

FAQs

What is the Building Management Portal?

It is the Church of England's new national digital platform for managing applications relating to works on churches, their contents and churchyards.

Why is the Online Faculty System being replaced?

The Online Faculty System is reaching the end of its lifecycle and requires modernisation. The new Building Management Portal will be easier to use, saving users time on their church faculty applications. The new portal will also connect with other centrally managed C of E systems and meet modern standards of data security.

When will the new Building Management Portal launch?

- April 2026 – to four dioceses (Coventry, Durham, Portsmouth and Worcester dioceses)
- Late August 2026 – National rollout to all dioceses currently using the Online Faculty System

What will happen to my current case?

All ongoing and historic cases will be transferred into the Building Management Portal without the need for resubmission.

Will Lists A and B continue?

Yes. The existing permissions framework remains in place. The new system simply provides a more efficient and coherent way to manage applications.

How do I login to the new Building Management Portal?

Access to the Building Management Portal is through the Church of England portal (cofeportal.org). This provides online security and gives users direct access to other national Church systems without the need to login to each one individually. These other systems include the People System, Parish Returns, Parish Buying, Parish Resources, A Church Near You, and the Church Organiser.

To provide the necessary online security, the CofE Portal includes two-factor authentication. This is managed by personal settings, either through email or an app on your mobile phone.

You will receive instructions about how to set up an account on the Church of England portal if you do not already have one.

Will I need to register to access the new Building Management Portal?

Yes. The first time you use the Building Management Portal you will be asked to register your diocese and your role(s). This process ensures you have access to the functions and permissions associated with your role(s).

Can I have more than one user account?

The new system will allow each user to have as many roles as needed across multiple dioceses.

Who can I speak to if I have difficulty accessing the system?

Please contact Tim Latham (DAC Secretary) to discuss any access issues in the first instance.

When will dioceses adopt the system?

Coventry, Durham, Portsmouth and Worcester will adopt it in April 2026. All remaining dioceses currently using the Online Faculty System will adopt it in late August 2026, except London and St Albans.

What happens at the end of the pilot?

If you are in the pilot group, you will continue to use the Building Management Portal rather than revert to the Online Faculty System. Once the rollout is complete, the Building Management Portal will become the single national system for all relevant applications.

Will training be provided?

Yes. Training videos will be available, demonstrating how to use the system, upload documents and complete applications. We are also planning to make simple, printable guides available for each of the different stages to mirror the video guides that are being produced.

How secure is the new system?

The Building Management Portal has been designed to meet modern standards of data security, encryption and user identity management, supported by the single sign on approach via the Church of England Portal.

Who can I contact about the new Building Management Portal?

If you have any questions about the new portal, please speak to Tim Latham (DAC Secretary) in the first instance.

Alternatively, you can email buildingmanagementportal@churchofengland.org.

Who funded the new system?

The Building Management Portal has been funded by the Church Commissioners.