

Chancel Repair Liability

Update - November 2012

Introduction

In August 2012 the Diocesan Registry sent out information to PCCs regarding their obligation to ascertain whether their parish benefited from chancel repair liability.

Since then we have received numerous enquiries from parishes throughout the Diocese about how they should go about investigating this and indeed whether they should do so at all. Clearly a substantial number of parishes have taken steps to address the issue of chancel repair liability and this has been extremely pleasing to see.

Following the publication of our guidance the Cathedral Chapter has retained the services of Dr Kathy Whyte, a historical geographer, who has been tasked with ascertaining the extent of chancel repair liability in the historic parish of Blackburn.

During the course of her research at the National Archives at Kew Dr Whyte was able to determine which churches in the Diocese are most likely to benefit from chancel repair liability. This does not necessarily mean that there is no liability in the remaining ancient parishes but we have decided to target our efforts in the parishes most likely to benefit. However those parishes that are not listed below may choose to decide to cease their attempts to establish whether they benefit from chancel repair liability if they believe that their fund raising efforts could be adversely affected if chancel repair liability is pursued in respect of the chancel of the parish of which they were formerly part.

List of churches

Holy Trinity, Bolton le Sands
St Bartholomew, Chipping
St Michael, Cockerham
St Michael and All Angels, Croston
St Helen, Garstang
St John the Evangelist, Gressingham
St Michael, Kirkham
St Mary (the Priory), Lancaster
St Andrew, Leyland
St Cuthbert, Lytham
St Wilfred, Melling
St Mary, Penwortham
St John, Preston
St Wilfred, Ribchester
St John the Baptist, Tunstall
St Oswald, Warton

Further information

Dr Whyte has kindly offered to pass on her knowledge and experience of researching chancel repair liability by giving a presentation to those who have are interested in establishing the existence and extent of chancel repair liability in their parish. A date has yet to be arranged and we are currently gauging interest in such an event. We should therefore be grateful if those who wish to attend could contact the registry to confirm their interest.

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