**In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Winchester**

**Directions concerning TEMPORARY MEASURES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH during the re-opening of churches for worship following the Covid-19 Health Crisis**

Individual parishes, PCCs and their clergy will need to prepare in advance to facilitate the re-opening of churches to protect those attending church services whilst having regard to whatever guidance the House of Bishops (and the government) issues.

It is appreciated that each and every parish and church will have different requirements. It is important to consider what permissions, if any, are needed before making changes to the church buildings and churchyards. The faculty jurisdiction continues to apply, although the court is anxious to ensure churches can reopen and will seek to ensure that the requirement for permission to make changes does not delay this if at all possible. To that end I make the following observations and directions.

Please check with your Archdeacon before undertaking any works but generally the following will be considered to be *de minimis* and therefore outside faculty jurisdiction:

Temporary signage, not permanently affixed to historic fabric;

Roping or cordoning off areas or seating;

Introduction of handwashing stations or sanitising stations at entrances and exits;

Temporary floor markers;

Addition of freestanding noticeboards or barriers to improve flow or appropriate movement through the church.

Some work may require permission under List B or possibly an Archdeacons’ Temporary Re-ordering Licence:

Temporary removal of some pews to facilitate appropriate spacing or to create corridors of movement;

The items detailed are not exhaustive; please contact your Archdeacon for advice.

Some more ambitious schemes may require faculty permission. Temporary measures relating to the health crisis and which require a faculty may be dealt with under an **INTERIM FACULTY** permission. An application for such a faculty may be made in any matter that the court allows, and provided that the archdeacon has been consulted I am happy to accept applications by email setting out clearly what is proposed and explaining any potential effects on the character of churches which are listed buildings.

I am also satisfied the current circumstances mean that it is appropriate to disapply the requirement for petitioners to be required to give an undertaking to follow any such INTERIM permission granted with a full faculty application. Under Rule 15.3 (3) of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015 I therefore Direct that for any INTERIM FACULTY relating to TEMPORARY measures to ensure the safety of parishioners during this health crisis the normal requirement under Rule 15.3(3) to give an undertaking to petition for a faculty within a specific period of time is disapplied. This is on the understanding the works are of a temporary nature and that they do not adversely affect the character of a listed building as a building of special architectural or historic interest.

In relation to TEMPORARY measures to be put in place and which fall within the faculty jurisdiction I am satisfied that the current circumstances mean that it would not be expedient to require the normal giving of public notices (rules 6.1 to 6.6). I direct that Public Notice must be displayed but that works may commence immediately permission is granted. Should objections be received the matter must be immediately referred to the Court for further Directions.

**Cain Ormondroyd**

**Chancellor of the Diocese of Winchester June 2020**