

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

CARPETS IN CHURCHES

There is an increasing vogue for carpets to be used as a floor covering in churches. Setting aside, for the moment, the principle of whether or not carpet in churches is appropriate, PCCs should be aware of the following points:-

1. **NO** carpet should be introduced without due authority, either from the Archdeacon or through faculty.
2. The effect on historic fabric must be investigated.
3. Carpet can damage brasses, stone slabs and mediaeval tiles. They will need specialist protection.
4. Floors without damp proof courses (DPCs) will be damp.
5. Unless the floor is known to have a DPC, or is a raised wooden platform, the choice of carpet or underlay must not be manufactured from rubber, gel or other non-porous materials. Damp will accumulate under the covering and could be forced out towards the walls.
6. Any fixings must not damage historic fabric or adversely affect the appearance of a floor if the carpet is removed.

Before considering the provision of carpet in your church, please read “Church Floors and Floor Coverings” published by the Council for the Care of Churches”; £3.75 available from Church House Bookshop , 31 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BN (020 7898 1301/2; Fax 020 7898 1305).

Consult your quinquennial inspecting architect or surveyor.

For further information contact the DAC Administrator at the Diocesan office. telephone 01634 560000

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