

# WORKING WITH CHURCHES

## PARISHES AND PCCS

You will mostly be working with members of the Parochial Church Council or PCC. The PCC will include one or more Church Wardens as well as other officers such as Fabric Officer, Treasurer, Secretary etc.

The PCC are all volunteers and are completely responsible for the upkeep and repair of what may be a huge, Grade I listed building. They have to finance all works on the building themselves through fundraising, although may be helped by the rest of the Church of England, primarily their Diocese.

## DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Church of England is split into 42 Dioceses, each led by a Bishop and each with a Diocesan Advisory Committee or DAC.

The DAC is responsible for giving advice on church building works and providing official permission for works, referred to as Faculty. This is the equivalent of Listed Building Consent for secular buildings. If the works proposed are very complicated, a DAC member may want to see your reports or come along on your visit.

Diocese boundaries do not follow county boundaries so you may end up working with several Dioceses within your local area, or with your county bat group.

## BISHOPS, ARCHBISHOPS, CLERGY

Bishops, Archbishops and Clergy are primarily responsible for delivering the mission of the church, holding services and providing spiritual guidance. However the local parish priest, rector or vicar in particular will usually be very interested in the church building itself and may be someone who you will meet during your work.

## HELPING CHURCHES LOVE THEIR BATS

The vast majority of churches are not specifically opposed to bats. However, they can suffer very badly from the effects of bats including damage to the interior, a huge cleaning burden, delays to much needed repair works and may also have serious hygiene concerns.

Please do listen to these concerns and take them seriously. Simple, factual information can help reduce some negative opinions of bats, for example bats only having one pup a year rather than breeding like mice or rats, or that bats rarely transmit disease.

You may be able to help the church use their bats as a resource for fundraising or to attract visitors by helping them arrange a bat night or similar event. You can direct the PCC to advice and help on cleaning, or ask your bat group if they can help with a yearly clean of the church.



# USEFUL RESOURCES

## CHURCH OF ENGLAND WEBSITE- [www.churchofengland.org/about/diocese-our-regional-presence](http://www.churchofengland.org/about/diocese-our-regional-presence)

For all information about the Church of England, including guidance and Faculty. There is also a useful map showing all the Dioceses and a link to each Diocese website

## A CHURCH NEAR YOU- [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

The easiest way to find contact details and locations for any parish church in England

## EXPLORE CHURCHES- [www.explorechurches.org](http://www.explorechurches.org)

History and information about some but not all parish churches, mostly aimed at visitors and tourists

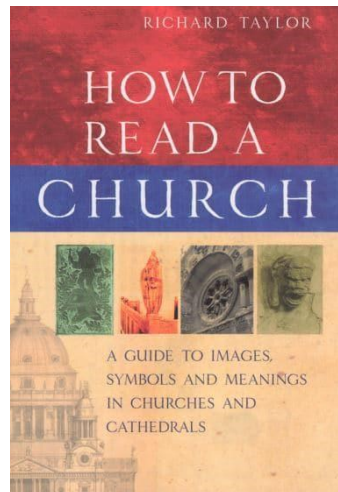
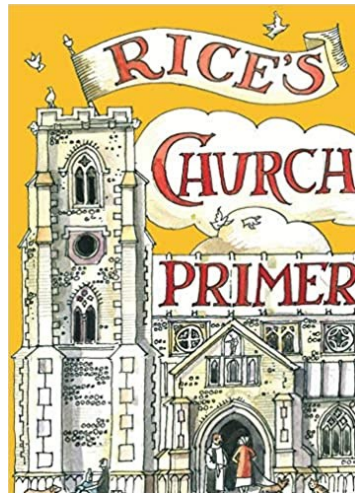
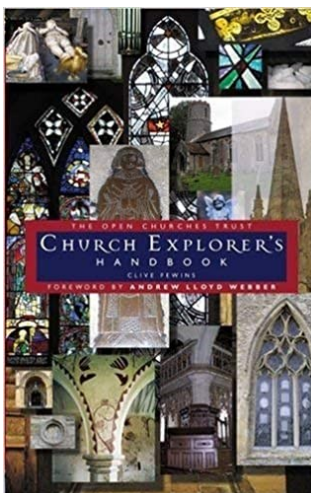
## CHURCHES CONSERVATION TRUST- [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)

National charity protecting churches at risk. Their website has a range of resources including a virtual tour of a parish church, resources for families, heritage skills advice and regular talks on church history, use and architecture

