

Memo

CIRCULAR NO. 9

To: Incumbents & Churchwardens
cc: Archdeacons
Ref: GM/ps

From: Assistant Diocesan Secretary

Date: January 2008

Re: **Enquiries about Chancel Repair Liability (CRL) for properties in your parish**

Dear Colleagues

I am writing to you as from time to time incumbents and churchwardens receive enquiries about CRL for properties in their parish.

It may be that your church does not have CRL, either because your PCC has carried out its researches on CRL and found that none exists; or because the living is, and always has been, a Rectory, in which case the advice we have received is that there cannot also have been a Lay Rector with CRL. It may simply be that your church is too young, as only medieval churches will possibly have this liability.

However, even if you are in one of these categories, if you receive an enquiry about CRL for properties in your parish, it would not be safe to reply unconditionally that no CRL exists for that property. This is because CRL attaches to land, which may not necessarily be adjacent to the church in question for historical reasons, so that there could still be properties in your parish with CRL but which are associated with a neighbouring medieval church.

The purpose of this memo, therefore, is to invite you in these circumstances to refer all such enquiries to the Diocesan Office for reply.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff Marsh
Assistant Diocesan Secretary