

# Supporting Documentation

## Stockport St George – Handrails

### Note to parish

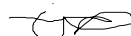
This bundle includes all the supporting documentation to your faculty application as required under Rule 5.5 of the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2019.

### List of documentation

Item	Description	Page
<i>Overview</i>		
1	Schedule of Works or Proposals from the Petition for Faculty logged 4 January 2023	2
2	Statement of Significance dated February 2023, uploaded 16 February 2023	3
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Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary



18 May 2023

**We petition the Court for a faculty to authorise the following-**

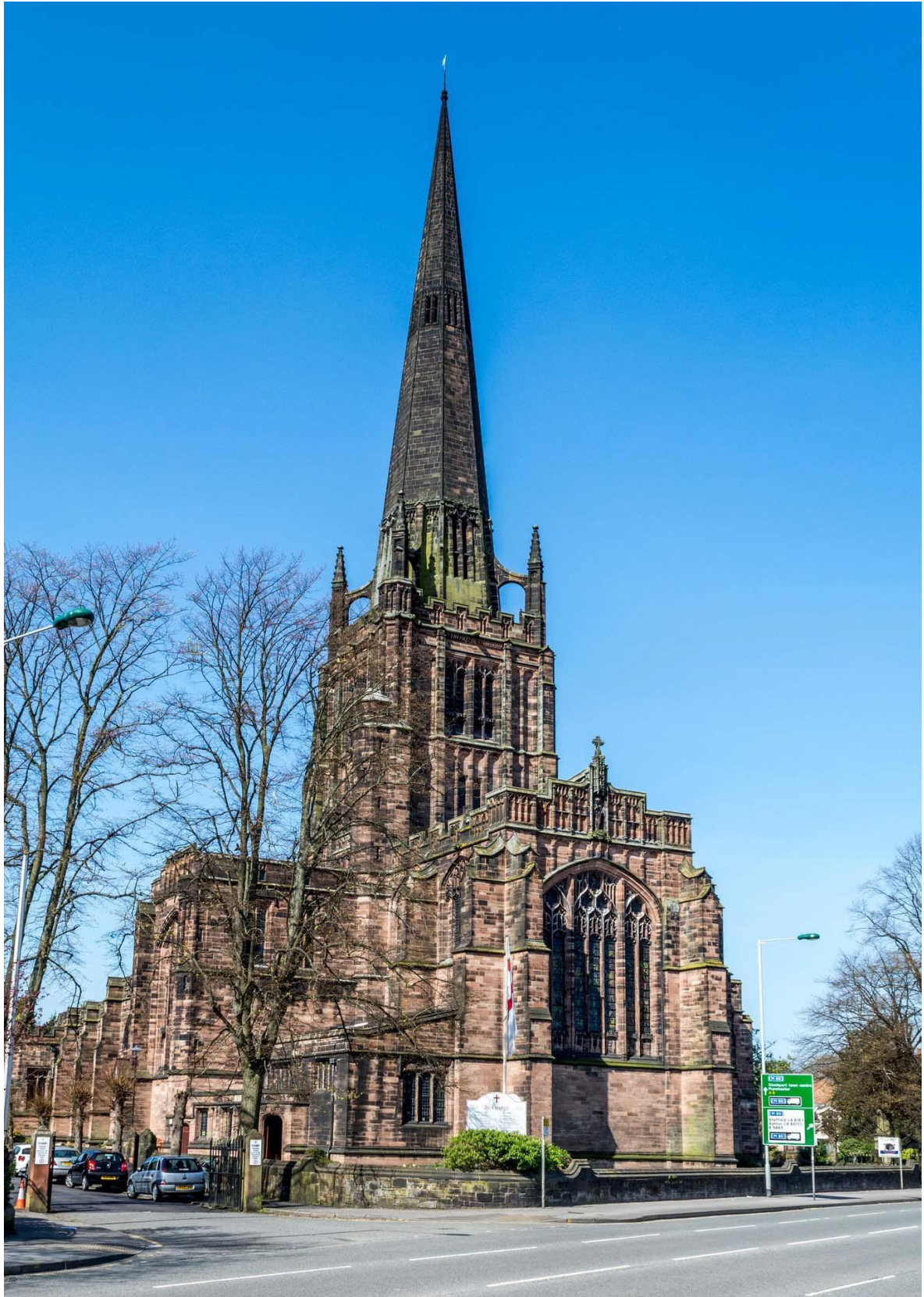
*Please describe the works or other proposals for which a faculty is sought in the way recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee in its Notification of Advice.*

