

2nd April 2025

Ref: 507/BLJCW/gc/gc

Jacqui Carreira-White
Registry Manager to Bath and Wells DAC
Stone King LLP
Bath

Dear Jacqui,

Re: **Bathampton: St Nicholas
New Heating System.**

Following the response from the DAC (dated 25th March 2025) I am writing in my capacity as Inspecting Architect to offer my full support for the proposed new electrical radiant heating system within the nave, aisles and tower at the church of St Nicholas, Bathampton.

The existing heating system.

The existing system consists of a pair of gas boilers serving large bore cast iron pipework, most of which is buried beneath the floors of the church. The pipework serves a series of column radiators.

The boilers are over 30 years old having been fitted in 1992. Consequently, they are nearing the 'end of their life' and are believed to be very inefficient. Furthermore, they are fitted with a rather 'Heath Robinson' flue/air inlet system which would render the existing below ground boiler room to be unsuitable to take new boilers in the future.

The ancient pipework has rusted and has been leaking for some time and is no longer fit for purpose. Due to the leaking pipes, the heating system has become inoperable and has been abandoned for a number of years. Consideration has been given to the replacement of the pipework but not only would this be very expensive it would cause major damage to the pennant, limestone and marble floors of the church. Furthermore, any new system based on the use of fossil fuels would not be compatible with the Net Zero ambitions of the Church of England.

The proposed new heating system.

The proposed new heating system consists of a Herschel designed radiant system which adopts their Halo fittings within the nave and Aspect suspended fittings within the aisles and tower.

The DAC appears to be satisfied with the Halo units but has raised some concern about the suspended units in the aisles. I must admit to having shared this concern and subsequently revisited the church to consider a suitable solution for each aisle.

Due to the positioning of a large number of important monuments within the south aisle it is clear that wall mounted fittings will not be suitable. In addition, due to the use of chairs in the south aisle and open space within the north aisle the use of under-pew heaters will be inappropriate.

I therefore recommend a single line of suspended units running east-west. These can be set at a height of 3m and will not, in my opinion, block any views within the historic building. The north aisle has a lower ceiling, and a line of matching suspended units (black in colour) will not be particularly intrusive or visible to the eye. The small tower area will also work well with a similar fitting due the historic display on the north, south & west walls. Alternatively, a wall mounted unit on the north wall would be equally unobtrusive.

Cable routes.

I know the church well and I am very familiar with the existing wiring routes. I would therefore be very happy to meet with the chosen electrical contractor to agree the cable routes prior to installation. It is anticipated that FP200 low temperature cable will be used and this is available in a range of colours. Where appropriate, it is not uncommon to touch-in with a coat of paint where cables run across stained timber ceilings and wall plates.

I would be very grateful if these notes could be taken into account when the full proposals are considered by the DAC at the April Standing Committee meeting. In the meantime, I would be happy to answer any queries that you might have.

Thank you for your assistance with this project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Chedburn', written in a cursive style.

George Chedburn RIBA