

# Supporting Documentation

## Adlington St John – Removal of pews

### Note to parish

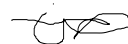
This bundle includes all the supporting documentation to your faculty application as required under Rule 5.5 of the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022.

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Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary

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8 December 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**

Removal of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ chancel step and sanctuary dais step and the existing pews, making good as necessary and introducing up to 50 stackable chairs to the design indicated on the accompanying documents, together with creation of a break-out meeting area at the rear of the church furnished with matching chairs.

*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, Prestbury**

**Faculty application for removal of pews and replacement with stackable chairs – Statement of Need. NB this document is a consolidation of the various Statements and Supplementary Statements of Need submitted since the application was lodged. All those documents have been withdrawn.**

### **Background:**

St John's church building is a "mission" style 19<sup>th</sup> Century tabernacle church constructed in 1892 in timber, with walls and pitched roof clad in corrugated iron sheeting. It sits within a small churchyard area enclosed on all sides by mature hedges. No burials have ever taken place in the churchyard. It is not a Listed Building, nor does it fall within a Conservation Area.

The church structure has withstood the passage of time remarkably well but various facilities and services required to sustain its congregation and widen its mission to the wider community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century are either lacking or in need of overhaul. In particular, use of the space for modern forms of worship and other congregational and community use is severely constrained by the fixed nature of the seating, and the existence of an Allen Organ.

The St John's Development Group (SJD), comprising members of the ministry team and congregation from St Johns and St Peter's, has been considering how these issues can be addressed and a range of projects have been identified and are on foot. These include the upgrading of the heating and lighting, the replacement of the windows and the enlargement of the existing vestry annex to provide for modern facilities.

This application relates specifically to the aspect of the internal ordering of the church and the issue around flexibility of use and comfort. It proposes that the pews should be removed and replaced with stackable upholstered chairs. A separate application has been submitted in relation to the removal of the Allen organ. It would be replaced with a portable electronic instrument. A further separate application will be made for the removal of the sanctuary step and altar dais.

Photographs of the existing arrangement in the church are included with this application.

The existing pews were installed approximately 60 years ago and replaced the then existing chairs (see photograph). Their removal and replacement with chairs would thus not be a novel development.

The pews were made and fitted by a local craftsman and donated to the church. Their design is such that they only have one 'end', that being on the aisle side, the pew seat being physically attached to the wall at the other end. This hugely restricts what can be done within the footprint of the Church, whilst also severely restricting the layout for receipt of holy communion, particularly so for people who struggle with mobility.

### **Proposals:**

It is proposed that the pews be replaced by stackable chairs and that an area at the back of the church be used and appropriately furnished as a break-out/meeting space, there being no such facility at the moment. This would enable small meetings and wedding/christening prep meetings to be held in comfort.

The chair selected by the PCC is manufactured and supplied by Rosehill, based in Handforth, Cheshire.

On 29 April, the DAC considered the above proposal and offered the following comments:

- a. The Sub-Committee was broadly supportive of the proposals*
- b. It asked how the wood panelled walls would be repaired/made good when the pews have been unfixed from them*
- c. The parish will need to provide details of the colour of the upholstery for the proposed chairs and for the casual seating proposed for the west end*
- d. It noted that the break-out area appears to be quite a limited space and it may be a tight fit for the proposed casual seating to be positioned there.*
- e. It suggested the parish should therefore consider the possibility of adapting one or two pews for use as the seating for the break-out area instead (with cushions). This would also be a way of retaining an example the churches intermediate seating heritage.*

After due consideration, the SJD suggests the following amendments to the proposals:

- Following removal of the pews, the timber clad walls will be professionally made good with matching wood cladding where the pews are attached.
- The chair selected is the Churchill Ultra Stacking Chair, in Highland Crimson fabric on a light oak-stained solid beech frame, with sliding book-boxes.
- Images of both the chair and the upholstery colour are attached.
- The cost for 50 chairs would be c. £5,000 (including VAT).
- With regard to the break-out area, the layout plan showing the break-out area is illustrative only. The area can be flexed to suit the amount of space required. In the view of the SDG, adapted pews, even with cushions, cannot provide the level of comfort required for informal meetings and social gatherings and in any event would undermine the aim and objective of the proposal as a whole. Accordingly, purpose made upholstered chairs are firmly preferred. The same chair is therefore proposed save that it will be “with arms”. The estimated cost for 5 such chairs is an additional c £1,200 (+including VAT).
- It has already been decided that at least one of the existing choir pews – which does have proper ends – will be retained in the chancel area.

