

Supporting Documentation

Bebington St Andrew – Organ protection

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



22 June 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

Installation of an organ canopy.

Details of proposed canopy sited over the organ, to try to protect the organ from a repeat of the recent water damage, by diverting any water that should come in to a safe place. Broadly speaking, a frame approximately 8' long x 6' wide would be constructed out of 2" square poplar, corner joints lapped and glued, along with a centre rail for support. The upper surface would then be covered by heavy duty polythene, the lower side by a skin of plywood. The ply and the frame to be painted matt black, or stained to a colour to be decided. The frame to be attached to the Organ and not fixed to the stone wall. Any visible pipework to be boxed in by similar materials and finish to existing organ casework.

See attached:

- 2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal Bebington
- 2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal context photos
- 2022-072734 Organ protection example
- 2022-072734 Roof Plan Survey
- 2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal background and evidence

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

Ref: 2022-072734

Church: Bebington: St Andrew

Diocese: Chester

Archdeaconry: Chester

Created By: Mr David Butler (07/05/2022)

Contact Tel.: 07951643007

Status: Notification of advice

Statement of Significance

Section 1: The church in its urban / rural environment.

1.1 Setting of the Church

St. Andrew's Church, Bebington is a grade one listed building within the Lower Bebington Conservation Area. It has a prominent position on a rise to the south edge of the village where it has stood for over 900 years.

The original parish, bounded on the eastern side by the River Mersey covered an area of 8.5 square miles.

During the 19 / 20th Centuries as many as ten churches were created to serve an ever increasing population. Most of these were then formed into Parishes in their own right, with the Mother Church of St. Andrew's, remaining as focus for Anglican Christian Worship for a significant population, centered on Bebington.

The Lower Bebington Conservation Area Appraisal dated February 2013, indicates "the landmark nature of the church and its spire remains unchallenged in the area, and the parish remains closely connected to a network of other community institutions and activities".

The church is a key and valued part of Wirral history, and will continue to be a significant historic building in the programme of Wirral Heritage Open Days organised by the Wirral History and Heritage Association annually.

The earliest record for the church dates to the year 1093 when Scirard de Lancelyn a Norman from Beaugency who came to our shores in 1073 and was given land in Wirral by Hugh Lupus the first Earl of Chester. Scirard became the first Lord of the Manor of (Pontone) now Poulton Lancelyn. Records show that Scirard gave the chapel and land to the Abbey of St. Werburg in Chester in 1093. It is possible that a much older building has stood on the site as the remains of Saxon stone work has been found in the south western aisle of the church which was discovered many years ago. The size of that Storeton Stone building would have been 15 feet X 45 feet and may have replaced a wattle and daub structure of the same size

The building was enlarged in 1260 and again in 1320 by adding a northern aisle. There were also major alterations in the 16th Century during the incumbency of John Brereton who was also the Master Stone Mason for Cheshire. The East end of the building was removed and replaced by a three bay extension with a wider Nave, which quadrupled the size of the building.

A further extension was needed in 1846 to meet the ever increasing population, and the North Aisle was extended, which included stone pillars to match the original Norman pillars in the south aisle.

In 1989 there was a re-ordering of the church. In the early 1900's, the Advowson was sold to the Evangelical Church Association and subsequently to the present patrons the Church Society. It was felt that the Chancel Screen should be removed as this recalled the High Church Theology of the Oxford Movement and was not in keeping with evangelicalism which had replaced it. The building also needed to be sympathetically modernised with lighting, toilets, an upgraded heating system and a small kitchen. The side pews were altered to give better viewing of the raised Chancel which had the choir pews removed to give an enhanced open ministry area. The removed Chancel Screen was transferred to the north aisle to form a passage way to the Vestry.

The Lancelyn Green Family Vault is situated within the Communion Rails as are many memorial plaques to the family.

The Church has the capacity to hold up to 350 people, and has excellent acoustics with a quality sound system and good facilities for modern visual communication techniques ie through projected words, videos etc and the open ministry area lends itself to drama presentations.

New energy efficient electrical lighting was installed in the church in 2021, and heating is provided by two gas powered boilers providing hot water for traditional water filled radiators and electric fan convector heating units. A small kitchen is provided in the south west corner with two toilets. A crèche is provided in an upper room over the kitchen/toilet area within the base of the tower, reached by a flight of stairs.

1.2 The Living Churchyard

It is said that if you want to find a village history go to the churchyard. St Andrews has many of the local dignitaries, eccentrics and its share of heroes within its boundaries.

The Church Yard has been closed for new plots since 2000 with Wirral Borough Council taking on the responsibility for its upkeep. Burials are continuing for existing plots.

In 1866 a meeting which had been called by the Churchwardens for the purpose of considering what steps should be taken to provide additional Burial Ground for the use of the parish, was held in the New Ferry Schoolroom on the evening of Tuesday, June 12th, and adjourned to Thursday, July 5th. At the adjourned Meeting held that day, it was resolved, almost unanimously, to make no addition to the present Church yard, but to adopt at once the Cemetery Act, and to elect a Burial Board, in which each of the Townships of the Parish should be represented, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of that Act. This Board held their first Meeting on Friday, July 20th 1866. In 1867 a large plot of land between Rock Lane and Townfield Lane was acquired for use as the Bebington Cemetery. The foundation stone for the Mortuary Chapel in the centre was laid in 1867 and the building was consecrated on 16 June 1868. The 'Burial Board' managed the cemetery.

For a Parish churchyard, St Andrews is very large. The unprecedented growth in the population in the 19th century was reflected in the need for additional land for burials, so in 1835 the unoccupied parts of the churchyard were levelled. Then in 1847 Thomas Green, the Lord of the Manor, provided a plot on the south side for an extension (and burials took place by special license before it was consecrated).

He gave the remaining 2,427 square yards of his land in June 1860. But even this proved inadequate. In 1919 local trustees purchased further land to the east of the St. Andrews Church for future burials and to prevent encroachment of housing upon the church. It was consecrated on 26 October 1940 by Douglas Crick, Bishop of Chester

New Ground on the south side at St. Andrews Road, was presented to the Church by Messrs. Lever Bro's., Ltd., and was prepared after several thousand loads of soil had been used to infill and to bring it up to the level of the existing churchyard.

In total there are 3,224 known plots, and have been over 4000 burials since 1909.

The Churchyard was redesigned and renovated in 1968 when many of the old headstones were removed. A full record was made of the inscriptions which are held in the church office and Chester Record Office.

In 2008 the Bebington Group from the Family History Society of Cheshire took on the task of recording all of the existing memorials inscriptions, copies of both recordings are held in the church office, Bebington library, Family History Society of Cheshire Research Centre and the Bebington Group.

The current site of 3.5 acres, is bounded on the south, west and north sides by a sandstone boundary wall, with the main B5136 main distributor road passing on the west and north sides and St Andrew's Road on the south side. The wall also acts as a retaining wall on the west and north sides with the churchyard ground level at maximum, 1.8 metres above road level. There is no vehicular access to the site.

Significant pedestrian routes have become established rights of way through the churchyard, primarily from the residential areas to the south via the St Andrew's Road entrance, giving direct access to and from the village centre and its many facilities.

A Church Notice Board advising of church services and contact details is provided adjacent to the Lychgate.

1.3 Social History

1093 is the earliest specific reference to Bebington and the church. Scirard (Seward) gave the chapel and several acres of land to the Abbey of St Werburgh in nearby Chester.

The church was rebuilt in 1120-30, with the south and west walls and the porch of the old building being incorporated into a new church, four times its original size.

The quality of the Norman architecture suggests that the church was of importance, and it grew to be more powerful with the founding of a Chapel at Poulton-cum-Spital, which became a hospital for lepers.

The last vestiges of the Saxon church were removed in about 1280. The south wall and the Spital porch were rebuilt in the Early Decorated Style, and the windows on either side were enlarged.

The thirteenth century ashlar masonry on the inside of the south wall 'batters' or slopes outwards at the top, and was intended to take plaster. It was covered with floral frescoes. Fragments around the South Porch and others on the west wall were revealed in 1897 when the later plaster and whitewash was removed.

Further alterations were made in 1320, but they have been superseded by later work. The narrow north aisle was widened and converted into the nave, and a new chancel was built. The windows and porch in the north wall date from this period but only parts are original as they were dismantled and rebuilt in their present position in 1847 when the north aisle was extended. There is no trace of the Second Pointed Chancel, other than a fragment supposed to have come from the main window.

