

Supporting Documentation

Witton St Helen – Clock

Note to parish

This bundle includes all the supporting documentation to your faculty application as required under Rule 5.5 of the Faculty Jurisdiction (Amendment) Rules 2022.

List of documentation

Item	Description	Page
<i>Overview</i>		
1	Schedule of Works or Proposals from the Petition for Faculty	2
2	Statement of Needs uploaded 7 July 2022	3
3	Statement of Significance uploaded 7 July 2022	5
<i>Proposals</i>		
4	Parish financial summary received 6 July 2022	9
5	Report of Cumbria Clocks dated 9 May 2022 received 6 July 2022	12
6	Photo received 14 July 2022	16
<i>Correspondence</i>		
7	Correspondence between DAC office and parish dated from 5 July to 15 September 2022	17

Katy Purvis, Assistant to the DAC Secretary, on behalf of
Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary

21 September 2022

We petition the Court for a faculty to authorise the following-

Please describe the works or other proposals for which a faculty is sought in the way recommended by the Diocesan Advisory Committee in its Notification of Advice.

SCHEDULE OF WORKS OR PROPOSALS

The schedule of works is fully set out in the survey and report from Cumbria Clock Company.

The details are:

Wash and clean the complete movement, check all bearings for wear & polish all working surfaces, to reassemble the escapement correctly as it was originally designed, secure the escapement pinion onto its arbor.

Freshly oil, assemble & test the complete movement.

On completion of testing to return to site, refit the movement back into position, lubricate & service the dial motion works, reconnect the dials & synchronise with each other & the movement, reconnect the auto winding units. Service the hammers & reconnect to the clock movement.

Set up & leave all in good order.

Fit a new auto regulator to ensure accurate time

Copies of the Standard Information Form and any drawings, plans, specifications, photographs or other documents showing the proposals must be provided with this petition.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The Clock.

The clock was manufactured by W.H. Bailey & Co of Salford, Manchester in 1888 & takes the form of a large cast iron flatbed movement with hour strike & quarter Westminster chimes, it drives the dials with a gravity escapement with pendulum action.

There are clock faces on each of the four sides of the Church Tower.

St Helen's Church stands on a small hill just above the town of Northwich and the tower, with the four clock faces, are locally seen as significant land marks.

Public footpaths run both north /south and east / west across the Church grounds. Parishioners, both Church members and none Church members, frequently make comment when the clock is either not working or showing an incorrect time.

Overview of the Parish and current use of the building.

The figure given in the diocesan handbook as the population of the parish is 11045. The parish includes wards that are in the upper quartile on the index of multiple deprivation.

The church also serves people beyond the parish boundary as the parish includes Northwich town centre. It is used as the civic church for Northwich, and the electoral roll indicates that 32% of its members live outside the parish boundary. Weekly/Monthly Services: Sunday morning service of Holy Communion at 9.15am with organ and robed clergy and choir (congregation varies between 40 and 60). Sunday Club for children aged 3-11 happens at the same time. The facilities for Sunday Club are very poor.

On the first Sunday of each month the 9.10am service is an Altogether Communion when families who have recently had children Christened attend and all children stay in church for the whole service.

Praise and Play, an informal service for babies, pre-school children and their Carers takes place each Friday morning in term time.

Every Thursday morning St Helen's opens as a Place of Welcome.

Witton Church Walk School comes into church for the Wednesday Collective Worship. This is also open to parents/grandparents.

300 children and about 20 staff and about 10 other adults attend.

There is a monthly midweek service of Holy Communion (Wednesday at 12.00) followed by the CAMEO group lunch. (CAMEO is a group for those who are elderly/retired/isolated) Average congregation 14.

Seasonal Services

A range of other services take place over the major Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas.

St Helen's is the "town Church" and annual civic services, including the November Remembrance service are held.

Other Activities.

The Church is open every Saturday morning for visitors to call in and light refreshments are available. Visitors come to look around this historic building (it is the most important heritage building in Northwich) or to sit for a quiet time of prayer. Church members call in for a time of social fellowship or to carry out small tasks.