**SCHEDULE OF WORKS OR PROPOSALS**

**Handrails**

Handrails are now deemed to be a requirement by the PCC to the North porch doors in order to aid access by the elderly and disabled. This is the doorway commonly used for funerals. These would be the same as those provided to the south porch and would be made by the same company, providing a continuity of design.

*Copies of the Standard Information Form and any drawings, plans, specifications, photographs or other documents showing the proposals must be provided with this petition.*



## 8195 | St George's Church, Stockport

### Statement of Significance

February 2023

**Buttress**

3 of 12

## Location and Site Description

The Church of St George is located on the west side of the A6 Buxton Road, one mile south of Stockport town centre. The church is listed Grade I and sits within the St Georges Conservation Area which includes the listed St George's Primary School across the private road. The churchyard is defined by a low stone wall with carved stone gate piers and decorative iron gates. The churchyard is mostly laid to lawn with plant beds and gravel and stone flagged paths.

With its bold tower and spire, the church presents a significant landmark in the locality.



## Historical Note

St George's was built in 1896-7 to serve the rapidly expanding residential area of Heaviley to the south of Stockport town centre but the size and state of the building also indicates that it was intended to have more than a local role, with the seating capacity being 1,030, extending to 1,400 with additional chairs.

The architect was Hubert James Austin of the Lancaster based practice of Austin and Paley. The practice was prolific throughout the latter half of the century and well into the 20th century.



Other important churches by the practice are All Soul's, Astley Bridge (Bolton); St Matthew and James, Mossley Hill (Liverpool); Holy Cross Knutsford; St Mary, Widnes, etc. Christ Church, Waterloo (1891-4 now under threat of demolition) is perhaps the most interesting in comparison, being of similar size and material, with many comparable details.

The Church was built at the expense of George Fearn who also paid for the vicarage (also by Austin and Paley, though in a Queen Anne style) and the church school. The whole site is therefore a complete and very pleasing composition even though the site layout is not as originally proposed by the architects.

The church is of the "Perpendicular" style, though not without significant free interpretation by the architect. Pevsner describes it as "a masterpiece of the latest historicism .... A church on a splendid scale" and Julian Orbach (Victorian Architecture of Britain 1987) calls the church a "major work of the late Gothic revival, sensitive and scholarly".

#### Description and Materials

Though of innovative design in terms of detailing, etc. the plan of the church is traditional with a nave and side aisle, transepts with a central crossing and supporting the tower with a chancel beneath and the sanctuary beyond. To the north of the chancel is a side chapel (now known as the 'Lady Chapel' but originally known as the 'Morning Chapel') and the south is flanked by the vestries. The south transept contains the organ and the north is part of the chapel. The tower is topped by a spire, in total 230 ft high.

The east end of the church has a free-standing marble reredos. Nearly all the original fittings are still in the church, most of which were designed by the architect. The quality of detail and execution of the fittings (e.g. the oak choir stalls, screens, organ casing and stained glass) is of an equally high standard as that of the main structure.

Above the central crossing is a ringing chamber with 10 bells hung in 1896 and by Meres and Stainbank of London.

The principal building material is a North Cheshire sandstone, pink in colour and prone to weathering.

