

Supporting Documentation

Adlington St John – Removal of Allen organ

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.

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Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary



9 November 2022

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

The removal of the existing Allen organ and its replacement with a portable Yamaha PSR SX 600 instrument

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

St John's Adlington in the Parish of St Peter's, Prestbury

Removal of existing Allen organ and replacement with a portable Yamaha PSR SX 600.

On 24th June, the DAC issued its response to the above proposal:

- a. The parish should consider the feedback points of both the reviewing Organ Advisers and provide a response. It wondered if the Allen organ may be more useful to the parish than currently thought
- b. It asked that the parish explain what the style of worship currently is and why it does not consider the existing Allen organ to be suitable for supporting it, and how the proposed organ keyboard would be better suited to it
- c. It asked what the future arrangement would be for the proposed Yamaha keyboard, for example if the current organist retires. Is the proposed introduction of the keyboard on a temporary (e.g. loan) or permanent basis?
- d. It asked what would be done with the Allen organ if it was removed.

The case for its removal centres on the following facts:

- it is unused as there is no one who wishes to play it (the church does not employ a resident organist, nor is that ever likely to happen).
- it is not compatible with the increasingly contemporary worship style and musical content favoured by the growing congregation. A modern electronic instrument would complement and enhance the existing instrumental and voice based music group.
- it is incompatible both in size and position with the proposed re-ordering of the church (pew removal and replacement with chairs the subject of a current faculty application), compromising the flexibility of the overall space required for the variety of service and community events which the re-ordering is designed to facilitate.
- it is restricting space and hampering movement at the communion rail.
- the proposed replacement instrument, which would be purchased by the PCC, is not the Yamaha Genos referred to by the Organ Advisors, but a Yamaha PSR SX 600, which as a significantly cheaper and less sophisticated model, is considered to be ideal for the purpose.
- it is, of course, entirely portable and as such, if future generations wish to re-install a more traditional instrument, this would be possible.
- at the moment, a modern portable instrument is kindly being provided by a member of the congregation on an ad hoc basis, which is widely welcomed by the congregation at large. There are therefore, significant missional benefits to the proposal.





Adlington St John - Correspondence with parish and others

Date	Message
09/05/2022 To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis	Is the organ at Adlington portable? If it isn't I'm afraid that needs a faculty to remove it, sorry
09/05/2022 To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill	As I understand it, the existing organ is not physically attached to the fabric of the church so it can legitimately be described as portable. The move to replace it is principally because we cannot find anyone who is able and prepared to play it, so an alternative instrument is routinely brought in for services on an ad hoc basis.
09/06/2022 To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill	The proposed replacement is a Yamaha PSR-SX600. The technical specification is well beyond me but it can be found easily on the internet and costs between £6-700. Is that enough info for you at this stage. The existing instrument would have to be dismantled to remove it but it is free standing and not integrated with the structure of the building in any way. As such, there would be no "making good" required other than re-staining the floor where it has been sitting.
01/07/2022 To: Steve Hill From: Caroline Hilton	DAC Advice I am writing to let you know that at its meeting of 24 June 2022 the DAC considered the proposal for the disposal of the electronic organ and its replacement with a Yamaha keyboard, and it wished to offer the following feedback: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The parish should consider the feedback points of both the reviewing Organ Advisers and provide a response. It wondered if the Allen organ may be more useful to the parish than currently thought It asked that the parish explain what the style of worship currently is and why it does not consider the existing Allen organ to be suitable for supporting it, and how the proposed organ keyboard would be better suited to it It asked what the future arrangement would be for the proposed Yamaha keyboard, for example if the current organist retires. Is the proposed introduction of the keyboard on a temporary (e.g. loan) or permanent basis? It asked what would be done with the Allen organ if it was removed With reference to point (a) above, here are the feedback comments of the two reviewing Organ Advisers. The first Organ Adviser commented as follows: <p><i>The Yamaha Genos keyboard is an advanced digital instrument, with multiple applications in music production and in commercial music, and I imagine that it is being used (at Adlington St John) only on piano presets to accompany hymns.</i></p>

Although the Allen organ does not have any piano pre-sets, a competent pianist would be able to lead church services, employing a pleasing variety of tone colours drawn from the two manuals: even on this early model, there is a facility to add depth and authority to the bass line, giving the impression that the pedals are being played, without increasing the technical demands on the player. The retention of this Allen instrument would allow an organist to play for worship at this church in the years to come, and might allow a practice facility for a young organist considering a future in church music.