During summer months the Church opens each Sunday afternoon for 'Tea at the Tower'. Visitors have the opportunity to climb the tower, be introduced to bell ringing and to have afternoon tea and cakes.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History and Description The history and architecture of St Helen's Church, Witton, Northwich are described in detail in several published works. These include *Old Cheshire Churches* (Richards, 1947), *The Buildings of England: Cheshire* (Pevsner et al, 2011) and various publications on Cheshire Churches by Fred H Crossley (1937 – 42). Detailed information is also set out in two church guides – *Historical Notes and Records of the Parish Church (St Helen's) Northwich* (Weston 1908) and *An Illustrated History of Northwich Parish and Church* (Harries and Lynch, 1981). The basic facts are as follows. St Helen's was originally established as a chapel of ease to St Mary and All Saints, Great Budworth. The date of its establishment is not known, but the earliest fabric surviving on site dates from the mid-fourteenth century. (There are three small carved heads at the western end of the south arcade which appear are of earlier date but their provenance is not documented). At this time the parish of Great Budworth contained seventeen townships, a cluster of which was based on salt production at the confluence of the rivers Dane and Weaver. Of these the largest was Witton (Wich-tun, literally Salt-town). Witton is situated on elevated ground above the flood plain of the Dane and Weaver and was the residential quarter. The smaller enclave of Northwich (originally simply Wich – saltworks) was located around the Dane and Weaver bridges on ground which is still liable to flooding, and largely consisted of brine pits and salt houses. St Helen's ceased to be a chapel of ease on 7th August 1900 when the new parish of St Helen Witton was formed. Whilst the name Witton persists, St Helen's has been known as Northwich Parish Church for several centuries.

The Churchyard

The church and churchyard are sited on an elevated spur of ground which falls away to the west and north (on early maps the steep descent to the west is called Church Hill). The early setting was of open fields and glebe land, and the churchyard itself was slightly less than one acre in extent. As the surrounding district grew there was considerable pressure for burials, and church records describe the ground around the church being progressively mounded up, followed by later levelling works. In 1557 Sir John Deane's Grammar School was established. The school was originally housed in a timber framed building on the southern edge of the churchyard. In 1773 this building was replaced by a five bay stone building on the eastern edge of the churchyard. Probably at about this time a vicarage and vicarage gardens were developed on the glebe land to the south. In 1760 a broad walk lined by a lime avenue was created across the churchyard running from east to west. This tree-lined walk, called Church Walk, continued beyond the churchyard to the west for some 500 metres into the centre of a rapidly expanding Northwich. A baluster sundial was placed by the south porch in 1800. In the mid-nineteenth century many of the lime trees were reported to be dying due to smoke pollution.

Pressure for burials from the mid-eighteenth century resulted in several enlargements of the churchyard, achieved by taking in surrounding glebe land and by purchasing private property. This included the relocation of Sir John Deane's Grammar School to a site on the western side of Northwich in 1869. The

cleared site of the school was incorporated into the churchyard which by this time had increased in area to three and a half acres. A low sandstone ashlar boundary wall defines this larger churchyard on its western and southern edges. In about 1890 a taller rock-faced sandstone wall was constructed along the northern and eastern boundaries. The churchyard is crossed by a footpath running roughly centrally on an east-west alignment, and descending to the west via a short flight of steps. The eastern end of this footpath accessed off Church Road provides vehicular access to the churchyard. From this central footpath two footpaths run off to the southern boundary and one to the north eastern corner of the churchyard where a memorial lych-gate was erected in 1916. The enlarged churchyard still did not satisfy the demand for burial space. Accordingly the vicarage, vicarage gardens and adjoining glebe land were acquired by the recently formed Northwich District Council which laid out a new cemetery. Northwich Town Cemetery was formally opened in 1890. The vicarage moved temporarily to Witton House. From about 1900 the land to the east of the churchyard was developed for housing and eventually a house at the northern end of Church Road was acquired as a vicarage. This remains today as St Helen's Vicarage. St Helen's is a closed churchyard and is maintained by Northwich Town Council. With one exception burials ceased in the 1960's. There is a variety of grave markers including chest tombs, pedestal tombs, ledger stones, upright headstones, kerbs, crosses and a small number of obelisks. Most of these markers are in various stages of decay, ranging from unevenly settled markers to broken and fragmentary stones. Many upright stones have been laid flat for safety reasons. Footpaths and areas of hard standing are paved with re-sited ledger stones, many of which were overlaid with asphalt in 1902. It is clear that there was a campaign of graver marker clearance in the nineteenth century, as all of the markers which are in place are nineteenth and twentieth century whereas all of the stones used for paving are eighteenth century. An engraving of the church and churchyard was made in about 1800. This and photographs from the period 1860 – 1960 show the churchyard to have had a generally open character. On its prominent site the church and its tall tower would have been a very significant feature in the local townscape. However, the setting of the church and churchyard was radically (and adversely) changed in 1970 by the construction of a new dual-carriageway road called Chester Way, immediately to the north. In stark contrast to the urban grain of the area, this dual carriageway was laid out according to contemporary highway principles. It sits on a large earth embankment which descends in serpentine form from the high ground to the east down to the river crossings, masking the church hill. The road makes pedestrian movement from the town centre to the church very difficult.