The nave and chancel roofs are covered in slate, replacing what was reportedly a stone slate roof. The aisle roofs are covered in lead. The roof structure is of oak with exposed trusses and the ceiling is boarded in timber. The sanctuary is vaulted in sandstone. The roof is concealed behind tall stone parapets. The floors of the church are wood block beneath pews with stone flags between.

The heating system is fairly conventional gas (originally coke, then oil) boilers with large diameter pipes and radiators. The system of ducts, etc. was incorporated into the design of the stone structure. This represents quite an innovative approach to servicing of buildings, at a time when the integration of heating and ventilation systems into the architecture was only just being developed. The scheme incorporates heating ducts at clerestory level, ventilation to the voids beneath the parapet gutters and to the chancel vault void.

There is no doubt that this is one of the most important buildings at the end of the Gothic Revival. Austin and Paley's work is becoming increasingly appreciated and assessed along side the more well known "masters" of Victorian Gothic (Scott, Bodley, Waterhouse, etc.) The size of the church alone means it is worthy of mention. The spire is the tallest in Greater Manchester. The profile and mass of the church is perhaps the most impressive feature for some have criticised the interior, stating the nave to be rather mechanical and lifeless. Austin played around with motifs of the 15th century, perpendicular style, adding his own interpretations to the established genre. This produced a magnificent space in the great chancel crossing, the stepped roof shaped in the chapel and the heavily mullioned East and West windows. But perhaps the monochrome colour scheme (sandstone used throughout, only relieved by the similar tone of the timber roof and fittings) and slightly over slender nave columns represent too rigid an approach to the design. It is understood that Austin regarded St George's as his greatest opportunity as an ecclesiastical architect, but perhaps he was spoilt by the exceptional budget, which enabled the best use of materials and craftsmanship but removed the need for invention as seen in his more modest buildings. (e.g. St James, Daisy Hill or St Peter, Leigh). This may seem rather harsh criticism, since St George's is certainly a magnificent building by architects though, whose office was at Lancaster, were local architects, are of the highest European standard of their years." (Pevsner)



Northwest prospect



Nave looking east



Nave looking east

North Porch outer doors







Significance of the area affected by the proposal.

The provision of handrails to the north porch doors.

#### North Porch doors

There are steps up to the doors that impede access to all church users. The proposal is to install simple mild steel handrails similar to those already installed at the south porch doors.

Level of Significance

Moderate - High

The proposed handrails will be manufactured in mild steel, painted black to give a similar appearance to the wrought ironwork gates nearby.

A dark arrow indicates the location of the north porch doors on the location plan at the beginning of this document.





## Listing Description

Name: CHURCH OF ST GEORGE

List entry Number: 1067194

### Location

CHURCH OF ST GEORGE, BUXTON ROAD

District: Stockport

District Type: Metropolitan Authority

Grade: I

Date first listed: 10-Mar-1975

### List entry Description

#### Details

In the entry for: BUXTON ROAD 1. (West Side) 5036 Church of St George SJ 9088 12/48 SJ 8988 16/48

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BUXTON ROAD 1. (West Side) 5086 Church of St George

SJ 9088 12/48 SJ 8988 16/48 B GV

1896-7. Architects, Austin and Paley, General character Perpendicular of the end of the Gothic Revival, with traces of Art Nouveau. Splendid large building in ashlar. Crenellated crossing tower with carved inscription with spire between thin flying buttresses connecting it with 4 pinnacles, with whole about 230 ft high. East window of 7 lights between heavy buttresses. West window of 7 lights Interior has 6 bays before crossing: wide high nave with attractive wooden ceiling. Organ case by Austin. Built at the expense of George Farm, a brewer, who also gave the Vicarage and the School (qv). His grave is marked by a miniature replica of the church spire.

St George's Church, St George's Church of England Primary School and Secondary Modern Schools, Wall and gate piers form a group with the Vicarage.