The masons' marks in the lower parts of the tower date from between 1300 and 1320 and those in the ringing loft are from the middle of the fourteenth century. It has a broach spire on a square base and is divided by strings into three stages. The lower stage has a large decorated window of simple early character set in a deeply splayed recess. The middle stage originally had a single loophole (with a window added in 1849), and the upper has plain decorated windows on each of the four sides.

There are three tiers of spire lights set in the octagonal spire alternately facing the cardinal points. The quinces consist of bold arches below the receding faces, and there are heavy buttresses three feet wide which extend seven feet at the lower stage. The door to the tower from the outside was blocked in the eighteenth century when a new door was cut within the church, but was re-opened in 1847.

The east end of the church was entirely rebuilt in the Tudor period and a tradition has grown that the last Abbot of St Werburgh, Dr John Clarke, decided to make use of surplus funds from the Abbey's treasury to prevent its sequestration by the King. The work is said to have been given added urgency following the closure of the smaller monasteries in 1535 and to have been brought to an abrupt end after the dissolution of the Abbey in 1540. This theory was put forward by the late nineteenth century antiquaries and sounds very convincing, but an earlier date must be preferred as the Church is known to have possessed a stained glass window dated '1523'. The Masons' marks also show that the Tudor building was started in about 1520 and finished no later than 1530. Thus it may be that the families whose coats of arms were represented on the windows, the Lancelyns, the Mynshulls, and the Stanleys and Chauntrells, were the benefactors of the church, and perhaps competed with each other to build the three aisles. The earlier date brings the rebuilding within the Rectorship of John Brereton (1511-28) who was the Master Mason for Cheshire and Flint, and known for other churches which he built, such as that at Astbury. It seems that he was responsible, while the cost was met by the landowners, perhaps with some assistance from the Abbey. It is also possible that the plans were instigated by Brereton's predecessor Nicholas Chauntrell (1507-11). He was a member of a family who owned land in Bebington and his parents were commemorated in the window of 1523. The work presumably came to an end in 1528 when John Brereton left Bebington.

There were three bells at Bebington in 1549 according to the List of Church Goods in the Deanery of Wirral. These were recast in musical sequence in the seventeenth century and remained in use until the early nineteenth century. There are various references to them in the Church accounts. The first entry records 6/- paid to the ringers on 5 November 1774, and another the following year is for cleaning the bells. In 1785 John Goodacre was paid £1.3.6d for 27lbs of iron for 'mending the bell', and three times that amount was spent on the bells the following year. New bell ropes were a further regular expense. The sexton received 10/- for tolling the bell until 1809 when he was awarded an additional sum to sweep the

pews and 'to Toll the Bell every Sunday at least Half an Hour before Morning and Evening service' and 'for a few Minutes when the Minister comes to his desk'.

Very few changes were made to the church during the seventeenth century. The lamps which had burnt on the brackets had already been extinguished when the Chancies were closed during the reign of Edward VI, and during the Commonwealth period the building was denuded of much of its furniture and fittings. This included the Rood screen which divided the chancel from the nave. Evidence of it came to light during the restoration of 1846 when the grooves were revealed in the pillars, and part of the wooden cross was discovered in the graveyard where it had been buried in 1643. The Jacobean Bishop's throne and the carved stalls survived, and tradition has it that the altar table and the rails were discarded in 1640 and taken to Poulton Hall (where a table and bannisters of the appropriate date may still be seen).

William Smith and William Webb in their gazetteer of the 'Vale-Royall' (1656) described Nether Bebington as 'a church-town, with a fair Church, and goodly parsonage', while at Over Bebington 'John Minshal of Minshal Esquire, hath great store of good Possessions'. Peter Leycester, in his Historical Antiquities of Great Britain and Ireland (1673), mentions only that the Stanleys of Hooton acted as Patrons of Bebington Parish Church (and that they were in dispute with the Dean of Chester over patronage of Eastham Church).

A clearer picture is possible after 1774 when the Parish Accounts begin and there is a painting of the church dating from about 1790. A visitor at that time would have been greeted by rows of box pews, while in the chancel there was the high pulpit with staircase, a clerk's desk, and reading desk, and much of the old carved woodwork, including six stalls with misericords set in a single row. The font was at the west end of the central aisle in the darkest part of the church, but several plain windows had been added in the wall between the Norman and Tudor sections. Attempts had also been made to modernise the church by coating all the walls with whitewash and by covering the beams with lath and plaster ceilings. Recent additions had included the memorials to the Greens of Poulton Lancelyn (who were enjoying a period of quiet prosperity while the other great landowners were in decline).

Bebington was a quiet village, though until the turnpike road was built coaches passed through it on the way to Chester. The view across the fields to the Mersey and beyond to Liverpool was uninterrupted and no one then suspected that the population would expand tenfold as a result of the Industrial Revolution.

The first accounts include the purchase of the book itself. On 15 April 1775: 'Bought a book for the Parish to Enter the Church Wardens' Accts. in. £1-2-0′, and above there are some earlier expenses, including the celebration on the 5th November when the bells were rung. The cost of entertaining the ringers was 3/6d, and 1/3d was spent on 'Oyl and Candles'.

Some expenses now seem unusual, such as the purchase of sparrows and foxes (a way of keeping them down). It continued until 1794 when it was 'ordered that the Church Wardens do not pay for any more Sparrows or Foxes, until each order be again made for such payments'. Another dramatic incident occurs in 1829: 'Pd. Going to Liverpool when Church was robbed and printing handbills', and later: £5 'Pd. Liverpool Police Officer for apprehending Thos. Jones for Breaking in the Church and Stealing Prayer Book from thence', and 3/- 'By cash for Ferry & expense going to L'pool to Pay the above reward.'

The entries are not always explicit but it is clear that the upkeep of the church was a constant drain on the resources. There were new flagstones in 1777, again in 1821 (when the Tranmere and Storeton aisles were repaved), and other repairs to the floor in 1827, 1828, 1833, and 1834. The interior of the church was whitewashed in 1796, 1810, 1820, and 1828. Seventy-five pews were painted and numbered in 1797 (at a cost of 4d per pew), and green baize was purchased for them in 1776 and 1832. In 1817 a Mr Leigh was paid £14.4.5d for 'Writing the Commandments and Painting the Communion Rails', and they were repainted in 1834. Various foot stools, reading desks, altar coverings, carpets, and other such items were added at different times, but the major outlay was always on the roof and walls.

In 1777 the roofs of the Tranmere and Storeton aisles were stripped of their lead and rebuilt. The lead was sold for £87.6.9d and this partly covered the cost of new timber and the slates. More slates were purchased at regular intervals (three thousand in 1801, a cart load in 1815, and another thousand in 1821), but the beams supporting the roofs were left. The guttering and windows were also replaced, and in 1800 the west

wall of the Tranmere aisle was rebuilt.

Some mystery surrounds the vestry at the east end. It is shown in a drawing of 1809 by T.R. Rickman as an undistinguished building with a plain door and window, but no written description survives. It was repaired on several occasions, as was the 'Chancel door' which led to it, and a fire grate was installed in 1810. It may also have been re-roofed in 1822. A quantity of thatch was purchased that year and it is hard to think that it was intended for the main roof – unless it was a temporary covering for some of the oldest and weakest roof timbers. In 1816 Robert McGee was paid £6.9.0d for 'Materials & Plastering & Stucco work done at the Communion', and this may either have been for blocking the chancel door or blocking the clerestory window (which was re-opened in 1847). It is clear that the vestry (which had served as a schoolroom) was disliked by the new Rector, R.M. Feilden, as it was demolished soon after his induction. In May 1827, £1.5.0d was paid 'for taking down the Vestry and Clearing and Carting away the Rubbish'. A new vestry was then constructed at the modest expense of £6.7.7d. This was presumably in the south-east corner as shown on the plans of 1846. It was behind a wooden screen and there was access through the small door in the south wall.

The accounts often fail to specify the nature of the work undertaken and it is not always clear when certain changes were made.

The tower, which was famous for its ivy, was struck by lightning in May 1805. The accounts for that year show the purchase of ropes, tackle, and scaffolding, and the payment of £151.6.6d to Thomas Francis and Job Yeardsley 'for taking down and re-building the steeple'. In 1867 the top of the spire was damaged in a gale and the Liverpool architect G.A. Audsley oversaw a second rebuilding. In 1905 the tower and steeple were again repaired and repointed. The weathercock and vane was regilded in 1805, 1868, and 1904, but was afterwards declared unsafe and removed.

