

Supporting Documentation

Macclesfield St Michael – Window 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



23 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

Replacement of window protection with 8mm polycarbonate on three stained glass windows:

1. Small 3-light window in Savage Chapel
2. Christopher Whall window (south aisle of nave)
3. Legh Chapel window

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

Statement of Significance: St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

Revised: April 2021

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

1.1 Setting of the Church

How does the setting out of the church contribute to its landscape / townscape value and to its significance?

The church building is in a prominent position at the highest point of the town, above the Bollin Valley. It is a particular landmark when seen from Macclesfield Railway Station.

The church is a major feature of Macclesfield Marketplace, with a tall west tower and a shorter tower to the Savage Chapel. The churchyard is paved with ledger stones mainly dating from the 18th century with some from the 17th and 19th centuries. The southwest corner of the churchyard is laid to lawn and is popular with the community as a recreational area. Georgian railings and gate surround the churchyard, on three sides, where the level is higher than that of surrounding streets.

The church building is complemented by the neighbouring Georgian Town Hall built in the classical style in 1822 and a row of early 19th century houses to the south.

1.2 The Living Churchyard

What is the significance of the natural heritage of the site?

The southwest corner of the churchyard is laid to lawn. Two ornamental trees were planted in 2012 (to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee) and 2018 (in memory of Revd David Wightman) and two flower beds contain bee-friendly planting. Other floral beds are maintained by Cheshire East Council.

A single weeping ash tree, in poor condition, is near the Town Hall.

1.3 Social History

What is the historic and present use of the church and churchyard by the congregation and wider community? How does this contribute to its significance?

St Michaels building is a key venue for cultural activities in Macclesfield, hosting concerts held by local music societies, and also free lunchtime concert series. It is the largest venue in the town and is central to the biennial Barnaby arts festival, for concerts, lectures and art exhibitions. It is particularly heavily-used at Christmas, but the whole church is normally booked for community use on average two or three times per month. Three meeting rooms are available for hire which are used by local counselling groups, training courses and for community meetings.

Several schools, including the Kings School, hold their major worship services in St Michael's. Macclesfield Town Council, and Cheshire East Council, use the building for civic services and it is

open for most Town Centre events, including the monthly Treacle Market, where it provides space for reflection, access to toilets and, where appropriate, refreshments.

Following the reordering in 2003-4, and until Covid-19, the church building has been open every morning, with a simple cafe which attracts visitors and has become a popular meeting place. The Savage Chapel is open when the church building is open and is used by members of the public as a place for private reflection and prayer.

The churchyard, being an open green space in the centre of town, has become a popular place for relaxation, used by those who live or work, or who visit, the town centre. A small number of benches, are provided for seating.

1.4 The church building in general

Provide a description of the church

A chapel was founded on the site soon after the borough was established in about 1220. This was extended or rebuilt as All Hallows or All Saints, in 1278 by Queen Eleanor, the wife of King Edward 1. It has been rebuilt several times, most recently in 1901. A number of important elements remain from earlier times, especially the Legh and Savage Chapels, and several memorials. The Legh Chapel was built in about 1442 to receive the body of Sir Piers Legh, who fought at Agincourt and died later in the same campaign. The larger Savage Chapel is a chantry chapel built between 1505 and 1507 by Thomas Savage, Archbishop of York. The whole church, save for these chapels and the tower, was rebuilt in Georgian style in 1740, following a long period of neglect. This building was built on a line north from the mediaeval church, so that the tower is now at the south west corner of the building. A final rebuild took place from 1898 to 1901, this time in Victorian Gothic, except for the still-surviving chapels, and the chancel, which had been added in 1884 (in a similar Gothic style). This current building was designed by Sir Arthur Blomfield and built of local stone from Teggs Nose, except for the tower which was partly rebuilt using stone from the previous church.

There is a small extension, built in the 1970s, at the south east corner of the chancel to form a vestry with its own entrance porch, linked to the former choir vestry which was repurposed as a meeting room.

A further reordering took place between June 2003 and May 2004 to provide a welcome area (narthex), meeting rooms, office and vestry, at the west end.

The organ, built by William Hill in 1885, was moved to its current position from the chancel in the 1970s, and extensively repaired, cleaned and rebuilt in 2008. The tower holds the only peal of 12 bells in Cheshire outside the cathedral.

