Keynsham Parish
Sharing Jesus Christ

St John the Baptist; St Francis, Warwick Road; St Margaret, Queen Charlton; St Michael, Burnett;

The Parish Office, 1 The Park, Keynsham, BS31 2BL
Telephone: 0117 9863354 office@keynshamparish.org.uk www.keynshamparish.org.uk
Registered Charity Number: 1128845

28 April 2025

Dear Sirs

Faculty Application 2025-108473: St. Johns Church, Keynsham: Installation of Radiant Electric Heating System

I write on behalf of the St. John's Heating Working Group (HWG) in response to the DAC's comments on our initial application of 5 February 2025.

A. The DAC's Reponse

The DAC's response to our initial application commented (inter alia):

"*The committee support the proposal but would like to see a better solution to the fixings into the masonry arcades. It would be helpful for the parish to consult their church architect to work on alternatives. The parish is encouraged to keep going and when the information is ready, please submit for further consideration."*

B. Further investigations by the HWG

The HWG has since consulted further with the church architect (Mr. George Chedburn of Chedburn Codd), a structural engineer (Mr. Iasonas Bakas of Mann Williams), and with an ironworker (Ironart of Bath). We have considered 4 potential options for hanging the proposed Herschel "halos" – two potential solutions proposed by Chedburn Codd (see separate attachments Chedburn Codd Options 1 and 2) and two by Ironart (see separate attachment Ironart Options 1 and 2).

C. Our conclusions on fixings

Chedburn Codd Option 1: this solution involves a bracket system with arms extending upwards both on the nave and aisle sides of the arch. However, we feel that this solution is both complex and visually intrusive.

Chedburn Codd Option 2: this solution has the virtue of simplicity, and would not be visible from the nave. However, it would mean that the halo would be hung approximately 30 cms off-centre from the arch. This would have an impact on the overall coverage of the cone of heat generated by the halo. More significantly, we are of the view that it would be visually undesirable for the halos to be hung off-centre.

Ironart Option 1: this solution would have the advantage of hiding most of the supporting ironwork. However, we are of the view that it would involve quite intrusive drilling into the stonework above the arch.

Ironwork Option 2: this solution involves drilling four vertical holes into the arch stonework with resin fixing. It has the advantage that it achieves central hanging of the halo while involving relatively little ironwork. It has the merit of simplicity. This is our preferred option. A similar solution has already been employed at St. Marys, Adderbury, in the Diocese of Oxford (see separate photo).

All the options (with the exception of Chedburn Codd Option 2) will require the removal of the existing Victorian hooks at the apex of each arch.

D. Cabling

We propose using black cabling fixed at high level at the junction between the nave/aisle arcading and the (very dark timber) aisle roofs. It would not therefore be visible from the nave except where it descends from each arch to the halo. Where the cabling descends from the aisle roof to the arch apex it will be fixed against a whitewashed wall, and could be painted white to limit its visual impact.

E. Conclusion

We have given serious consideration to the question of appropriate hanging solutions to the Herschel halos we wish to instal. Our strong preference is to proceed with Ironart Option 2. If the DAC is of the view that this is not suitable, we should be grateful to receive the DAC's view on a workable alternative solution. As the church has been without heating for the past two winters, we need to proceed with some urgency in order to complete an alternative heating installation in time for Autumn 2025.

If the DAC has any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07856 213907 or by e-mail at grashaw54@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely

Graham Shaw

(on behalf of the St. Johns Heating Working Group)

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