Statement of Needs

All Saints Church, Lydiard Millicent

July 2024

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# Introduction

We are committed to making our grade II\* listed, beautiful, ancient building accessible, hospitable and flexible so it can be used in all sorts of creative ways for God’s mission and provide a community hub at the heart of the surrounding area.

Our church has stood at the heart of the local community for over 1,000 years and has a rich architectural and cultural heritage with a wealth of stories that connect it to wide variety of people over the years. It is a living building that throughout its 1100-year history has been adapted to help fulfil its task of enabling worship and providing place where all are welcome. Our reordering proposal represents the next phase of the Church’s journey into the 21st century.

# General Information

All Saints serves the Parish of Northwest Swindon and Lydiard Millicent. The village itself has a population of 1570 (in 2011) with 4,600 in the wider parish which includes parts of Northwest Swindon (Peatmoor and Sparcells). Our Electoral Role is currently 92 people.

# What we need

We have a beautiful ancient building and a regular set of faithful worshippers. The church bears the marks of several major reordering events. One in the post-medieval period when the minstrel galleries were removed (we have remnants of this at either end of the nave walls). Another was in the Victorian period when the current pews and chancel were put in. The challenge now is that although we love and cherish the beauty of our building, particularly the wooden arched ceiling, the pillars, the font and the stained-glass windows, the lack of space, absence of a servery and indoor toilet, limited accessibility and the inflexibility of the worship space are constraining our current use of the church and limiting our future vision.

We want a lively, thriving and diverse church which is attractive to contemporary people of all ages and which provides a welcoming hub to the local community. To achieve this, our strategy is to put a major emphasis on children’s work, increase our hospitality within the church and continue our interactive and creative ways of engaging people. We also recognise the need to improve the accessibility, health and safety and safeguarding within the building.

Our children’s work is particularly important to us and one of the leading ways in which we are seeking to grow faith within the community and within our church. We have really strong connections with 3 schools in our Parish (Lydiard Millicent CE Primary, Shaw Ridge CE Primary and Ridgeway Farm CE Primary). We also have a regular presence in 3 other local primary schools (Peatmoor Community Primary, Westlea Primary, Tregoze Primary) with the agreement of our neighbouring Parish.

Our Vicar is gifted in and has a passion for working with children. He has a long standing and close relationship with staff and pupils at the 3 primary schools in our parish. He has very regular teaching and worship sessions with the children, both in the school and in church.

We lead an ‘Open the Book’ team which enacts bible stories to primary aged children. Our team is comprised of 20 people from 5 local churches (Lydiard Millicent 8, St Mary's Lydiard Tregoze 3, Holy Trinity Shaw 3, Westlea Church 4, Freshbrook Church 2). This team goes into 4 local schools.

Using a donation, we have employed a paid, dedicated ‘Church Children’s and Schools Worker’ who is extremely active in the parish primary schools. She is Vice Chair of Governors in one of these schools and teaches RE lessons at another. In addition to leading worship sessions, assemblies and after school Band rehearsals in these schools, she leads numerous other activities including Christmas in a Box, Experience Easter, Experience Christmas and is starting Experience Pentecost.

We have therefore forged deep relationships with the staff and pupils in the local schools and through this our ‘Church Children’s and Schools Worker’ has established BASH (Bible And Sharing Hour) for children aged 8-12. This currently attracts up to 24 children who meet for 1.5 hours alternate Friday nights for food, teaching, games and rehearsals. BASH has put on Easter and Christmas performances (including play, music, dance and singing) in the church for the last 2 years attracting around 160-180 people. BASH has also set up and experienced prayer stations in the church multiple times. Our Sunday School (Spirit of Truth SPOT) which meets on the first and last Sunday morning of the month is also beginning to develop well. This work is also allowing us to build really fruitful relationships with their parents/carers and siblings. This is all at a very early stage and we have plans to rapidly increase the number of children involved in BASH and SPOT and the frequency of their meetings. The ultimate aim of this work is to integrate these children into the life of All Saints Church.

Lydiard Millicent Church together with Purton Church have been accepted to pilot a Growing in Faith Chaplain and our PCC is in discussions with Purton Parish and the Diocese concerning this. We see this role as being key in supporting and guiding young people within the school, church and hopefully local community.

See Appendix B for the details of our engagement with local schools.

See Appendix C for letters of support from local schools who support this reordering.

**Summary of Needs:** Below is a list of our current activities and the issues we have with the current arrangements. This illustrates what changes we need and why.

It might appear that we could address some of these needs e.g. lack of kitchen facilities, lack of space and lack of toilet facilities, by use of the Parish Hall instead. However, this is a very busy hall which is heavily booked so not readily available as required. People have to cross a busy road to move between the church and the hall and use of the hall defeats our objective of sharing our beautiful ancient building with the community and of encouraging people to come into the building as part of transitioning to coming to church for worship.

See Appendix A for Schedule of Parish Hall Regular Customers.

