

Statement of Significance – Major projects

Guidance on completing this form can be found on the ChurchCare website at <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/statements-of-significance-need>

This document must be accompanied by the Standard Information Form 1A

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

1.1 Setting of the Church

St Francis Church, Keynsham is located in the heart of a housing estate which includes both private and social housing. The ward, Keynsham South, has a population of 7,100, 42% of whom identify as Christian (2021 Census). There has been significant housing development in the area and the ward has experienced an increase of 1,500 people since the 2011 census.

St Francis church is part of the St John's Parish with the main church (St John's) being situated in the centre of Keynsham and in addition to St Francis there are three other village churches.

St Francis plays a vital role in the community providing not only a centre of worship but also a community meeting space. The new housing estates do not provide any community facilities and St Francis is one of the closest public buildings.

St Francis church complex includes a church and church hall, both are used by the community. The church hall was built in 1986 and extended in 2016, to provide for an increasing demand for community space. However, this has not proved sufficient hence we require use of the church to enable groups to meet both in the hall and church at the same time

1.2 The Living Churchyard

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

There is no church yard

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?

The church was built in 1958 for the new estates being built in this area of Keynsham. It has always played a major role in supporting the growing community both as a beacon of Christianity and a community hub. It provides places for people to hire for groups and also offers free or reduced use to church based groups e.g., toddler groups and community groups (e.g., Foodbank). There is an anchor tenant in the church hall called Butterflies Haven which supports a charity helping children with ADHD and autism.

1.4 The church building in general

The church complex has the following rooms.

Church

This comprises of a large space which stackable chairs divided into a small stage (used for storage), an area where the congregation sit (100 people) and a chancel area.

Clergy vestry – used for storage of equipment and clergy robing area.

Ladies / Gents toilets

Kitchen

Church hall

Ground floor

Large hall, kitchen, toilets and small meeting room

It has two upper rooms one of which is the office for Butterflied Haven, the other is a meeting room with small kitchenette.

The church has a car park for about 12 cars and a grassed area.

1.5 The church building in detail

The church runs south to north with the chancel at the south end. Internally, the nave can be screened off from the chancel so that it can be used as a large community hall with a permanent raised stage at the north end. Running along the east side of the nave there is a single storey section containing the entrance lobby, kitchen, toilets and vestry. There is a choir vestry and upper room situated at the north end of the nave. There is also a wing that runs to the east containing the church hall. The wing has been further extended to the east by the construction of a new extension containing a kitchen, toilet facilities and community meeting rooms. The church is constructed of a concrete portal frame clad in reconstituted stone under a concrete plain-tiled roof with a coped gable at the south end. The flat roof is covered with a modern, single-ply roofing system. The east wing, containing the church hall, is of later construction (1987) and is built of reconstituted stone under a concrete tile

roof. The modern extension (2016) is of rendered, concrete block construction under a concrete tile roof.

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.

Being built in 1958 there no significant areas

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?

St Francis Vision statement is.

Growing closer to God and connecting with our community

We aim to grow in our Christian discipleship to prepare and equip us for real connection with our community. We believe that this connection to the community demonstrates our love for God and is an act of discipleship and worship.

The use of our buildings by the community reflects this love, we hope that people will sense God's presence especially when using the church. Our events such as toddlers help us to build relationships with the community and groups such as Foodbank show how the church is responding to a growing need.

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.

The heating system will be installed in the main church and chancel. In addition, heaters will be installed in the ladies toilet, kitchen and hallway.

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.

The reason for selecting these areas is that they are used by the community and have a current heating system that is old and very inefficient.

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.

The impact will be to improve the heating in these areas.

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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.

Visually the heaters will not be a major issue, they will be situated between pillars 3 m above the heads of the congregation.

Sources consulted

List the sources consulted

Statement of Needs – Major projects

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1. General information

As described above the church within the St Francis building complex requires an efficient and modern heating system to enable both worshippers and members of the community groups to use the space without feeling cold.

2. What do you need?

In 2021 the church commissioned a heating consultant to review the heating system and they recommended using radiant heating system which can direct heat and is more efficient.

The church also wants to move away from using gas to a more environmentally friendly source of energy.

We required a system that would meet the following criteria:

- Reduces the church's carbon footprint.
- Reduces the energy consumption and cost.
- Will heat the church up quickly,
- Could be programmed in advance for a week to coincide with bookings.
- Could be quickly adjusted locally.
- Some form of control could be maintained by church staff on the controls.

3. The proposals

We want to turn off all the radiators that support the church and ancillary rooms due their age and inefficiency.

We want to install.

8 electric radiant heaters (2400w) into the main church

2 electric radiant heaters (2400w) into chancel area

1 800w IR white panel heater in the ladies toilet

1 1100w IR white panel heater in the church hallway

1 800w white panel heater in the kitchen

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

As explained the new heating is required due to the age and inefficiency of the existing system. We also would like to move to a more environmentally friendly resource (electricity) rather than use gas.

It is required now due to the increasing demand on the use of the church complex and the preference to use the church throughout the year.

5. What is the evidence for the need?

The heating in the church was installed in 1958 when the church was built and consists of cast iron radiators linked to a gas heating system which supports both the church and hall.

Due to the age of the radiators this is proving a highly inefficient system. The church has a very high ceiling and therefore the heat rises to the apex before heating the main body of the church. On cold days the heating needs to be turned on 3 hours before a service or achieve a decent temperature. On very cold days this has proved not sufficient, and users and members of our congregation have complained about the lack of heat.

During cold days in the winter, we often use the church hall which is easier to heat rather than the main church. This means we cannot use the hearing loop or any musical instrument for worship (piano / organ) which limits the worship we are able to have.

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

This proposal will: -

Reduce the amount of gas we use through using an alternative energy.

Only require the heating to be activated whilst the building is in operation rather than several hours before the building is used.

Only heat the area where people are rather than the whole space which includes the high ceiling.

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

Options we have considered included the following.

Lowering the height of the ceiling

This would have been a low-cost option, the aim being to prevent the heat rising the top of the high apex in the church and not heating the area at ground floor level. It was rejected on the grounds that if it didn't work, we would still be left with the issue. It would continue to need a gas fired heating system from the inefficient radiators.

Installing gas fired radiant heaters in the apex of the hall.

We had a firm of heating engineers propose this system and visited a church in Brislington, Bristol that had such a system. It was rejected on the grounds of cost including the annual servicing which would have required tower scaffolding and the reliance on gas.

Installing Herschel Infrared heaters

These are installed into a chandelier structure which hang from a ceiling. Members from St Francis visited St Michaels Church, Redland to view this system. It was impressive but was high cost and the church didn't feel the design appropriate to St Francis