Listing NGR: SJ8999288929

National Grid Reference: SJ 89992 88933

**ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, STOCKPORT**  
**STATEMENT OF NEED**

**Parish Stockport**

**Dedication St George**

**Diocese Chester**

**Location Buxton Road, Stockport SK2 6NU**

**Local Authority Stockport Borough Council**

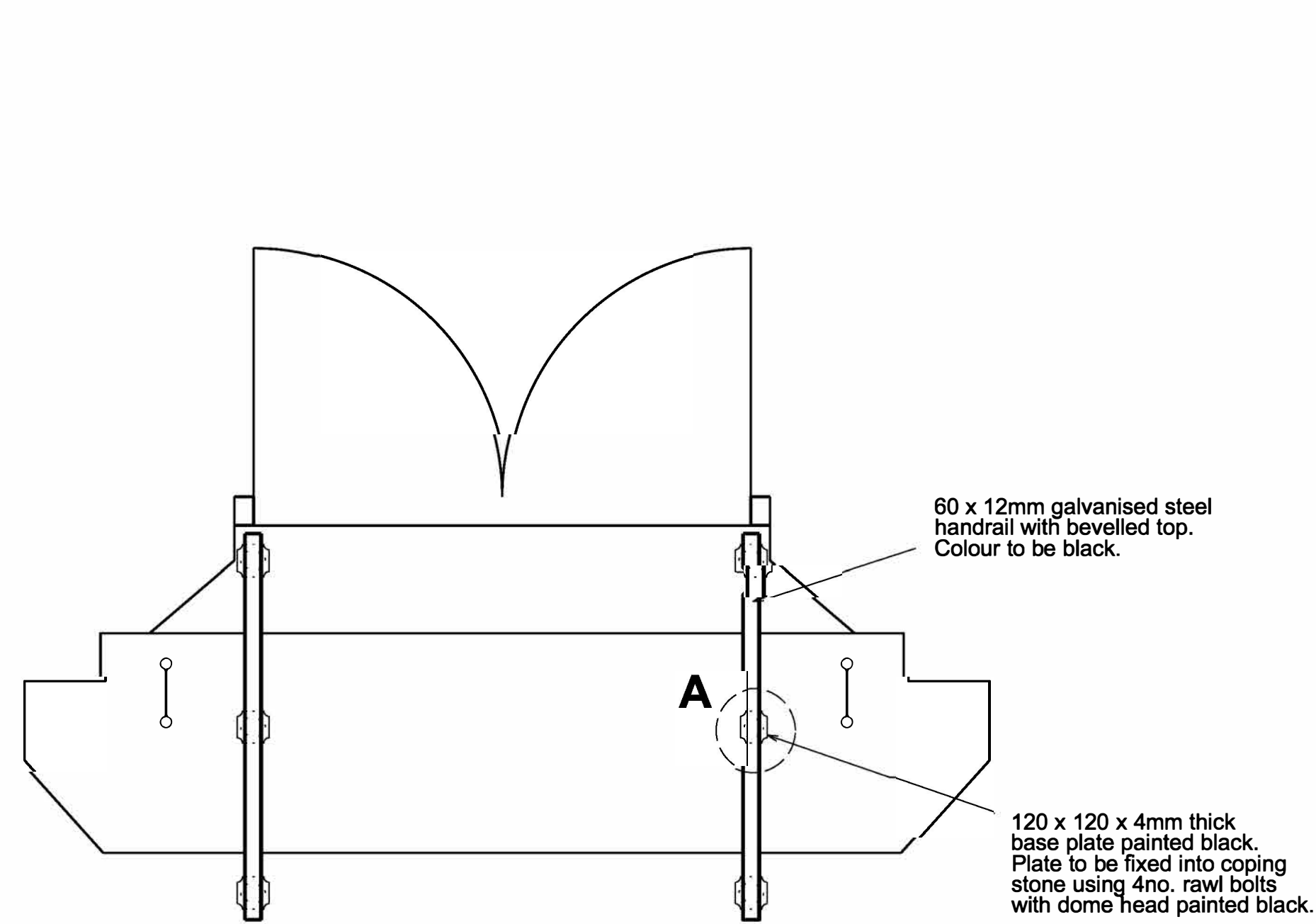
**Listing Grade I**

**Conservation Area Yes**

**Handrails**

Handrails are now deemed to be a requirement by the PCC to the North porch doors in order to aid access by the elderly and disabled.