| **Activity** | **Description** | **Frequency** | **Current Numbers** | **Issues with current arrangements** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sunday Service 8.00 am | A 45-minute Common Workshop or Book of Common Prayer Service. Numbers have been steadily increasing. | Weekly | 8-10 people | **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the service when only a small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| Sunday Service 10.30 am | A 1.5-hour Morning Service or Communion Service. Numbers have been steadily increasing. Home communion is provided for those who can’t come to the church. | Weekly | 30-40 people | **Lack of kitchen facilities**:We provide refreshments after 50% of our Sunday Services in the Parish Hall (which requires booking and is not always available). People need to cross a busy road, often in inclement weather, to another building leading to some drop off in people coming. We would far prefer to offer refreshments in church. When we do serve refreshments in church, we need to drive the cups, plates, glasses and spoons to the Vicarage to go through the dishwasher and then return them to the church, as we don’t have washing up facilities on site.  **Safety:** We provide refreshments in church after the major festival services or when the Parish Hall is not available. This is logistically challenging as we have to put urns/kettles, on open surfaces and be vigilant to ensure children and others do not accidently touch these. The lack of space means people are crammed together at the end of the South Aisle which can block the main door which is the fire exit.  **Lack of Space:** There is a lack of space for people to sit down and enjoy refreshments together, sitting in pews to eat and drink is not conducive to building relationships. The lack of space also hampers creativity. We like to sometimes include a short drama or a workshop format in the service but there is insufficient space to do this effectively.  **Line of Sight**: It is not possible for people sitting in the pews in the south aisle to see into the chancel and they cannot therefore see what is happening during the communion part of the service or when the minister stands in this area.  **Pews:** Members of our congregation who have mobility issues have difficulty stepping in and out of the pews. We have one member of the congregation with a bad back who is unable to sit in the pews at all. Many people report that they find the pews uncomfortable, we would like to be able to offer more comfortable chairs where needed.  **Toilet facilities:** We currently have an accessible lavatory at the back of the church. To reach this lavatory you need to either go through the vestry where there is a large step down to ground level, or to walk from the main south door to the back of the church along an unlit path. This means that the lavatory is difficult to access for those with mobility challenges and when it is dark, cold or rainy. |
| Thursday Service 10.00 am | A half-hour Communion Service which has been running for 6 years. Numbers have been steadily increasing. | Bi-monthly | 7-10 people | **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the service when only small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| Seasonal Services for local primary school | Four seasonal services are held for all pupils   1. Harvest 2. Christmas 3. Easter 4. Year 6 Leavers   Year 6 leavers are presented with bibles. | Quarterly | For each service 160+ children, 50 parents and 20 staff. | **Lack of Space:** There is currently insufficient space to make these services as creative as we would wish. |
| Experience Christmas, Easter & Pentecost for local primary school (all pupils) | Experience Christmas, Experience Easter and Experience Pentecost are each 2-day events attended by the whole school in groups. The children visit a series of 5-6 stations around the church telling the Christmas, Easter or Pentecost story and are invited to discuss an aspect of faith and engage in an activity at each station. | 2 of these Annually | For each service 180 children, 8 staff and 8-10 volunteers | **Lack of Space:** There are generally 5-6 stations visited by groups of 6 children at a time, to discuss an aspect of faith and engage in an activity. As we have such limited space we have to get 6 children into the small spaces at the ends of the aisles. We are very constrained in the activities we can ask them to do and it feels congested and unsatisfactory. It is logistically challenging to navigate the children between stations. |
| Prayer Stations | We run Prayer Days/Weekends where the community is invited into the church to visit 5-6 stations, get a short talk from a member of the congregation and engage in an act or contemplation or prayer. | Bi-Annually | 20-30 visitors | **Lack of Space:** There is insufficient space to layout meaningful and engaging prayer stations within the church. We have had to balance planks across the pews to make room for these. We believe this activity belongs in the church building but this lack of space detracts from the whole experience we are seeking to offer. |
| Local pre-school visits | Staff from the local pre-school use the church monthly for activities in the church and/or churchyard. | Monthly | 12 children and 6 staff | **Safeguarding Issue:** Having large numbers of small children use the church without indoor toilet facilities presents a safeguarding challenge. |
| Special Children’s Services | Annual all-age services lasting 1 hour include the Christmas Eve Service and Good Friday morning service. These services are given by around 20 members of the youth group (BASH) and include drama, dance, singing and a band. | Annually + 5 rehearsal evenings for each service. | 160 people | **Lack of Space:** Delivering and rehearsing these performances from the Chancel area with 20+ performers is extremely challenging. It would be preferable to be able to distribute the activities more around the church and provide a more immersive experience for those attending.  **Line of Sight:** The line of sight from the south aisle pews to the Chancel area is extremely limited and in some cases the Chancel cannot be seen.  **Toilet facilities:** We currently have an accessible lavatory at the back of the church. To reach this lavatory you need to either go through the vestry where there is a large step down to ground level, or to walk from the main south door to the back of the church along an unlit path. This means that the lavatory is difficult to access for those with mobility challenges and when it is dark, cold or rainy. |
| Youth Group meetings (BASH) | Friday evening 1.5-hour meetings with teaching and games for 20+ children aged 8-12. We are actively growing our children’s work and hope to see a steady increased in the number of children coming and the frequency of their meetings. | Fortnightly | 12-15 children  Max of 22 at present. | **Lack of Space:** A key element of these sessions is to provide fun and games in addition to teaching. We are constrained in what we can do due to lack of space. It is hard to bring the children together for teaching as they don’t fit round tables in the existing small creche space. When the children are distributed around the church it is much harder to supervise them.  **Safety:** We provide the children with hot toasties and sometimes hot chocolate. We prepare these on open surfaces within the church and have to be vigilant to ensure that they do not touch the toastie maker or kettles. We would like a servery where we could prepare food for them safely.  **Sustainability**: We serve the children with hot toasties, doughnuts, cake and drinks etc… We need to use biodegradable plates as we don’t have washing up facilities, we would prefer to use crockery as this is more sustainable.  **Lack of kitchen facilities:** We have to take drinking vessels home to wash up after each session as there are no washing up facilities in the church.  **Safeguarding Issue:** During our evening meetings, children need to leave the main building, often in the dark, to go to the outside lavatory behind the church which presents a safeguarding issue which is hard to manage. Good Practice Guidance for Working with Children states, ‘Avoid taking children to the toilet. Where this is unavoidable, ensure that another staff member or volunteer is informed and, in the area,’. What this effectively means is that that where the toilet is separate to the building (as in our case) a minimum of 4 leaders/helpers are required to run the children’s session; two to take a child to the toilet, and two to remain with the rest of the group. As the team is growing at this time, we don’t have sufficient people to do this. |
| Local Ward Parish Council meetings | Wednesday evening council meetings held in the church with refreshments. The local Parish Council meetings are held in the church as they were unable to book the Parish Hall regularly as it is too busy. | Weekly | 20 people | **Lack of Space:** Seating 12 Councillors around a table in the chancel area is challenging and they are cramped. Members of the public attending (whose numbers vary so we don’t know how many will attend) sit on the pews nearby.  **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the meeting when often only a relatively small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| PCC meetings | PCC evening meetings are held in the church (when it’s warm enough). During the colder months these are held in the vicarage. | Monthly | 9 people | **Lack of Space:** Seating 9 PCC members around a table is challenging and they are cramped.  **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the meeting when only a small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| Restoration and Renewal team meetings | Restoration and Renewal meetings are held in the church (when it’s warm enough). During the colder months these are held in the vicarage. | Monthly | 6 people | **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the meeting when only a small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| Men’s Breakfast 9.00 am | A men’s group of which is ethnically diverse (e.g., British, German and Ukrainian members) and includes both the churched and unchurched. They meet in the church to share fellowship, a bible study and a cooked breakfast. | Monthly | 8-10 people | **Lack of kitchen facilities**: Due to lack of facilities in the church, the breakfast is cooked in the vicarage and driven to the church. Tea and coffee are made on site. The crockery is driven back to the vicarage afterwards to go in the dishwasher before being returned to the church.  **Safety:** Carrying hot food across a busy road is cumbersome and something of a health and safety risk. |
| Concerts | Concerts are held roughly 6 monthly. These have included a performance by a local Jazz Band and Choir and a performance by a local orchestra. | 6 monthly | 80-100 people | **Lack of kitchen facilities**:We provide refreshments before the concerts but we need to drive the cups, plates, glasses and spoons to the Vicarage to go through the dishwasher and then return them to the church, as we don’t have washing up facilities on site.  **Safety:** Refreshments are logistically challenging as we have to put urns/kettles on open surfaces and be vigilant to ensure children and others do not accidently touch these. The lack of space means people are crammed together in the small creche area at the end of the South Aisle which can block the main door which is the fire exit.  **Line of Sight**: It is not possible for people sitting in the pews in the south aisle to see into the chancel however musicians need to extend into this area. The pews cannot be reorientated to see in better.  **Lack of Space:** There is a lack of space for people to sit down and enjoy refreshments, sitting in pews to eat and drink is not conducive to building relationships.  **Toilet facilities:** We currently have an accessible lavatory at the back of the church. To reach this lavatory you need to either go through the vestry where there is a large step down to ground level, or to walk from the main south door to the back of the church along an unlit path. This means that the lavatory is difficult to access for those with mobility challenges and when it is dark, cold or rainy. |
| Social Events | We have held a number of social events such as jazz evenings, quiz evenings, wedding anniversary celebrations for church member, birthday celebrations for church member in the Parish Hall coupled a simple meal. | Quarterly | 40-60 people | **Lack of Space:** We would like to hold these events in the church but have insufficient space to layout a number of tables in café style format that would permit this.  **Lack of kitchen facilities**: We do not have the facilities to safely produce and serve a simple meal for a social event. |
| Special Christian Events | We have held a range of special Christian events, such as pet service, Alpha, prayer ministry days and Christian teaching sessions from invited speakers. | Annually | 30-50 people | **Lack of Space:** We want to hold these events in the church as they are part of the ministry of the church and benefit from the Christian ethos and the beauty of the building. They are however severely constrained by the space available. Christian events such as these necessitate being able to get physically close to those attending to talk face to face and pray with them.  **Toilet facilities:** We currently have an accessible lavatory at the back of the church. To reach this lavatory you need to either go through the vestry where there is a large step down to ground level, or to walk from the main south door to the back of the church along an unlit path. This means that the lavatory is difficult to access for those with mobility challenges and when it is dark, cold or rainy.  **Lack of kitchen facilities:** We do not have the facilities to safely produce and serve a simple meal for these events. This is a key element of such events, especially the Alpha course. |
| Prayer meetings | Different groups meet in in the church each week for Prayer on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. | Weekly | 5-6 people | **Heating:** We need to heat the whole building an hour before the meeting when only a small number of people are gathered in limited area of the church. |
| Occasional offices | In a typical year there are around   * 5 baptisms (sometimes integrated into a Sunday Service) * 5 weddings * 5 funerals   Wedding rehearsals are also held in the church and can be large scale affairs. | Ad-hoc | 20-70 people | **Lack of kitchen facilities**:People have often travelled long-distance for a baptism, wedding or funeral. We like to provide them with refreshments on arrival where appropriate, but we need to drive the cups, plates, glasses and spoons to the Vicarage to go through the dishwasher and then return them to the church, as we don’t have washing up facilities on site.  **Toilet facilities:** We currently have an accessible lavatory at the back of the church. To reach this lavatory you need to either go through the vestry where there is a large step down to ground level, or to walk from the main south door to the back of the church along an unlit path. This means that the lavatory is difficult to access for those with mobility challenges and when it is dark, cold or rainy. |
| Regional Bell Ringers meeting | Bell ringers across the region get together quarterly for a meeting and refreshments in the church. | Quarterly | 50 people | **Lack of kitchen facilities**:We can only provide very basic refreshments for those who have travelled some distance as there is nowhere to prepare food or wash up. |
| Incidental Use | A lot of different people drop into the church including staff from the local SEN school, cyclists, walkers, photographers, historians etc. People come for quiet prayer to remember loved ones or simply to worship. | Ad-hoc |  | **Lack of Space:** We would like to be able to invite the local SEN school to make better more frequent use of the church. If they could move more freely around the church, more would be possible. |

**South Aisle Pews**

The photos below illustrate the poor line of sight into the Chancel from the south aisle pews.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| View into the Chancel from the Nave pews | View into the Chancel from the South Aisle pews nearest the Chancel | View into the Chancel from the South Aisle pews furthest from the Chancel |

# Proposals

The proposals are divided into four phases, and we would like to implement each phase as and when we have full funding for that phase.

