

All Saints Trull (Taunton)

Statement of Needs

Section 1. General information

This should provide an overview of the parish and the current use of the building.

The church building has a normal Sunday usage of two services, 08.00am and 10.30am and a monthly weekday service. Considerable use is made of the building during the normal Christian Festivals. In addition, there are specific one-off services, such as Evensong, though this is not often. The church building is also used for weddings, funerals and baptisms. The building is open for private prayer every day during daylight hours.

Children from Trull C of E Primary School use the building once a week during term time. Other schools or local Interests have utilised the building on occasions.

All Saints Trull is a busy parish church which attracts Christians from across Taunton and beyond. The church's vision is focused on outreach and the faithful teaching of the Word of God. There are many church activities such as Youth and Children's work, Christianity & Discipleship Explored courses, ALPHA Courses, ministry for older members of the congregation and Parish, studies and discussions relating to the Bible and current social issues.

Section 2. What do you need?

Briefly explain your needs (not your proposals). Append any brief for your architect.

All Saints Trull is a noteworthy building of considerable historic significance, which attracts visitors who are interested in its features. However, the primary purpose of the church is to be used as a place of worship and as a place where the community is welcomed to use for the occasional; offices (weddings, baptisms and funerals) and (when the proposed works have been completed) for other church and community meetings and activities. Historically on entering the building visitors were often met, especially in winter, with a building that was cold and poorly illuminated. The most notable features of the proposed changes are improvements to the lighting and heating, availability of a toilet in the choir vestry and improvements to the south porch and its access. These proposed changes will enhance the historical features of the building, whilst making it fit for purpose for the 21st century.

The heating of the church has now been improved with the installation of energy efficient modern gas fired boilers, they will also be more reliable than the old boilers that were removed.

The building is currently lit by spotlights and floodlights most of which are not energy efficient. Whilst in some areas the illumination is reasonable, overall, the effect is disappointing and does nothing to enhance the internal appearance and architecture of the church. The side chapel at the east end of the south aisle is especially poorly lit. It is intended that by utilising correctly positioned modern LED lights which are capable of adaptability will give options that will allow appropriate lighting of the building's medieval features and the activities within the church. This will be especially valuable at those times of the year when natural illumination is restricted. The proposed lighting can be set to come on when visitors enter an otherwise empty building, providing a suitable welcome whilst ensuring energy efficiency.

There are areas of high-level plaster repair required within the main body of the church, following historical water ingress. The re-lighting of the church and its associated 'bird-cage' scaffolding would give the opportunity for plaster repairs to be undertaken and the re-decoration of internal walls and plaster finishes.

The lack of toilet facilities within the church can be a significant barrier for some church goers. The provision of a toilet that can cater for universal access is not only a requirement that public buildings must comply with, but also essential to make visitors feel welcome. The inclusion of baby changing facilities within the toilet and a small family space within the Choir Vestry will encourage families with small children to attend service and remove some of the stigma attached to care of small children within the main body of the church.

The main entrance to the church, the south porch is somewhat unremarkable. Redecoration will freshen the internal walls. Better use of lighting within the porch and outside will create a welcoming ambiance. Even with assistance the temporary timber ramp, at the threshold to the south door, makes access to the church awkward for disabled, ambulant disabled and the elderly alike. The provision of a gently sloping permanent ramp created simply by lifting and resetting the existing flagstone floor would be a great improvement.

Please see the attached vision document. This was prepared by the Church's Rector Andy Wadsworth and the Church Building Group. This document was approved by the PCC and is the brief forwarded to our architect.

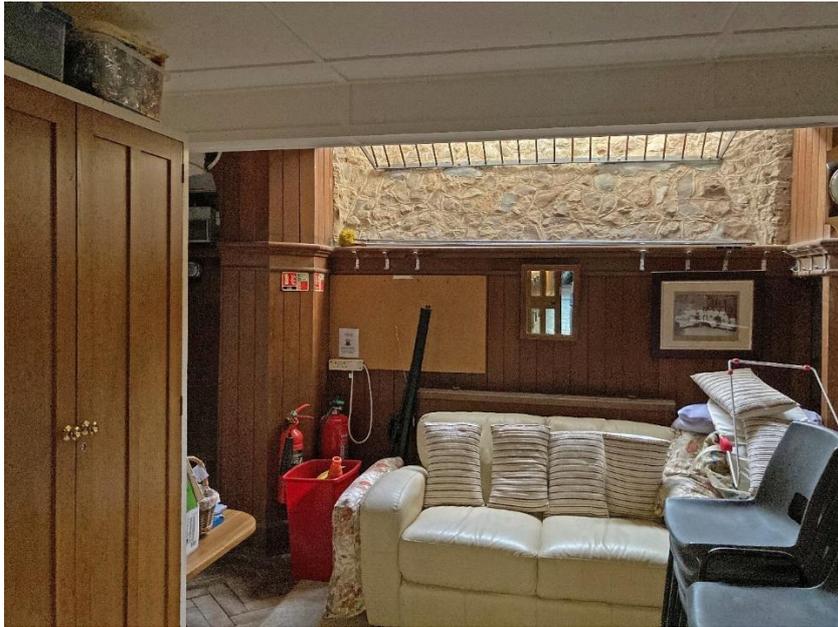
Section 3. The proposals

Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in section 2.

Heating Completed May 2024): The present gas fired heating system has been in place for some time. The Church's heating engineers advised us that the boilers were close to the end of their serviceable life. We investigated various heating options and our consultants BJP advised us of the options available and their costs. It became clear that the replacement of the existing gas boilers with more efficient units would be the best way forward.

