

Lyndon Jones

From: Jonathan Hetreed
Sent: 17 April 2024 16:21
To: Lyndon Jones
Subject: FW: St John the Baptist pews

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



01225 851860



Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath.BA1 7DE

From: Duncan Ball <d.ball@synergylp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Sorry in order that I do not have a wasted journey could you let me know you can still do 9am tomorrow
Duncan



Duncan Ball BSc. (Hons) MRICS
Managing Partner
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St George's Lodge, 33 Oldfield Road, Bath, BA2 3NE

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From: Duncan Ball

Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 2:58 PM

To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>

Cc: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Jonathan,

I can give you access tomorrow morning. Can we say 9am as this will give me time to drop the boys off at school.

Kind regards

Duncan

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 11:25 AM

To: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Cc: Duncan Ball <d.ball@synergylp.com>

Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Thanks Michael

Since daylight best for indoor photos too, would first thing tomorrow be feasible? Say 8.30 or 9.00am ? If not then, could be 1.30 on Thursday.

I may need up to an hour – so happy to have key and return it when finished so as to avoid someone needing to wait. Are the stored pews “photographically accessible”? IE presumably I can see them and photograph their details? Also, can I have access to the gallery for the ‘photo-overview’? And turning on lights? (in case not obvious where switched)

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



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Bath Brewery, Toll Bridge Road, Bath.BA1 7DE

From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 11:03 AM

To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Cc: Duncan Ball <d.ball@synergylp.com>

Subject: Re: St John the Baptist pews

Hi Jonathan,

No need to apologise.

We have a number of church members and staff with keys so once we know when works for you, we can let easily give you access or simply give you a key as you would prefer.

Best wishes,

Michael

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Sent: 09 January 2024 09:48
To: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Cc: Duncan Ball <d.ball@synergylp.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Dear Michaels

Happy newish year to you and apologies for not being in touch.
We've had some staff difficulties over the season but I now have a clearer period so will make the photo visit this week (if possible in terms of access?) and have the draught SoS done next week.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 3:09 PM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: St John the Baptist pews

Hi Jonathan,

Happy new year and that kind of thing!
I am meeting with fellow Trustees of GCB and the PCC of Emmanuel Church and whilst pews are not on the agenda at either events, I may be asked...

Can you let me know 'where we are' and if there is anything else you need from me?

Best wishes,

Michael

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Sent: 06 December 2023 09:39
To: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>; Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>

Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

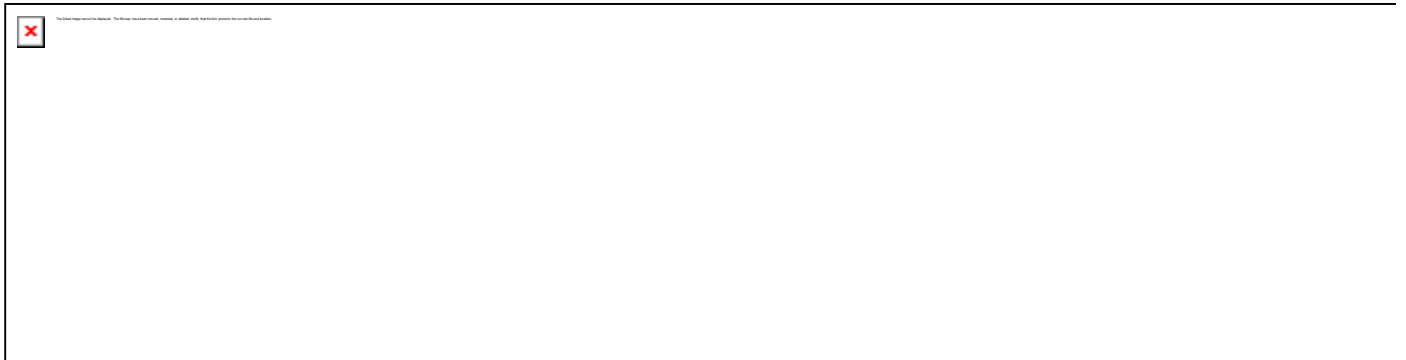
Dear Duncan

Thanks very much for that – impressively concise for a statement of mission and need – and all the more powerful for that I think: firm, clear and to the point.

