



Building Faith in the Community

ST NICOLAS, GREAT BOOKHAM

24 May 2021

Mrs Wendy Harris
Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches
Church House
20 Alan Turing Road
Guildford
Surrey

Dear Wendy,

Faculty application for St Nicolas, Great Bookham: OFS No. 2021-058069

Thank you for your letter of 17th May reporting on the DAC's discussion of our proposals at their May meeting. We are grateful that the DAC accepts that the pews are not anything special (apart from the older panels they incorporate) and agrees to: the relocation of the font and the removal of its large base; the plan to relocate the donations box; the new rack for the storage of the kneelers; the ramps; and the work to the floor.

From your letter there are just four issues outstanding and I will address each in turn.

The historic panels in the pews near the font

We propose to incorporate the panels into the new kneeler rack and I enclose a re-design of the rack which does this. This will bring the panels together in a sympathetic way which will nicely tie together what little we have left of the Georgian history of the church with its more recent past – the kneelers being a 2000 millennium project. The panels will be significantly more prominent than they are at present as most of them will be at eye level to your right as you enter the church, just behind the re-positioned font.

I would also note that the Victorian period in the life of the church will be well reflected in the retention of the chancel and pulpit as they are now.

The new base for the font

The Committee sought reassurance that the new font base would be sufficiently robust. The font bowl, which is 12th century Petworth marble, will be mounted on a bronze plate on four new slender solid bronze legs mounted in a new foundation. The legs being solid



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bronze and a quadrant will be more than capable of taking the load of the bowl but we will ensure the design is ratified by Alister Piper, and if radically changed come back to the DAC. The font will not drain to earth but will have an inscription in the floor as shown noting the reordering of the church and the date. The design is visually subservient to the bowl which will now be the dominant feature, as you enter the church reinforcing the significance and importance of baptism.

The new heating system

We share the Committee's disappointment that it isn't possible to move to a carbon neutral heating solution now and are grateful for the Committee's acceptance that what is proposed is the best solution in the current circumstances. We do not, however, propose to rest there, even though the new and much more efficient heating system should reduce our carbon emissions significantly. 10-15 years hence would be an appropriate time to evaluate all the new technologies that will be available then and we are happy to commit to doing this. We are advised that there could well be a range of attractive and affordable options available to replace the heating plant (the boiler). This should be possible without changing the radiators or pipework – another way in which the proposed scheme is carbon efficient in terms of its embodied energy.

We fully accept that the heating controls need to be sophisticated enough to enable us to manage the system as efficiently as possible and not to waste gas. It must, of course, also be sufficiently simple to operate so that it can be programmed quickly and reliably. The exact system has yet to be decided. It will most likely be a Trend or OSS system. We would be pleased to forward the technical detail when the decision has been made prior to tender.

The improvements to the AV system

There are five TV screens proposed for the church and tower: two for use by the choir; two for use by those leading services; and one in the tower. I enclose a drawing showing the location of these. What follows explains why each is needed.