Planners at the time must have been aware of this radical change in setting, and sought to screen the view of the road from the church by carrying out extensive tree planting. This has had the effect of screening the view of the church from the town and thereby compounding its new isolation. This planting is unmanaged and despite some limited tree-felling is now so overgrown that in the summer months only the tower top is visible from the town. The isolated character has led to the churchyard being used for anti-social activities and efforts are constantly made to control these. The Church Building The fourteenth century sandstone ashlar church comprised a nave with aisles, a three-bay chancel beyond a chancel arch and a western tower. In the late fifteenth century a

campaign of enlargement and remodelling commenced and continued over a period of about fifty years. This began by widening the nave – the north arcade was dismantled and re-erected four feet to the north. The north aisle was lengthened to the east and the original chancel arch used to add an extra bay to the north arcade. Above the arcades a clerestorey was built. The south aisle was lengthened by the creation of a new eastern chapel (previously the Chapel of the Cross and now the Lady Chapel) and the chancel was rebuilt. This new chancel was based on the choir at Lichfield Cathedral, having a polygonal east end, and the chancel walls were raised to the height of the nave clerestorey. New oak-panelled roofs were constructed, that over nave and chancel being continuous. A south porch was built and the tower increased in height. All of this work was complete by 1540. The overall appearance is late Perpendicular. The wall tops are tower are battlemented. The tower is fine, with very good carved bands containing animal heads and floral motifs; it may originally have had pinnacles. The church lost most of its fixtures, monuments and stained glass during the Reformation and Civil Wars and also in the 1840s. In 1736 a South Gallery was installed to provide increased capacity. This was followed by a North Gallery in 1757. The galleries were removed in 1841. In 1861 the eastern end of the chancel was rebuilt as a result of subsidence. Between 1882 and 1884 a major scheme of reordering was carried out under the direction of architects Paley and Austin. The pews and stone floors were removed, sub-floor heating ducts installed and a new suspended timber and sandstone floor provided. The north aisle was increased in width involving the construction of a new north wall and aisle roof, and a new two-storey vestry constructed at the north east corner of the church. Internal plaster and limewash finishes were removed. A new font was placed beneath the tower (the original font remains by the south door). Both inner and outer porch doors were replaced. New chancel fittings and furniture completed the works. The church originally had a peal of six bells, increased to eight in 1877. The earliest reference to bells in the Church Warden's Accounts is in 1692. Four bells are dated 1712, one 1852, two 1877 with one undated. All eight bells were recast and re-hung in 1910.

St Helen's has some excellent nineteenth and twentieth century stained glass. The polygonal east end has a suite of windows installed by Wailes of Newcastle in 1863 depicting scenes from the Life of Jesus. The east and south windows of the Lady Chapel are by Kempe, installed in 1910, and the theme is the Cross. The remaining windows along the south wall are all by Kempe or Kempe and Company, respectively themed and dated Children (1910), God Will Provide (1903), Deliverance (1903), and the Gate of Heaven (1908). The west window of the south aisle is by Wailes (1891) and the theme is Resurrection. The west window under the tower is by Alexander Gibbs (about 1876) and the theme is Works of Mercy. There is one stained glass window in the north aisle. This is the Millennium window (therefore 2000), designed with the help of pupils from Church Walk Primary School on the theme of Oscar Wilde's story The Selfish Giant, and made by Lightfoot and Company of Manchester. St Helen's pipe organ was originally constructed c. 1870 – 1880 by Young and Son of Manchester and is listed (NO 4353) on the National Pipe Organ Register. Significance The Building St Helen's Church is listed Grade I on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The exterior of the church is somewhat severe and smoke-blackened by historic salt and other industries in Northwich.