1.5 The church building in detail

Assess the significance of either each historical phase of the building or of each area within it. For example, north aisle, south chancel elevation, Norman tower

Savage Chapel & Tower ca 1505

High

Legh Chapel ca 1442	High
West Tower ca 1300, heightened 1450, re-faced 1900	High
Main body Nave, 1901	Moderate-high
Chancel, 1884	Moderate-high
West End internal reordering, 2004	Moderate-high

1.6 Contents of the Church

Provide a description of its contents and their significance. It is reasonable to group these if there is a contemporary scheme which is significant as such, for example one could say a complete scheme of 18th-century furnishings, of high significance.

In and near the chapels and in the chancel there are a number of fine medieval monuments to members of the Savage family. A large monument to Thomas, third Earl Rivers (d.1694), is by the famous Stuart sculptor William Stanton and considered to be one of his best.

A number of early C20 stained glass windows originate from the workshops of Morris & Co, Powell and Kempe.

Funeral effigies:

Sir Richard Downes of Shrigley c 1475	High
Sir John Savage and his wife Katharine Stanley, 1495	High
Sir John Savage 5 th , 1492	High
John Savage 6 th , 1527	High
"A characterful commoner" (Liversegge), c1500	High
John Savage 7 th and his wife Elizabeth, 1528	High
Sir John Savage 8 th and his wife Elizabeth, 1597	High

The Legh Pardon Brass c1506	High
Other brasses	Moderate
Bishop Ryle stone tablet memorial	Moderate-high

Mobile font, 1744	Moderate-high
Font, mid C19	Low
"Breeches" Bible	High
Reredos c1945 Sir Charles Nicholson	Low-moderate
Hidden Gothic reredos c1820	Low-moderate
Pulpit c1876	Low-moderate
Two chandeliers, 1744, remodelled 1822 and 1882	Moderate-high
Medieval glass fragments in savage Chapel Porch	Moderate-high
Early C20 stained glass windows	Moderate-high

1.7 Significance for mission

What are the strengths of the building as it is for worship and mission? What potential for adapted and new uses does the church and its setting already have with little or no change?

The prominent position of the church building in the Marketplace, means that it is often the first church sought by those with no current church connection, and is popular for life events, in particular, baptisms. It is the largest venue for indoor events (concerts, art events, lectures) in the town, and the location for large services of public worship. Additionally, being adjacent to the Town Hall, the position assists with good links with the Town Council. Community events are often held in the Marketplace in front of the church: thus the church is in an ideal position to attract people inside. Plans are being developed to ensure that, when in the building, or relaxing in the churchyard, people feel welcome and also have an opportunity to explore their spirituality. Improved publicity about the architecture and heritage items will, it is hoped, attract more visitors. Having a simple café open in the welcome area enables the building to be open for several hours each day. The Savage Chapel is reserved as a quiet place for private prayer and is available whenever the building is open.

The west end and former south-east vestry re-ordering provided several meeting rooms which are used by counselling and support groups and are available for hire.

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.

1. George Woodhouse memorial Window
2. Joshua and Mary Wardle memorial window
3. Baptistry window

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.

1. George Woodhouse memorial Window

Designed by Christopher Whall who is recognised as a leader in the Arts and Crafts movement and a key figure in the modern history of stained glass. The window is a representation of the ascension, with three lights; St John, Christ, Mary. The style is unusual in comparison with others in the building, with a more modern feel, and different use of colour. Characteristic of the Arts & Crafts movement.

2. Joshua and Mary Wardle memorial window

By Morris & Co, 1901. Designed by Edward Burne-Jones. Three small lights with the figures Faith, Hope and Charity.

3. Baptistry window

Designed by Shrigley & Hunt of Lancaster, 1903. Represents saints associated with the sacrament of baptism.

Level of significance: moderate

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.

Replacement of historic protective system which does not meet current recommended standards with 0.8mm polycarbonate and 6-12mm air cap.

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.

