

<b>DAC SITE VISIT NOTES</b>
<b>Church: St Mary Ely</b>
<b>Date: 24 October 2019</b>
<b>Subject: Re-ordering</b>

**Present at meeting:** The Very Revd Mark Bonney (DAC Chair), David Grech (DAC member), The Revd Chris Hill (Vicar), Mr Derek Tye (Churchwarden), Mr Nigel Walter (project architect), Mr Geoffrey Hunter (DAC Secretary)

### 1. Background

Following earlier visits and DAC recommendations, all major matters of concern to the DAC had been resolved. This site meeting was convened to address the one remaining area of concern for the DAC, which was the works to the chancel to install a wall to partition off two new rooms at the east end, and the provision of a suitable holy table in that area.

### 2. Timberwork

The project architect confirmed that the timberwork (oak) would be in a mid-tone, similar to the existing door jamb to the south door. The exact colouring could be agreed as a reserved matter when a sample is available.

### 3. Altar/Holy Table

- (a) The proposed re-use of the existing high altar had raised concerns for the DAC
  - a. It is large and bringing it forward would emphasize that
  - b. It was designed solely for eastward celebration
  - c. Its plain panelled design suggests it was not intended to be seen but rather hung with frontals in normal use, which was not the intention now
- (b) The DAC has proposed using the existing nave altar, a smaller, open, c. Jacobean oak table; however the colour of this table was very dark and it was agreed that the new timberwork should not be so dark.
- (c) It was agreed that this rather fine table could replace the one currently in use in the side chapel, which appeared to be a marriage of a number of elements, only some of which had real age.
- (d) Both the current high altar and the existing lady chapel altar could be disposed of, and a new table commissioned, suitably designed to serve the purposes of both high altar and nave altar (ie it could be brought forward when necessary, but would otherwise live in the chancel where it would remain prominently visible while not interfering with activities in the nave).

### 4. Chancel partition

- (a) The amount of plain plaster in the current proposal was of some concern to the DAC. The vertical areas of plaster work on the outer edges of the wall (beyond the respective doors) might better be faced with timber to match the adjacent doors.

*All views expressed on DAC site visits are informal and not binding on the DAC until this record of the meeting has been ratified by a formal meeting of the DAC.*

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- (b) The central plastered area could be relieved by suitable artwork probably based around the cross shown in the present proposal, but, it was hoped, with more artistic interest.
- (c) The DAC Secretary noted that the Cottam Will Trust gives money specifically for new works of art in medieval churches and encouraged the PCC to approach them.
- (d) The visual impact of the remaining plaster could be reduced by choosing the right colour - probably only subtly off-white. Again approval of a sample could be a reserved matter.

#### **5. Conclusion**

- (a) Subject to approving timber samples and paint samples the DAC can now recommend the partition wall in the chancel
- (b) It was agreed that the holy table would best be done in mock-up to start with (design to be agreed with DAC), with an experimental period of up to 18 months to assess both the practical and aesthetic impact.

#### **6. Next steps**

- (a) The PCC is keen to petition for faculty consent for these works, to assist with fundraising. Subject to reserved matters described above, the DAC recommends the proposal.

**Geoffrey Hunter, Church Buildings Consultant 4 November 2019**