**Summary of requirements**

**PHASE 1**

1. Remove south aisle pews
2. Remove small bookcase attached to the back pew
3. Install a new wood floor and lower the Cotswold Dales Reconstructed Stone floor between the main body of the church and the chancel area
4. New Herschel halo IR heaters
5. New, electrical points and services ready for phase 2, WC and Servery
6. New glass entrance doors
7. Raise porch floor to meet new floor
8. Rehang historic oak doors

**PHASE 2**

1. New servery incorporating the altar from the south aisle
2. New storage cupboard to house the toilet in phase three
3. Move monuments
4. Move notice boards
5. Join servery services to sewer
6. Replace south aisle altar with altar frontal chest from vestry

**PHASE 3**

1. Install indoor toilet
2. Join services to sewer

**PHASE 4**

1. New stackable chairs

**Detail of requirements**

**PHASE 1 – Detailed Proposals**

1. **Remove South Aisle Pews:** Remove 4 rows of pews against the south wall and 1 short pew from the north of the south aisle, reduce 3 rows of pews in the south aisle, up to the nave side of the pillar. Where pews need to be reduced in size, we will ensure that the pew ends are neatly reattached. No other pews will be moved or removed. The removed pews will either be offered to members of the congregation and community, many of whom have indicated a wish to take ownership of these or reused in the church. Any pews which are not taken can be used when the servery is installed. See drawing 21 Proposed New Layout for details.
2. **Remove Small Bookcase:** The small bookcase attached to the back of the south aisle pews will be removed and will not be used in the new layout. This bookcase currently holds numerous service and hymn books which are no longer needed in large quantities as the service is presented on screen.
3. **New Wood Floor:** Install an engineered light oak floor at the level of the remaining pew bases. This will cover the whole of the main body of the church (aisles, creche area, area left by removed pews). A liftable panel will be built into the floor to allow for access to the Kibblewaite vault should this ever be needed. The Cotswold Dales Reconstructed Stone, installed in 1966 in the Nave and South Aisle, will be lowered to meet the level of new floor to avoid a two-inch step between the main body of the church and the first chancel step. The new floor and the pew platforms will be distinct from each other. The pew bases are framed by a darker stained wood which will separate them from the new floor. The new floor will accentuate key features in the space (e.g. stone detail to the base of the font) and complement the form and function of the overall building. Conservation repairs will be carried out on existing floor prior to new floor being installed. See drawing 21 Proposed New Layout for details.
4. **New Herschel Chandelier Infrared Heaters.** As we are proposing to remove the south aisle pews, we will need to reconfigure the existing heating layout. We propose installing 2 Herschel Chandelier Infrared Heaters suspended from the south aisle roof. The servery and WC in the west end of the south aisle will have their own separate heating. These new infrared heaters will allow heating of the area between the main door and the east window of the south aisle. They will allow instant, low cost, low carbon heating of this space for a wide variety of activities confined to this area without needing to heat the whole church.
5. **New Electrical Points and Services:** While having the flooring redone is an ideal opportunity to rewire and to relocate the south aisle heaters to suitable locations and implement additional electrical sockets. It is also the best time to put in the first fix drainage and services for the servery and the toilet. During Phase 1, the services would only extend to the outside of the church wall. Work from the outside of the wall to connect to the sewer requires an archaeologist and watching brief and will therefore only be done when needed for the servery and toilet installation. In order to have the electric capacity for the new equipment, we will replace the old consumer unit with a three phase DB converted to single phase. This can be swapped back to three phase if we upgrade to three phase supply in the future.
6. **New Glass Door:** Replace the green baize doors, on the interior side of the porch with a new glass door. The 1857 carved door surround will be raised to the new floor level. The glass door will include an etching (so people don’t walk into it). This will be designed in conjunction with the worship committee at the local school. The door should be fully draft proof and so remove the need to draft proof the existing doors as recommended as part of the Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon Advice following our Net Zero audit. See Doc 10 Lydiard Millicent Energy report for details.
7. **Raise porch floor to meet new floor:** The flag stones in the south porch will be carefully raised and angled up to meet the level of the new wood floor, to avoid a shallow step into the church.
8. **Rehang Oak Doors:** The ancient Oak Doors will be adjusted to fit with the raised floor in the porch and then rehung. These will then be permanently pinned back allowing the decorative carving on these to be admired.

**PHASE 2 – Detailed Proposals**

1. **New Servery incorporating the altar from the South aisle:** The servery will be used to warm food for a maximum of 100 people. We propose to install a servery against the west wall of the south aisle. The servery will not have a ceiling to take advantage of natural light from the window and as advised by SPAB to help with ventilation / extraction. It will be screened with panelling up to the height of the window ledge on the west wall. The 3 pew ends which make up the front of the south aisle altar will be used for a feature on the outside of the servery. The servery will have a folding (concertina) door above the base when not in use. The serving hatch will be at the front. The servery entrance will be on the right-hand/North side, retaining access to the electric services. See drawing 22 Proposed Internal Section for details.
2. **New Storage Cupboard:** Alongside the servery we want to install a storage cupboard on the west wall. The storage cupboard will have a roof and be well-insulated and sound proofed so that it can be converted into an accessible toilet in phase 3, using the services installed in phase 1. A stone vent will also be installed ready for phase 3. The wall between the storage door (WC) and the serving hatch opening has been increased in length to provide separation between the two activities when it is converted to an accessible toilet facility in phase three. See drawing 22 Proposed Internal Section for details.
3. **Move Monuments:** Move the two brass monuments on the west wall to the right-hand side of the south wall near the main entrance door to enable them to be seen after installation of the servery and toilet.
4. **Move Notice Boards:** To make room for the servery and toilet we will need to move two notice boards. Leave one noticeboard on the right side of the west wall in the servery to be used for safety notices etc. Move the long noticeboard from the right side of the main entrance door to the left-hand side of the main entrance door. Move the other small notice board from the left side of the west wall to the right-hand side of the main door next to the monuments.
5. **Join Services to Sewer:** Connect the services for the servery installed in Phase 1 to the main sewer. See drawing 24 & 26 Proposed Servery for details
6. **Replace South Aisle Altar with Altar Frontal Chest:** The South Aisle Altar was formed using the pew ends from a previous reordering in the 1960’s and will be integrated into the front of the new servery to match the remaining pews. A photo of the South Aisle Altar and the Altar Frontal Chest is shown in the Statement of Significance. The Altar Frontal Chest, currently in the vestry, was originally a reading desk carved by the students of the Revd McKnight, in approx. 1864. They also carved the ornamental frame around the interior of the main door in 1857. In the 1968 the reading desk was cut down to form the Altar Frontal Chest. Revd McKnight was a great benefactor to the parish. These two pieces therefore complement one another, and we would be showcasing some important history of the church.

**PHASE 3 – Detailed Proposals**

1. **Install Toilet:** Install an accessible toilet in the storage cupboard next to the servery. See drawing 24 & 25 Proposed Servery & WC for details
2. **Join Services to Sewer:** Connect the services for the toilet installed in Phase 1 to the main sewer.