We'll aim to match those high standards with the SoS on the basis of Michael's research. Once I've considered and draughted it, I'll make a visit and take relevant photos.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:28 AM

To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>; Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>

Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Dear Michael

Can I just say I enjoyed reading your report on the history and architecture of St John! You make a quite unremarkable building seem so interesting - probably not the idea though!

Dear Jonathan

Please find enclosed a copy of the Statement of Need prepared by Michael Farrier - apologies I should have sent this earlier but now seems an appropriate time to do so anyway.

I hope you now have everything you need to proceed? I appreciate the future ownership of the building remains unknown but Grace Church is keen to obtain the facility for the permanent removal of the pews as soon as possible as their storage within the Church is now causing difficulties particularly during the Sunday service.

If you need anything else please do let me know and I will do my best to gather the information you require.

Kind regards

Duncan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Jonathan Hetreed](#)
Sent: 05 December 2023 23:35
To: [Michael Craine](#)
Cc: [Michael Farrier](#); db337@btinternet.com
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

That'll be the aim!

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 5:52 PM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; db337@btinternet.com
Subject: Re: St John the Baptist pews

Hi Jonathan,

With your expert presentation skills, can you just say enough without saying too much...

Best wishes,

Michael

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Sent: 05 December 2023 13:43
To: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; db337@btinternet.com <db337@btinternet.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

Thanks Michael

Interesting – though perhaps best referenced in the Mission Statement or Statement of Need?

There might be a 'heritage complication' I suppose in that if the founding mission of the church supporting the spiritual needs of the poor was fulfilled (partly) via pews

- perhaps a cheaper and more robust form of seating than chairs at the time? – it might become more controversial to remove them – presumably a strong argument can be made that the needs of the community have changed so much in variety and diversity that the pews have become a problem – as well as chairs getting cheaper!

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 9:31 AM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; db337@btinternet.com
Subject: Re: St John the Baptist pews

Thanks Jonathan,

I add that we also have a copy of 'The history of a parish' covering Emmanuel and St. John's but this is primarily about the fund raising, purpose and personalities of the time rather than an architectural commentary.

When laying the foundation stone the then Bishop pronounced 'our object is to supply the spiritual wants of a large and mostly poor population'. A tad insensitive given these very same poor were now doubt expected to applaud! Nonetheless, it strengthens the serious argument that this relatively recent building (in ecclesiastical architectural terms) and its pews served a practical purpose for the mission of the church at that time.

Best wishes,

Michael Craine
Lay Reader and PCC Member of Emmanuel Church

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Sent: 03 December 2023 20:49
To: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; db337@btinternet.com <db337@btinternet.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist pews

