

Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia – Historic Churches Committee

Annual Report 2025

Introduction

The Historic Churches Committee (HCC) has jurisdiction over the repair, refurbishment and alteration of listed Catholic churches within the Diocese of East Anglia. Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and the Ecclesiastical Exemption (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (England) Order 2010, listed Catholic churches are exempt from the requirement to obtain listed building consent from the relevant local authority for repair, refurbishment or alteration works, provided that approval is first obtained from the HCC. Such approval is granted in the form of a Faculty. Work which falls within the categories in List A and List B of the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019, such as like for like replacements, may be approved without need for a Faculty, at the discretion of the Secretary to the Committee.

This report summarises the work of the HCC during 2025.

Listed Churches Within the Diocese of East Anglia

There are four churches listed Grade I, seven listed Grade II* and sixteen listed Grade II. In addition, one private chapel listed Grade II has opted in to the HCC's jurisdiction.

There are 18 churches within the Diocese which, while not listed, are located within conservation areas.

Membership of the HCC

The following served as members of the HCC during the year:

Moira Goldstaub (Chair), Rev Fr David Bagstaff (Vicar General), Rev Fr Alan Hodgson (Dean of The Cathedral of St John the Baptist), Rev Fr Christopher Smith (Chair- Diocesan Liturgy Committee), Rev Dcn Paul Raynes (Diocesan Director of Finance and Operations), Mr Richard Halsey, Dr John Maddison, Ms Rowan Easter, Mrs Priscilla Latham, Mr Nicholas Jacob.

The HCC was advised at its meetings and throughout the year by Mr Matthew Champion (Diocesan Historic Churches Support Officer). He presented a written report for discussion at each meeting.

Mr Charles Gillott acted as Secretary to the Committee during the year.

Meetings of the Committee

Meetings took place in person on 14 January, 8 April, 15 July and 14 October 2025.

Faculty Applications

The Committee received the following applications for a faculty during the year.

- The Cathedral of St John the Baptist, Norwich, concerning the relocation of an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour from the North Aisle of the Nave to the North Transept, Walsingham Chapel, beneath The Queen's Window. After considering advice on the nature and history of the icon and having heard that the proposed relocation would allow this important object to be displayed to better effect, the Committee agreed that a faculty be granted for relocation within the Cathedral.
- The Sacred Heart, Southwold for the installation of a new heating system to replace inadequate existing equipment. The Committee, having considered plans and specifications and having received advice on the proposed installation's appearance and effectiveness, agreed that a faculty should be granted for the proposed works.

The Committee was kept informed of works which were required in other Diocesan churches within its jurisdiction and for which faculties were likely to be sought in due course. The churches in question were:

The Cathedral Church of St John the Baptist, Norwich

The former Trinity United Reform Church, Norwich, to be acquired by the Diocese.

St Benet's Minster, Beccles

Our Lady and English Martyrs, Cambridge

St Mary, Great Yarmouth

St Peter, Gorleston

Our Lady of Consolation, Lynford (under the management of the Norfolk Churches Trust)

Our Lady Immaculate, Lawshall

St Peter and All Souls, Peterborough

St Edmund, King and Martyr, Bungay.

Our Lady and St Joseph, Sheringham

Quinquennial Inspection Reports

QI reports on the following listed churches were received and considered during meetings of the Committee:

St Felix, Felixstowe.

St Pancras, Ipswich.

St Mary's, Thetford.

Sacred Heart, St Ives.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea.

St Peter, Gorleston.

St Mary, Great Yarmouth.

St Edmund, King and Martyr, Bury St Edmunds.

Our Lady and St Walstan, Costessey.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, Kings Lynn.

The Committee also received verbal reports on the condition of;

The Chapel of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, (a private chapel in respect of which the College's governing body has opted in to the Committee's jurisdiction).

St Nicholas, Pakefield.

Works Approved Without Need for a Faculty

The following were approved without need for a faculty and duly reported to the Committee as having been approved:

St Thomas of Canterbury, Woodbridge – replacement by the local traffic authority of a streetlamp fixed to the frontage.

St Felix, Felixstowe – installation of a wireless fire alarm system.

Our Lady and St John the Evangelist, Sudbury – installation of an external CCTV system.

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Lowestoft – like for like repairs to a section of the boundary wall which was in poor condition.

The Sacred Heart, North Walsham – upgrade disabled access door and pathway to Church Hall.

Moira Goldstaub, Chair

14 April 2026