This severe exterior masks the richness of the interior which is light and spacious. The glory of the church is the magnificent oak panelled roof with its wonderful carved and gilded bosses. The stained glass and continuity of nave and chancel add to the impressiveness of the interior. Overall the building is of high architectural and historic significance. In terms of specific elements the sixteenth century and earlier fabric together with nineteenth and early twentieth century stained glass are of high significance. The remaining nineteenth and early twentieth century fabric is of moderate significance. The Churchyard St Helen's churchyard lies within Northwich Conservation Area. It is the largest open space in the town centre, but the scattering of broken and dilapidated grave markers give the churchyard a forlorn appearance. The tree planting intended to screen the adjacent dual carriageway was, for many years, unmanaged and became overgrown. This created a sense of physical and visual isolation from the town. During 2018 a number of trees were thinned and during the winter and spring months of 2021 / 2022 a significant project of clearing and tidying was carried out by volunteers fully supported by Northwich town Council. As a consequence the grounds are better managed and there has been a reduction in litter and anti social behaviours. However, the role of the churchyard as the immediate setting of St Helen's Church and until recent years the burial place of the local community merits moderate to high significance.

For more than five hundred years St Helen's has been the spiritual focus of life in Northwich and Witton. There is an active and committed congregation which places a high value on the church. Worship includes a regular Sunday Club but this does not have any proper place to meet. While attendance at Sunday worship has declined significantly over the last fifty years the local community regards St Helen's as 'our parish church'. Baptisms and funerals take place pretty well on a weekly basis. The church is the venue for major civic events ranging from the Service of Remembrance in November to the annual Civic Service of the town administration and on these occasions the church seats more than four hundred people with no space to spare. Local schools use the church regularly for church assemblies and other special services and to support their R.E. curriculum. The Family Worker from Witton Church Walk School uses the church to host parenting programmes, and other local providers use the church for special events. The absence of pews means that the spacious nave and aisles are very flexible. Seating can be moved or re-arranged quickly to permit a wide range of activities. There is a regular pattern of social use and a growing pattern of cultural activities. These are now expanding as catering and accessible washroom facilities have been implemented.

Taking all of the above points into consideration we believe that St Helen's is of moderate to high social significance.



The Parish Church of St. Helen, Witton,
Serving Christ, Serving the Community

73 Carlton Road
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 5PW

Northwich, St. Helen's Church – tower Clock

Current Situation.

St Helen's Church clock was manufactured by W.H. Bailey & Co of Salford, Manchester in 1888 & takes the form of a large cast iron flatbed movement with hour strike & quarter Westminster chimes, it drives the dials with a gravity escapement with pendulum action.

Over recent years various ad hoc repairs have been carried out as and when the clock failed. However, the Parochial Church Council recently took a decision to have an in-depth survey carried out.

The survey has revealed that this important Victorian clock is in need of significant repair and refurbishment and as a result the Parochial Church Council has further decided to leave the clock out of service until such time as all these repairs and improvements can be carried out.

The total cost of these works is estimated at £9,966 inclusive of VAT.

Church Funding

Some years ago St Helen's Church conducted a parish wide survey in order to better understand what local people felt about the Church.

The outcome of this survey revealed that local people felt that the Church building and facilities were no longer "fit for purpose" in the current age. As a consequence the Church has carried out some extensive and expensive improvements. These improvements have been partially funded by income from the sale of a Church asset together with additional giving from within the Church family and some small grants.

A summary of the improvements together with costs is set out below.

Note: St Helen's is an ancient Grade 1 listed building. Some parts of the building date to the 1300's. Work is carried out to a high quality in order to respect the heritage of our building and with the intention that any new work will have a long life. All work is supervised by our Church architects who have extensive experience of working on important listed buildings.

This explains why some costs may seem to be high.