Lighting: The church lighting to be extensively re-modelled utilising LED's for overall better and flexible illumination. This will also include improvements in areas not at present well lit – the Chancel, South Aisle Chapel, South Porch and tower lighting. Detailed plans have been received from our consultants, which have been submitted for assessment by the DAC. The existing lighting and power circuits and cabling are coming to the end of their serviceable life and so we also plan to renew the power circuits and outlets at the same time.

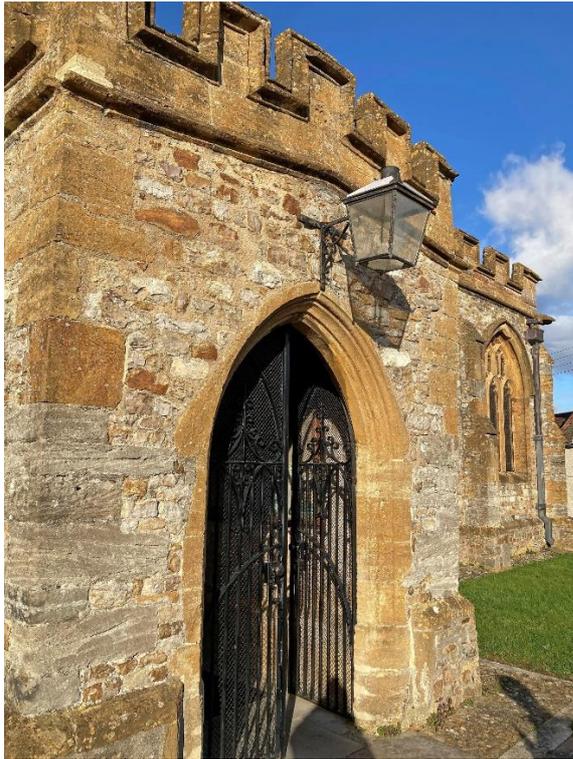
Lime Plaster Repairs and Re-decoration: The internal scaffolding required to carry out the re-lighting of the church provides an opportunity to make a series of high-level plaster repairs. These repairs have accrued as they individually have not warranted the expense of full scaffolding. Flaking limewash will be removed and the walls and ceilings thoroughly cleaned before re-decorating the main body of the church with limewash.



Accessible Toilet: Installation of a Toilet in a re-modelled choir vestry. The proposal is to sub-divide the existing space to create a DDA compliant WC at the rear (West end) and form a small family room accessed from the Nave. The 1890 parquet floor will be removed and lowered to facilitate level access through a new single door from the Nave. The existing oak boarded wainscot and corner structures that once enclosed the now redundant clock weights will be removed and re-purposed. The wainscot will be re-sited behind the sofa in the family room to protect the plastered wall, and the oak boarding used to make a new fitted frontal cabinet as a mirror of the wainscot opposite. The remainder of the existing furniture in this space is unremarkable and will simply be removed.



The existing pair of oak doors date from 1960 will be removed and replaced with a single large DDA compliant glazed oak door. The option of joining these doors to form a single leaf was considered but discounted. Plans for the choir vestry have been developed by Benjamin & Beauchamp Architect and have been submitted for assessment by the DAC.



South Porch: Interior to be brightened by re-decoration. The areas of 'ribbon pointing' will be removed and the interior will be brought to a uniform level of flush pointing before the internal walls are redecorated with limewash. Samples of pointing and limewash have been applied to the porch walls to enable informed choices to be made. The proposal seeks to create gently sloping permanent ramp created simply by lifting and resetting 3 rows of the existing flagstone floor, thereby rendering the existing portable timber ramp redundant.

Better lighting within the porch and externally will greatly improve the arrival at the church. Plans for the South Porch have been developed by Benjamin & Beauchamp Architect and have been submitted for assessment by the DAC.

Belfry (Work currently in progress): Subsequent to the preparation of the PCC Vision Document it became evident that the Belfry was in need of considerable work. An initial inspection revealed substantial issues with the bell frame, the bells and the running gear. With the assistance of Benjamin and Beauchamp, quotes were sought from two bell-hanging firms. The frame needs to be replaced in entirety, the bells re-tuned (ie: those not listed), new head stocks made and other repairs and replacements carried out. Quotes were received and reviewed. The PCC authorised work to proceed with John Taylor Bell Foundry. This work is due for completion in spring 2025.

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

Justify your proposals by explaining why you can't meet your needs without making changes. Also include anything which may have prompted the proposals.

Leaving the church building in its present form will not help the mission of the church going forward. The proposed changes will go some way in creating an environment within the structure that will be more attractive than at present. Our PCC Vision Document sets out why we are planning these changes:

For Serving the village

For the next generation

For making disciples

For the care of creation

For the glory of God

The PCC have been fortunate to have received a substantial legacy for the fabric of the building. This is a wonderful opportunity to use these funds to enhance our historic church in ways which will meet the PCC vision and allow the church building to meet the challenges of ministry in the 21st Century.

Section 5. Justification

If the proposals are likely to harm the significance outlined in the Statement of significance, explain how the proposals would result in public benefits which outweigh such harm (public benefits include matters such as liturgical freedom, pastoral wellbeing and putting the church to viable uses that are consistent with its role as a place of worship and mission).

There is no reason to think that the proposals as planned will cause any harm to the significance of the church.