

Christ Church Barnston

Vicar: Revd. Chris Slater.

Warden: Prof. Robert Moots.

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Faculty Application: 1) Memorial Garden

2) Electrical Sockets

Statement of Needs.

Date: 20th January 2024.

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 10.30am. On occasions joint services are held at each Church.

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

Until 2023 the Parish employed an associate Minister 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. Thee Parish is actively persuing plans 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 Proposed Memorial Garden

The existing Memorial Garden was provided for by faculty in 2006/7 and since its introduction there has been a constant demand for the interment of ashes from bereaved families. While there remains space for the interment of ashes the PPC in anticipation of when the area is full have taken the decision to prepare a new area as a memorial garden. The proposed area is on the opposite side of the Church to the existing garden. It is considered that as this area is bathed in sunlight for the greater proportion of the day providing a pleasant area for families to sit when paying their respects.

The garden will be located between the external wall of the Church and the existing pathway and will be 2 metres wide by 20 metres long. The garden will be constructed using ecogrid system similar to the existing memorial garden. It is proposed to have a gap of approximately 600mm between the Church wall and the ecogrid system which will be edged with a concrete gravel board to provide a barrier between the garden and the Church external wall (see drawing of proposed layout).

It is intended that the location of the ashes will be marked by a suitable unpolished black marble stone which may be inscribed with suitable simple wording giving name, dates of birth and death, any recognised rank, title or honour and a single sentence respectful of the location ideally from the Bible. The wording of any inscription will be approved by the incumbent in advance and in writing.

3 Electrical Sockets.

Church services are operated using audio/visual equipment which is situated in the corner of the Church. It is proposed to replace existing multi-way plugs with two additional twin switch sockets which will be connected to the existing 16amp circuit supply from the boiler room, the boiler room circuit is protected by a 20amp R.C.B.O safety trip circuit breaker at the main board.

4 Consultation Process.

Memorial Garden.

Given the continued demand in relation to the interment of ashes the PPC have sought the opinions of Church members regarding an additional memorial garden

and the subject has been fully discussed and endorsed by the PCC who fully support the Faculty application.

Electrical Sockets

Discussions have been held with the Church members who operate the audio/visual system regarding the additional sockets and advice was sought from qualified electrical contractors, it is considered by all that the area around the operating desk will be enhanced by the proposed arrangement.