

## **Christ Church Barnston**

Vicar: Revd. Chris Slater.

Warden: Prof. Robert Moots.

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### **Faculty Application: Replacement of Stainglass Window Security Grilles & Polycarbonate Sheeting with Stainless Steel Grilles.**

#### **Statement of Needs.**

**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

#### **1 Current Needs.**

The Parish of Barnston comprises of two Churches, Christ Church a Grade ii listed building built in 1871, situated in the conservation area of Barnston village and St. Michaels & All Angels located in Pensby, built in 1957. This application is for Christ Church only.

Being located in Barnston Christ Church is mainly surround by farm land with a modest number of houses and farm buildings close by. There is some conversion of farm building and renovation for living accommodation in progress. Currently there are 154 members on the electoral roll at Christ Church, with the majority of the congregation being mainly drawn from the wider areas of Thingwall and Heswall.

Services at both Churches were reorganised when they reopened following the closure due to the Covid 19 pandemic. At Christ Church there are two morning services at 8.30am Holy Communion, alternating between BCP and Common Worship, and Family Service at 10.30am which includes family communion on the third Sunday of the month. Attendances at these services are normally in the region of 15 at 8.30am and 80 at 10.30am including 12 children. The Church has been fortunate attracting a number of new families with young children as new members. Sunday Club (school) is held in the nearby Church hall with the choir vestry being used as the crèche facility, this has limited facilities and is in need of modernising, services are relayed into the crèche.

Evening services are now held weekly at St. Michael & All Angels at 5.30pm with a morning service at 9.30am. On occasions joint services are held at each Church.

In addition to regular services wedding and funeral services are regularly held.

Until recently the Parish employed an associate Minister, who has moved to another Parish in the Diocese, and a full time Children, Family and Youth Worker, who has left together with his wife and family to undertake missionary work with Africa Inland Mission. The Parish and Church members will be providing support to them during their time in Africa. It is planned to appoint a new Associate Minister to continue to build and develop on the past work as we are mindful of the need to provide a friendly and welcoming environment in attracting new families to the Church whilst at the same time providing a friendly environment for the older generations.

## **2 The Need to Replace the Existing Grilles and Polycarbonate Sheeting.**

The leaded light windows throughout the building are considered to be good condition when viewed internally. All except the windows in the east and west gables are protected with polycarbonate sheeting, which was fitted around the mid/late 1990's, which have turned opaque with age. This detracts from the external appearance of the building and prevents the windows from being viewed from the outside of the building in addition the opaque sheeting significantly reduces the natural light coming through the windows, therefore, making the internal of the Church appear darker than would be with more natural light.

The polycarbonate is sealed around its perimeter to the stonework with mastic and holes have been drilled at the top and bottom of the sheets to provide ventilation. Although this detail could potentially trap moisture there is no evidence of any problems at present.

The metal security grills to the east and west windows which are of mild steel are showing significant signs of corrosion and are in some areas staining the stonework below them.

It is proposed to replace both the polycarbonate sheets and the mild steel grills with new stainless steel security grills painted black which will improve the external appearance of the building, while allow more natural light into the building and enhancing the effect of the leaded windows.

## **3 Consultation Process.**

Comments have been expressed over a number of years regarding the deterioration of the polycarbonate sheeting and mild steel grilles, particularly with respect to the adverse visual effect on the external appearance of the building. Informal views were sought from Church members and proposals were put to the PCC for approval including engaging the professional services of an architect to provide the technical specifications for undertaking the work. The funding for the project is provided through a generous legacy to the Church.