Proposed Plan - scale: 1:20

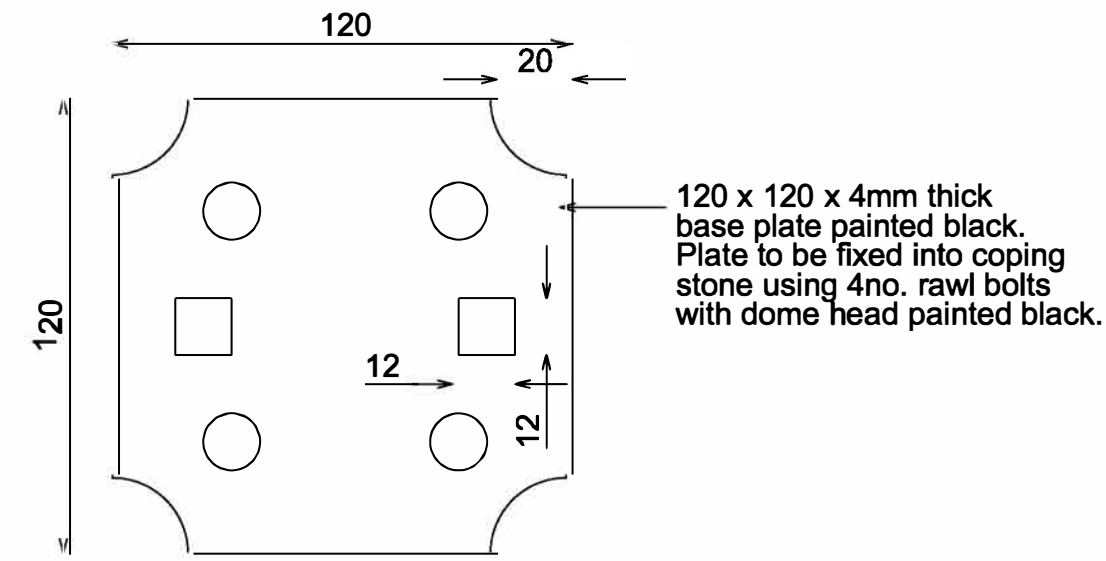