## BOOKS

There are lots of books that will introduce you to churches and church architecture. Three we've found particularly useful are *The Church Explorer's Handbook* by Clive Fewins, *Rice's Church Primer* by Matthew Rice, and *How To Read A Church* by Richard Taylor (also available in a 'pocket' edition)

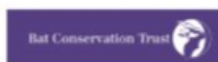
If you become interested in your local churches, you might want to invest in the Pevsner Architectural Guide for your area which will have details about each church in the region

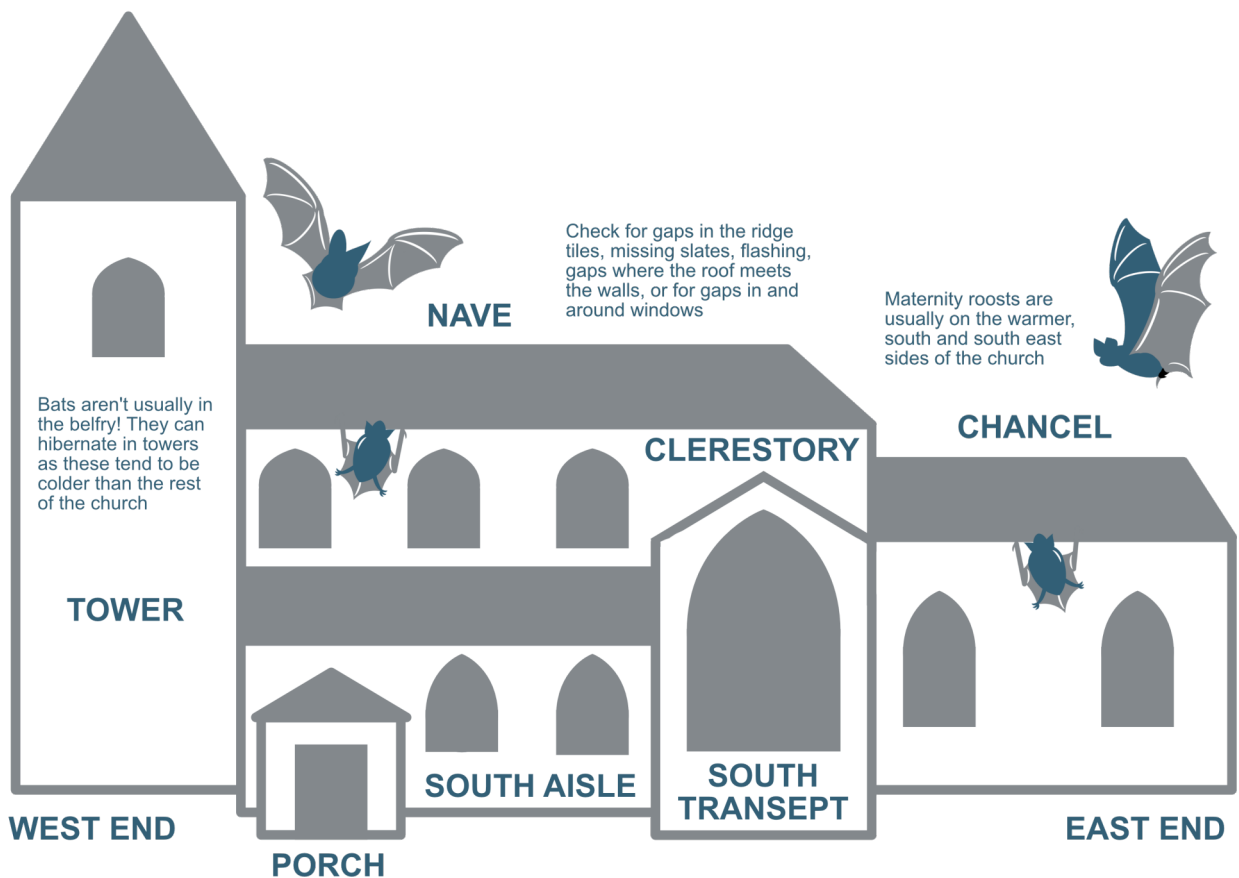
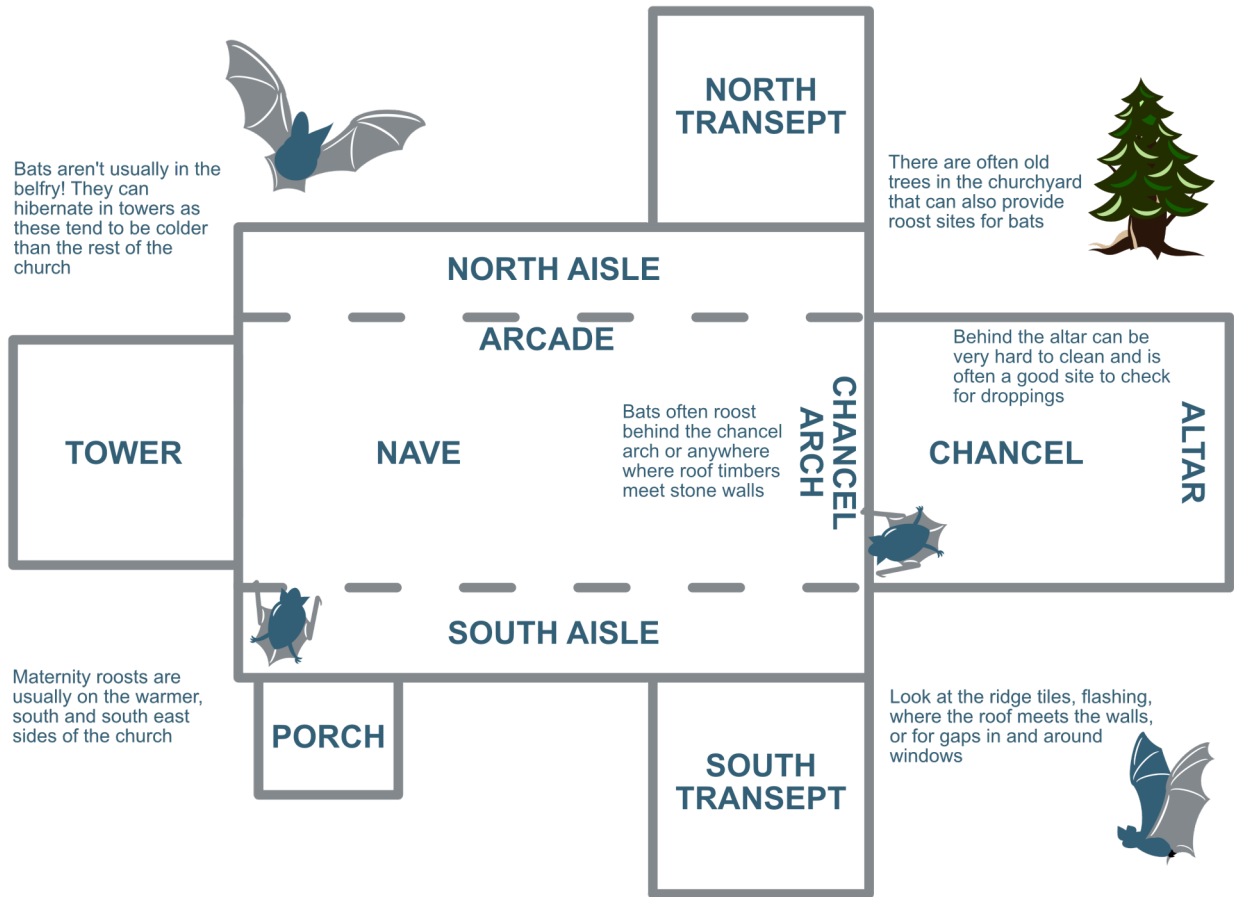


