with our architects BHB, represented the *For future generations* team from our church.

We were joined by the diocesan archdeacons and also representatives of the Church Buildings Council, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Victorian Society, the latter also representing other amenity bodies. Unfortunately, Historic England and the diocesan architect assigned to our case were unavailable for the meeting.

It was a good meeting but tough and challenging. As before, we laid out the needs and case for what we are seeking to do, in particular for those who were new to our project.

The representatives of the amenity groups were clear on the specific interests they represent and we, along with our architects, explained how the proposals were integrated and made sense when looked at together. Nothing was put forward by way of challenge that we felt we could not answer or reasonably address, or that was not already clarified in our documentation.

In turn, there were a number of things that we can reflect on and consider as we take the scheme forward.

The next steps are that the consultees will now reflect on the discussions, consider carefully what we have said (in particular in relation to the written statements we have provided) and respond to the DAC. The next DAC meeting to discuss this is on Tuesday 29th September 2026. We shall meet separately with Historic England on Friday 4th September.

It was helpful to have the archdeacons with us to ensure continuity of the process and to bring their missional wisdom.

Patience, perseverance, and above all prayer, in continuing to seek God's will and purpose in this, will guide us.

Again thanks and with every blessing,

Nick Brown, Project Director, For future generations