

STATEMENTS OF NEED

The Faculty Jurisdiction Rules define a Statement of Need as “a document which sets out the reasons why it is considered that the needs of the parish cannot be met without making changes to the church building and the reason why the changes are regarded as necessary to assist the church in its worship and mission”. Again, the notes below are intended to help parishes achieve this goal.

There are two basic points to remember when compiling a Statement of Need, but the Statement itself does not have to follow a strict format under these headings. Again, express yourselves in your own words.

- i) **Current and Future Needs of the Congregation/Parish:** This is where you describe the character of the parish, both in terms of the worshipping congregation and of the wider community, and then go on to describe how the particular alteration in question is desirable and necessary to meet their needs. Try and be specific in giving evidence of needs. Rather than saying simply, “we need a crèche for 50”, explain that a new estate with starter homes has recently been built which has changed the area’s demography, or that new legislation such as the Disability Discrimination Act requires the parish to improve access to the church and its facilities.

- (ii) **Evidence of Support:** Most applications, whether for permissions or grants, will require evidence that the proposal has support within the congregation and from the local community and any relevant expert bodies. If there is opposition, e.g. to the removal of pews, acknowledge it and state how you are planning to meet the objections, whether by adapting your proposals or by explaining more fully why your proposals cannot sensibly be amended. It is important to demonstrate that you have looked at all the other options, and that the impact of the proposals outlined in the Statement of Significance has been fully taken into account.