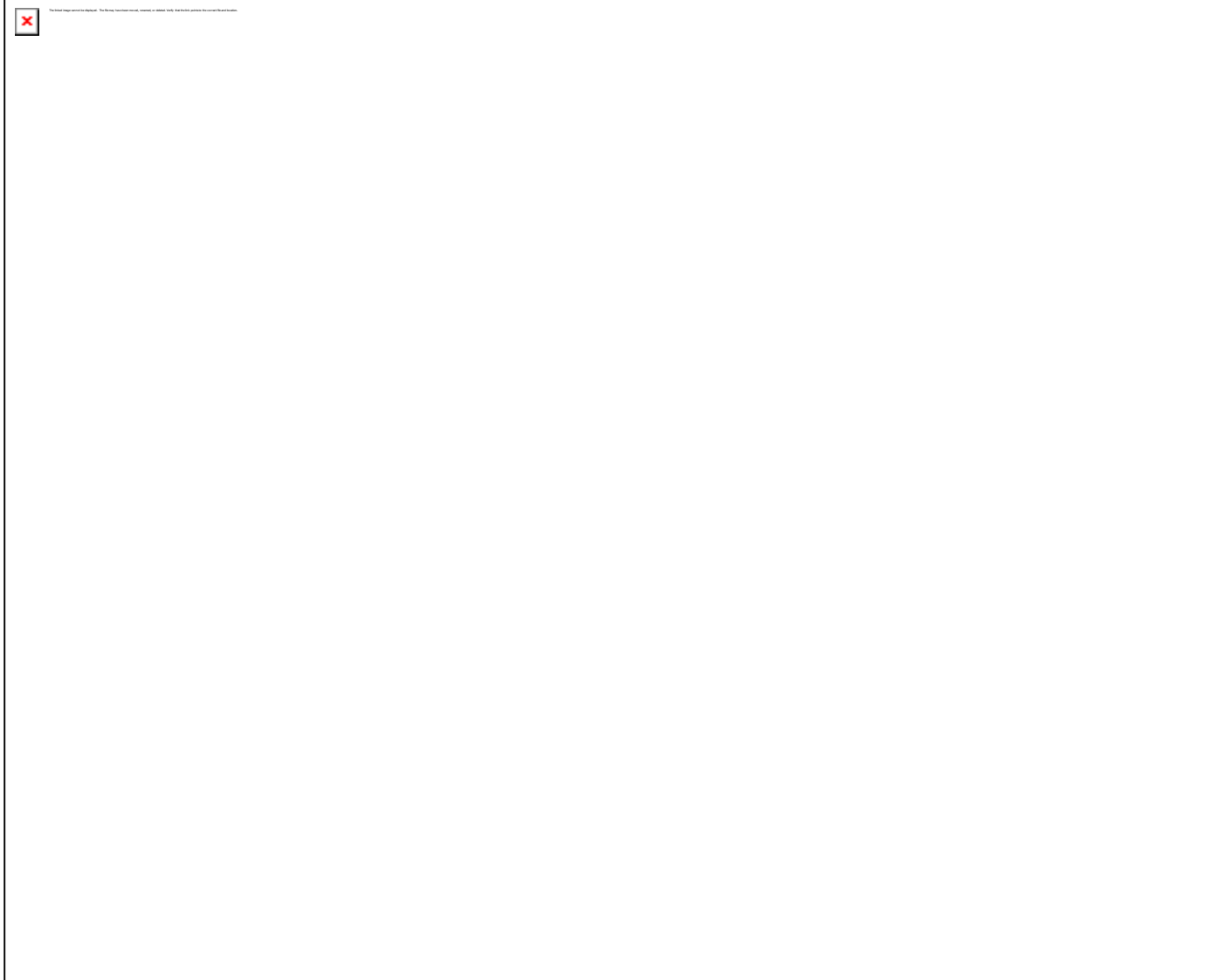
Dear Michael

Thanks very much for your research work on St Johns and its pews – very helpful, especially given the limited material available and will form a solid base for the SoS.

Will let you have the draught in due course.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:01 AM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; db337@btinternet.com
Subject: St John the Baptist pews

Dear Jonathan,

Since we last corresponded, I have spent some time in the limited church archives and consulted resources of Bath University to provide material for our statement of significance.

The church (or chapel) of St. John's was built in 1838 to serve the industrial and residential area of Lower Weston Bath. Sometimes affectionately referred to as '**St. John of the gasworks**', (see fig 4 circa 1970's in the enclosed photographs) the building was constructed to a utilitarian design that has seen a number of additions and changes over the years including a new chancel arch in 1869 to increase capacity. From the start, the church was all about the people of the neighbouring terraced housing in the rapidly growing suburb rather than beauty. Perhaps it was felt the latter could be found in the many city centre churches.

