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Revd Canon Nick Buck
Vicar, St. Giles Lincoln
25 Shelley Drive
Lincoln
Lincolnshire LN2 4BY

4 October 2017
By email & by post

Dear Revd Buck

St. Giles's church, Lincoln: Font

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the above, and for meeting me at the church yesterday.

The font, set at the west end of the nave, is described in the listed building description for the church as square baluster shaped, alabaster, and 18th century. I think it is Italian marble, not alabaster, and the faded and worn gilt inscription around the top records that it was a gift of John Disney and comes from a church in Nottingham. It is in total 1085mm tall, excluding its 152mm tall and 660mm diameter Lincoln limestone base, and comprises three elements; the bowl (675mm in diameter), the stem, and the base.

The immediate concern is that the bowl is wobbling on the stem. We lifted it up to expose a copper dowel and white plaster bed of mortar. It looks like this has placed stress on the top of the shaft before as there are old breaks which have been repaired, it looks like with plaster of Paris.

I recommend that we carefully lift the bowl right off and place it to one side on soft padding; remove the existing bedding mortar with sharp chisels, and clean mortar off the dowel and its locating hole in the bowl. We would then re-secure it with a spot of polyester resin stone adhesive to secure the dowel in the bowl (having 'scored' a key in the dowel first if necessary), bedding on a layer of Polyfilla circa 3-4mm thick. The thickness is to allow for cutting through the dowel at the joint without damaging the marble in the future. I have suggested Polyfilla rather than

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ordinary plaster of Paris as it should be a bit more durable, but a plaster such as Crystacal R may also suffice.

Our fee for doing this would be **£320.00 plus VAT**.

The whole would also benefit from cleaning. I would clean the limestone base using a Derotor steam cleaner, and the marble using, subject to trials, 'V&A solution' (50/50 de-ionised water and White Spirit with added Synperonic A7 non-ionic detergent) applied by bristle brush, removing any excess using soft paper towelling; a sepiolite clay poultice (possibly mixed with acid free paper pulp to make removal easier) with de-ionised water, applying with a wooden spatula and allowing to dry before removal, removing any residue using de-ionised water on cotton wool swabs; using an acid-free tissue paper poultice with 2-5% ammonium carbonate, measuring the dwell time, and cleaning after with de-ionised water on cotton wool swabs; or using the Derotor steam cleaner. Particular care would be taken around the remains of the painted inscription so as not to cause any further loss. Meanwhile the old crack fills at the top of the shaft would be 'toned in' using acrylic paints.

Our estimate for carrying out this cleaning work is **£980.00 plus VAT**.

Finally, if we had a full transcript of the inscription around the top we could restore this to the lines of the original lettering, retaining what remains of the original, using bole and oil gilding, for the sum of **£1,200.00 plus VAT**.

The estimates remain valid for 12 months and are subject to payment within 30 days of completion.

I trust that this is the information you require but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carrington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr David Carrington ACR
For Skillington Workshop Ltd