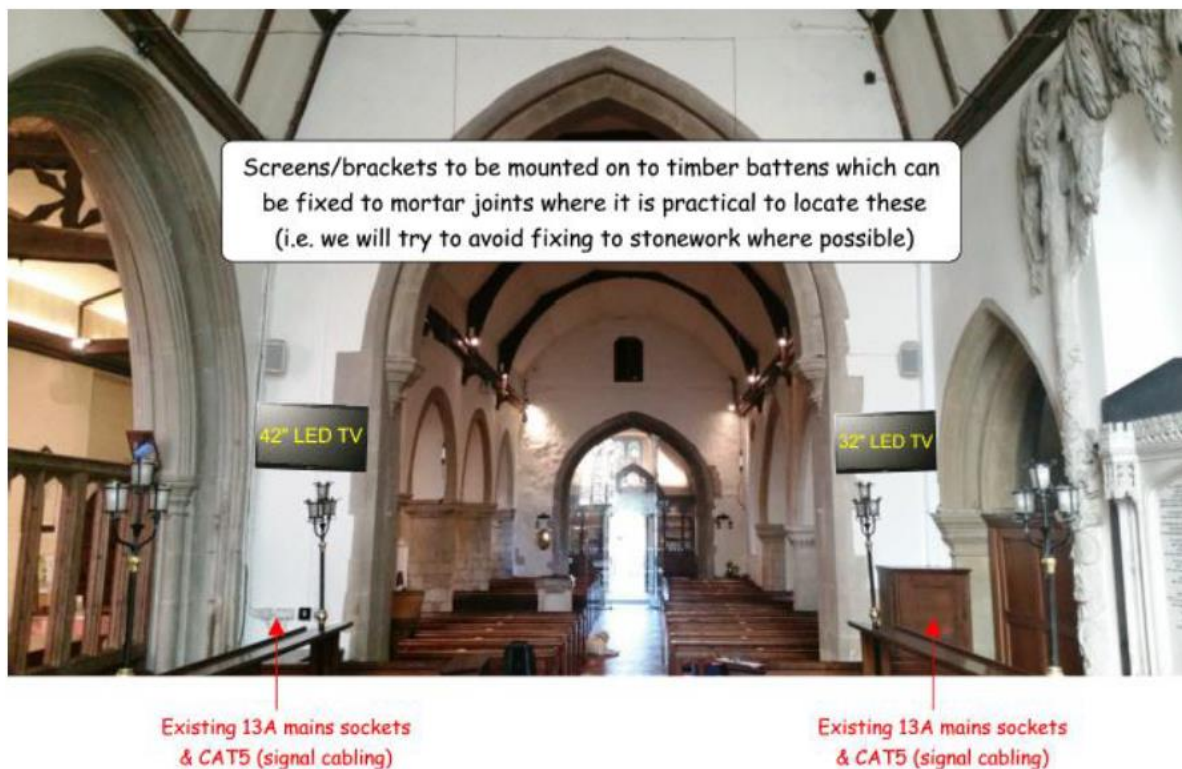
The choir screens

These two screens will be located behind the chancel arch facing towards the altar. The intention is that they should not be visible from the nave – see the mock-up in the photo below.

We are increasingly using in our services film clips, PowerPoint presentations, and the words of hymns and liturgy projected on the three screens in the nave and side aisles. Without these screens the choir and servers will not be able to see this material: they would either

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be excluded from these parts of the service or have to move into the nave or side aisles where they could see the screens. With the increased use of this kind of material that will become increasingly impractical.



N.B. The width available on each side of the arch is different (approx 0.89m on south side vs. approx 0.73m on north side) hence the two different AV monitor sizes.

Screens for the use of those leading services

Those leading services from the rector or curate's stall or the chancel step cannot see the existing screens. At present we have a small screen on a wheeled stand that plugs in near the pulpit. It enables those leading services to see what is on the screen but is not particularly satisfactory: it is relatively small; the cables can pose a trip hazard; it needs to be tidied away before people come up for communion; and the person leading the service needs to look away from the congregation in order to see it. The proposed screens would address these problems. The size of the screens and their positioning in the arches will ensure that they are as inconspicuous as possible. Indeed, most in the congregation should be unaware that they are there.



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Tower screen

The screen in the tower is intended to be a modern and attractive notice board. It will allow a far greater range of material to be displayed in a way that will attract the attention of those entering the church. This could include film clips as well as static notices. It will be far easier to prepare material and keep it up to date than producing paper copies and pinning them to a noticeboard where they can easily be overlooked and forgotten. A photo mock up is below:



Conclusion

I hope this provides the DAC with what it needs, but if anything further would help please don't hesitate to ask.