Considerable interest has already been registered in the purchase of the pews when they are available.

### **Potential Impacts:**

Although these proposals appear to represent considerable change to the traditional ordering of this church, overall, the integrity and character of the church remains unchanged. The introduction of chairs is not unprecedented at St Johns, and echoes the move made in many churches and cathedrals around the country in recent times intended to enable the space within the church to be readily and easily adapted to meet the needs of the wide range on worship styles and events which are a feature of modern worship and outreach. They also provide a significant improvement in the level of comfort.

Where space is limited, as is the case at St Johns, it is vital that its use is optimised for the wide range of worship styles and events that it needs to accommodate. The effect of these proposals is therefore considered to be a major missional benefit to the work of the church in Adlington and is welcomed by the PCC and the local church family in the village. There are no archaeological, historic or heritage issues which might undermine their merits.

13 October 2022



ADLINGTON  
MISSION,  
CHURCH.





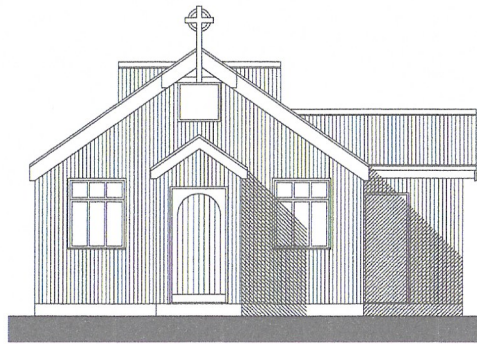




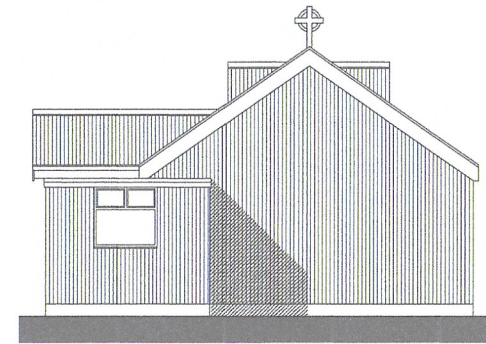




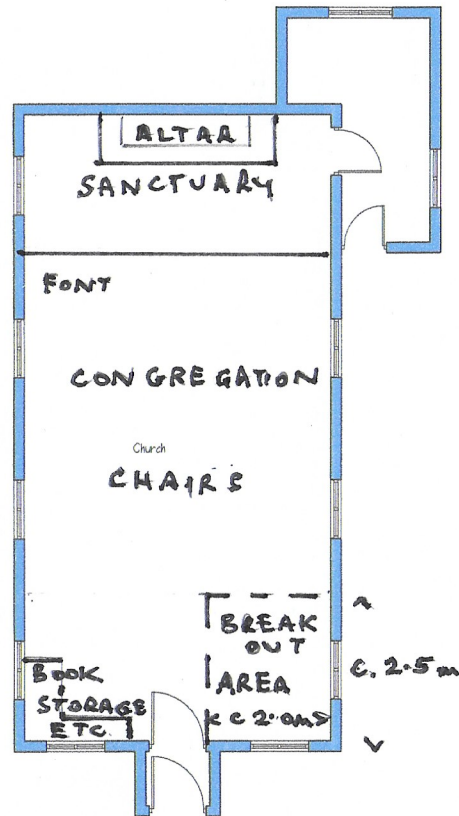




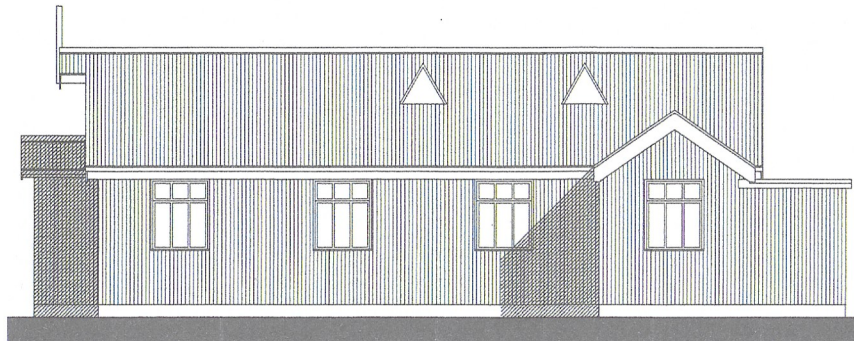
FRONT ELEVATION (SOUTH)