The ivy grew from a large root in the corner where the door is sited, but in 1847, when the door was reopened, 'this emblem of eternity', as Reed called it in his article of 1848, was cut down. Some ivy remained growing round from the south side and by 1911 snow and rain on the creeper were causing damage to the bell chamber. Louvres were then added to the small windows to prevent it entering the spire. A prophecy that the world would end when the ivy reached the vane is ascribed to Nixon, the Cheshire Prophet who is said to have lived during the reign of James I. None of his prophecies were printed before 1714 and none mention Bebington, but Egerton Leigh in 'The Legend of Bebington Spire' written for the Ballads and Legends of Cheshire in 1867 gives him the credit.

After the publication of the ballad the tradition took on the air of an old established legend. Philip Sulley in his work on The Hundred of Wirral (1889) refers to it as such and cites the earlier occasions on which the top of the steeple had collapsed as the ivy neared the vane. 'The creeper,' he said, 'is now nearing the summit again and its progress is watched with some interest by the older inhabitants, who wonder whether nature will again interfere to prevent the consummation of the material half.'

Charles Reed refers to another popular belief concerning the tower: 'The most peculiar circumstance connected with this tower is the popular tradition and belief that it was the work of Inigo Jones, as well as the tower of the neighbouring church of Eastham, to which it certainly bears a remarkable similarity. I have endeavoured to ascertain the origin of this belief; and the worthy Rector, the Rev. R.M. Feilden, has told me he has seen documents that prove this; but these documents I have never been able to obtain a sight of. It is known that Inigo Jones had works in the neighbourhood, and an old Hall, a few miles off, is one of them.' Ormerod had mentioned Inigo Jones in connection with Eastham and discounted the tradition, but it spread to Bebington because of the similarity between the spires. Those who chose to believe the story overlooked the fact that Inigo Jones was born two hundred years after the tower was built.

There is no reference to the small gallery for musicians, which was constructed on the south wall. It was approached by stone steps near the south porch (which started near the buttress) and was entered by a door cut in the wall. Nor is there reference to the door that was cut through the east wall of the north aisle close to the altar and separated from the church by a wooden screen. But details of the large gallery are to be found in the Minutes of the Vestry meeting for 14 October 1829. It was then resolved that in view of the increase in the population which had made the accommodation in the church inadequate 'a gallery be

erected at the West or unpewed end of the Church, between the two last Pillars, that is immediately over the pews now occupied by Mr Fitchett and the Church wardens, but not to advance into the Body of the Church beyond those pews, and that the gallery be further extended along some of the sides – the front part of the gallery to contain 16 Pews & capable of containing from 100 to 120 Persons'. The gallery is shown on a plan of the building made in 1846. The screen below ran from the edges of the north and south doorways, and the staircase in the centre had six steps on either side of the second pillar and twenty or so steps leading up and round to the higher level. There were twenty box pews, five on each side of the two aisles and ten in the centre.

It is not known when the window glass was fitted except for the German stained glass in the Chancel window which was fitted in memory of Miss Frances Feilden, the Rector's sister (who died in 1856), and was destroyed in 1941 by a stray German bomb.

A drawing of the church in the late 1830s shows the gallery from the north-east corner. The wooden screen covering the door in the east wall of the north aisle is also visible. Beyond is the Tranmere aisle, half of which was unpewed with a rough stone floor and free-standing benches. Against the second pillar there was a modern font on a stone step with kneeling benches around it. The access to the thirteen high boxed pews on either side of the truncated Tranmere aisle is just visible. Turning then to the plan the tour could be continued. One would have passed round the chancel rails to the central aisle where there was a large stove, then down the central aisle past the mediaeval stalls, the pulpit, reading desk and clerk's desk. In the central or Bebington aisle there were eleven box pews on the north side, including the larger ones of the local landowners, and fifteen on the south. The vestry was behind the wooden partition at the south-east corner of the Poulton and Storeton aisle, and there were fifteen pews on the south side of that aisle and nineteen on the north. The numbering of the pews ran from the south-east corner and was in Roman numerals. The pews were let to householders. The 'Pew List' of Richard Green, of Poulton Hall, for 1844, shows that he owned seventeen. The main pew was number 58 directly below the pulpit; his servants used a pew three rows behind, and the others were used by tenant farmers.

Throughout this period the population was continuing to expand at a great rate and the subsequent changes to the church and the creation of several new parishes was a consequence of it.

The gallery could not for long satisfy the demand (which was also being met by new churches), and it was also out of tune with the spirit of the age. A change had taken place in church architecture and in people's attitude towards the church buildings. Instead of local builders, joiners, and masons turning their hand to the improvements, large companies who specialised in restoration and the building of new churches were coming into being. Restoration was the order of the day and the Gothic revival was in full swing. Few churches were left unaltered and large sums of money were being spent upon them. The restoration at Woodchurch was one local example and it was the subject of two letters by 'Saxon' (the Rev. William Elstob) in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1844. In his first letter he praised the appearance of the restored church, while in the second he contrasted it with the dilapidated condition of the 'once beautiful' church at Bebington:

I do not say that the church is absolutely in very bad repair, though many of its parts are fast approaching to dilapidation. The whole of the interior should be stripped of its present hideous deformities. They are chiefly the work of the last century and have been effected at no trifling expense. At least one third of the nave and its aisles have been cut off by a rude screen of timber reaching to the roof, and left in a deplorable condition. A fine old font, which might easily be restored, still remains in this rejected portion of the church, and, like the place wherein it stands, has long ceased to be made use of for its once holy purpose. Within the screen is a western gallery, so wide from back to front as to approach much too nearly to the entrance of the chancel. An organ was erected some years ago, but not in this gallery, for a small one was built to contain it over the little portion that remains of the south aisle. The access to it is of a piece with the rest, and has been gained by breaking a doorway through the south wall. It is approached by a miserable flight of stone steps that would not be thought too good to lead to a hay-loft. Thus disfigured is the otherwise venerable south front, Returning to the interior, we scarcely find a relic of wood-work worthy of being preserved, excepting a few old carved stalls without canopies. They have been ill treated, but are still capable of being brought back to much of their original appearance. Near to these is a very diminutive and unCanonical sort of font, which for many years has been used instead of the real one, and far from 'the accustomed place' we find it within a few feet of 'the holy table'. I shall conclude by adding

that one of the piers on the south side of the nave has been removed and two arches formed into one of the most disproportionate figure and dimensions. Hoping that some good and wealthy Christians will arise and do justice to a church that so intelligibly calls for it.

The call did not go unheeded and by 1846 detailed plans by N.W.I. Moffat for 'enlarging and improving the church' had been made, and on 30 July 1846 an application was made for a Faculty.

The changes made in 1847 were extensive, but there was still room for improvement. The old pews remained and many were in a decayed condition with rot spreading from the damp earth below. The four new stoves (two on either side of the altar and two at the west end) had also failed to solve the problem of the damp as there was no ventilation. The arrangement of the stalls and desks was also haphazard and outdated by Victorian standards. Four of the six stalls with misericords had survived the earlier restoration and had been made into two pairs facing each other across the central aisle, and the prayer desk had been moved to a position opposite the pulpit. And as ever there was a lack of space.

The solution was to end the obsolete system of letting (which meant pews were left empty when the occupants were abroad) and to provide free pews in their place (as had already been done at the west end when the organ was moved to the north-west corner). A committee was established in 1870 to oversee the reseating of the church and W. & G. Audsley of Liverpool were employed as architects. New pews would give an additional two hundred seats, and the rising damp could be cured at the same time. Audsley recommended that the floor be excavated to allow under floor heating and ventilation, that the organ be returned to the centre of the west end, and that the roof be raised with the fake arches replaced in stone. All these things were to be done in time, but at the restoration of 1871-2 the funds were only sufficient to cover the floor and pews.

In 1989 there was a major internal re-ordering of the Church. The origins go back to the second decade of the century when Mrs. Rainey, the patron, sold the Advowson to the evangelical Church Association, who were the predecessors of the present patrons, The Church Society Trust. In doing so the incumbent – and consequently the parish – changed from 'High' to 'Low' church, and the new Rectors, from H. E. Boulton onwards, were anxious to remove the chancel screen which Canon Feilden erected in 1898 – as this recalled the High Church theology of the Oxford Movement and was out of tune with the evangelicalism which had replaced it.

