



Dear Geoffrey

Thank you for the notes of the meeting with the DAC casework group which took place on 5<sup>th</sup> March.

The Standing Committee of the Parochial Church Council and the Building Transformation Project working group have both met and considered the concerns and comments detailed in your notes. We hope the following response will receive the support of the DAC working group.

### **The floor**

We are pleased to confirm that it has always been our intention to incorporate the ledger stones within the visible floor surface of the church. We have removed the carpet covering the floor of the south chapel, the east end of the north aisle and the carpets in the central aisle of the nave.

The north aisle has a wooden planked floor and appears to be an extension of the wooden plinth area within the nave. There are no ledger stones on the surface. We removed one of the wooden planks and although the view was limited we could see no evidence of ledger stones below the floor – please see attached photos.

The floor of the South Chapel contains a number of ledger stones. It seems highly likely that these were collected together here during one or other (or both) of the nineteenth century reorderings. We are currently cataloguing and measuring these and the four at the west end of the church. Our proposal is to incorporate all of the legible or partly legible ones within the surface of the new floor in the South Chapel.

With regard to the bases of the single pier and two pilasters in the South Chapel, please see attached proposals from Nigel Walter, our Architect.

### **The Pews**

We accept Historic England's suggestion to retain two rows of pews and are pleased that the DAC will be flexible and accept a reduction in length to improve their movability.

We will adopt the DAC working group suggestion to create three pews each with six back holes, similar to the attached photo. The reduction in length will enable us to use them frequently within both the South Chapel and the Chancel. We hope that this proposal will be acceptable to both the DAC and the Amenity Societies.

### **Chancel**

Creating a vestry and storage area at the east end of the chancel form a key part of the project as detailed in our Statement of Needs.

We have carried out a storage audit, as requested. This clearly shows that there is no feasible alternative to our proposal. The audit is attached and from it will be seen that the new storage will be used for two new table storage units, up to four new chair storage units, music equipment including keyboard, stands, fold back speakers, and mini display screens. At present all the music equipment is left out in church as we have nowhere to put it. For the church to be an asset for community use as well as a church we need to be able to store everything safely and securely.

Whilst the second phase of the project might offer additional storage possibilities, it is likely to be many years before that phase can proceed due to the costs involved, and even when achieved cannot be expected to address the storage needs within the church. Each part of the building must remain capable of use independent of the other, and it is essential to have adequate storage in reasonable proximity to where it will be needed.

The Chancel at St Mary's is 12.2 metres (40 feet) long and 5.7 metres (18.7 feet) wide. At present the altar area consists of a simple altar table and wall hanging banner beneath the stained glass window. Please see photos below.





Our preferred design for the partition wall would match this simple arrangement – see below





An alternative to the above is in the following iterations, the first being preferred:



### **Piscina and Sedilia**

At present the piscina and sedilia in the chancel cannot be seen at all from the nave due to the choir pews in the chancel and the distance from the nave.

When the project is completed and when the church is open to visitors we will open the vestry door to enable those who want to, to see them. We will also create information boards about them and the piscina in the South Chapel. On these occasions the church will be staffed to give a welcome to the visitors and to maintain security. All storage within the vestry will be lockable.

### **Chairs**

We are in the process of obtaining a number of different chairs from the leading suppliers for our congregation to give their views. All have wooden backs and seats and either metal or wooden legs. We will seek your views on the most popular in due course.

### **Heating**

We have commissioned a heating audit of the church building which will influence our preferred solutions in this area.

Please circulate this document and attachments to the amenity societies for their comments, should you wish to.

I look forward to hearing from you with feedback from the DAC and the working group.

Yours sincerely

Derek Tye

Churchwarden

Chair – St Mary's Building Transformation Project Group

15 May 2019