REAR ELEVATION (NORTH)



FLOOR PLAN



SIDE ELEVATION (EAST)

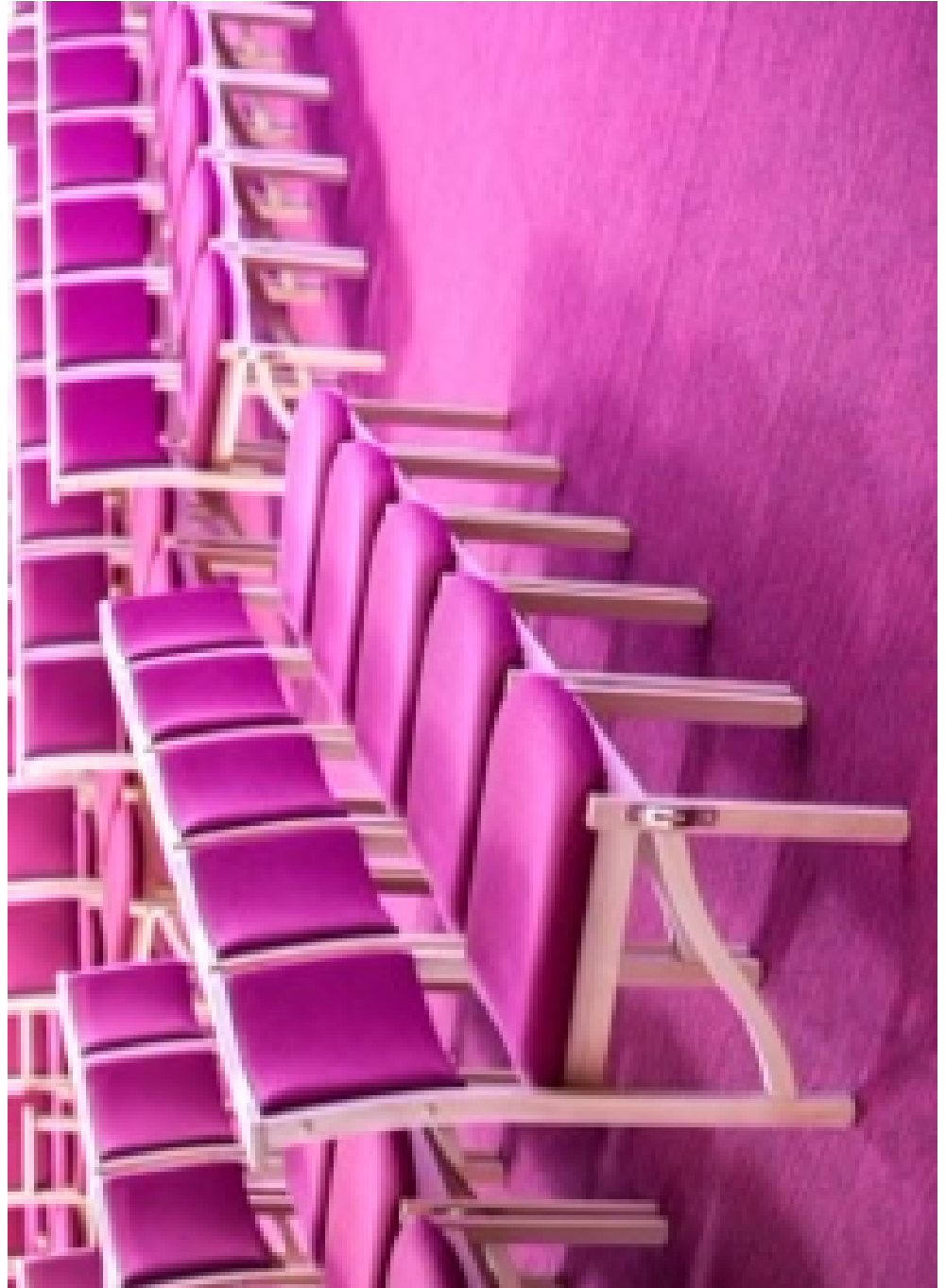


SIDE ELEVATION (WEST)