A resolution to move the screen was passed at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council in 1982, and, though there was no legal necessity, it was agreed that a Faculty would only be applied for with the approval of the congregation. A majority of two-thirds was called for, but this target was not reached at the A.P.C.M. in 1983, though over half those present voted in favour.

The Council then decided that the removal of the screen should be part of a wider re-ordering of the interior, and a report was commissioned from the Rev. Professor J. G. Davies, Professor of Architecture and Theology at Birmingham University. His most radical proposal was to turn the Church interior round 180° so that worship would have been in a westerly direction. The report was presented to the A.P.C.M. in 1987 and members of the congregation were invited to submit proposals of their own. Many were received, and plans were afterwards drawn up by Niall Patterson Associates.

The scheme won support from many in the congregation and the full cost of the proposed work (£146,000) was raised by voluntary contributions, but it was also opposed by other parishioners, and seventy-two objections were lodged against the granting of a Faculty.

A Consistory Court, lasting three days, was held in the Church Hall before Chancellor H. H. Lomas in October 1988 and eloquent arguments were put forward by both sides. J.L.O. Holden, a collateral descendent of the Very Rev. John Nutter, Rector of Bebington (1581-1602), acted as Counsel for the petitioners, and the entire proceedings were recorded on seventeen tapes (which are kept in the Vestry safe).

The majority of the changes for which the application was made were approved by the Chancellor. These included the carpeting of the aisles, angling the side pews to improve visibility, replacing the inner porch doors with glass doors, the removal of the chancel screen to the side of the vestry (where it forms a passage to the small door in the north-east corner), the removal of the choir stalls (which were given to St

James, New Brighton), and the construction of a dais to create a ministry area in the Chancel. It was also agreed that the font at the west end could be re-sited, and that a staircase and upper room could be constructed in the tower, with a kitchen and lavatory below. However, the proposed alterations to the Feilden Chapel and the removal of the pulpit to the south wall were not authorised.

A new heating and lighting system was installed at this time, and the hatchments which had formerly hung in the tower were cleaned and rehung in their present position on the north and south walls of the nave.

During the re-ordering the Church was closed and services were held in the Gladstone Theatre in Port Sunlight. It was re-opened on 25 June 1989, by the Rt Rev. M.A. Baughen, Bishop of Chester.

A decision was made to make significant repairs to the church in 2004 which were estimated at £100,000. This included new stone mullions with some restoration of the glass for the Henry Holliday windows in the south wall and re-slating of some of the roof surfaces, together with new lead gutters.

In 2016 the Quinquennial report did not make good reading, as the architect had found significant damage to roof timbers in the Feilden Chapel. In addition, the roof surfaces not repaired in 2004 were in need of replacement, together with stone work which was showing some deterioration and needed replacing. The roof over the north aisle discharges water into a lead lined gutter in the stone wall which had been leaking water for some years causing damage to the wall. The architect proposed extending the roof over the wall and fitting external guttering to rectify this.

Work started in March 2018 to implement the report at an estimated £416,000. The church did not have the resources to fund this project so a small building committee was formed to enquire about help from the Heritage Lottery Fund; the Fund allocated £230,000 towards the total cost with the church funding the remainder. In addition to the roof work it was decided to upgrade the electrical systems to modern standards, which will be funded separately.

1.4 The church building in general

A church built from local Storeton sandstone was present before the Norman Conquest. Some of the stones from this church are still present in the south wall of the present church. A priest in Bebington was recorded in the Domesday Book. The Saxon church was later replaced by a Norman church. Building of the tower started in 1300 and was completed around 50 years later. The church was remodelled in the 14th century, the south aisle was widened and a three-bay chancel was built. In the 16th century rebuilding started at the east end in Perpendicular style. The chancel and chapels were built but the scheme was interrupted by the Reformation. In 1847 the church was reordered and the north arcade was built in Norman style. More recently the church has been modernised by re-siting the rood screen, removing the choir stalls, installing a kitchen and toilets and creating a crèche and meeting room in the tower

1.5 The church building in detail

Exterior

The church is built in sandstone. Its plan consists of a four bay nave which widens to the east, aisles to the north and south, a three bay chancel with north and south chapels, and a tower protruding from the southwest corner. There is a contrast of styles between the chancel and the chapels, which are Perpendicular in style, and the nave, which is mainly Early Decorated. Part of the south arcade survives from the Norman church and the north arcade is a copy of this. The tower has deep buttresses, the western two of which are diagonal. On the northern side is a rectangular stair turret. On the west face is a window of two lights and at the second stage is a lancet window. The two-light bell openings are louvred. At the summit is a splay spire with lucarnes. From masons' marks, the lower parts of the tower date from the very early 14th century while the "ringing loft" dates from the middle of that century. The door to the outside of the tower was blocked in the 18th century, when a new door was cut within the church, but was re-opened in 1847. The tower had been rebuilt in 1805 after being struck by lightning. The last work of any significance was carried out in 1905.

1.6 Contents of the Church

Interior

The altar is prominent; it dates from 1911, was designed by C. E. Deacon, and was carved by Harry Hems. They also created the screens of 1898 and 1908. The reredos dates from 1951, and is by Bernard A. Miller. The stalls include three seats with misericords depicting a dolphin, a bearded face and a pelican. Four stalls end with poppy-heads. The font is circular and is of uncertain date. The stained glass in the east window was designed by T. F. Wilford in 1953. That in the north transept is signed by William Warrington and is dated 1859. On the south side of the church are two windows designed by Henry Holiday for Powell's, one of which is dated 1881 and the other 1886. The parish chest dates from the early 16th century. The parish registers begin in 1558 and the churchwardens' accounts in 1774. There is a ring of eight bells, all of which were cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry. Five bells dated 1845 were by Charles and George Mears and the other three, dated 1907, were by Mears and Stainbank. The two-manual organ is by Henry Willis & Sons, which replaced an earlier organ of 1885 by E. Franklin Lloyd.

1.7 Significance for mission

We have a fine pipe organ, and the excellent acoustics lend themselves to use for musical and theatrical events of a high standard. Unfortunately, due to the water damage, the organ has been unable to be used for any of these events or services. The installation of a protective canopy will ensure that the organ remains operational and can be used in Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, funerals, at Christmas, Easter enhancing the mission of the church and at other outreach events. Furthermore, it will reduce the need for future unnecessary expenditure on organ repairs, allowing funds to be directed towards the mission of St Andrews within the local community.

Section 2 : The significance of the area affected by the proposal.

2.1 Identify the parts of the church and/or churchyard which will be directly or indirectly affected by your proposal.

The organ and roof area above the organ.

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.

The present organ was built in 1962 by Henry Willis IV, of Henry Willis & Sons, Ltd. It has a plain oak casing and is constructed on stilts to allow light from the windows to reach the body of the church. There is a detached console with two manuals and fifteen stops: five each for the Great, Swell, and Pedal Organ.

The roof above, consisting of relatively new timber joists, is of little significance.

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals

3.1 Describe and assess the impact of your proposal on these parts, and on the whole.

The proposal will address the issues set out in the statement of needs and protect the fabric of the organ against future leaks.

To protect the organ and minimise the risk of future damage, on the advice of both our architect and our organ builders, we wish to install a canopy above the organ which would carry any incoming water safely away. The anticipated cost of this is approx. £1,800, which in our view represents a good investment related to potential repair costs.

The organ builder advises that the proposal would not affect the sound of the organ at all.

3.2 Explain how you intend, where possible, to mitigate the impact of the proposed works on the significance of the parts affected and the whole.

The impact on the fabric will be very minor. The proposed timber frame and plywood canopy painted or stained in an agreed colour to minimise its appearance from below, will be barely visible from floor level.

Sources consulted

<https://standrewsheritage.uk/>

Wikipedia

Raymond Richards - Old Cheshire Churches

Pevsner - Cheshire

Plan

Interior



Exterior



Ref: 2022-072734 **Church:** Bebington: St Andrew
Diocese: Chester **Archdeaconry:** Chester
Created By: Mr David Butler (07/05/2022) **Contact Tel.:** 07951643007
Status: Notification of advice

Statement of Needs

General information

Our vision is to be a Christ-Centred Family Sharing God's Love.