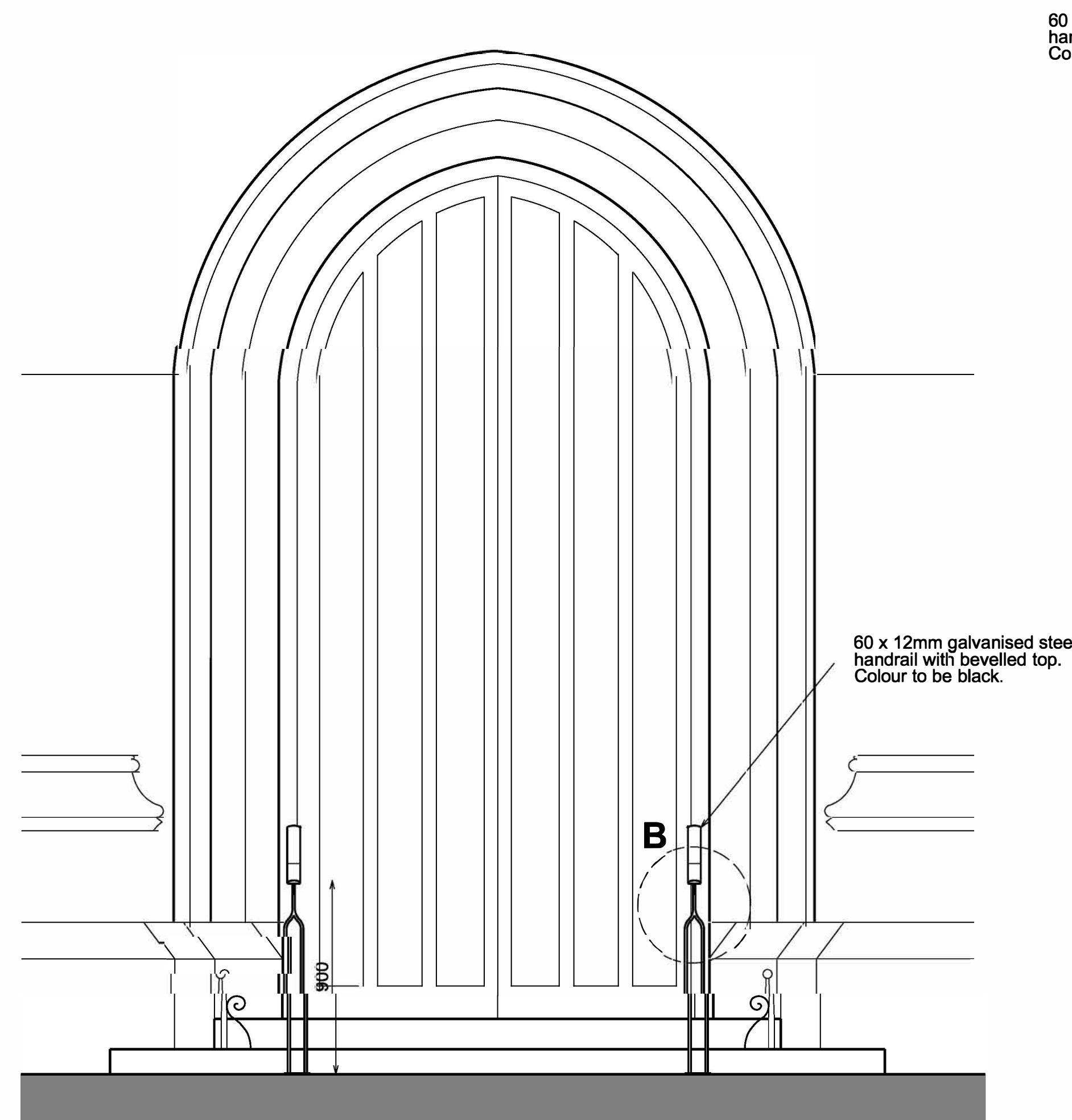