The church is described as having 'plain unbuttressed walls which **could** have been adapted to any style'. Ref 1. Essentially it was a blank canvas onto which ornamentation might have been added. It was not.

Perhaps because of the locality or for reasons of finance, no such style or ornamentation was applied and so both church building and pews were unremarkable but functional.

This 'functionality' of the whole church is shown in photographic records which indicate changing tastes in emulsion paint colours. The walls variously being green, ochre and yellow. Toilets were added, vestry added, pews removed, kitchens fitted etc all to suit the changing purpose and usage of the building that appears to have acted as both church and church hall.

A large number of pews (side transepts, choir stalls, clergy stalls and pews in what was formally the foyer) have previously been removed in a previous re-orderings (see fig 1 and 2 of clergy and choir pews from that period in the attached photos).

The remaining pews are being suitably stored on church premises. They follow a simple low cost design using slatted pine panels to form the back rest and solid pew ends. There is no carving or detailing on the pews that are generally in fair to poor condition.

It is difficult to discern any overarching or coherent 'theme' to the style of construction of St. John's Lower Weston. Anecdotal belief was that the church was designed by George Phillips Manners who was behind more beautiful buildings such as St. Michael Broad Street in central Bath. St Michael's having a civic function and greater wealth, commissioned oak pews now removed. It is the cemetery of St. Michael's close to St. John's that gives the name to the road where St. John's was built. However, research by Douglas Bernhardt for Bath University in a 2003 indicates that by the time St. John's was designed, the practice of George Philipps Manners had grown and was part of a very large and successful partnership of Bath architects (G . P Manners, J E Gill, T Browne, P Morris and W Gill) who were restoring civic buildings, designing water works, swimming pools and much else at the start

of the Victorian era. With the contract to the Mayor and Corporation, it is arguable that St. John's was an identikit church 'off plan' by the company, rather than the ornate personal work of Manners visible elsewhere.

The pews similarly lack any ornamentation and were the functional seating from their day. Each pew has a painted number and evidence of multiple coats of varnish. The fact that the building is unlisted and even church architecture enthusiasts are hard pressed to comment with anything more than a passing sentence (if at all) about the church, indicates a solid un-remarkability!

Ref 1. Douglas Bernhardt. 'A Victorian Practice' Uni of Bath 2003

I do hope this is of use,

With best wishes,

Michael

From: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2023 5:22 PM
To: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Cc: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>; Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist

