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BY THE GRACE OF GOD AND THE FAVOUR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE

BISHOP OF EAST ANGLIA

DECREE

Preamble

Whereas the Vatican Council II and directives of the Holy See have reminded bishops of their need to exercise vigilance over the remodelling of places of worship and to protect works of art and sacred furnishings;

And whereas the civil authorities in England and Wales have allowed certain buildings in the ownership of the Catholic Church to remain exempt from certain aspects of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

And whereas this exemption has been continued by the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Order 2010¹ for those Churches which had adopted a regulatory scheme which complied with a Code of Practice issued by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport in 2010;

And whereas it is now expedient to consolidate the scheme for the determining of relevant matters by Historic Churches Committees established in guidelines issued by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales in accordance with the said Code of Practice;

Therefore I make the following Decree.

Definitions

1. In this Decree (unless the context requires otherwise):

“relevant structures” means:

- (a) any listed church, oratory or chapel owned by a diocese or a public juridical person subject to the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop, including:
 - (i) any object or structure within that building;
 - (ii) any object or structure fixed to the exterior of that building; or
 - (iii) any separately-listed object or structure within the curtilage of that building which, although not fixed to that building, forms part of the land;
- (b) any listed ecclesiastical building (except a presbytery) which is for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes and which is owned by a religious institute or society of apostolic life (or province or house thereof) which is subject to the jurisdiction of the diocesan bishop;

“relevant works” means:

¹ S.I. 2010 No 1176

- (c) any works (including partial demolition, alteration, repair, decoration or extension but excluding total demolition) which would affect the character of the relevant structure as a building of special architectural or historic interest; or
- (d) any works affecting the archæological importance of a relevant structure or archæological remains existing within it or its curtilage;

“church oratory or chapel” means an ecclesiastical building which is for the time being used for ecclesiastical purposes and whose primary use is as a place of worship;

“listed building” has the same meaning as in the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990;

“presbytery” means a building used or available for use by a minister of religion wholly or mainly as a residence from which to perform the duties of his office;

“relevant acts” means undertaking any relevant works or allowing any relevant works to be undertaken in respect of a building owned by a relevant public juridical person;

“Historic Churches Committee” means the body set up in accordance with Statutes promulgated by me (whether in conjunction with one or more other diocesan bishops or not) to grant faculties on my behalf in accordance with this Decree;

“chairman” includes any person for the time being carrying out the functions of chairman.

Effect of this Decree

- 2. In view of the special situation which exists with regard to relevant works in England and Wales, no such works may be undertaken by any person except in accordance with the special regulations contained in this Decree in accordance with Canon 1276.
- 3. No such relevant works are to be undertaken without a faculty, granted on behalf of the Ordinary who has power to grant such a faculty, by the Historic Churches Committee of the Diocese in accordance with the procedures set out in this Decree or in the Statutes of the Historic Churches Committee.

Extent and Promulgation

- 4. This Decree extends to any relevant structure which is either situated in or is the property of the diocese and also extends personally to all administrators of property which include any relevant structures who are subject to my jurisdiction.
- 5. This Decree shall be promulgated by publication according to the customary method and shall come into effect on promulgation.

Given at Poringland this 13th day of October 2020



+ Alan Stephen Hopes

+The Rt Revd Alan Stephen Hopes
Bishop of East Anglia

Monsignor Eugene Canon Harkness

Monsignor Eugene Canon Harkness
Chancellor of East Anglia

Diocesan Seal