Not applicable

Sources consulted

The Stained Glass Windows of the Parish Church of St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield; Nicola Gower-Jones (2008)

Figure 1 Location map



Figure 2 Plan of site (all trees have now been removed except for the one on NW corner)

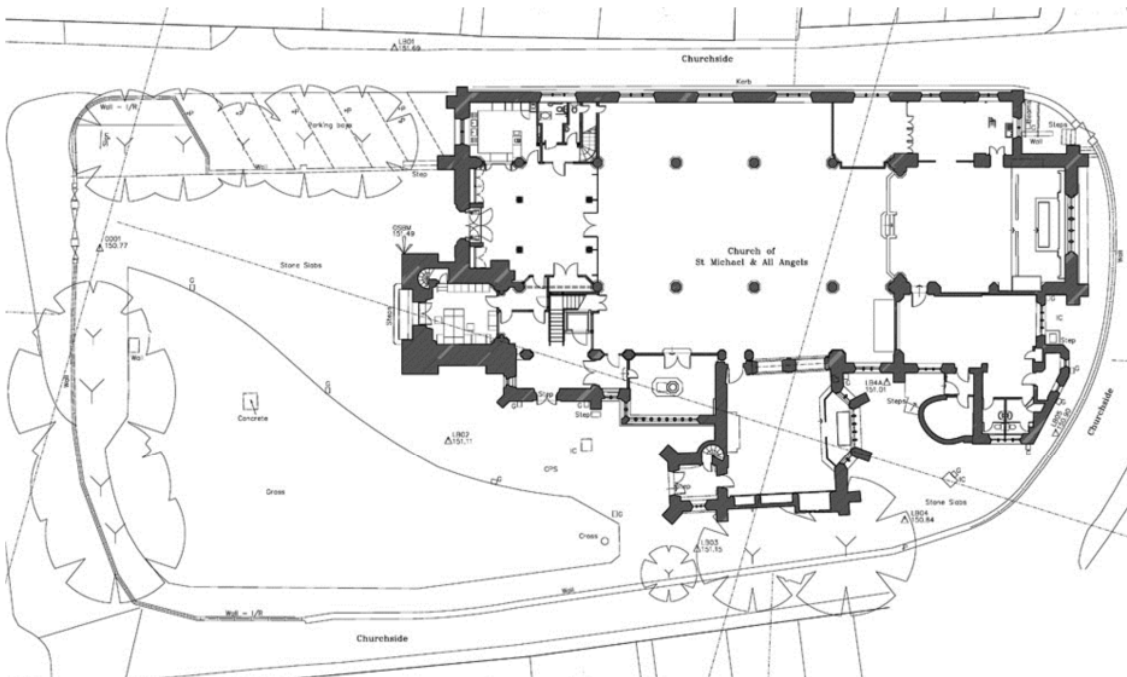


Figure 3 View from the Railway Station



Figure 4 Interior looking west



Figure 5 Views from the Marketplace



Statement of Needs – St Michael & All Angels, Macclesfield

Upgrade protection on three stained glass windows

1. General information

This should provide an overview of the parish and the current use of the building.

St Michael & All Angels forms one part of a team benefice, which includes All Saints, St Peter and St Barnabas. St Michael's is a town centre church which also includes Civic and school services on a regular basis.

The building is used not only for regular Sunday and midweek worship, (usually two services on a Sunday morning, a monthly choral evensong and a weekly mid-week communion) baptisms, weddings and funerals, as required. It is the largest single seated venue in the town of Macclesfield and is used for cultural activities, lectures and arts events.

The Youth Centre (former vestry) at the south east of the building has softer furnishings and is used for counselling groups, activities for babies and children and our youth group.

We have a policy to have the Church open every morning, every day of the week, and if we are able to extend the hours that the Church is available, we do. Our Open Door Café is open every weekday. We are open for Town Centre events, providing a quite space, toilets and refreshments. We also keep the Savage chapel available for quiet prayer and reflection during the times that the Church is open. St Michael's has a grade 2* listing, so we are visited by those with an appreciation of church architecture and social history.

We are very keen to ensure that the Church is seen to be part of the community and not separate from it.

2. What do you need?

explain your needs (not your proposals). Append any brief for your architect.

- Appropriate and adequate protection of historically-important stained glass

3. The proposals

Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in section 2

- Replacement of the protective materials with materials and using a method which meet current recommended standards.

4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

Justify your proposals by explaining why you can't meet your needs without making changes.

Also include anything which may have prompted the proposals

- Quinquennial reports of 2016 and 2021 highlighted that three windows are protected with glass rather than polycarbonate. This glass is sealed in place with mortar, which does not permit air circulation.