Dear Michael

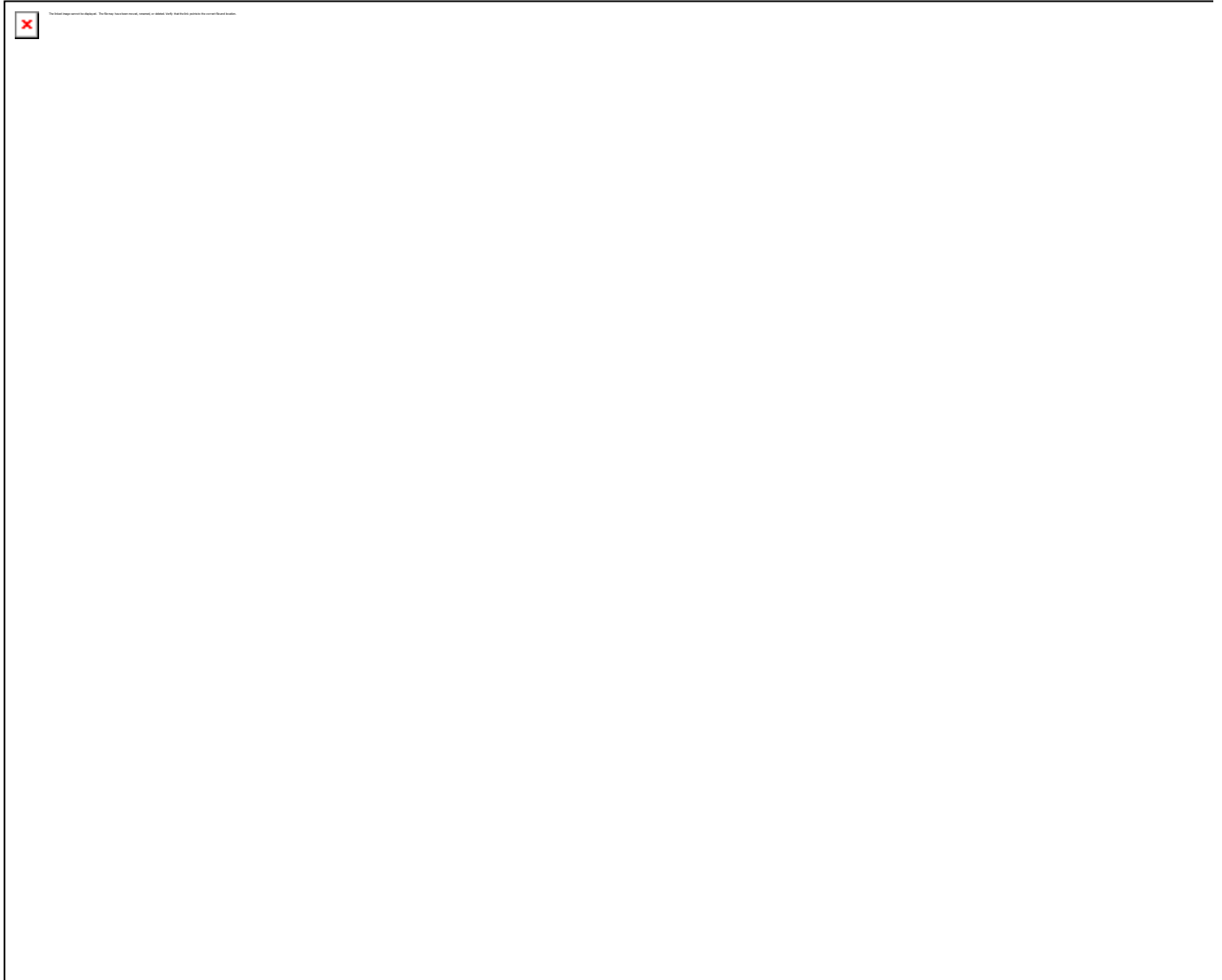
Thanks for your message and so sorry for my belated response.

As I'm sure you know the intent is to achieve faculty consent for the permanent removal of the pews from St Johns, so for the 'Statement of Significance' which I'm putting together (alongside the statements of Mission and Need which are in Duncan's court), we need as much information as is available about the pews themselves and if available about other aspects of the interior of the church both related to the pews and more generally.

Ideally we need to make the case for the pews not being of special historic merit or quality in themselves, and also if possible (!) their not having a special or critical relationship to other aspects of the church's interior: whether the records you can unearth will back this up remains to be seen of course.

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2023 4:47 PM
To: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>; Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: St John the Baptist

Hi Jonathan,

A quick email to introduce myself and to confirm that I am eager to assist. I am no expert in what I suspect will be the unremarkable history of St John's Lower Weston, but I know where the bodies are buried or at least where the filing cabinet is kept and can fill in some of the detail required for our application!

My mobile number is 07813 304129 and I would be pleased to follow your guidance as to what information you need me to prepare.

If meeting up is helpful, let me know what dates would work for you.

Best wishes,

Michael

Michael Craine

From: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>

Sent: 23 October 2023 12:18

To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>

Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>; Michael Craine <michaeljcraine@outlook.com>

Subject: Re: St John the Baptist

Jonathan

The person who will be helping with the research is Michael Craine (copied into this email). I understand there is a filing cabinet of information to work through including a red book describing the history of the church - so fingers cross we will be able to provide you with everything you feel we need.

I am now off for the week but will review email when I return at the weekend.

