

6 October 2025  
 Our Ref. 0442/C/EG/cw

The PCC of The Blessed Virgin Mary, West Harptree  
 c/o Elaine Avery  
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Dear Elaine,

### **WEST HARPTREE The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Many thanks for consulting me about the proposed electric heating installation for The Blessed Virgin Mary, West Harptree. Please find below a summary of the project along with confirmation of my involvement and support.

#### **History:**

The oil fired boiler was installed in the 1970's and serves a cast iron heating system comprising sizeable radiators and large diameter pipework around the internal perimeter. There are a few unfortunate details such as high level pipework across the west wall of the nave and across the north door opening, preventing its use. The radiators themselves are large and take up significant space in a relatively small church, as well as being directly hot to the touch. The boiler was condemned at the last service and whilst a replacement was considered, it would require an entirely new flue. An oil leak unfortunately occurred in the supply pipework in Spring 2025 which led to the tank being drained and decommissioned. The church has been actively pursuing an electric radiant heating system since then and have commissioned a local firm, Jowett & Jowett, to design and deliver the scheme.

I have reviewed the installation with Olly Jowett (Jowett & Jowett) and Mark Spry (Flexel Heaters) on site. We discussed the location, size and appearance of the heaters and cabling routes. In summary:

- heater proposed near the organ relocated east 1 bay, to allow distance from the instrument
- proposed DB location behind the organ is large enough to allow testing – this is preferred, rather than south aisle west wall (exposed)
- From the wall plate, supply cables will run on the east side of the corbels so will not be visible when facing east.
- Isolator sockets (required for each heater) to be affixed on top of the wall plate facing upward (so invisible from ground)
- If speakers either side of the nave need to be relocated, these to be moved in parallel (to avoid sound distortion) – potentially these could be moved up a little.
- Heaters to be centred on each nave roof bay, between projecting corbels.
- 2no. heaters to be located in south aisle to cover pews facing north here
- No heater needed to rear of chancel arch
- Lady/ SE chapel heater to be located on south wall rather than rear of arch to south aisle – whilst latter location is less visible, finishes are in poor order and moisture ingress via the parapet over requires resolving; also the location will not serve those seated at the piano
- Heaters themselves will be visible, but will be angled toward the pews, thus reducing their overall visual impact. The installation is fully reversible.
- All cast iron pipework and radiators to be removed.

- The electric panel heater providing comfort for the organist will needed to be mounted on the back of one of the open pews. I suggest a simple stained plywood panel is fixed to the pew back and the heater mounted to that. I suggest this is set at the lowest possible temperature so that the organ is not impacted.
- Heaters serving the choir area to be suspended from brackets fixed to the underside of the valley boarding (south side) and underside of boarded arch to the north vestry so as to avoid fixings into the masonry.
- No heaters proposed to serve the sanctuary area as this is not regularly used for long periods
- Cabling to be fixed to principle rafters - to pass above corbels on nave east wall (rather than below and round as indicated on photos)
- Vestry boiler and flue to be removed- some making good required.
- New DB to be located in area vacated by the boiler – this will be an improvement as the current DB is at high level and not readily accessible, as noted at the last electrical test.

The latest proposals from Jowett & Jowett (3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025) reflect these discussions and I confirm I am in support of the project on this basis. As well as a working heating system, the project will allow the north door to be openable, and the space facilitated by the removal of the adjacent radiator will provide free floor area, suitable for children's buggies or wheelchairs (at present there is no clear space in the church for these).

The church have been proactive in obtaining grants and need to spend some of these funds before the end of 2025. Subject to faculty, the church are considering purchasing the heaters directly to facilitate this, but the heaters would need to remain stored off site until fitting. If doing so, to protect the investment I would suggest the PCC request photographs showing clear labelling of the goods as owned by the PCC, confirmation that off-site storage is secure and insured, and certificates/invoices to show clear ownership by the PCC.

Do please let me know if I can be of any further assistance in progressing this proposal. I am happy for this letter to be circulated for consent purposes.

Yours sincerely



**Emma Green RIBA AABC**

director

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