

COMMISSION ON CHURCH BUILDINGS

REPORT 2006

COMMISSIONERS

Mr WF Baker (Chairman)
Rev TR Moore
Mr J Ashenhurst
Ven SR McBride

Mrs DM Burns
Mr G Bradley
Very Rev JMG Sirr
Rev NJ Hughes

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Commission was established by statute of the General Synod Chapter I of 1986.

Section 3 of the Statute states:

- (1) The diocesan council of any diocese may request the commissioners to schedule for enquiry in regard to the number of churches used for public worship the whole or any substantial area or areas of such diocese, and the commissioners after consideration shall determine whether to accede to such request, and shall notify the diocesan council and the Representative Body of its determination.
- (2) Where a diocese or part of it has been scheduled under subsection (1), the bishop, the diocesan council, the parochial authorities, and the Representative Body on the request of the commissioners shall furnish to the commissioners any information which may appear to the commissioners to be necessary to enable them to consider and determine any matter referred to them by this statute for their consideration and determination.
- (3) The commissioners shall not exercise any of their powers under this statute in any diocese except upon the request of the diocesan council.

Section 6 sub-section 3 and 4 states:

- (3) The commissioners may recommend to the Representative Body, and the Representative Body may make, grants from the fund for the demolition of churches which have been closed, whether before or after the enactment of this statute and whether in accordance with the provisions of this statute or by other lawful means.
- (4) Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section (3) above, the commissioners may also recommend to the Representative Body, and the Representative Body may make, grants from the fund:
 - (a) Towards the development of churches which remain open in a benefice following a final determination, provided artifacts used in such development come from a church which was closed subsequent to that final determination;

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- (b) Towards making safe ruined or redundant church buildings which are either of historic or visual significance in a local landscape.

2. MEETINGS

The Commission met once during the year.

3. GRANTS

The following grants were recommended by the Commissioners and subsequently approved by the Representative Church Body:

- Castlerickard (Meath) - lowering height of walls and making building safe: €3,500
- Fuerty (Elphin) - removing ivy growth from walls and tower and re-pointing of walls: €4,000
- Oldcastle (Meath) - removing pews, memorials and framed tablets from the closed churches of Loughcrew and Drumconrath and relocating to St Brides church: €7,000

4. GENERAL SYNOD ALLOCATION

No General Synod allocation was made for the current year.

The amount to credit is €26,869.