**PHASE 4 – Detailed Proposals**

1. **New Stackable Chairs:** Acquire 32 new stackable chairs for use in various configurations in the south aisle. These need to be easy to stack so the area can be cleared for creative activities e.g. prayer stations, experience easter and Christmas, performance rehearsals etc or set out café style for refreshments or other joint activities. We loaned two types of chairs (Abbey chair and Theo Chair) from Trinity Chairs for church members to assess. A vote has resulted in the Theo Chair having been selected. It has been proven in use by multiple churches including Bath Abbey and stacks well. We will purchase 30 chairs without arm rests as the associated trolley holds up to 30 chairs which means that the chairs can be neatly stored when not in use. We will include 2 chairs with arm rests for those who need these.

The Theo chair is entirely made of wood (no metal or plastic parts) and available in two standard wood finishes (Beech and Oak). We would like to have the oak finish as we believe this will be in sympathy with the new oak floor. It will be lighter than the pews and there are stains available to match to these, but we believe that the oak and darker wood will complement each other. We are aware of a number of churches who have a mix differing woods which look very attractive, see illustrations below.

See Doc 12 Theo Chair.

|  |
| --- |
| Cotham Parish Church illustrating a mix of different woods |
| St Pauls Chippenham illustrating a mix of different woods |

# Evidence of Need

We have carefully considered the feedback from the conservation bodies to our previous faculty application. We have specifically taken the following recommendations from them:

1. Retain a significant number of the pews, in the main body of the church, in particular preserving the main processional area
2. Retain the organ and keep this in its current location
3. Locate the servery in the west end of the south aisle
4. Retain the carved surround to the main doors
5. Reduce the level of the new floor well below the level of the pillar bases
6. Reuse any pews removed in the reordering of the building

We have consulted with Historic England (HE), the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and the Victorian Society with an outline of our plans. They have confirmed that they have no objections to our plans subject to detailed proposals as per the emails received as shown in Appendix C.

**Letters of Support**

We have received the following letters / emails of support which are shown in detail in Appendix C

1. Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School 1
2. Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School 2
3. Ridgeway Farm CE Academy 1
4. Ridgeway Farm CE Academy 2
5. Email from SPAB on behalf of both SPAB and Historic England
6. Email from the Victorian Society
7. Email from member with mobility issues

# How the proposal is contributing to environmental sustainability

We are whole-heartedly committed to environmental sustainability and have achieved the following to date;

* Appointed an Eco Champion
* Achieved the Eco Church Bronze Award and are targeting the Silver Award
* Achieved the Bishops Award for Environmental Management
* Engaged with the Living Churchyards organisation who have visited twice
* Had a flora and fauna survey of the churchyard conducted
* Undertaken the Diocese Carbon Literacy Training and attending the ongoing meetings with Kit Connell
* Attending regular meetings with Eco Champions from Purton Church and Christ Church Swindon
* Planted wildflowers at the back of the churchyard for the last 3 years, this year with the help of 12 youth group members
* Obtained a faculty for a pond in the churchyard, which was installed 25 May 2024. This will be used to teach the youth group and others about pond ecosystems
* Installed recycling facilities for paper, board, plastic, cans and bottles in the church
* Introduced use of fairtrade goods in refreshments, including fairtrade, slavery free, palm-oil free chocolates
* Ensured inclusion of vegetarian option when food provided
* Removed of all single use plastic from church and youth group activities
* Implemented eco-friendly toilet roll (Naked Sprout) trial in the church and vicarage
* Introduced use of compostable bin bags and compostable plates for youth group
* Eco Champion has given quarterly talks to the congregation on environmental issues at the start of the main Sunday Service
* Prayers for the environment are included in the Sunday Service intercessions each week
* Preaching on creation care has taken place annually
* The congregation have an annual event to go out and enjoy nature via a walk at the local park
* Ensured all lighting within the church is LED
* Twinned our outdoor toilet
* Our energy supplier is Smartest Energy who state “they supply 100% renewable energy, sourced from clean generation and verified by the Carbon Trust”
* We monitor and report our energy usage using the Energy Footprint Tool
* Insulation will be installed in the Nave roof during the work to repair it
* The vicar has engaged as necessary to get solar panels installed at the vicarage in 2023.

**Net Zero Audit:** On 9th October 2023, David Legge (Energy Auditor) conducted a Net Zero Audit of All Saints Church on behalf of Bristol Diocese. We engaged in 3 hours of discussion with David Legge and found his input extremely helpful. A copy of his report ‘Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon Advice’ has been uploaded as part of our faculty application. It should be noted that this refers to our previous faculty application in a number of the comments made. See Doc 10 Lydiard Millicent Energy report.

The following recommendations were made

1. Upgrade to a 3-phase electricity supply
2. Install thermostatic radiator values (TRVs)
3. Draft-proof the external doors
4. Replace heating system for electrical based heating solution

The auditor advised that the following were **not recommended** for our church

* + Air-to-Water Source Heat Pump
  + Air-to-Air Heat Pump
  + Water Source Heat Pump
  + Ground Source Heat Pump
  + Over Door Air Heater
  + Heated Chair Cushions
  + Solar Photo Voltaic (PV)
  + Battery Storage
  + Underfloor heating

The auditor advised that the following were **recommended** for our church

* + Under Pew Electric Heating Panels
  + Electric Panel Heaters
  + Overhead Infrared Heaters

The report also included a series of observations regarding other energy saving actions we could take.

**Response to Net Zero Audit:** A group was convened to carefully consider the recommendations in the report received. We considered each recommendation in detail and documented our response, together with the action we will take.

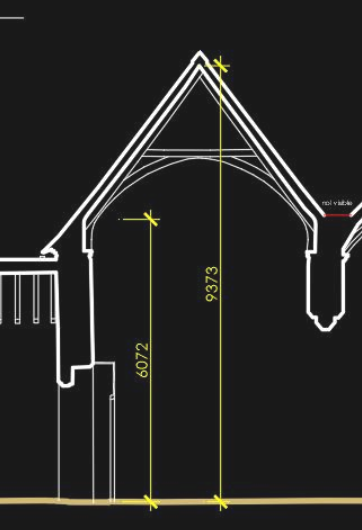
See Appendix D for Response to Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon Advice.

As a result of this we agreed three main actions

1. Investigate the cost of 3-phase supply as we will need to replace our gas boiler in a few years’ time and will need a 3-phase supply to allow for the increased electricity used. See Doc’s 14 & 15 Quote and Design for 3-phase upgrade.
2. Await decision regarding installing glass doors in the faculty and if not granted then investigate draft proofing existing doors.
3. Investigate recommended options for and electrical based heating solution and identify a preferred solution.

**Investigation of electrical based heating solutions:**

We propose removing the pews in the south aisle and installing a servery and WC in the west end of this. It is envisaged that we’ll use the space gained for meetings, refreshments, shared meals, BASH (Youth Group) sessions, smaller more creative services, prayer stations, experience Easter/Christmas, exhibitions, rehearsals, extra seating for large services etc.

Currently we need to heat the whole of the church (often turning on the heating up to an hour before) for all activities even when they are limited in the space needed or the number of people. We were therefore looking for a heating solution for the south aisle that will allow us to heat just the south aisle, instantaneously, at low cost and with low carbon emissions. We will still need 6 of the 7 current convection heaters to heat the whole church for our main services, weddings, baptisms and funerals etc.

The South Aisle plan is 12.8m x 4.66m with an area of 59.7 square meters. The height of the internal eaves is 6.1m and the height of the internal ridge is 9.4m. We will not need to heat the whole of this space as we propose to install a servery and WC at the west end of the south aisle.

We contacted 3 suppliers and discussed our requirements with them in order to get costed options for electrical based solutions for our south aisle. We visited St Matthews, in Cotham, Bristol to experience the Herschel Halo Heaters. We discussed with various people what their experience had been of the different solutions on offer.

See Appendix E for Investigation of electrical based heating solutions.

**Preferred Solution:** From this research we identified that our preferred solution is 2 x Herschel Halo 7800w Decorative heaters (without lights). This uses FAR infrared technology. These were independently evaluated by the National Church from every perspective and they found that this solution was overwhelmingly positive. This is therefore proven technology. St Matthews saw the cost of heating the church for services reduced from £75 (gas) to £17.50.

Our architect has approved these heaters and suggested we engage an engineer to design how these are hung so that the weight is supported as needed.

These are the preferred option because

* Proven performance
* Proven efficiency
* Overhead heating heats floor and objects in its path which radiate back the heat more effectively and efficiently than heating from the side
* In keeping with Grade II\* listing
* Could be extended across whole church when boiler comes to end of life

This option was approved by the PCC at their May 2024 meeting.