Kind regards

Duncan

Sent from my iPhone

On 20 Oct 2023, at 4:07 pm, Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com> wrote:

Dear Duncan

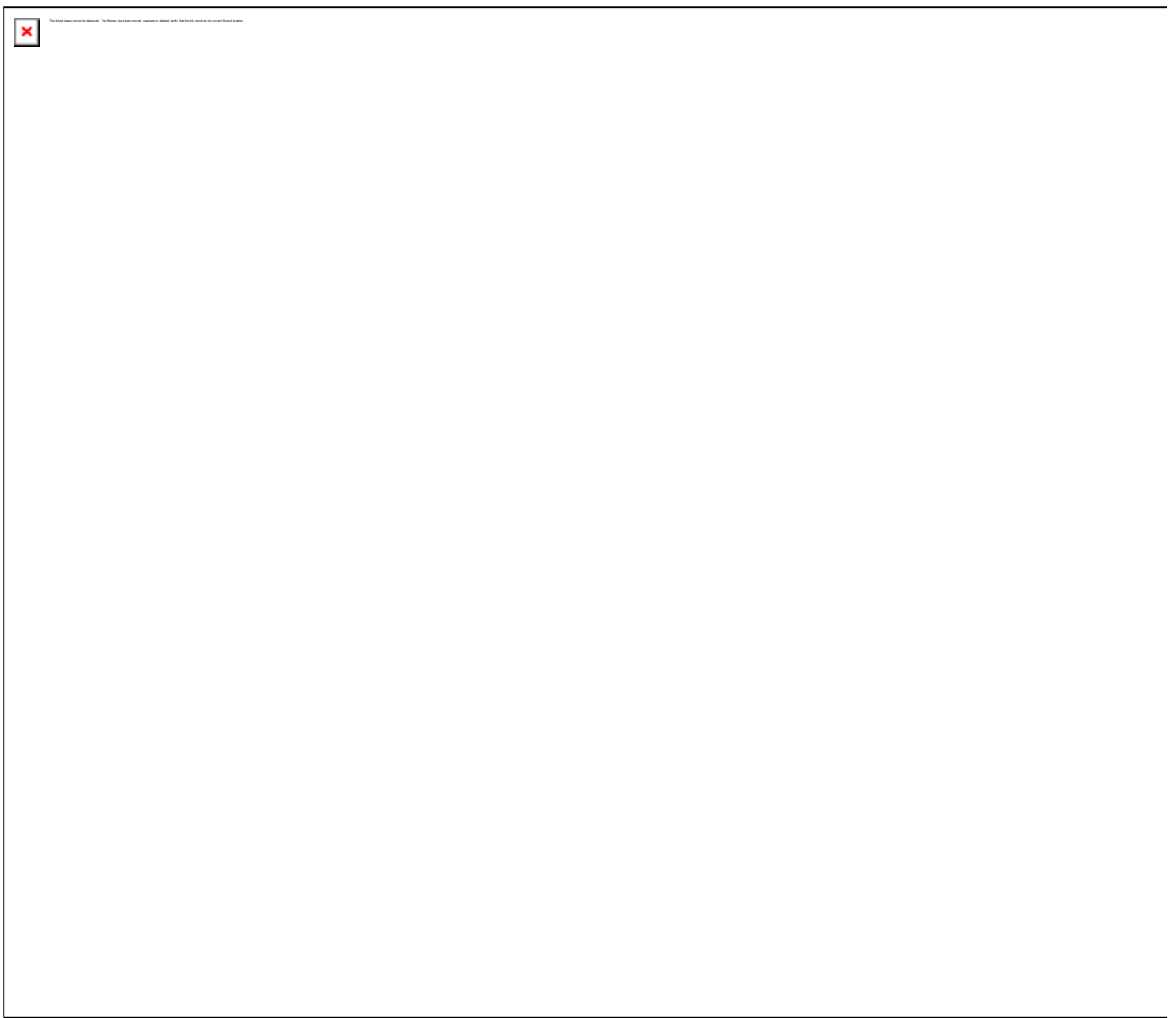
Thanks for that good news. On your say so, we can accept the appointment from Grace Church.