Our current activities include:

• Worship for an electoral roll of over 350, with the Register of Services indicating an average of around 230 people attending a range of weekly Sunday services including Holy Communion, all age and Family Services and a varied programme of evening services. Major festivals of Christmas, Easter and Harvest attract many additional people from the local community and beyond. Our church school, St. Andrew's Primary School makes a significant contribution to our services as do local youth uniformed organisations. As active members of the local Churches Together partnership the church is regularly used to host joint events and services.

• Community: The church also has strong links with the other primary school and the two Grammar Schools in the parish and we host all four school's Carol services for pupils and parents in the weeks before Christmas. Open days and fayres are also held on a regular basis i.e. summer and Christmas, across our two sites i.e. Church and Hall. The Church is always open for these events with heritage information and tours available. We have a fine pipe organ, and the excellent acoustics lend themselves to use for musical and theatrical events of a high standard. In addition our Church Hall is heavily used by community and youth groups who often have special services in Church e.g. Brownies Christingle service.

What is needed?

The organ is housed in the vestry area, to the north side of the chancel. The roof slope above, drains into a lead valley gutter against the chancel wall. This roof slope and gutter was last replaced in 2004, to modern standards, and is in good condition. However this type of roof system can allow leaks in extreme weather conditions: If the gutter gets blocked, or if there is torrential rain, or wind-driven rain, or snow, or hail, or ice, then water can get through, albeit rarely.

An extremely heavy hailstorm in December 2021 resulted in a leak above the organ. We believe the hail piled up in the gutter so that water seeped through the joints when it melted. We have noted an increase in extreme weather events in recent years including heavy hailstorms, which have been frequent in this area over the last year. We wish to protect the fabric of the organ against future leaks.

Our Architect advises that the roof (which underwent major repairs a few years ago) is in good order, and the valley gutters are constructed to modern standards, but they inherently carry the risk of leaks if there is a build-up of debris (we have them cleared twice a year), or in very heavy rain, hail or snow. Although it would be possible to redesign and reform the gutter using modern materials, this would be prohibitively expensive and might not eliminate the risk even then.

The proposal

Details of proposed canopy sited over the organ, to try to protect the organ from a repeat of the recent water damage, by diverting any water that should come in to a safe place.

Broadly speaking, a frame approximately 8' long x 6' wide would be constructed out of 2" square poplar, corner joints lapped and glued, along with a centre rail for support. The upper surface would then be covered by heavy duty polythene, the lower side by a skin of plywood. The ply and the frame to be painted matt black, or stained to a colour to be decided.

The front edge of the frame to be positioned against the lip of the stonework (as marked in yellow on the photo in the attached document '2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal Bebington') the rear edge to sit on top of the Swell box with a length of plastic gutter under. The frame will be angled into the organ and the gutter will be angled towards the east end. The gutter will have a stop at the west end and such pipework as necessary at the east end to channel any water that may enter the chamber to be safely directed into a suitable container at floor level.

The frame to be attached to the organ and not fixed to the stone wall. Any visible pipework to be boxed in by similar materials and finish to existing organ casework.

The canopy will be lower than the gold side case pipes so will not be visible from a side view. When looking directly at the organ from the Chancel, you may be able to see the underside of the canopy as it will span the gap between the unexposed Great pipework and the Swell box.

Why?

A small amount of water can cause a lot of damage to an organ and that is what occurred in December 2021, resulting in the need for repairs to the tune of some £12,000.

It is not expected that the canopy will come into use very often and even when it does, the amount of water likely to be collected is negligible, however any amount of water ingress into the organ can be devastating, hence the provision of this canopy.

Justification

The proposal is considered unlikely to harm the significance.

Application Ref: **2022-072734**

Church: **Bebington: St Andrew**

Diocese: **Chester**

Archdeaconry: **Chester**

Summary: **Installation of organ canopy**

Background and statement of needs:

In December 2021, an unusually heavy hailstorm caused a number of leaks in the church roof, including directly above the organ. This caused significant water damage to the organ, resulting in the need for repairs costing approx. £12,000.

The organ is housed in the vestry area, to the north side of the chancel. The roof slope above drains into a lead valley gutter against the chancel wall. This roof slope and gutter was last replaced in 2004, to modern standards, and is in good condition. However this type of roof system can allow leaks in extreme weather conditions: If the gutter gets blocked, or if there is torrential rain, or wind-driven rain, or snow, or hail, or ice, then water can get through, albeit rarely.

In the hailstorm in December, we believe that the hail piled up in the gutter so that water seeped through the joints when it melted. A small amount of water can cause a lot of damage to an organ and that is what occurred on this occasion, resulting in the need for repairs, which are the subject of a separate List B application.

We have noted an increase in extreme weather events in recent years including heavy hailstorms, which have been frequent in this area over the last year. Therefore we wish to protect the fabric of the organ against future leaks. On the advice of our Architect and Organ Builders, the only viable solution for this is a canopy over the organ.

Statement of significance:

The present organ was built in 1962 by Henry Willis IV, of Henry Willis & Sons, Ltd. It has a plain oak casing and is constructed on stilts to allow light from the windows to reach the body of the church. There is a detached console with two manuals and fifteen stops: five each for the Great, Swell, and Pedal Organ.

Proposal:

Our Architect advises that the roof (which underwent major repairs a few years ago) is in good order, and the valley gutters are constructed to modern standards, but they inherently carry the risk of leaks if there is a build-up of debris (we have them cleared twice a year), or in very heavy rain, hail or snow. Although it would be possible to redesign and reform the gutter using modern materials, this would be prohibitively expensive and might not eliminate the risk even then.

To protect the organ and minimise the risk of future damage, on the advice of both our architect and our organ builders, we wish to install a canopy above the organ which would carry any incoming water safely away. The anticipated cost of this is approx. £1,800, which in our view represents a good investment related to potential repair costs. Because of the location of the organ, the underside of the canopy being stained timber would be barely visible from floor level.

A description of the proposal is contained in the attached document: '2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal Bebington', and photos showing the context are attached in document '2022-072734 Organ canopy context photos'. The Organ Builders and the Architect's advice are also reproduced below.

Advice from Adrian Griffiths at David Wells:

“Our picture archive shows that the bulk of the water ran down the north side of the arch directly above the middle of the Great soundboard and would therefore suggest that a canopy be placed over this part of the organ in order to help to minimise the risk of any further water ingress. We have done similar things elsewhere with good results and such work should be considered to coincide with the planned repair work whilst the instrument is in a partially dismantled state.

We would suggest a simple frame between the existing Swell-box and north facing wall, high above the organ space with a plywood covering, in turn covered with a suitable grade of polythene. The whole structure to be strategically angled and positioned so that any further deposits are steered away and allowed to disperse without affecting any organ parts. All visible timberwork to be painted or stained in an agreed colour to minimise its appearance from below.”

In a separate email he advised:

“I haven’t got any photos of protective work that match the exact situation at St Andrews. A photo of the closest thing to what we propose is attached (see ‘**2022-072734 Organ protection example**’) however, in your installation, you would NOT be able to see any blue polythene at all as this inside face would be covered over by a piece of ply, painted black, and, in fact, I really don’t envisage you being able to see the canopy at all!

The exact details of size, shape, angle of fall and manner of fixings would really need to be decided when the pipes have been removed and we have clear access inside the organ. Anticipated costs would be no more than £1,800.00 plus vat.”

It should be noted that they have fitted water protection of one sort or another at St Mary’s Eastham, St Wilfred Standish, Lancaster Priory and Huyton Parish Church.

He also advises that it wouldn’t affect the sound of the organ at all.

See attached photos (‘**2022-072734 Organ canopy proposal Bebington**’) for an illustration of the proposal.

DAVID WELLS ORGAN BUILDERS LTD

CATHEDRAL WORKS,

52 WESTMINSTER ROAD,

LIVERPOOL,

L4 4LT

TEL 0151 207 9200 . FAX 0151 207 9201 .

EMAIL davidwells@dwob.org

Advice from Architect

“Just to clarify matters (and I attach a PDF of the roof plan for quick reference – see ‘**2022-072734 Roof Plan Survey**’), the gutter between roof slope 3 and the chancel north wall is not faulty, as such. It is a typical traditional lead-lined stepped valley gutter, renewed in 2004, checked in our campaign of 2018, and remaining in good order. It is in fact of similar form to the other seven valley and parapet box gutters on your complicated roofscape.

Of course, such traditional gutters rely on gravity, and the overlapping of the different lead bays and adjoining roof coverings. If such gutters get blocked, or if there is torrential rain, or wind-driven rain, or snow, or hail or ice, then water can get through, albeit rarely. It is unfortunate that the organ was placed directly beneath a valley gutter – usually the most vulnerable part of a roofscape.