**Sustainability Contribution of heating solution to this faculty:**

**New heating:** The introduction of 2 Herschel Halo Heaters in the South Aisle will mean that we no longer need to heat the whole church using our gas boiler and convection heaters for small/medium meetings and activities. As well as numerous relatively small meetings and events within the church across the week, there are a lot of ad hoc meetings and get togethers which take place informally. By using only, the Herschel Halo heaters for these will provide significant savings in both energy costs and emissions.

We see this solution as something that could potentially be extended across the rest of the church when our boiler comes to the end of its life. Having experienced these heaters in the South Aisle people should be confident of their efficiency and effectiveness although in pew areas they may need to be supplement by under pew heaters. This solution therefore sets us on the path to Net Zero when our boiler is removed.

**New glass doors**: These will be entirely draft proof so will conserve heat better within the building leading to lower energy costs and carbon emissions. Heat will also be retained as people will be able to look into the building without keeping opening the doors and losing all the heat.

**New servery**: The new servery will be heated with a plinth heater which will allow us to remove one convection heater, therefore reducing both our costs and emissions.

**Storage cupboard/WC**: A ceiling infra-red heater will be installed in this area.

**Recycling**: We are recycling the pew ends built into the existing south aisle altar into the front of the servery. We are offering the pews removed from the south aisle to the community. We are therefore minimising any waste.

**Heating Options Appraisal Report:** We commissioned a Heating Options Appraisal Report, in December 2019. A copy of this report has been uploaded as part of our faculty application. It should be noted that this refers to our previous faculty application in a number of the comments made. See Doc 07 BJP 2019 report

The advice of the DAC auditor has been taken in preference to the contents of this

report.

# Other Options Considered

1. **Servery Options**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Option | Pros | Cons | Reason option accepted or rejected |
| Remove organ and install servery in the bell tower | * discrete, servery not visible from main body of church * doesn’t take up additional space * can be accessed from the outside of the building | * requires removal of the organ which conservation bodies advise against, and organ needs to be rehomed which is hard to do * requires removal of pews in west end of the nave which conservation bodies advise against | **Rejected**  Option rejected because the conservation bodies advise that the organ is of historic and aesthetic value and should be retained or rehomed appropriately. We accept this is the case and we will therefore pay for the organ to be maintained so that it continues to be used in services. An independent organ report has been obtained to establish what work is required.  This option would also require that the pews in front of the organ at the west end of the nave be moved or removed. The conservation bodies have advised that this will detract from the processional layout of the pews. We accept that this is the case and do not wish therefore to move or remove these pews. |
| Install servery at east end of the south aisle | * there is sufficient space for a servery in this area | * will obscure the Margaret Rope window which is one of the most beautiful features in the church * too prominent being at the front of the church | **Rejected**  Option rejected because the servery would obscure the Margaret Rope window which is of historic significance and aesthetically beautiful. We also believe that it would be inappropriate to have a servery at the front of the church. We would like to reserve the space in this area to showcase the carved frontal chest currently in the vestry. We believe this is a more appropriate focus for the front of the church. |
| Install  servery at the west end of the south aisle | * there is sufficient space for a servery in this area * discrete, servery is behind the congregation * does not obscure anything precious within the church * is close to main services and sewer | * Will reduce the current social space available | **Accepted**  Option accepted because this area of the church in the least prominent in the building. The congregation will have their back to the servery during services. The location does not have an alternative use and has a poor line of site to the chancel so is not useful as a seating area. It is currently used as a creche area, but removal of the south aisle pews will give more than adequate space to relocate the creche during services. The area is close to where we need to connect to the main services and sewer outside. |
| Enclose Servery | * Refreshments can be discretely prepared towards the end of a service * We don’t detract from what is a sacred space |  | **Accepted**  Option accepted as people can discretely prepare refreshments towards the end of a service. Also, we strongly feel that domestic utilities (sink oven) will detract from what is a beautiful sacred space. We want people to be unaware there is a servery when it is not in use. |

1. **Toilet Options**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Option | Pros | Cons | Reason option accepted or rejected |
| Install toilet at east end of the south aisle | * there is sufficient space for a toilet in this area | * will obscure the Margaret Rope window which is one of the most beautiful features in the church * too prominent being at the front of the church * the location is some distance from the outside services and the sewer. | **Rejected**  Option rejected as there is insufficient space for a toilet in this area and it would obscure the Margaret Rope window which is one of the most beautiful features of the church.  We feel that having a toilet at the front of the church would make this and its visitors too conspicuous. We would like to reserve the space in this area to showcase the carved frontal chest currently in the vestry. We believe this is a more appropriate focus for the front of the church. |
| Install toilet at the west end of the south aisle | * there is sufficient space for a toilet in this area * discrete, toilet is behind the congregation * does not obscure anything precious within the church * is close to main services and sewer * will be adjacent to the servery giving a continuous built in area rather than having separate room shaped installations | * Will reduce the current social space available | **Accepted**  Options accepted as there is sufficient space in this area and it will not obscure anything precious in the church. It is discrete location as the congregation will have their back to the toilet during services and other events.  It will be adjacent to the servery, but the door will be a sufficient distance from the serving area to give room for wheelchair access.  It will give a continuous built in area rather than having separate room shaped installations.  This location is close to the main services and the sewer. |

1. **Floor Options**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Option | Pros | Cons | Reason option accepted or rejected |
| Reveal existing stone floor | * would reveal historic original floor | * floor stones are in a poor state of repair as they are cracked and patched with concrete * floor stones include vents to the old heating system where draughts can get through * stone floor is cold for children to sit on * There is no floor where the pews are situated as they have been installed on earth, therefore any flooring to cover this area will be new | **Rejected**  Option rejected because the original stones are in such a poor state of repair with as they are cracked and patched with concrete. The stones include vents to the old heating system where draughts can get through if the carpet is removed. See Doc 09 Existing Floor condition.  The stone floor does not extend under the pews which are sat on short walls with earth and rubble between them. So, if we remove the south aisle pews, we will therefore need to use new stone in the area where the south aisle pews are removed. This would give a patchwork of old and new stone. Children sit on the floor when in the creche, during Youth Group activities and when visiting stations during Experience Easter/Christmas and Pentecost. A wooden floor will be warmer and nicer for them to sit on. |
| Install new stone floor | * would reflect original stone floor | * stone floor is cold for children to sit on * As we are only raising the floor a short distance it would be more difficult to install a stone floor and protect the existing floor | **Rejected**  Option rejected because children sit on the floor when in the creche, during Youth Group activities and when visiting stations during Experience Easter/Christmas and Pentecost. A wooden floor will be warmer and nicer for them to sit on. |
| Install wood floor | * will match use of wood elsewhere in the church particularly our beautiful wooden roof * will allow us to implement a design that follows the form and function of the church * will look warmer * will be warmer and more comfortable for children to sit on | * will leave a small step to the chancel area | **Accepted**  Option accepted because this will match use of wood elsewhere in the church particularly our beautiful wooden roof. It will allow us to implement a design that follows the form and function of the church. It would be warmer and more comfortable for children to sit on. |
| Install the new floor to the level of the small stone step | * will allow us to have a completely level floor throughout the main area of the church and avoid the need for a small step and a handrail * will allow wheelchairs access to that area * allows us to make full use of the south aisle when using tables and chairs | * would create a small step down into the pews * would obstruct the carving on the side of the pews | **Rejected**  Option rejected because it is better to have a completely level floor with no steps. |
| Reduce the height of the stone floor installed in the Nave and South Aisle in 1966 | * will allow us to have a completely level floor throughout the main area of the church and avoid the need for a small step and a handrail * will allow wheelchairs access to that area * allows us to make full use of the south aisle when using tables and chairs |  | **Accepted**  We will retain the stone part of the floor in order to highlight the new from the old. It removes the need for a small step and handrails which could be a tripping hazard and will give us a larger usable area |