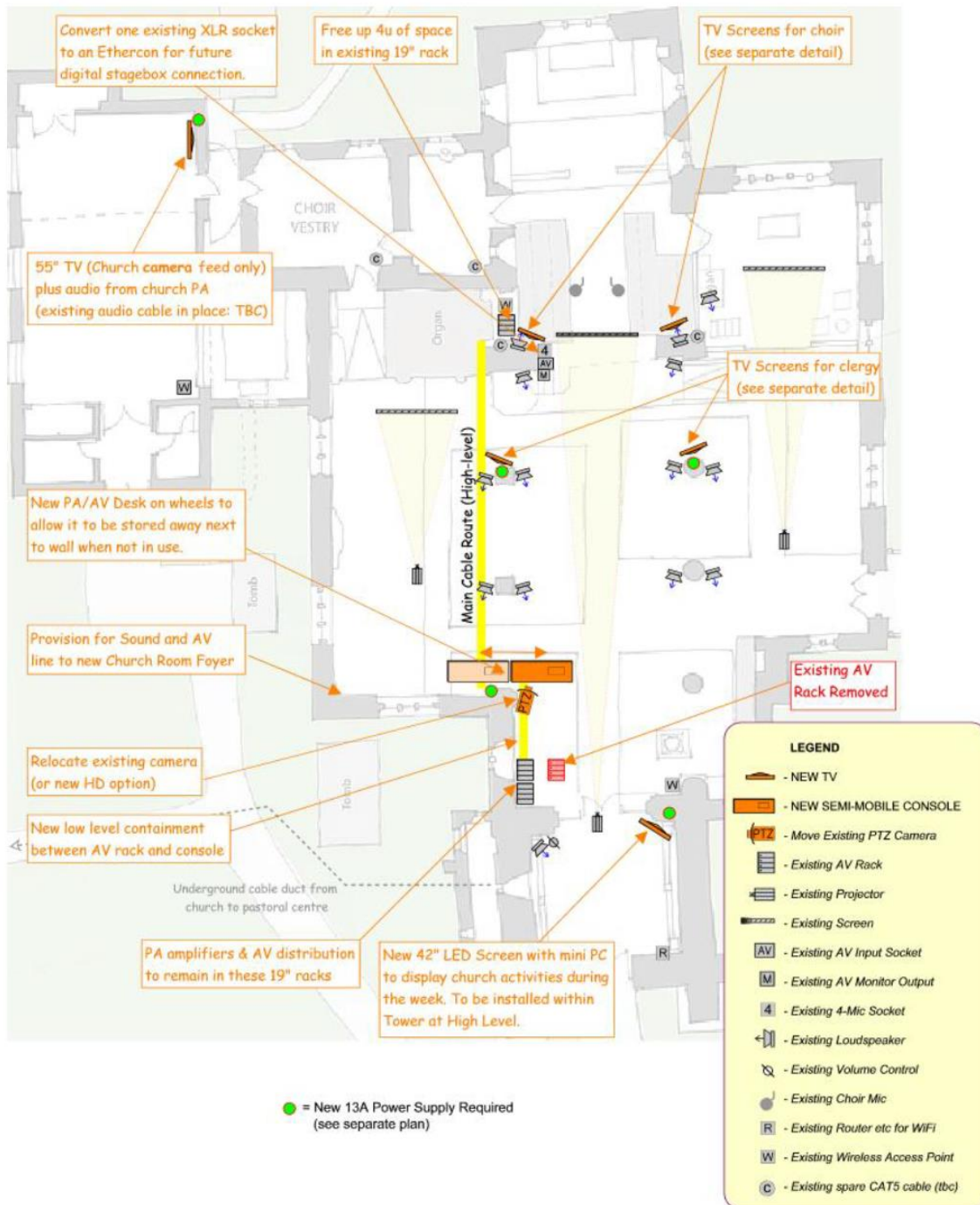
Yours sincerely,

Neil

Neil McDonald

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Fig1.1 St Nicolas Church, Great Bookham - General AV System Plan



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