 @batsinchurches

 batsinchurches

[batsinchurches.org](http://batsinchurches.org)





**WALL MEMORIALS** often highly carved or decorated so can catch bat droppings! Marble or alabaster may be permanently stained by urine

**BRASSES** can be on the walls or floor, brasses are easily stained and damaged by bat urine

**HATCHMENT** painted wooden boards with a coat of arms, may show urine staining

**ORGAN** pipes can often show urine damage. Pipes can also fill with bat droppings or feeding debris

**PULPIT** where the clergy stand to preach. Usually at the east of the nave

**REREDOS** a carved wood or stone screen behind the altar. Behind the reredos is very hard to reach to clean so is often a good spot to check for droppings

**FONT** usually stone and placed near the west end of the church

**PEWS AND BENCHES** may be Medieval and can be highly carved. Check the wood for signs of bat damage

**LEDGER STONES** carved floor memorials. These are often a good place to spot bat urine

**ROOD SCREEN** there may be a carved and painted screen between the nave and chancel

**TABLE/EFFIGY TOMBS** may have a life-sized figure or be quite plain. Marble and alabaster tombs may be badly damaged by urine

**LECTERN** used to rest the bible for readings, may be wood or brass

**ALTAR** at the east end of a church, the most sacred space in the church so particularly distressing if damaged by bat droppings