Since time is of the essence and the preparation of the SoS needs to include what can be gleaned from the archival research, can you put us in touch with whoever will be doing that so we can coordinate timetables?

Having recently had a rather negative experience of the DAC ignoring information sent to them and going back on their earlier advice about St Julian's at Wellow, would it be wise to seek initial advice from a relevant DAC member on the permanent pew removal principle? Or has that already been done? Was any advice received from DAC at the time of temporary removal?

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed



From: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>
Sent: Friday, October 20, 2023 3:22 PM
To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>
Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist

Dear Jonathan,

Grace Church would like to appoint you to assist with obtaining the permanent faculty to remove the Pews in accordance with your below proposal.

Although currently the Church remains under the guardianship of Emmanuel Church, your appointment will be with Grace Church. Is this sufficient for you to commence or do you wish for a more formal appointment?

Grace Church are keen to complete this process as soon as possible as we are desperate to regain the space currently occupied by the Pews and are facing the real possibility of having to store them off site which will come with a cost.

Kind regards

Duncan

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Jonathan Hetreed](#)
Sent: 12 October 2023 12:22
To: [Duncan Ball](#)
Subject: RE: St John the Baptist

Dear Duncan

Belated response to your request below; you'll recall our previous e-mail exchange re others contributing the research as "pasted" below. I assume this will still be the case?

The (on line) faculty application requires statements of significance, need and mission; the latter should go together but apparently the Diocese requires them separately defined: I imagine that Grace Church may (almost) have these to hand just requiring some adaptation?

If so, I would estimate that my time for the Statement of Significance for the pews removal (to incorporate records research by others); draught issue & revisions; plus 'assembly' with need and mission stmts by others and submission of all as on line faculty application would comprise 3 hrs for site visit to inspect, note and photograph pews in detail and a day to write up the SoS, plus half a day to revise draught and assemble and submit the 3 part on line application; so 15 hrs in all at our charitable rates (as schedule attached) at cost of £1305 Plus vat; unfortunately neither of my

junior colleagues yet have the church experience to allow their cost-effective enlistment.

"Further to our meeting at St Johns and my advising a cost for a Statement of Significance, you mentioned that there is someone 'in the wings' who could do some research.

Since the church is unlisted and Pevsner accords it only 2 lines - Manners I think and 1869 – we are starting with an almost blank canvas apart from the building itself.

The typical fields for this kind of research would I think be Parish records, B&NES archive at the Guildhall, perhaps county records at Taunton – plus potentially the wonders of the www. I can do and estimate time for the detailed assessment of the building on the spot plus putting the SoS together but can we take it that the records research will be done by others?"

Yours sincerely

Jonathan Hetreed

-----Original Message-----

From: Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2023 8:39 AM

To: Jonathan Hetreed <jh@hetreedross.com>

Cc: Michael Farrier <revmichaelfarrier@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: St John the Baptist

Jonathan

I do not appear to have received a response from you with regard to the below email.

Are you still able to help us?

Kind regards

Duncan

Sent from my iPhone

> On 29 Sep 2023, at 7:57 pm, Duncan Ball <db337@btinternet.com> wrote:

>

> Jonathan

> You will recall we discussed the pews at St John a while ago and obtaining a permanent faculty to remove them.

> I know understand it is going to take a year for the ownership to move across to Grace Church and the current storage of the pews within in the church is causing major issues with regard to the Sunday Worship (our numbers continue to increase).

> Can we please engage you now to complete the faculty to permanently remove the pews.

> If you wish to take this on could you please forward your terms of appointment as soon as you can so we can appoint you.

> Kind regards

> Duncan

>

> Sent from my iPhone