



Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches

Guidelines for lodging items at the Cathedral Treasury

Many PCCs are custodians of silver communion plate used locally by generations of worshippers. Often the plate continues to be used on a regular basis but, in some circumstances, the PCC has modern replacements and the older, valuable plate is more or less permanently stored in a safe or bank.

Concerns about the value of retaining such silver locked out of the way, rarely seen and, increasingly, costing the PCC in bank fees, have been expressed by a few PCCs.



Permission for disposal is difficult to obtain. The national Church Buildings Council has produced advice on Treasures available from the diocesan website but there is a presumption against disposal.

These items have been valued by the worshipping community often for centuries and directly link us today to our forebears. It is preferable for the silver to be used, even if there is a risk of damage or loss, than locked away.

However, use may not always be practical. The silver may be damaged and a flagon may leak; the items may have been optimistically crafted for a large congregation that never existed and is certainly too big for today's; or there may be modern replacements bought in memory of someone known to the current congregation.

St Edmundsbury Cathedral hosts a Treasury that can accommodate certain silverware (and other artefacts) from churches in the diocese. This brief paper sets out the procedure for churchwardens and PCCs to follow to lodge something at the Treasury. **Please note:** there is finite space available and an application may be refused.

Procedure:

1. The PCC must meet and pass a formal resolution recorded in the minute book that, with the appropriate authorisation, they wish to lodge an article or articles at the Treasury.
2. A written application is made to the Cathedral authorities via the Head Verger backed up with a full description of the item(s), valuation and photographs.
3. If the Cathedral is able to accept the item(s) then a De Minimis Schedule B application is made to the Archdeacon to move the items. An application form can be downloaded from the diocesan website.
4. The Archdeacon will want to see evidence of adequate insurance cover for the items during transit to the Cathedral (domestic car insurance may not cover high value goods). Items held in the Cathedral Treasury up to the value of £10,000* are covered by the Cathedral's insurance policy. Any additional premium payable for items in excess of this will have to be reimbursed by the PCC.
5. Once the Archdeacon has authorised the transfer then arrangements can be made with the Cathedral.

* as at 2013 and subject to change

It is important to note that the ownership of the items does not transfer to the Cathedral and with reasonable notice (and insurance in place) items can be made available to a PCC – for a patronal festival for example. The lodging or loaning of items to museums and galleries is not covered by these notes and should be referred to the Secretary of the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

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