

Council Meeting On Tuesday 19th June at 7:30pm in Lower Mews

Present

Lore Chumbley: Priest In Charge

Charles Rice - Chair of Trustees as guest

Jane Nicholson

Alex Soboslay

Janet Mahto

Georgina Bowman

Zoe Bushell

Matthew Jones

Mark Elliott

Jonathan Stead

Jude Bishop

Penny Edwards

Sharon Rawlings

Virginia Knight

Apologies

Wil Willans

Brenda Wall

Sarah Kerr

Lewis Boyd

Secretary

Tosin Onile-Ere Rotimi

Charles Rice presented the Architects' plans prepared by Haydn Smith of Chedburns.

Charles presented the plans as being scheduled for three phases. He pointed out that while the church has a vision for the complete project which he was now presenting, the church is intending to focus its efforts and fundraising on completing Phases One and Two only at this stage; the church is not fundraising for Phase Three at the moment.

Plan 1126 73

This shows the projected outcome at the completion of Phase Three. Charles explained that following advice from the DAC at their informal visit and after reviewing the space between new communion rail and the front pews, Trustees had agreed at their last meeting that two rows of pews should be removed rather than the single row which had been originally suggested. Alex expressed disquiet at the removal of a significant number of seats. It was explained that the space opened up would be available for wheel-chair users both in services and at concerts. During Phase One and Two the 'stubs' of the pews would remain in the North and South aisles so that worshippers could continue to worship in the Lady Chapel using the pews.

At the end of the meeting the following was put to a vote: Georgina proposed that the plans for the removal of two front pews be adopted, with the removal of the central two rows in Phase One and the removal of the pews in the North and South aisles at the completion of Phase Three. Jonathan seconded the motion. The vote went as follows; 10 For, 2 Abstentions and 1 Against (Alex Soboslay).

Plan 1126 62

Alex expressed concern that the chapel created in Phase Two would not be enclosed and private since it would have access from both the west and the north. It was explained that for safeguarding reasons it is not possible to have entirely private areas and that the pierced carved screens were designed to provide a sense of entering into a new prayer space with a sense of enclosure. It was suggested that a hinged door could be made on the north side.

Plan 1126 66

Georgina expressed concern about the two different screen designs for the Lady Chapel and South Chapel. The screening on the west side of both the new South Chapel in Phase 2 and the new wardrobe in the North aisle in Phase Three are different from the existing Victorian carved screen on the south side of the current Lady Chapel. According to the plans similar Victorian style screening is planned for the north side of the new South Chapel. This means that Victorian style screening will flank the new altar, but from the pews the view will be of a simpler more modern screening design. Georgina questioned the wisdom of having two different designs.

The design process behind this was elaborated. Since the new altar has a modern feel to it and uses a simple double arch motif, it was felt that to flank the altar with two screens echoing the altar motifs would help to lead the eye from the Victorian tracery to the simpler modern arches. The arch in question is shown in 1126 70.

The lighting plans were available to the meeting but were not discussed in detail. Alex requested a change to the current system of formal presets, which he said are inflexible and unnecessarily complex. He also made the point that there are pools of darkness in the nave which the lighting plans should address. Both points were well received.

Furniture designs.

Lore presented the furniture designs and ran through the criteria which had informed the process. The group was looking for light and maneuverable furniture which would give the sense of gathering around a table while allowing the High altar to be seen round and through the new altar. We had asked for a sense of lightness, and for a motif from Christ Church to be echoed in the altar. Alex brought up the question of the quatrefoil motif which is present throughout the East end. The design group pointed out they had considered the use of a quatrefoil motif but decided on a 'double arch' motif instead. The furniture and altar rail were presented and discussed. Georgina requested upholstered seats for the choir and Sharon agreed. Mark pointed out that the acoustics would be better with wooden seats.

Georgina proposed and Jonathan seconded the motion that the council adopt both the architectural plans and the furniture designs and voted to send them to Trustees for their approval. The motion was adopted with 12 For and 1 Against (Alex Soboslay)

The lighting plans were also agreed although it was pointed out we would not be able to implement them until funds were available

The next meeting was scheduled for 9th July 2019.