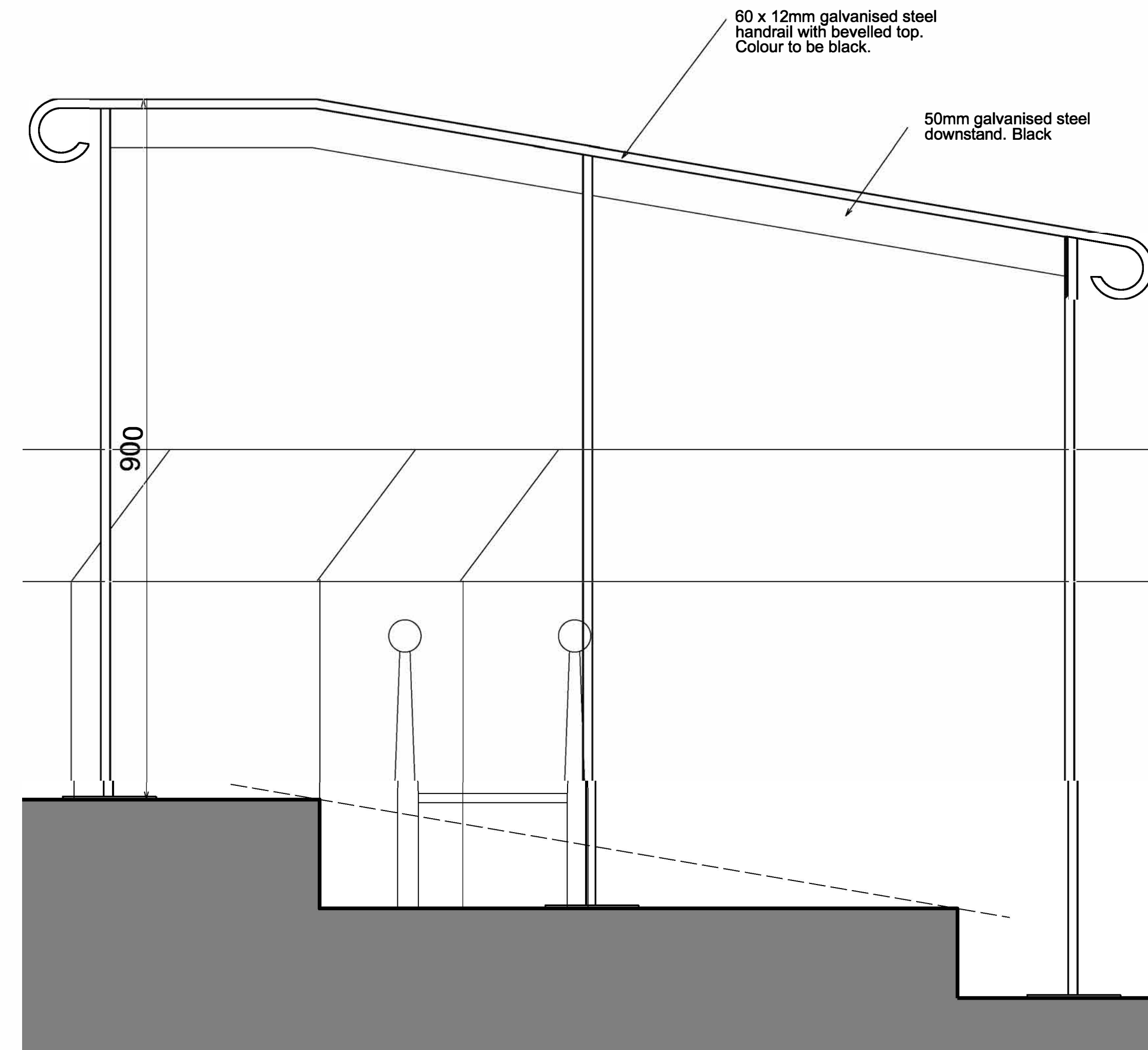
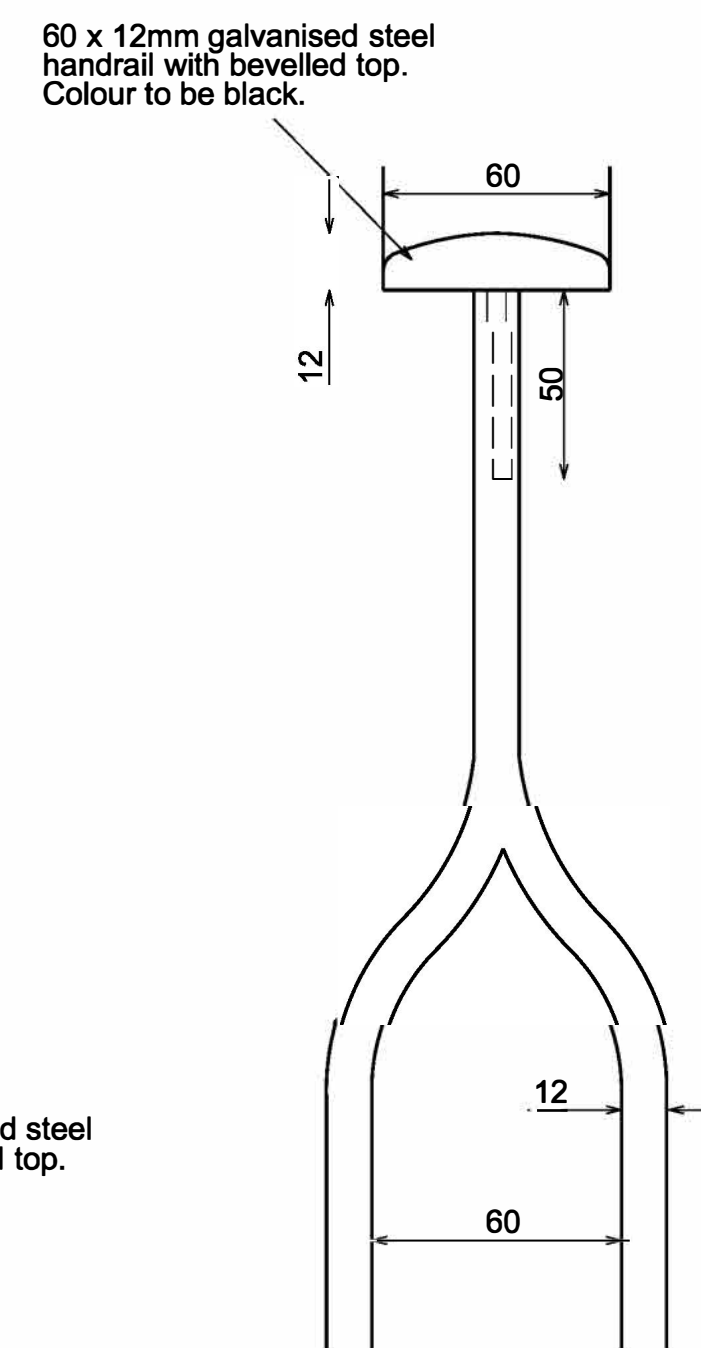


