

# See the Wood for the Trees

Foundation Courses in Local Leadership – Churches & Churchyards









# Context

- Most of our churches will have trees on their site.
- Those with extensive churchyards could have dozens or hundreds.
- Churchyards can contain incredibly historic and significant trees, especially yews.
- What level of management/permission is required for tree works.



# Role in mission



<https://vimeo.com/644082276>





# Management

- Suggest a 5-year survey to coincide with QI.
- Registered Arboriculturist, update yearly by CWs.
- Cleaning gutters etc. of leaves.
- Most species do need to be managed.
- Trees can often interact with graves/tombs.
- If churchyard is *Closed by Order in Council* then maintenance and management including trees has passed to local council (either parish or district).







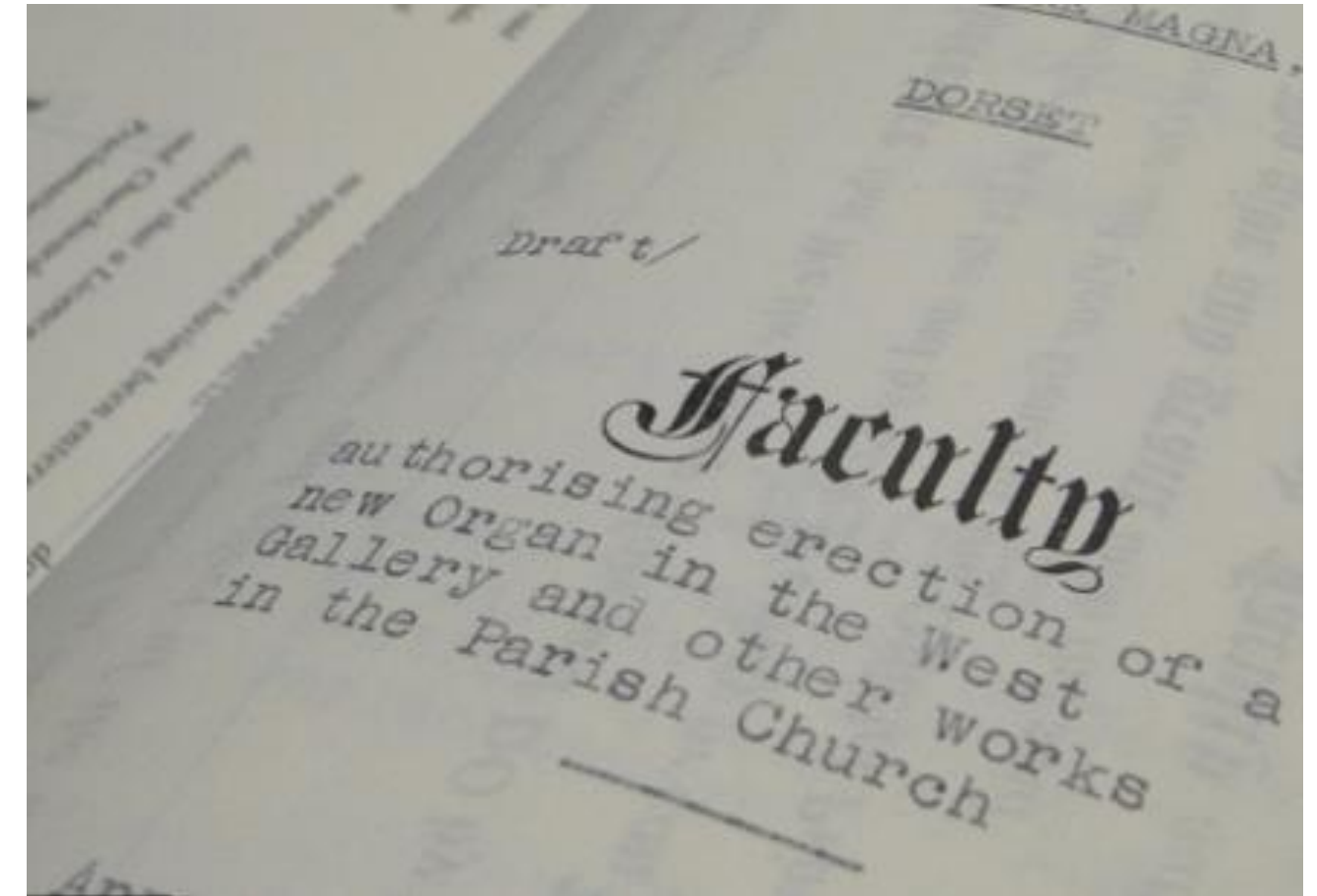
# Planting

- Think carefully before considering planting (lots of trees already!).
- Species that complement with the area, building, existing species.
- Schemes donating saplings – don't accept until permission in place.



# Permissions - Ecclesiastical

- List A (no permission)
  - Maintenance
  - Trees with stem <75mm at 1.5m height
  - Branch lopping
- List B (Archdeacon's consent)
  - Planting
  - Felling of dead, dying, dangerous trees
  - All other work except felling healthy trees (crown lift, pollard etc.)
- Faculty (Chancellor's consent)
  - Felling of healthy trees
  - Effect on trees from building works





# Permissions - Secular

- Tree Preservation Orders
- Conservation Area Notifications (s211)
- Emergency 5-day notice (immediate risk)
- Trees near power lines exemption from consent for Western Power
- Speak to LPA Tree Officer
- Check *My Local Area* – not all of our councils





- A sketch map of the tree(s) location. This does not have to be to scale but demonstrating the distances between trees, boundaries, properties and relevant features is advised. Adjoining properties and roads should be included.
- The tree type and condition.
- The applicant and other parties' interest in the tree.
- Description of the intended works and reasons for the works, showing which trees will be affected and the type of work which will be done on them.
- Any replacement trees which will be planted (applicable when a tree is under protection of a TPO).
- Whether a bat survey has been undertaken.



# Links

- Church of England <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/trees>
- Arboricultural Association <https://www.trees.org.uk/>
- Caring for God's Acre <https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/>
- Yew Gazeteer <https://www.ancient-yew.org/ss.php/worcester-diocese/12/78/80>
- Local Authority planning pages