

Jacqui Carreira-White  
DAC Secretary  
Diocese of Bath and Wells

Dr Claire Smith  
Church Buildings Officer

By email

Church Code: CARE 01/359  
Ref: 2021-063192

18 June 2025

Dear Jacqui

**Paulton, Holy Trinity (Diocese of Bath and Wells)**  
**Proposed removal of 16 pews, with retention and shortening of remaining 8**

Thank you for re-consulting the Church Buildings Council over the proposals at St Paul's church. This advice is given under the Council's delegated advice policy.

The updated statement of needs is clearer about the types of activities already held in the church and that numbers are constrained due to the space available. The Council understands the benefits that the proposal would bring to the church as a local centre of worship and mission. The Council does not object to the proposals and welcomes the retention of 8 pews, albeit shortened. It should be ensured that the poppyhead pew ends are retained in the shortened pews.

The Council strongly recommends a bespoke wooden floor. Although the central aisle and west end will be retained as tiles, the large sections of wooden floor will have a big impact on the aesthetic of the interior. A bespoke solution will help to retain and appropriate ecclesiastical setting, differing from that of a community or church hall. Castors are becoming more popular as a solution for moveable pews. Previous experience shows that the floor finish beneath needs to be hardwearing to avoid quickly becoming damaged from wheeling the pews.

The choice of a Theo chair is welcome: it is a suitable style, light weight and stacks easily. Selecting the wood colour for both the chairs and floor will be crucial to the aesthetic success of this proposal. The colours should respect the existing furnishings and fittings.

The Council strongly encourages the pews to be reused or recycled, as part of reducing the environmental impact of this project.

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I hope that this advice is helpful. The Council is happy to leave any further advice to the DAC.

Yours sincerely,

*CL Smith*

Claire Smith