Exploring future uses of church buildings:   
**Parish Enquiry Form**

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| **Parish(es)** |  |
| **Church Dedication(s)** |  |
| **Parish/ Benefice Contact Person** | Name:  Parish Role:  Tel/ email: |
| **Incumbent/ Priest-in-Charge** *(state if benefice is currently vacant)* |  |
| **Date** |  |

Use this form to tell us some background about your church(es) and/ or parish(es) and why you want to explore alternative futures for (some of) your church building(s). Boxes will expand automatically if completed electronically. Completed forms should be returned to [pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:pastoral.secretary@oxford.anglican.org). To support missional thinking, the completed form will be shared the Archdeacon, the DAC, the Parish Development Advisor, Deanery and PCC (if the enquiry initiates outside of the PCC).

# Section 1: Local context

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| **1) (a) What has brought you to consider exploring possible alternatives future uses for (some of) your church buildings?** *(Please mention any issues you have with filling posts, meeting financial commitments, maintaining parish rotas, managing your buildings etc. Also please indicate who has been involved in this conversation so far, and if a community survey has been conducted, please submit this also.* |
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| **1) (b) Do you have initial thoughts about what type of alternative future might be suitable for your church building(s)** *(Multiple boxes can be ticked. Your thinking can be expanded upon in the answers to questions 2)(a) and 2)(b). Information on these options is linked to the final page of this form* |
| **Festival Church**  **Complementary use/ Shared building arrangement/ Lease of part or parts of the building**  **Church Closure**  **Don’t know – need further guidance** |
| **1) (c) Tell us about your worshipping community** *(including frequency/ types of service are currently provided)* |
| a) within the parish  b) within the benefice *(do you hold joint services/ run joint activities etc.?)* |
| **1) (d) Tell us what is special about your building(s)** *(*e.g. *features of* a*rchitectural or historical significance, location, specific services, affection held by the community etc.)* |
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| **1) (e) Tell us about any wider community links or activities** |
| 1) Who uses the building and what for |
| 2) Who else has an active interest in the church *(i.e Friends of Village Trust, rota of helpers for grass cutting etc.)* |
| **1) (f) What level of worship/ types of service (Weddings etc.) do you want to continue in your building(s)? How would this complement the worship happening elsewhere in the benefice?** |
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| **1) (g) What other community buildings and services are there in your parish(es), and how are they used?** |
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| **1) (h) Are there any other special circumstances that might be relevant to considerations?** |
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# Section 2: Missional context

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| **2) (a) What local missional planning has taken place recently? Is there a parish, benefice or deanery Mission Action Plan, or has the parish planning tool been explored?If so, how do church buildings, and possible alternative future uses of them fit into that?** *(If any planning has taken place, please provide the relevant documents to the Church House Team in advance of any meeting)* |
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| **2) (b) If there has not been any missional planning recently, please outline how you envisage that changing how you use your church building(s) will meet your needs** |
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| **2) (c) The Diocese of Oxford is working to implement its vision of becoming a more Christ-like Church How might changing how you use your church building(s) make you a more Christ-like Church?** *(see accompanying* ***Signs******of a more Christ-like Church*** *document)* |
| 1) for (the) PCC(s) |
| 2) for (the) worshipping community/ies |
| 3) for (the) wider, local community/ies |

# Section 3: Other questions

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| **Do you have any related concerns or further questions at this time?** |
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Links to further information

Diocesan folder of [Guidance Documents](https://oxforddiocesan-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/maggie_metaliaj_oxford_anglican_org/Eq4mGj61oClCgVYmdK-Xi20B197q0bd1PX5WRARMVsU8NA?e=4nKVZ2) relating to church building futures, note in particular the ***Guidance on determining the future of a Church building*** document and the ***Festival Church Impact Document***, which gives diocesan perspectives on these matters.

[Diocesan Parish Planning Tool](https://www.oxford.anglican.org/mission-ministry/our-common-vision/resources/parish-planning-tool/) – Helpful resource for parishes who have not recently explored planning at a local level.

[Frequently Asked Questions – The Association of Festival Churches (afchurches.org)](https://afchurches.org/frequently-asked-questions/) (Gives a basic overview of what a Festival Church is)

[Sharing your building and finding partners | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/sharing-your-building-and-finding) (Sharing your building with other Christian Groups/ Community, cultural and commercial uses/ Case Studies)

[Making changes to your building and churchyard | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/making-changes-your-building-and-churchyard) (Explore what role your building could play in your mission and how to plan for it, and for any required changes that might be needed)

[Home - Quiet Garden Movement](https://quietgarden.org/) (The Quiet Garden Movement nurtures access to outdoor space for prayer and reflection in a variety of settings, such as private homes, churches, retreat centres, schools and hospitals – and creates opportunities for people to experience silence, restfulness and contemplative practices, with regular quiet days and retreats being offered in many Quiet Gardens.)

The [House of Good](https://www.houseofgood.nationalchurchestrust.org/) Report published by the National Churches Trust in October 2020 quantifies the economic and social value of all church buildings to the UK. Not just the bricks and mortar but the welfare and wellbeing they create in our communities.

The [Churches Conservation Trust](https://www.visitchurches.org.uk/what-we-do/regeneration-and-communities.html) is the national charity protecting churches at risk. As well as working alongside local communities to care and maintain closed churches vested in them by the Church Commissioners of the Church of England, they also have a Regenerating Communities Team who can share their skills and experience in bringing new life to historic places of worship.