

15 April 2025
 Our Ref 0104 /CONS/PMB/sv

Jacqui Carreira-White
 DAC Secretary
 The Diocese of Bath and Wells
 Flourish House
 Cathedral Park
 Wells
 BA5 1FD

Dear Jacqui

WRINGTON All Saints – Tower Vestry Works

Please find uploaded onto the online system a copy of our Faculty application covering the works to alter the existing tower vestry to accommodate an accessible WC at All Saints, Wrington.

Background

The church was reordered in 2015 to the design of the previous church architect Alan Thomas. The work involved the creation of a vestry in the base of the tower, whose fitout included the installation of a new joisted floor over the existing lias flags, a new screen and cupboards – all carefully considered and well put together pieces of joinery. Copies of some of the original drawings have been included with our submission for reference.

It has long been a desire of the PCC to provide an accessible WC within the existing tower vestry. In fact, in 2015, provision was even made for a new incoming foul drainage connection, a branch from which was terminated under the floor, east of the tower vestry screen. More recently, we have discovered a serious deathwatch beetle infestation in the tower timber floor, which has been the catalyst for progressing the scheme submitted here today.

Proposal

The proposal as presented, seeks to remove the timber platform and raise the existing stone floor so that it is level with the Nave. The vestry screen and integrated cupboards will be carefully dismantled and reassembled on the new floor and moved east by 150mm.

The DDA compliant accessible WC will be contained within a run of matching panelling and doors to maintain the presentation and symmetry of the existing vestry space. Detailed joinery drawings have not been produced as contractors will be expected to exactly match the existing joinery, which will be retained and or reused where possible. For example, doors salvaged from the north side, will now enclose open cupboards on the south and will be made lockable.

The pair of cast iron Victorian heating pipes that run along the outside walls, kept as part of the 2015 re-ordering and linked to the lower temperature underfloor heating loop, will now be removed and replaced by underfloor heating installed within the new raised stone floor.

The existing vestry would require significant disassembly should the bells ever need to be lowered and removed. Our proposal makes accommodation for this, by making the southwest corner of the WC cubicle demountable and by relocating the stone step from the tower arch to allow the west tower doors to open so that they can then be lifted off their pintle hinges if needed.

In summary, our proposal seeks to insert an accessible WC into the church, while at the same time respecting the design and detailing of a fine earlier project.

We hope that our application is acceptable and look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Pete Brown
Associate director
benjamin + beauchamp architects limited