1. **Pew Removal**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Option | Pros | Cons | Reason option accepted or rejected |
| Remove pews at the back of the nave | * will provide sufficient space to meet our needs | * would require moving of the choir stalls which are of medium high significance * would remove the main processional area which the conservation bodies advise against * makes less sense if we are not installing the servery in the bell tower * Would require significant changes to the sound system * The WC could not be installed in this area | **Rejected**  Option rejected as the conservation bodies have advised that this will detract from the processional layout of the pews. We accept that this is the case and do not wish therefore to move or remove these pews. It would also require moving the choir stalls which are of medium to high significance.  This would not provide sufficient space for all the activities we hope to carry out e.g. shared meals, prayer stations, children’s activities, performance rehearsals etc. |
| Remove pews in the south aisle | * it removes pews which have little or no visibility into the chancel area * will provide sufficient space to meet our needs and replaces space lost by the installation of the servery and WC * provides a useful space around the main door, servery and toilet * is aesthetically more pleasing as it continues the space from the last pew removal at the back of the south aisle * it clears distractions from in front of the Margaret Rope window * it leaves the main body of the nave entirely intact |  | **Accepted**  Option accepted as this removes pews which have little or no visibility into the chancel area. This will provide sufficient space for the activities we intend.  Installing the WC and servery on the west wall of the south aisle will reduce our social space therefore this option will provide useful space around the main door, servery and toilet ensuring these areas do not become congested.  It leaves the pews in the main body of the church (in the nave) entirely intact and will be more aesthetically pleasing and it continues the space from the last pew removal at the back of the south aisle. It also clears all distractions from in front of the Margaret Rope window. |

1. **Heating Options**

See Appendix E for Investigation of electrical based heating solutions.

# Financial Position

In 2019 we received £166,728 from the will of a previous church member. This money was invested with the aim of using it to repair the Nave roof and help towards the reordering costs.

Due to delays in getting reordering plans approved we decided to spend the money on the Nave roof repair and assign any remaining balance to the reordering. We have obtained several donations and grants for the Nave roof which has allowed us to appoint a builder to repair the roof commencing in September 2024.

We have split the reordering project into phases to allow us to do the work on each phase as and when we have full funding for that phase.

The architect has estimated that the total project cost will be £250,000 without contingency and inflation. At this stage we do not have accurate costs for each phase and will not do so until we go out to tender, although we will have some idea when the quantity surveyor has completed his assessment. We expect to go out to tender immediately the faculty is approved.

We have not yet applied for grants for this project although we have been awarded a £10,000 grant which we can put towards the halo heating. We will not be in a position to apply for grants until we have a better understanding of the costs of each phase. We will then target the grant applications to each phase.

As the initial investment has increased in value, we expect to have funds available to use towards the reordering costs. We hope that this, plus grants, will allow us to complete phase one while we are repairing the Nave roof and holding services elsewhere.

We will not start phases two, three or four until we have full funding from donations or promises of grants for each phase, although we may change the order of the phases depending on funds.

Please note all costs are very rough estimates, they include professional fees, 10% for inflation, 10% Contingency and are exclusive of VAT.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item | Item Description | Estimated Cost |
| Phase One | Remove pews, new floor and services for WC and servery | £121.200 |
| Phase Two | Create storage cupboard and install servery | £126,360 |
| Phase Three | Install WC | £17,400 |
| Phase Four | Purchase 30 Theo Chairs without arms, two with arms and 1 trolley to stack these on | £9,300, price includes VAT and is held until Dec 2024 |
|  | TOTAL | £274,260 |

# Appendix A – Schedule of Parish Hall Regular Customers

The schedule of regular customers of the Parish Hall illustrates how little availability there is for use by the Church.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LYDIARD MILLICENT PARISH HALL Regular Customers** | | | | | | | |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** | **Sunday** |
| **Morning** | 6am to 7am  Hall Cleaners  9.30 to 11.30  Pilates | 9-30am to 10-30am  Pilates  10.45am to 12.30pm  Yoga | 9am to 2pm  1st & 3rd Wednesday  Luncheon Club | 6am to 7am  Hall Cleaners  9.30am to 11am  Pilates | 6.45am to 7.45am  Personal Trainer  10am to 2pm  Hartbeeps | 9.30am to 2.30pm  Dance class | 9.45 am to 12.15 pm  All Saints Church – twice a month |
| **Afternoon** | 1:45pm to 3.45pm Trefoil Guild  1st Monday Feb, Mar, Apr & Sept, Oct, Nov, Dec  1pm to 4.30pm  Cake Break  Not 1st Monday | 12.30pm to 3pm  Hall Cleaners | 2.30pm to 4.30 pm  Art Group  4.45pm to 5.45pm  Private Dance Practice | 03/03 2pm to 4pm  Delta Sax Group  5.30pm to 6.45pm  W.Bassett Dance School | 2.15pm to 3.15pm  Hillary Aris-Dance | Ad Hoc Parties | Ad Hoc Parties |
| **Evening** | 6pm to 8.30 pm  Personal Trainer  8.30pm to 9.30pm  Hilary Aris - Dance | 6pm to 8.30pm  Personal Trainer | 6pm to 9pm  Dog Training | 6pm to 8pm  Hillary Aris – Dance | 6pm to 10pm  Lydiard Scout  Group | Typical Ad Hoc  Events  Jazz Evening  5.30pm to 11pm  Party  5pm to Midnight | Typical Ad Hoc  Events  Party 12 noon to 5.30pm  Dance 3pm to 5pm  Wilts Sax Choir  2pm to 5pm |

# Appendix B – Details of our engagement with local schools

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Name | In Our Parish? | Activities |
| 1 | Lydiard Millicent Church of England Primary School | Yes | Vicar  -   Weekly assemblies  -   Assists with teaching of Understanding Christianity classes  -   Runs special sessions in church on topics like ‘What does a Vicar do?’, ‘What is Communion?’ etc  -   Brings children in for special Easter, Christmas, Harvest and Year 8 leaver services  -   Sponsors Christian activities using money in the Lydiard’s Trust (e.g. Peace Garden, Year 6 Leavers Bibles, Visiting Speakers)  Church Children’s and Schools Worker  -   Weekly after school band rehearsals  -   Wednesday worship  -   Leads Christmas in a Box  -   Band rehearsals for performances  -   Sets up Experience Easter, Christmas and soon Pentecost in church which all pupils attend over 2 days  -   Some pupils participate in BASH the fortnightly evening youth group for 8–12-year-olds and SPOT fortnightly Sunday School |
| 2 | Lydiard Millicent Church of England Pre-School | Yes | Vicar  -   Visits once a term |
| 3 | Ridgeway Farm Church of England Academy | Yes | Vicar  -   Foundation Governor  -   Weekly assemblies  -   Sponsors Christian activities using money in the Lydiard’s Trust (e.g. Peace Garden, Year 6 Leavers Bibles, Visiting Speakers)  Church Children’s and Schools Worker  -   Vice Chair of Governors  -   Weekly lunchtime and after school band rehearsals  -   Thursday worship  -   Lead Christmas in a Box with year 3 and other sessions on events like Pentecost as and when required  -   Band rehearsals for performances  -   Sets up Experience Easter, Christmas within the school  -   Some pupils participate in BASH the fortnightly evening youth group for 8–12-year-olds and SPOT fortnightly Sunday School |
| 4 | Peatmoor Community Primary School | Yes | Vicar  -   4-weekly assemblies  Church Children’s and Schools Worker  -   Thursday and some Tuesday band rehearsals as required  -   Assemblies as required  -   Teaches RE lessons for several year groups on a mutually agreed basis  -   Some pupils participate in BASH the fortnightly evening youth group for 8–12-year-olds and SPOT fortnightly Sunday School  Open the Book team (lead by All Saints)  -   Fortnightly assemblies with dramatized bible story telling |
| 5 | Westlea Primary School | No | Open the Book team (lead by All Saints)  -   Fortnightly assemblies with dramatized bible story telling |
| 6 | Tregoze Primary School | No | Open the Book team (lead by All Saints)  -   Fortnightly assemblies with dramatized bible story telling |
| 7 | Westlea Primary School | No | Open the Book team (lead by All Saints)  -   Fortnightly assemblies with dramatized bible story telling |
| 8 | Shaw Ridge Primary School | No | Open the Book team (lead by All Saints)  -   Monthly assemblies with dramatized bible story telling |

# Appendix C – Letters of Support

1. **Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School 1**

The following letter of support was sent by the head teacher of Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School (Andrew Farmer) to Revd Tudor Roberts.