5. What is the evidence for the need?

- Vandalism damage to a neighbouring window destroyed the protective glass and also damaged the window: ie the protection did not protect adequately.

6. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?

Not applicable

7. What other options to meet the need were considered, taking Point 6 and the impact identified in the Statement of Significance into account?

Replacement of protection with stainless steel polyester powder coated protective grilles. This was a more costly option and potentially more unsightly; furthermore not consistent with the other windows. .

Other information (funding)

Grant funding to be applied for. Some funding is available from PCC account. Materials for the two smaller windows are already available as surplus from the repair to the Woodroffe window completed earlier this year, so the costs include materials only for the Legh Chapel window and labour for all three windows.

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Lightfoots

Vicar & PCC St Michael & All Angels Church
C/o Mrs R Mayers
St Michael & All Angels Church
Market Place
Macclesfield
SK10 1DY

19th January 2022

Dear Mrs Mayers,

Re: St Michael & All Angels Church – Macclefield

Further to our recent meeting regarding the proposed replacement of the existing external plate glass protective glazing to various windows at the above church.

As requested, we now have pleasure in providing updated costs for necessary remedial works to replace the protective glazing excluding the cost of the polycarbonate to the Woodhouse & Savage Windows as you now have the polycarbonate for those two windows in store as follows.

To providing our own working access, carefully remove the existing clear plate glass external glazing from in front of stained-glass window.

Taking necessary sizes and templates supplying and fitting UV protected clear polycarbonate protective glazing, each section fixed following the contours of the stonework using nonferrous fixings.

South side	9 -	Off	Full Lancets (Using 8mm Polycarbonate)
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For the sum of £3,420.00 plus VAT

Woodhouse Window	3 -	Off	Full Lancets (Using 8mm Polycarbonate)
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For the sum of £890.00 plus VAT

Savage Chapel	3 -	Off	Full Lancets (Using 8mm Polycarbonate)
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For the sum of £588.00 plus VAT



Glazing works to all three windows being carried out at one time.

Three Windows 15 - Off Full Lancets

All For the sum of £ 4,110.00 plus VAT

We hope that the above costs meet with your approval and await your further instructions, which would always receive our best attention.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Thornton

G Thornton

Director

CHARLES LIGHTFOOT (NW) LTD



1. Small window in Savage Chapel: protection cracked and fully mortared in.



2. Christopher Whall window: protection fully mortared in (and cracking).



3.



4.

3. Legh Chapel window: protection fully mortared in

Macclesfield St Michael - Correspondence with parish and others

Date	Message
18/04/2022 To: PCC From: Paul Spedding	<p>As you know, there was vandalism damage to a stained glass window in the Youth Centre in 2020. The window has been repaired and the protection, in the form of transparent polycarbonate sheeting, was replaced. The cost of this work was covered by insurance.</p> <p>Some of our other very valuable and beautiful stained glass windows are also not correctly protected. We have a quotation in place for the work needed and we are intending to apply to some grant-funding bodies to assist with the expense.</p> <p>However, before funding applications can occur, we need to apply for a faculty from the Diocese, and before we can do this there needs to be approval from the Church Council.</p> <p>Our next normal meeting of the ChC is not until 24th May so it would be really useful if we can make progress before then.</p> <p>If you agree that the Church Council should apply for the faculty, please let me know.</p> <p>A simple message (email, text or verbal) agreeing to this course of action is all I need.</p>
24/04/2022 To: Rachel Mayers From: Paul Spedding	<p>Everyone except Izzy (in Palestine) and Connor (USA) have agreed about the Faculty so it's <i>nem con</i> to use a bit of Latin.</p>
28/04/2022 To: Katy Purvis From: Rachel Mayers	<p>I was asked to provide photos of the windows needing protection – I have just added these to the system.</p>
06/06/2022 To: Rachel Mayers, Edward Kepczyk (architect) 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 window protection and resolved to recommend the scheme, subject to the following provisos.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The works to be under the direction and subject to the inspection of the Church Architect <p>The Committee also wished to offer the following informal advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. It expected the Church Architect to make sure the specification of the polycarbonate window protection and fixings are suitable <p>This means that Caroline will shortly be able to produce the notification of advice, which will allow you to proceed with the public notice period</p>