

# The Archdeacon of Maidstone

The Venerable Stephen Taylor MBE  
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30 January 2015

Dear Colleagues,

The November Diocesan Synod were notified that the DBF agreed that from 1 January 2015 parish faculty fees will be paid centrally by the diocese and not by the parishes.

The reasons behind this decision are:

1. To protect parishes from being tempted to take a shortcut to save a few pounds which could have huge negative consequences if proper procedures aren't followed.
2. It is another tangible way for parishes to receive some real support from the diocese.
3. It helps the DAC advisor, Archdeacons and others to be able to give advice to pursue a faculty where it isn't all at the parish's cost.

2015 will see changes to faculty applications and the above decision does not of itself change anything in the process of applying for a faculty. At the point where the Registry requests payment by a letter they will now say the diocese will cover these costs and the fees will be paid by the DBF.

With parish faculties, the DBF will only pay the initial fee payable when the petition is lodged at the Registry; any fees incurred subsequently (for example if a hearing is required) will remain payable by the parish or as the Commissary General directs

NB: All 'private' faculty fees which mainly cover churchyards (headstones, grave reservations etc.) will continue to be borne by each individual applicant.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Taylor'.

Archdeacon Stephen

*This email has been sent to Churchwardens and parish clergy in Canterbury Diocese. Please share*

*with colleagues as required.*

**Canterbury Diocese**

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