

LIGHTING AND WIRING: SOME COMMON QUESTIONS

Parishes considering electrical work should ensure that they receive clear advice. For their own protection and to help the DAC and the Chancellor understand what they intend they should ask someone (their architect, advisor or proposed contractor) to supply the following:

Information Needed by Parish and DAC

1. A plan of church (sketch) showing locations of works, e.g. lights, switches, sockets, wiring routes. Mounting heights of all light fittings and what they are attached to.
2. The DAC would like to see evidence that the PCC is satisfied with the controls, e.g. which lights are grouped onto each switch. This can be on the diagram or in a separate specification.
3. Photocopy of catalogue information for all light fittings (luminaires) showing appearance and dimensions.
4. Type of lamps (tungsten filament (GLS), metal halide, MBFU, SON etc.)
5. Type of wiring cable proposed (PVC, MICC, etc) or existing re-used. If re-used has it been inspected and tested? Method of installation (surface, chased into plaster, miniature trucking, conduit etc.)
6. Location of wiring (dado level, wall-plate etc). Is old wiring in the same route and will it be removed? Is new wiring close to sound system wiring and if so has electrical interference been considered?
7. Alterations to main distribution, if any
8. Are accessories, e.g. switches, sockets etc, surface or flush mounted. Brass, plastic or other?
9. External lighting and controls (time switches, PIR detectors etc.)
10. Qualifications of installer (NICEIC, or ECA etc)
- 11 Any provision for lighting special features such as a reredos or work of art

The parish should also obtain the church insurer's agreement in order to prevent any existing insurance arrangements being jeopardized.

Further Advice

A useful book on the subject is '*Church Lighting*' by Peter Jay and Bill Crawforth, ISBN 0-7151-7584-X, published by Church House Publishing. Some of the information in it could form the basis of a design specification.

Another useful publication is '*Wiring of Churches*' by Andrew Sage, ISBN 0-7151-7571-8, also published by Church House Publishing.

Help can be sought from the DAC and from the quinquennial inspector.

Durham DAC, April 2005