In years gone by, the disposal of such a two manual and pedal instrument might have been made in favour of another church or to an individual - perhaps a young organ student. I am writing with no knowledge of the music tradition or the style of worship and at Adlington St John but with a commitment to promotion of worthy music in the liturgy.

The second Organ Adviser raised the following points:

The age and condition of the Allen would have an important bearing on the best course of action here. If the Allen organ is still working, why can it not continue to be used? If it is not working why can it not be repaired? Allen's boast used to be (and assumes still is) that they can supply any spare part for any of their organs, which they have been manufacturing since the late 1930s. He believes they offer a part-exchange service and, whether or not one likes their organs they are one of the most reliable makes.

If the Allen organ concerned is (say) thirty years old or more, it is probably time to replace it with something else. He would suggest another similar organ again with two manuals and pedals. If the parish are certain they want a one manual organ then it should have the simplest of controls (ie not too many 'bells and whistles')

*He notes the Yamaha Genos keyboard apparently has a "76-key Arranger Workstation with Aftertouch-enabled FSX Keybed, **1,652** Voices, 58 Drum/SFX Kits, and 9" TFT VGA LCD Touchscreen Display" and questions the suitability of this for use in church services.*

The instrument at Adlington St John looks, by the pictures, to be a two manual Allen organ with a full compass pedal-board. If it is disposed of and the Yamaha Keyboard installed instead, this would be preventing the church from ever having a church organist. Perhaps at the moment there isn't an organist, but whoever is using the keyboard could just as easily use the Allen.

It would take a modest musician quite a while to sit down and fathom out how to operate the Yamaha keyboard, whereas the

	<p><i>same musician could sit at the Allen and quickly make some music. There is the added advantage that an organist could immediately play the Allen and feel instantly at home, because their consoles are comfortable and of standard dimensions.</i></p> <p><i>The keyboard currently being used looks unnecessarily complicated (even if it only has one manual and no pedals) and may do as a stop gap but would not be suitable as a permanent instrument.</i></p>
04/07/2022 To: Caroline Hilton From: Steve Hill	<p>I confess that I was not expecting detailed feedback on the proposal, having only asked whether the replacement of the organ was a List B application.</p> <p>I appreciate that the feedback will be relevant whatever the decision, but could you please confirm that position first?</p>
06/07/2022 To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis	<p>I understand this advice is rather more than you were expecting. I'm afraid it isn't List B, however, we can still progress this, so please don't be too disheartened. It needs faculty for a couple of reasons</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The organ isn't really portable, despite not being fixed, it can't easily be moved, so we can't use List A 2) It isn't really List B, because that only covers replacement with an organ of a similar scale, which we can't really argue it is, and requires the original organ to have been introduced by faculty, which is unlikely to have been the case <p>The fact that it needs faculty is actually not a bad thing really, the application can be just for the removal of the organ, rather than its replacement, as a portable keyboard can be introduced at any time under List A, and you can state a case for the removal on the grounds that it is unused, doesn't fit in with your worship style in your growing congregation, is hampering access at the communion rail, and you can canvas the congregation and local community to gauge what the level of support is for retaining or removing it. If you can justify why it should be removed in your statement of needs, then the missional benefit can be weighed up against the harm, which is essentially denying the church of an organ in future. However, it is an electronic organ, and it is quite old, someone could reintroduce one in future if they wanted to and had funds</p> <p>As we have already consulted the Organ and digital organ advisors, if you respond to the DAC advice, I think consideration of these points would help you in setting out a case.</p>
09/09/2022 To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill	<p>I see that I did not address the DAC's final point about the future of the Allen Organ.</p> <p>Could you please include this in with the faculty documents you prepare for the next Committee?</p> <p><i>The existing Allen Organ, which is in working condition, will be carefully and professionally dismantled. Enquires will be made via Diocesan and other contacts about its sale or donation to another ecclesiastical or educational establishment and an appropriate arrangement reached for its transfer.</i></p>
27/10/2022	<p>I am writing to let you that at its meeting of 21 October 2022, the DAC considered the formal application to remove the digital organ and</p>

<p>To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>resolved to recommend the proposals, and also wished to offer the following informal advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If the organ goes to another Anglican parish they should be aware of the need to obtain diocesan permission for the installation of the organ <p>If you have any queries please let me know</p>
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