**Queen’s Green Canopy**

**Churchyard Planting**

The Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022 inviting people from across the United Kingdom to **“Plant a tree for the** **Jubilee”**.

**DAC Advice on Applications by PCCs for Churchyard Tree Planting**

The planting of trees falls under Schedule 1, List B (B7.1): matters which may be undertaken without a faculty. Regard must be had to the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church->

To ensure that tree planting proposals are carefully designed, planned, and managed, the DAC recommends that the following documents are submitted along with the list B application form and offers the accompanying advice. This will help make the process as quick as possible.

* **A planting plan for the area in the churchyard to be planted might be requested**

The DAC recommends that PCCs have a plan of the churchyard. The archdeacon might ask to see a plan, if there are concerns about what you want to plant, or the number of trees being planted.

Ideally, if a plan is requested, it should be marked-up with dots and approximate canopy circles for existing trees and large shrubs. This might be based on a tree survey you have for the churchyard.

A schedule or key can be used to indicate all species.

Proposed new trees and shrubs should be marked with a simple cross/+. A schedule can be added or attached.

A colour plan might be helpful to highlight new trees but is not essential.

NB: If any trees need to be removed, these should also be indicated. The felling of a healthy tree requires a faculty. The felling of a tree that is dying or dead, or has become dangerous, falls under Schedule 1, List B (B7.2). Specified conditions apply.

* **A list of the species of trees the PCC would like to plant, how many and where**

These can be marked on your churchyard planting plan. The DAC favours native trees, which are in-keeping with the natural surroundings, habitat, and ecosystems.

However, non-native trees such as ornamental crab, cherry, Ginkgo, evergreens (such as Cedar) and many others might be appropriate, particularly where you wish to enhance the churchyard and create a specific effect with ornamental flower, leaf colour and/or evergreen foliage.

The DAC is unlikely to support species which might look out of character or be problematical in future such as Cupressus, Eucalyptus or laurel. Species which bear poisonous fruit/berries and flowers such as laburnum should be used with care. Yew is of course a traditional churchyard tree so could be an exception.

When selecting your trees, please consider other factors such as, proximity to the church, other buildings and structures, key views of the church, churchyard, and other local features, shading from the church or nearby buildings, impact on wildflower grassland, the stability of structures such as headstones, box tombs, and churchyard walls, soil conditions, and access for tree management.

The overall size, height, span, and root depth/spread of the proposed trees once mature should be a key consideration. Make sure space is available to accommodate the tree when grown to full size. Or anticipate the management which may be needed, such as pollarding some lime trees. Consider who will maintain the tree/s and carry out formative watering/pruning so that they become well-established and thrive.

It is important that the overall effect and character required for the churchyard is considered. The local character of the churchyard and its setting/surrounding landscape should help inform suitable tree species and the approach to planting.

The DAC is likely to support a well-designed plan where it can be shown that proposed trees will enhance the churchyard, and where there is suitable space available.

* **Photographs of the area to be planted, including any established trees or shrubs might also assist your application**

**Closed Churchyards**

A closed churchyard remains subject to faculty jurisdiction yet often, responsibility for its maintenance has been transferred by the PCC to the local authority (the parish, town, or district council). In such cases, the DAC recommends that the PCC consults with the local authority before making an application to ensure that the planting of a new tree/s does not cause a maintenance issue.

Please refer to the following websites for further information, and for advice on caring for trees in general:

**Church of England website** > Resources > Church Care > Advice & Guidance…

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church->

**Caring for Gods Acre website**…

<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>

**Woodland Trust** > plant-trees > advice > choose…

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/choose/>