Sadly, there is little you can do to improve the traditional gutter form. Timber snow boards used to be fitted sometimes to keep a gutter running clear beneath snow and ice – but they tend to trap debris and can themselves cause blocking - and they also rot fairly quickly. Gutter heating mats were also available at one point – but they consume electricity, and would not be very green.

It is possible to reduce the number of steps or joints in the gutter sole, and thus possible water entry points, by using modern materials, such as PVC or stainless steel, which could do the run in one or perhaps two pieces, but this would involve re-forming the gutter timberwork and the adjoining roof slope, and would not be a cheap operation: I am copying in Gordon the QS so he can advise on this.

But even if we re-formed the gutter, we still couldn’t guarantee that water would never get through in this vicinity – because the gutter adjoins the chancel north wall, which rises a metre or more above the gutter, and because it is possible for wind-driven rain to penetrate the masonry, and thus bypass the gutter and its cover flashing.

So, the idea of a shield over the organ, which would be lost in the darkness of the roof soffit, and which would be largely screened by the organ pipes, seems an attractive option, subject to the details.”

Bryan Martin BA, Dip Arch, RIBA, AABC

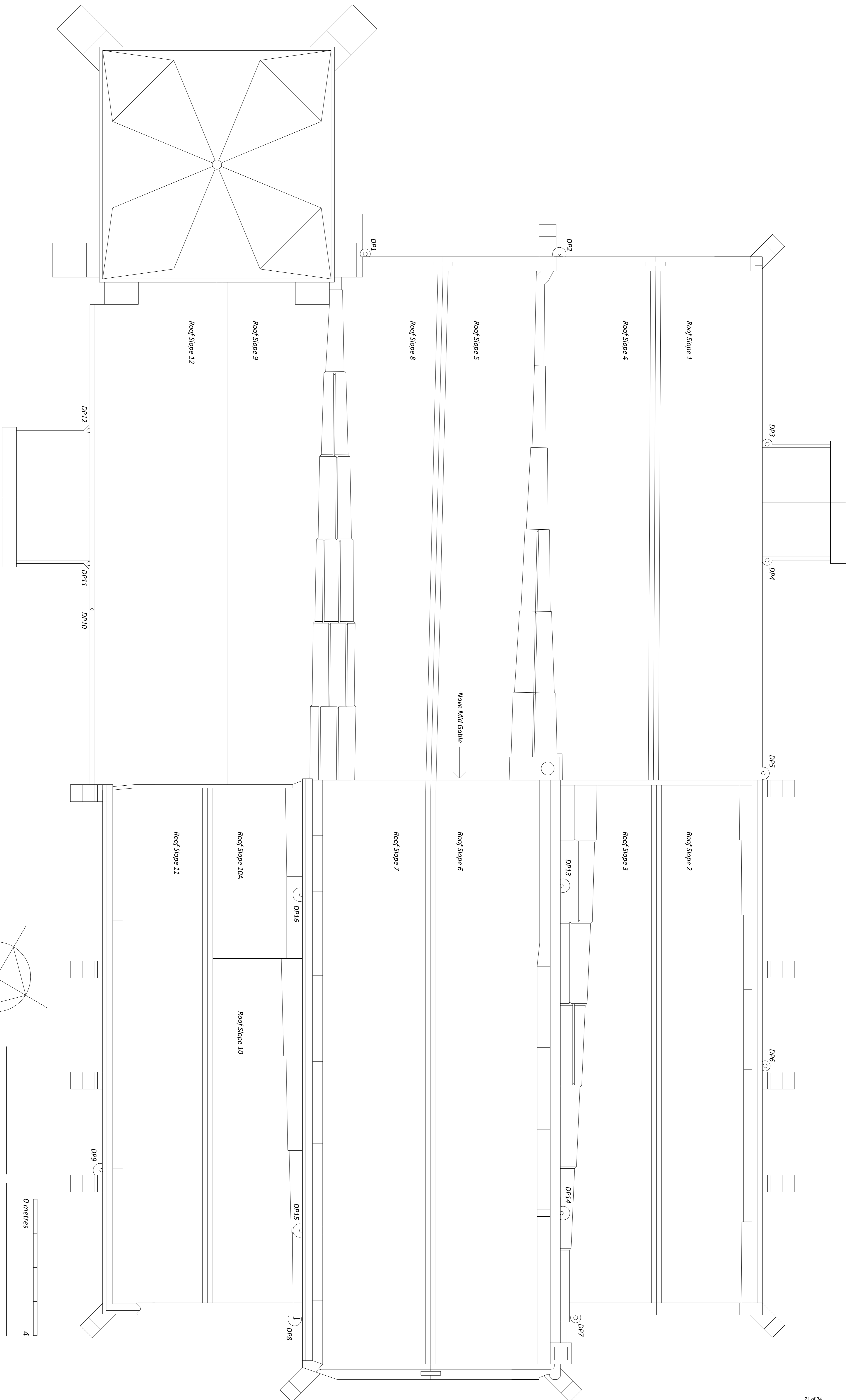
Bryan Martin, Architect, 36 Banbury Lane,

Byfield, Northamptonshire, NN11 6UX

bryan@bryanmartin.co.uk

01327 264358





**Roof Plan
Survey**

**Church of St Andrew
Bebington**

Dwg No: 117/02/02	Scale: 1:50 @ A1	Bryan Martin, Architect 36 Bonbury Lane, Byfield, Northants, NN11 6UX tel: 01327 264358 Do not scale - check all dimensions on site
Drawn:	Date:	

St Andrew's Bebington (0802): Organ Canopy



Organ chamber from the North Aisle. Canopy would sit inside the organ, behind the gold pipes. From the nave, it will not be visible at all.



Organ chamber from the chancel. The canopy will run from the rear side of the wall, above the arch, and above the visible pipes. From this side, from the chancel (but not the nave), the underside of the timber canopy would be visible, but as it will be dark stained timber it would be unnoticeable.





The vestry area, showing the organ and its supporting posts. The proposed drain would run down the rear of the north east post, on the left of the LH photo and the right of the RH photo, boxed in with timber so that it would not be noticeable, and would discharge into a container approximately the width of the post, at floor level.



11 May 2022

St Andrew, Bebington

Details of proposed canopy sited over the organ, to try to protect the organ from a repeat of the recent water damage, by diverting any water that should come in to a safe place.

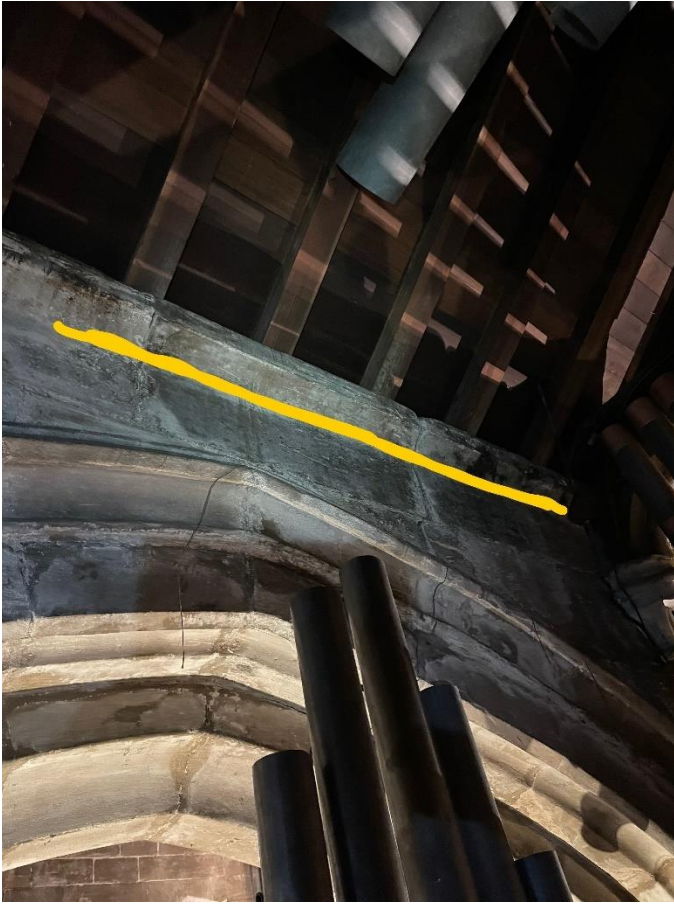
Broadly speaking, a frame approximately 8' long x 6' wide would be constructed out of 2" square poplar, corner joints lapped and glued, along with a centre rail for support. The upper surface would then be covered by heavy duty polythene, the lower side by a skin of plywood. The ply and the frame to be painted matt black, or stained to a colour to be decided.