1. **Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School 2**

The following email was sent by the head teacher of Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School (Andrew Farmer) to Laura Harris (Deputy Director of Education & Senior Schools Adviser & SACRE RE advisor – Bristol and Wiltshire in response to her enquiry.

|  |
| --- |
| **From:** Andrew Farmer <[andrewfarmer.lmillicent@dbat.org.uk](mailto:andrewfarmer.lmillicent@dbat.org.uk)> **Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 11:11 AM **To:** Laura Harris <[Laura.Harris@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:Laura.Harris@bristoldiocese.org)> **Subject:** Re: Church engagement    Hi Laura,    Sorry this completely passed me by!     * how vital relationships with schools and local young people are   + We cherish our relationship with the Church. Tudor or Bev lead collective worship every Wednesday and regularly come in to support the teaching of RE in a variety of year groups. The children all know Tudor and Bev and have good relationships with them. Tudor and Bev actively seek children to support with the leading of collective worship on a rotation basis. * how having additional facilities (inside WC and servery) would help enable the PCC to build on these relationships and offer more to the local schools.   + I'm not sure how this would support local schools except having better toileting facilities is always a benefit when children are concerned.      * current number on role in your school   + 166 * number of children engaging with in school, Church led worship activities   + 166 * number of children engaging with Church based groups and activities (approximate would be fine!)   + 4 - Church band * some feedback on the impact of this engagements (perhaps some pupil and staff voice?)   + The children absolutely love it -they practice for suppporting worship in church and for special events.     Hope this is what they require, let me know if they need anything else,    Kind regards,    Mr Andrew Farmer  Headteacher  Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School |

1. **Ridgeway Farm CE Academy 1**

The following letter of support was sent by the head teacher of Ridgeway Farm CE Academy (Laura Gibbard) to Revd Tudor Roberts.



1. **Ridgeway Farm CE Academy 2**

The following letter of support was sent by the head teacher of Ridgeway Farm CE Academy (Laura Gibbard) to Laura Harris (Deputy Director of Education & Senior Schools Adviser & SACRE RE advisor – Bristol and Wiltshire in response to her enquiry.

|  |
| --- |
| **From:** Laura Gibbard <[LauraGibbard.Ridgeway@dbat.org.uk](mailto:LauraGibbard.Ridgeway@dbat.org.uk)> **Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2024 11:06 AM **To:** Laura Harris <[Laura.Harris@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:Laura.Harris@bristoldiocese.org)>; Andrew Farmer <[andrewfarmer.lmillicent@dbat.org.uk](mailto:andrewfarmer.lmillicent@dbat.org.uk)> **Cc:** Julia Watts <[julia.watts@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:julia.watts@bristoldiocese.org)> **Subject:** RE: Church engagement    Hi Laura,    I am so sorry, this email completely slipped past me. I have been having some issues moving between devices and emails opening without me reading them.    In response to your request for data, I am pleased to provide you with the following information:    We currently have 210 children on roll at our school.  All 210 children actively engage in school-led worship activities.  Approximately 10 children participate in church-based groups and activities, including the band and choir run by the Youth Worker.  The children have formed strong relationships with the Youth Worker and are actively involved in various church services and activities.  Feedback from both pupils and staff indicates that these engagements have had a positive impact, fostering a sense of community and belonging.  Additionally, our school places great value on the partnership with the Church. The church actively engages children in leading worship and other activities to ensure they feel comfortable and engaged in the church environment.  The church actively supports the teaching of RE, supporting teacher’s subject knowledge and explaining difficult concepts in an easy manner.    Staff and children recognise the importance of the partnership with Lydiard and how it supports them in their spiritual development.    Please let me know if you need anything else. We would be lost without Lydiard church supporting us.    Thanks   Laura    Mrs Laura Gibbard  Headteacher    The Buffer, Purton, Wiltshire SN5 4GT  01793 677471    Ridgeway Farm CE Academy is part of the Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust  Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust Company Number 8156759  Kingfisher CE Academy, Peglars Way, Swindon, SN1 7DA  01793 236611  [www.dbat.org.uk](http://www.dbat.org.uk/) |

1. **SPAB and HE**

Email from the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) on behalf of both SPAB and Historic England received 19/02/2024

|  |
| --- |
| *Thank you for your email and the revised plan.*  *I have briefly spoken to Historic England about the revised version, which sees the servery moved into the southwest corner of the church and clears the south aisle of pews. This will give a significantly larger area of flexible space for the parish.*  *We feel that we could support this layout, subject of course to further details of the servery (including drainage and connection to mains water), the storage units, and the proposed new chairs (when these details are available). It would also be helpful if you could clarify what would happen to the pews that are proposed for removal – we would not support them being broken up but would prefer to see them re-homed or sold.*  *In terms of the servery, we would prefer that it was left open (i.e. not contained within a pod as that gets complicated with ventilation / extraction), and that the units / sink etc have closeable lids.*  *We hope these comments are helpful to you and we look forward to seeing the revised faculty in due course.*  *Best wishes,*  *Rachel Broomfield* |

1. **Victorian Society**

Email from the Victorian Society received 08/03/2024

|  |
| --- |
| *Thank you for reconsulting the Society in this case.*  *We are aware of the compromise solution negotiated in discussions with the SPAB and Historic England and are content with this revised proposal.*  *We wish the parish well with its project.*  *Best wishes*  *James Hughes* |

1. **Accessibility**

Email from member of our congregation who has some mobility issues at present.

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| **From: Anne Lindsay <anne@rubberconsultant.co.uk>**  **To: "nicholajane@aol.com" <nicholajane@aol.com>**  **Sent: Tuesday 4 June 2024 at 12:29:24 BST**  **Subject: Reordering the church**  **Dear Reordering Team,**  **I am writing to express my strong support for the proposal to make the main floor of the church level with the base of the pews.**  **Following a recent medical procedure, I have needed to walk with the aid of a stick for a while. This experience has brought home to me the difficulties posed by the small step between the main floor and the pews. When you are not fully mobile, this has to be navigated with some effort when coming to and leaving a service, going up to do a reading and when going up for communion.**  **Aligning the main floor with the pew bases will greatly enhance accessibility for everyone, especially those with mobility impairments, the elderly, and individuals using mobility aids.**  **Thank you for considering this important adjustment. I believe it will make a meaningful difference in ensuring our space is accessible and welcoming to everyone.**  **Yours sincerely,**  **Anne Lindsay** |

# Appendix D – Response to Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon Advice

An Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Carbon audit was conducted by David Legge on behalf of the DAC on 9th October 2023 and a report of his recommendations received in Jan 2024, See Doc 10 All Saints, Lydiard Millicent Energy Report. The table below documents are response to each recommendation in the report.