NOT TO SCALE

DO NOT SCALE

<b>Design Consultants</b> <small>Chartered Surveying and Architectural Services  Hollycombe Farm, Radd Lane, Surton, Macclesfield,  Cheshire, SK11 9BA.  Tel: 01280 253 500 Mob: 07766 205 209</small>	
Clients:	Mr A Bell
Job:	Extension
Address:	St John's Church Adlington Cheshire
Dwg:	Existing Plan & Elevations
Scale	9 of 12 @ A1
Date:	15/02/22
Job No:	CSD-2111-01
Revision:	-



## Adlington St John - Correspondence with parish and others

Date	Message
<b>05/05/2022</b>  To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis	<b>DAC Advice</b> I am writing to let you know that at its meeting of 29 April 2022 the DAC Standing Committee considered the proposals to remove the pews and wished to offer the following informal advice <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sub-Committee was broadly supportive of the proposals</li> <li>It asked how the wood panelled walls would be repaired/made good when the pews have been unfixed from them</li> <li>The parish will need to provide details of the colour of the upholstery for the proposed chairs and for the casual seating proposed for the west end</li> <li>It noted that the break-out area appears to be quite a limited space and it may be a tight fit for the proposed casual seating to be positioned there.</li> <li>It suggested the parish should therefore consider the possibility of adapting one or two pews for use as the seating for the break-out area instead (with cushions). This would also be a way of retaining an example the churches intermediate seating heritage.</li> </ol>
<b>09/05/2022</b>  To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill	<p><del>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.</del></p> <p>Re the pews replacement application, I have now completed a revision to the Statement of Need (Rev A) in response to the DAC's comments. Could you please work your magic to enable me to upload it and complete the remaining forms so that the formal application can go forward to the May Committee?</p>
<b>12/05/2022</b>  To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis	I've just checked, I'm afraid you've uploaded the old version of the statement of need, please could you try again?
<b>06/06/2022</b>  To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis	<b>DAC Advice</b> I am writing to let you know that at its meeting of 27 May 2022 the DAC considered the formal application for the replacement of the pews and resolved, subject to the parish confirming the colour of the upholstery, to recommend the scheme <p>This means that when we have details of the upholstery colour, Caroline will be able to produce the notification of advice, which will allow you to proceed with the public notice period</p>
<b>26/09/2022</b>  To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill	We wish to make an amendment to this faculty application, please. Given one of the main objectives behind the removal of the pews and the Allen organ - to provide a more flexible and comfortable space within the church - it has been resolved that the existing altar rail, the



	<p>sanctuary step and the raised altar dais step should be removed to provide a uniform level throughout the church. This will simplify and facilitate all forms of service, improve overall accessibility and remove the trip hazards associated with movement to and from the annex/vestry area.</p> <p>The font will need to be uplifted to enable this work, and any making good to the underlying floor surface required will be carried out. The existing carpet coverage will be retained.</p> <p>I think the photographs already submitted provide sufficient graphic illustration of the proposal but if you feel any further detail or explanation is called for, please let me know as soon as possible. If not, are you OK with adding this aspect (by copy of this email) to the application for consideration on 21 October?</p>
<p><b>27/09/2022</b></p> <p>To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p><b>File note of phonecall</b></p> <p>I advised full details of the removal of the step etc would be required</p>
<p><b>13/10/2022</b></p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill</p>	<p>Hello Katy, this is a follow up to our conversation this morning. I have discussed the above matter with the St John's project leader. In the interests of making more rapid progress, I am asking whether we can revert to the original application, which carries a recommendation subject to the upholstery cover, by withdrawing the proposal concerning the removal of the Sanctuary and Altar steps.</p> <p>If this is possible administratively, I would delete the Consolidated Statement of Need, and re-instate the supplementary statement concerning the upholstery.</p> <p>Sorry to further complicate your life, but I hope you can advise on this today or early tomorrow, as I will be away from early on Saturday morning.</p>
<p><b>13/10/2022</b></p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Hill</p>	<p>I acknowledge that I shall also have to reinstate the original Statement of Need and the supplementary statement.</p>
<p><b>13/10/2022</b></p> <p>To: Steve Hill From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>Yes, that's a good idea</p>