The front edge of the frame to be positioned against the lip of the stonework (as marked in yellow on the photo) the rear edge to sit on top of the Swell box with a length of plastic gutter under. The frame will be angled into the organ and the gutter will be angled towards the East End. The gutter will have a stop at the West end and such pipework as necessary at the East end to channel any water that may enter the chamber to be safely directed into a suitable container at floor level.

The frame to be attached to the Organ and not fixed to the stone wall. Any visible pipework to be boxed in by similar materials and finish to existing organ casework.

The canopy will be lower than the gold side case pipes so will not be visible from a side view. When looking directly at the organ from the Chancel, you may be able to see the underside of the canopy as it will span the gap between the unexposed Great pipework and the Swell box.

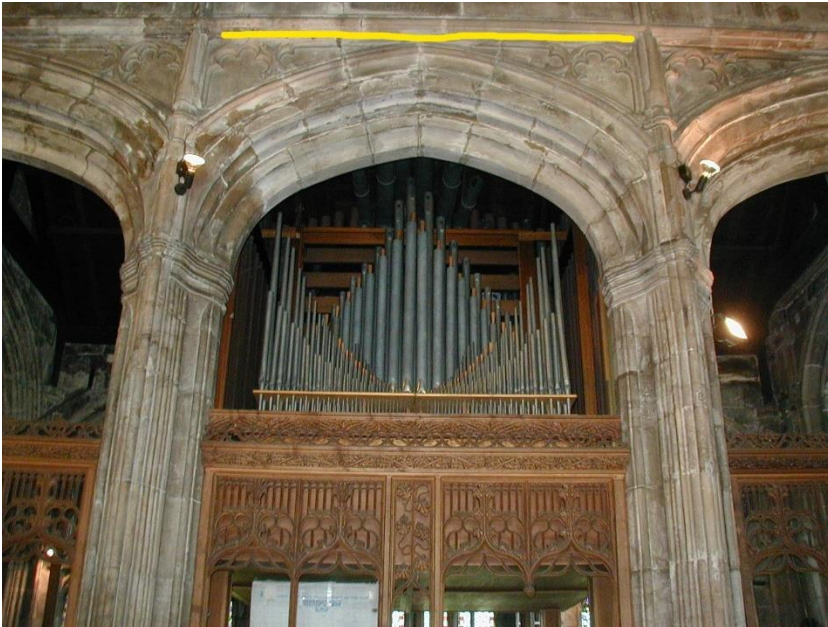
N.B. It is not expected that the canopy will come into use very often and even when it does, the amount of water likely to be collected is negligible, however any amount of water ingress into the organ can be devastating, hence the provision of this canopy.



Canopy to butt up to this ledge and span the gap between the ledge and the Swell box, approx. 4'.



Canopy will not be visible from the side view as it will be below the level of the case pipes.



Canopy to sit against the inside of this arch at the level indicated, and angled down to above the swell box..



Canopy frame to be of similar construction to this installation, although polythene will not be visible.

Bebington St Andrew - 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](#)

Date	Message
<p>27/01/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p> <p>With attachment</p>	<p>Following an extraordinarily heavy hailstorm in early December we had several leaks in the roof one of which has damaged the organ. No fault with the roof itself, we think the hail piled up in the valley gutters and then got through the joints as it melted. No other leaks before or since, since our roof repair project a few years ago.</p> <p>Repairs estimated at £12,000 and we have an insurance claim in progress. Organ builder's report is attached if you want to see it. As this is like for like repair, is any permission needed?</p> <p>Separately, I'm considering whether there is anything we can do to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence, given the increase in extraordinary weather events due to climate change. I've consulted our architect. Probably the easiest option would be some sort of internal protection/roof over the organ. I'm wondering if you know whether anything similar has been done anywhere else. That presumably would need faculty approval.</p> <p><i>Organ repair report</i></p>
<p>28/01/2022</p> <p>To: David Vestergaard From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>The Organ advisor is completely confident about the works to the organ, as expected, he agrees it is fine under List B, and approves very much of David Wells to do it. If you submit a List B application I can put that straight through to Mike for approval.</p> <p>The Organ advisor can only think of one church that wanted to install a secondary roof over the organ, because plaster was falling into it, but they solved the cause rather than introduce an internal structure. He thinks that a secondary roof would affect the sound, and would advise against it, but says to consult David Wells as well as your architect about the idea. He also said he didn't think the amenity societies would be keen, which is probably true. I'm sure Bryan will check the valley gutter joints, but hopefully there might be a simpler solution?</p>
<p>30/01/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p>	<p>I'll talk with David Wells about it (was going to do that anyway). Not sure there is a simpler solution – Bryan did suggest as an alternative replacing the valley gutter with stainless steel going up further under the roof slope but that sounds extremely expensive. I take the point though.</p>
<p>16/04/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p>	<p>I've been having discussions with people on this.</p> <p>David Wells say they have installed canopies over organs a number of times. (I've asked for information about where). They advise it would not affect the sound, and it would be affordable, at up to around</p>

	<p>£1800. The obvious issue is aesthetics, but they are confident they could do it in a way which would not be noticeable. It would be plywood painted black, covered with polythene which wouldn't be visible from underneath, and they envisage it would not really be visible at all being above the organ.</p> <p>Bryan Martin thinks this is a good option, and agrees that tucked away between the organ and the roof soffit, and stained out, it would be pretty much imperceptible.</p> <p>The tricky thing is David Wells say the exact details of size, shape, angle of fall and manner of fixings would really need to be decided when the pipes have been removed and we have clear access inside the organ. That would leave us a limited time for detailed approval before the pipes are put back again.</p> <p>In terms of timing David Wells have booked the work to the organ itself in for mid July which is their next availability.</p> <p>There aren't really other viable options. Bryan did suggest originally as an alternative that we could re-form the gutter using non-traditional materials, possibly stainless steel or PVC, carried well up the slope under the slating. But that's going to be very expensive, I would imagine tens of thousands, which really isn't a viable option for us. The roof and valley gutter in question were redone in 2004, up to modern recommendations, and are in good order.</p> <p>I would like us to do something, because of the increase in extreme weather events due to climate change. We have had more heavy hailstorms in the last year than I can remember in my lifetime. So I could well see the probability of a recurrence of the problem if we don't take action.</p> <p>What is the best way forward from here?</p>
<p>19/04/2022</p> <p>To: David Vestergaard From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>I think the best way forward is to get David and Bryan to work up a proposal, on the understanding that there are quite a lot of unknowns at the moment, but we could get DAC advice on what they can say with reasonable confidence.</p> <p>I know the organ advisor wasn't keen on this approach, but I'm sure he would defer to David Wells on the effect on the organ, and to Bryan on aesthetics. We would probably have to consult the amenity societies, which could introduce delays, so it would be helpful to get as much work down on paper upfront as possible, otherwise it could be difficult to get permission before a heavy storm does further damage.</p> <p>Standing committee can't recommend works to Grade 1 churches, and that is next week, so the next full DAC meeting is 27th May. If you could get a proposal together by then, we can see what we can do</p>
<p>01/05/2022</p>	<p>I have an outline from David Wells, below, as to what is needed. Bryan Martin is supportive of the approach and agrees that tucked away up</p>

To: Katy Purvis
From: David Vestergaard

With attachment

between the organ and the roof soffit, and stained out, it would be pretty much imperceptible.
Attached is a photo of one they have done elsewhere – ours would **not** have blue polythene visible.

I can also send you some photos of the organ chamber.
Obviously we need to start on the faculty application but can you tell me what else we would need?
What's the deadline for paperwork etc for the 27th May meeting?

Advice I have from Adrian Griffiths at David Wells is as follows:

“Our picture archive shows that the bulk of the water ran down the north side of the arch directly above the middle of the Great soundboard and would therefore suggest that a canopy be placed over this part of the organ in order to help to minimise the risk of any further water ingress. We have done similar things elsewhere with good results and such work should be considered to coincide with the planned repair work whilst the instrument is in a partially dismantled state.