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|  | **Recommendations** | **Response** |
| 1. | Upgrade incoming electrical supply capacity to power decarbonised heat solution (estimated, cost £60,450, plus unknown costs to bring the supply into the church)  See Docs 14 & 15 for 3-phase quote and design | We will need to install a 3-phase supply if we are going to move to electrical heating for the whole church. We have been in discussions with SSE who have advised as follows;  We cannot upgrade our existing supply route as it comes from a single-phase transformer. A split phase from there is also not possible.  We discussed a number of route options available. The 3-phase in Bagbury Park is too far away, as is one at Church Farm, and that would involve wayleaves. The nearest connection is on the other side of the lake, on Church Place. The problem here is that there are too many trees in the way of an overhead cable to clear the lake, and we would have to cut quite a lot of them down. We know the occupant of the house and he would most certainly refuse.  We discussed another couple of options but settled on one in The Street.  This will involve excavations in the road to the eastern church gate. We would arrange to dig the path up from the gate and around to the Vestry where the new meter will be located. We have assumed that we won't have any problems with archaeology, etc coming up the paths. SSE say it is ok with the drains coming down the same paths.  Action: Due to the estimated cost we decided to defer this work until our current gas boiler needs to be replaced. To future proof the building we will install a new three phase distribution board with a single phasing kit. Should a 3-phase supply be installed in the future this can be easily accommodated at the board without altering the outgoing circuit wiring. The board would also be sufficiently sized to accommodate future wiring additions for more halo heaters or heat pumps etc. |
| 2. | Install thermostatic radiator valves (TRVs) | This is unnecessary as the existing convector heaters have two thermostats fitted that turn the fans off when either the water is hot enough, or the air is hot enough. This feature was not discussed with the auditor, so he was unaware of this.  Action: None |
| 3. | Draught proof the External Doors | This would be relatively easy and cheap to install if we are to keep the existing doors. The new glass doors being proposed as part of our current faculty will be draught proof.  Action: Await decision regarding installing glass doors in the faculty and if not granted then investigate draft proofing existing doors. |
| 4. | Replace heating system for electrical based heating solution | The following heating solutions were identified by the Diocese Auditor as not appropriate for our church:   * Air-to-Water Source Heat Pump * Air-to-Air Source Heat Pump * Water Source Heat Pump * Ground Source Heat Pump * Over Door Air Heater * Heated Chair Cushions * Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) * Battery Storage   The following were recommended   * Under Pew Electric Heating Panels * Electric Panel Heaters * Overhead Infrared Heaters   The church is currently heated by a gas fired boiler installed in 2018 and which potentially has a further 10 years of serviceable life. In the meantime, however, we have an opportunity to use an electrical based heating solution in the south aisle where the pews are to be removed. This will allow this area to be used for a wide variety of activities using this heating without the expense and emissions incurred from heating the whole church using the gas boiler.  Action: We have investigated these options and we have identified a preferred solution.  See Appendix E - Investigation of electrical based heating solutions. |
|  | **Other Observations** | **Response** |
| 5. | The consideration of underfloor heating for the church should be warned against. | The advice is that the cost of running the underfloor heating system continuously will be very high and is unlikely to provide sufficient thermal comfort for events and services, therefore requiring additional heating to raise the temperature enough to make people feel warm and welcome.  Action: We have removed underfloor heating from the reordering proposals in our current faculty. |
| 6. | Stop the draught! | Stop the draughts is incompatible with improving the ventilation (to prevent damp), except when the heating is on.  Action: None |
| 7. | Be conscious of leaving lights on! | The advice is to make sure lights are off when not in use. Reduce the number and amount of time any floodlights are on and/or consider motion sensors. Place signs next to lights to remind people to turn these off.  All our LED lighting was assessed as being only 2% of our energy usage, so any use of motion sensors for the outside lights would be of marginal benefit, taking into account the cost of installation. The lights are diligently turned off when the church is not in use. This is not currently an issue.  Action: None |
| 8. | When do we turn the heating off? | The advice is don’t heat areas that are not regularly used or only used for a short time. Consider whether to leave the heat running all the way through a service.  A significant gain could be made by installing radiant heaters in the meeting/creche area or in the south aisle if the pews are removed as part of the current faculty. Just heating these areas for small or moderate meetings/events rather than heating the whole church would save a lot of energy costs and emissions.  Action: This has been considered as part of our investigations under point 4 above. |
| 9. | Adjust TRVs | The advice is to set different temperatures for different rooms. This is not appropriate for us we only have the main body of the church and the vestry, and the vestry is unheated.  Action: None |
| 10. | Boiler flow temperature | The advice is to raise and lower the temperature of the boiler. We struggle to heat the church as it is so don’t have a need to lower the boiler temperature.  Action: None |
| 11. | Monitoring Bills | We already monitor our bills closely and also complete the Diocese Energy Footprint Tool.  Action: None |
| 12. | Eco Church | We are fully engaged with this programme. We have an Eco Champion, who has undertaken the Carbon Literacy training, is participating in the DAC Eco meetings and meets with Eco Champions from two other local churches. We have achieved the Eco Church Bronze award and are working towards Silver.  Action: None |
| 13. | Increase biodiversity in your churchyard | We have already installed bug hotels and bat boxes. We have also planted wildflowers and installed a pond. We are engaged with Living Churchyards and have the Bishops Award for our Churchyard Management.  Action: None |
| 14. | Community engagement | We have had partnerships with local groups and participated in sustainability initiatives and will continue to do this. Our current faculty if granted should allow us to do more of this type of engagement.  Action: Continue and expand community engagement. |
| 15. | Bats in Churches | We have bats in our church roof and will be consulting with conservation specialists to ensure their welfare while our Nave Roof is repaired this autumn.  Action: Ensure welfare of our bat population. |

# Appendix E - Investigation of electrical based heating solutions

Options to heat the south aisle have been investigated as shown below and a recommended option identified.

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|  | **Supplier** | **Heating Solution** | **Illustration** | **Cost** |
| 1. | Warm4Less  International House, 61 Mosley Street, Manchester  M2 3HZ  (Disney) | 2 x 3200-Watt Alpha Bar Heaters  Comments   * Not compatible with Grade II\* listing. * Not a suitable solution to extend across the whole church when boiler comes to end of life |  | £1,294.97 or £986.97 including £300 discount |
| 2. | Electric Heating Solutions (UK) Ltd  4 The Green, Branksome Hill Road, Bournemouth,  BH4 9LR  (Dave Tyrer) | Option 1  3 x 5 kW heat and light chandeliers positioned down the centre of the side aisle and terminating 3.2m from the ground.  Comments   * Takes 30 minutes to heat up. * Not as attractive as Herschel Chandelier heaters but more expensive and less proven |  | £19,980 plus vat |
| 3. | As above. | Option 2  6 x 3 kW wall mounted IR heaters positioned around 3-4m high and running 3 down each side of the aisle.  Comments   * Not compatible with Grade II\* listing. * Not a suitable solution to extend across the whole church when boiler comes to end of life * Appears that this will glow red when on which is undesirable |  | £10,640 plus vat |
| 4. | Herschel Infrared Ltd  Units 6A-7A  Boundary Road  Access 18,  Kings Weston Lane  Bristol  BS11 8AZ  (Amy Howells) | Option 1 **Recommended Option**  2 x Herschel Halo 7800w Decorative heaters (**without lights**)  Comments  Uses FAR infrared technology. Independently evaluated by National Church and from every perspective and found that this solution was overwhelmingly positive. Proven technology in use in St Matthews Bristol to heat their whole church with 4 of these heaters and they saw the cost of heating the church for services reduced from £75 (gas) to £17.50.  Our architect has approved these heaters and suggested we engage an engineer to check the roof can take the weight.  These are the preferred option because   * Proven performance * Proven efficiency * Overhead heating heats floor and objects in its path which radiate back the heat more effectively and efficiently than heating from the side * In keeping with Grade II\* listing * Could be extended across whole church when boiler comes to end of life   This option was approved by the PCC at their May 2024 meeting. |  | £15,000 plus  £300 carriage  £3,060 VAT  **£18,360** |
| 5. | As above. | Option 2  2 x Herschel Halo 7800 Decorative heaters (**with lights**)  Comments  Same as above but with lights. The inclusion of LED lights is not necessary as we already have sufficient lighting in the south aisle. |  | £17,000 plus  £300 carriage  £3,460 VAT  **£20,760** |
| 6. | As above. | Option 3  6 x Herschel Halo Horizon heaters mounted at circa 2.5-3M from the ground.  Comments   * It would appear wall space is limited in some areas, this may mean uniformity of heaters is compromised, and mounting heights will need to be higher. * Not compatible with Grade II\* listing. * Not a suitable solution to extend across the whole church when boiler comes to end of life |  | £14,793 plus  £450 carriage  £3,048.60 VAT  **£18,291.60** |
| 7. | As above. | Option 4  6 x Herschel Summit 2600W mounted at circa 2.4-2.7M from the ground.  Comments   * It would appear wall space is limited in some areas, this may mean uniformity of heaters is compromised, and mounting heights will need to be higher. * Not compatible with Grade II\* listing. * Not a suitable solution to extend across the whole church when boiler comes to end of life |  | £2,845 plus  £569 VAT  **£3,414** |

Options to heat elsewhere have also been investigated as shown below.

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| 8. | Infrared Panel Heaters | These will require an upgrade to 3-phase supply. This option will be assessed when we understand the cost of 3-phase supply.  Action: Investigate the cost of 3-phase supply as stated above. |  |  |
| 9. | Under Pew Heaters | These were trialled during the net zero audit and did not appear to give out a very satisfactory heat. We consulted with others who have experience of these heaters who reported the following issues   * Tend to heat the person nearest the heater and not others in the pew * Can obstruct movement in narrow pews like those at our church * Can be noisy * Can obstruct children moving around inside pews * Can be a potential hazard for children when they get hot   For the above reasons, under pew heating has been discounted for the time being, we will revisit this when the boiler reaches the end of life.  Action: Revisit this option when the boiler comes to the end of life. |  |  |