

## Sarah Williams

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**From:** Emma Brown <Emma.Brown@bathwells.anglican.org>  
**Sent:** 02 February 2023 20:48  
**To:** stuart.burns01@gmail.com; paultullett@aol.com; Alex Coppock  
**Cc:** Sarah Williams  
**Subject:** FW: 2022-073413: Cheddar, St Andrew - internal reordering

**Categories:** DAC

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Hi all,

Please see below the pre-app advice from Vic Soc regarding your initial ideas/proposals.

Best wishes,  
Emma

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**From:** James Hughes <churches@victoriansociety.org.uk>  
**Sent:** 27 January 2023 16:51  
**To:** Emma Brown <Emma.Brown@bathwells.anglican.org>  
**Subject:** 2022-073413: Cheddar, St Andrew - internal reordering

Dear Emma

**RE: Cheddar, St Andrew (Grade I, medieval, restored by *William Butterfield*, 1873); internal reordering**  
Our ref: 178994

Thank you for consulting the Victorian Society on developing proposals for this church. This is a very fine church, and for this reason we are especially glad to have been engaged at an early stage in proceedings. But while it is still early days, it seems that a good deal of work has gone into developing proposals that would, even on the basis of the little information available, be likely to cause a high level of harm to a building of the highest level of significance. Historic Buildings & Places has rightly highlighted the inadequacy of the Statement of Significance, and it is there that any scheme for this building must first turn. It is vitally important – and a matter of necessity as stipulated by the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules – that an adequately researched and objective analysis of significance is provided, and with it proper understanding established.

Merely working from the reference to the benches in the Buildings of England, it is apparent that the congregational seating in St Andrew's is particularly interesting and significant. These seem to incorporate a large amount of medieval work in a seating scheme that was, presumably, in its present form, configured by *William Butterfield*, one of the most important ecclesiastical architects of the entire Victorian period. A proper analysis of them will be required if any remotely extensive works or reduction of them is envisaged.

HB&Ps criticism of the Statement of Significance extends to its lack of assessment of the clergy stalls, north door and floor (and SPAB note the potential impact on the pulpit also). A comprehensive study of the interior is required if the parish is serious about a comprehensive reordering. This should be done before *any* further work is carried out on developing reordering proposals. This is not just a box-ticking exercise, but a fundamental part of the process to ensure a suitable knowledge base and understanding, from which informed and genuinely responsive interventions can then be developed. I imagine the DAC is able to offer advice on how to go about drawing up detailed Statements, and of course the CBC's templates are very helpful indeed.

Similarly requiring of augmentation is the Statement of Needs, which should, as SPAB has pointed out, provide a much clearer articulation of the need for the proposed clearance of the aisles.

Like the SPAB, we would also air concern at the possibility of infra-red heaters being installed, on account of their high visual impact. The SPAB has suggested under pew heaters as an alternative, and this certainly seems a sensible suggestion. This is generally the cheapest and the most efficient form of heating, and, taking everything into account, is well worth exploring here.

We would require details of the design of the serverly before we can comment on it, but in principle this seems an acceptable proposal.

I trust that this initial advice is of assistance. Once more detailed Statements have been drawn up, we would be glad to be reconsulted and given the opportunity to offer further advice.

Best wishes

James

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**James Hughes**  
Senior Conservation Adviser  
**The Victorian Society**  
1 Priory Gardens  
London W4 1TT

**Telephone** 020 8747 5892  
[victoriansociety.org.uk](http://victoriansociety.org.uk)  
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