Image of steps



Proposed Elevation - scale: 1:20



Proposed Section - scale: 1:5

St George's Church  
Stockport  
Proposed Handrail

8173 (94) 003  
Feb 2016  
1:10  
1:5  
1:2  
@A1  
sw



## Stockport St George – Handrails - Correspondence with parish and others

Attachments are listed according to the numbering on the supporting documents list

- [Attachments in blue are included within the proposals section](#)
- Strikethrough text relates to a separate application, italic text refers to superseded or unnecessary attachments

Date	Message
<b>28/03/2023</b>  To: Hazel Jenkins From: Caroline Hilton	<p>I am writing to let you know that at its meeting of 17 March 2023, the DAC considered the proposal for handrail to the external steps to the north porch and it resolved to recommend the scheme, with the following provisos:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The work to be under the direction and subject to the inspection of the Scheme Architect</li><li>b. The parish to obtain any necessary planning consent</li></ol> <p>The Committee also wished to offer the following informal advice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>c. It suggested the parish may wish to review the overall accessibility of the church and consider introducing permanent ramp access</li></ol> <p>This means I can progress the faculty application on the Online Faculty System and raise the Notification of Advice so that the public notices can be displayed. I will let you know when I have carried this out. (I apologise in advance that this may take a bit longer than usual for me to be able to do as my DAC colleague is currently away so I am dealing with high levels of casework and queries, but I will get this done as soon as I am able).</p>
<b>29/03/2023</b>  To: Caroline Hilton From: Hazel Jenkins	<p>Thank you very much for the update. We have considered ramps previously, but it isn't possible because of the relationship of the depth and breadth of the steps at that entrance. To create an effective slope that could be used by wheelchairs etc would protrude right out onto the pavement. We have removable ramps to the south door which are in place for every service and the south doorway is the one that is more commonly used.</p> <p>I will keep our architect fully involved including a final inspection. As no planning permission was needed for the south doors and the design is identical, I am presuming it is the same for the north doors.</p> <p>Thank you for your help</p>