We would suggest a simple frame between the existing Swell-box and north facing wall, high above the organ space with a plywood covering, in turn covered with a suitable grade of polythene. The whole structure to be strategically angled and positioned so that any further deposits are steered away and allowed to disperse without affecting any organ parts. All visible timberwork to be painted or stained in an agreed colour to minimise its appearance from below.”

In a separate email he advised:

“I haven't got any photos of protective work that match the exact situation at St Andrews. A photo of the the closest thing to what we propose is attached however, in your installation, you would NOT be able to see any blue polythene at all as this inside face would be covered over by a piece of ply, painted black, and, in fact, I really don't envisage you being able to see the canopy at all!

The exact details of size, shape, angle of fall and manner of fixings would really need to be decided when the pipes have been removed and we have clear access inside the organ. Anticipated costs would be no more than £1,800.00 plus vat.

I am sorry I can't be more specific at this stage.”

They have fitted water protection of one sort or another at St Mary's Eastham, St Wilfred Standish, Lancaster Priory and Huyton Parish Church.

He also advises that it wouldn't affect the sound of the organ at all.

Bryan Martin is supportive of the approach and agrees that tucked away up between the organ and the roof soffit, and stained out, it would be pretty much imperceptible.

[5\) Photograph showing example of organ protection elsewhere](#)

<p>04/05/2022</p> <p>To: David Vestergaard From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>Sorry for the delay in replying. The deadline for the May Meeting is 13th May. Please can you send some photos of the organ chamber, and if possible ask David Wells or Bryan or both to come up with a drawing which explains how the canopy is expected to work/look, bearing in mind the point that you can't be sure until the pipes have been removed. Has Bryan had a look at the options for repairing the roof and expected costs, as I am sure that the DAC will ask?</p>
<p>04/05/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p>	<p>I will get them to work on that. Roof work would be an alteration rather than repair – there are no disrepair issues, it's a question of gutter design. Bryan hasn't looked at that, I imagine it would involve some time (and therefore costs) to get any sort of accurate figure but I will see if he can give a ballpark</p>
<p>05/05/2022</p> <p>To: David Vestergaard From: Bryan Martin, Architect</p>	<p>Just to clarify matters (and I attach a PDF of the roof plan for quick reference), the gutter between roof slope 3 and the chancel north wall is not faulty, as such. It is a typical traditional lead-lined stepped valley gutter, renewed in 2004, checked in our campaign of 2018, and remaining in good order. It is in fact of similar form to the other seven valley and parapet box gutters on your complicated roofscape.</p> <p>Of course, such traditional gutters rely on gravity, and the overlapping of the different lead bays and adjoining roof coverings. If such gutters get blocked, or if there is torrential rain, or wind-driven rain, or snow, or hale or ice, then water can get through, albeit rarely. It is unfortunate that the organ was placed directly beneath a valley gutter – usually the most vulnerable part of a roofscape.</p> <p>Sadly, there is little you can do to improve the traditional gutter form. Timber snow boards used to be fitted sometimes to keep a gutter running clear beneath snow and ice – but they tend to trap debris and can themselves cause blocking - and they also rot fairly quickly. Gutter heating mats were also available at one point – but they consume electricity, and would not be very green.</p> <p>It is possible to reduce the number of steps or joints in the gutter sole, and thus possible water entry points, by using modern materials, such as PVC or stainless steel, which could do the run in one or perhaps two pieces, but this would involve re-forming the gutter timberwork and the adjoining roof slope, and would not be a cheap operation: I am copying in Gordon the QS so he can advise on this.</p> <p>But even if we re-formed the gutter, we still couldn't guarantee that water would never get through in this vicinity – because the gutter adjoins the chancel north wall, which rises a metre or more above the gutter, and because it is possible for wind-driven rain to penetrate the masonry, and thus bypass the gutter and its cover flashing.</p> <p>So, the idea of a shield over the organ, which would be lost in the darkness of the roof soffit, and which would be largely screened by the organ pipes, seems an attractive option, subject to the details.</p>

<p>06/05/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p> <p>With attachment</p>	<p>Below is an email from Bryan Martin with his advice on the matter, and attached roof plan.</p> <p>Adrian Griffiths at David Wells will produce a drawing, he can't do so until next week, but should be in time for submissions for the meeting. In the meantime, I attach photos which I have put into a pdf (if you need them separately let me know).</p> <p>Dave Butler will be working on the faculty application. Can you advise whether it would be better to include the organ repairs themselves in this, or to do a List B for those separately?</p> <p>6) Roof Plan Survey of Bryan Martin, Architect</p>
<p>06/05/2022</p> <p>To: David Vestergaard From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>I've only received the roof plan not the photos, is that right? Bryan's explanation is very helpful, that is a very clear description of the problem and possible options, thanks</p> <p>I think I would do the organ repairs separately, so that so can get on with them when you want to, otherwise you'll have to wait for the faculty</p>
<p>06/05/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard</p> <p>With attachment</p>	<p>here are the photos!</p> <p><i>Superseded photos</i></p>
<p>11/05/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis, Bryan Martin, Architect From: David Vestergaard</p> <p>With attachments</p>	<p>I now have further details on the proposals from Adrian Griffiths at David Wells. He is not able to provide a drawing at the moment as their office system is being upgraded, so I hope the attached fits the needs.</p> <p>I have also amended my document with the photos, having talked through the proposed design with him. It will not sit immediately under the roof as I thought, but as he explains will sit on the top of the chancel wall above the arch and slope down inside the organ pipes. It will therefore not be visible at all from the nave – only from the chancel, where only stained timber will be visible, and therefore not very noticeable.</p> <p>Also note that it will be fixed to the organ itself, no fixing needed to the wall.</p> <p>I'm hoping despite his earlier comments that what he has been able to provide is clear enough and gives sufficient information for the faculty.</p> <p>PCC approved the proposals last night.</p> <p>I'm thinking that I should also consult our insurers so that they are aware we plan to do this and confirm it won't affect the policy.</p> <p>7) Annotated photograph pages</p>

	8) Proposal details of David Wells Organ Builders Ltd dated 11 May 2022
11/05/2022 To: Katy Purvis, David Vestergaard From: Bryan Martin, Architect	<p>A drawing would be helpful, although the proposal does seem reasonably clear.</p> <p>Are we sure that they won't be fixing it to the chancel wall? It would perhaps make construction easier if they did – and as long as the screws went into a masonry joint, I don't think that it would be problematic...</p>
12/05/2022 To: Katy Purvis From: David Vestergaard	<p>Here's the info I've given Dave Butler for the Statements: Statement of needs: The organ is housed in the vestry area, to the north side of the chancel. The roof slope above drains into a lead valley gutter against the chancel wall. This roof slope and gutter was last replaced in 2004, to modern standards, and is in good condition. However this type of roof system can allow leaks in extreme weather conditions: If the gutter gets blocked, or if there is torrential rain, or wind-driven rain, or snow, or hail, or ice, then water can get through, albeit rarely.</p> <p>An extremely heavy hailstorm in December 2021 resulted in a leak above the organ. We believe the hail piled up in the gutter so that water seeped through the joints when it melted. A small amount of water can cause a lot of damage to an organ and that is what occurred on this occasion, resulting in the need for repairs to the tune of some £12,000.</p> <p>We have noted an increase in extreme weather events in recent years including heavy hailstorms, which have been frequent in this area over the last year. We wish to protect the fabric of the organ against future leaks. On the advice of our Architect and Organ Builders, the only viable solution for this is a canopy over the organ.</p> <p>For the Statement of significance: The present organ was built in 1962 by Henry Willis IV, of Henry Willis & Sons, Ltd. It has a plain oak casing and is constructed on stilts to allow light from the windows to reach the body of the church. There is a detached console with two manuals and fifteen stops: five each for the Great, Swell, and Pedal Organ.</p> <p>Our QS has just come back to me to advise an estimated cost for the alternative of a stainless steel gutter, at about £17,000 plus VAT & fees. Not a cost effective solution and not really an option for us.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need anything further for this DAC meeting</p>
06/06/2022 To: David Vestergaard From: Katy Purvis	<p>I'm writing to let you know that at its meeting of 27 May 2022 the DAC considered the details of the organ protection, resolved to recommend the scheme, subject to formal application.</p> <p>The Committee also wished to offer the following informal advice:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The parish must assure themselves that the protective canopy will not create a trap for condensation leading to a moisture build up that may cause damage to the organ

	This means that when you have submitted a formal application, Caroline will be able to produce the notification of advice, which will allow you to proceed with the public notice period