Improvement area	Total cost inclusive of VAT
New lighting and sound system to reduce fire risk and improve quality.	£49,992
New servery / kitchen area to meet one of the three key needs identified in the survey.	£74,198
Essential repairs to the leaded roof over the vestry and organ area of the building. This was unplanned and a consequence of water ingress.	£77,140
Repairs to the tower windows and related stone work. An essential repair due to ageing.	£12,600
Installation of fully accessible washrooms. Previous washrooms were not disabled accessible. This one also one of the three key needs identified in the survey.	£55,801
Refurbishment of the gloomy main entrance porch including new glass inner doors in order to improve the welcome. This was the final key need identified in the survey.	£67,609

These important and major works have attracted a small amount of grant funding support but despite this have been a real and significant challenge on the Church's resources and on local giving.

Current financial position.

The attached annual report and accounts shows that at the end of 2020 the Church accounts held £522,697. This was inflated by income from an asset sale and some of that money has been used to fund the purchase of an alternative asset together with funding some of the projects above.

The accounts at the end of 2021 show £222,694. The majority of these funds are allocated to the completion of the projects listed above.

In compliance with good practice the Parochial Church Council has set aside a reserve fund of £60,000.

Forward Plan

The Parochial Church Council would like to have this important clock refurbished and back in good working order but in order to do so need to secure grant funding of £7,000. The Church community will fund the remaining £2,966.

Need.

St Helen's Church is the oldest (by centuries) building in Northwich. It stands on a hill slightly above the town and the tower and tower clock are important local land marks.

Both the Church community and the wider community that St Helen's serves would like to have the clock in good working order. It has remained stopped for some weeks already.

We aim to have funding in place by October 2022 so that the work can be completed and signed off by Mid December 2022 latest.

Total costs have been quoted by a highly respected clock specialist at £9966 inclusive of VAT at current rates. These specialists also provide guarantees of their work.

As described above the work will be supervised by our Church architects with input where necessary by the Diocese specialist.

Yours faithfully

Gordon Atkinson
Church Warden



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CA11 0HL.

Telephone: 017684 86933

Email: info@clockmaker.co.uk.

Website: www.clockmaker.co.uk

9th May 2022,

FAO – Gordon Atkinson

Dear Gordon

Northwich, St. Helen's Church – tower Clock

Further to your recent site meeting with our Cheshire based engineer & his inspection of the above clock, we are pleased to provide the following information & suitable quotations.

The clock was manufactured by W.H. Bailey & Co of Salford, Manchester in 1888 & takes the form of a large cast iron flatbed movement with hour strike & quarter Westminster chimes, it drives the dials with a gravity escapement with pendulum action.

The movement was converted to automatic winding by this company in 2011, to remove the need for weekly winding, when we also fitted an auto regulator & night silencer system, the auto regulator unit has been removed.

Our engineer found that all the power to the three auto winding units had been switched off, so the time & strike side auto winding drive weights were on the floor, but the quarters had been stopped working by a piece of card in the fly pinion.

On close examination it was found that a taper pin was missing from the escapement lantern pinion, this secures it to the arbor, which would also cause the weight to run down. The gravity legs were also found to be loose on their arbor.

At some stage the escapement gravity arms have been altered, the knurled weighted nuts have been removed from the crutch pins which is causing the arms to bounce on the pallets. There are also bent pieces of wire fixed to the A frame of time side which stops the gravity arms moving too far, which should be by the banking pins, all these issues need to be rectified.

From our records there was a problem in 2017 with the quarter chimes occasionally getting out of sequence, we are unsure if this was rectified or the reason the quarters were stopped from working.

We feel the best way forward would be to overhaul the complete movement in our workshop & reassemble the time side so it works as it was originally designed, this would also enable us to thoroughly test the movement.

The cost to carry out this work is shown in quotation 1.

We understand the auto regulator as now be found, we are unsure why it was removed, but due to its age we would propose installing a latest model, the cost is shown in quotation 2.

Following this work, we recommend the clock is serviced on an annual basis the cost is shown in quotation 3.

We are pleased to provide the following quotations.

Quotation 1 – Workshop overhaul of the clock movement

Attend on site, disconnect the auto winding units & drive weights, dismantle the complete movement & lower all parts to ground level & bring back to our workshop.

In our workshop, to wash & clean the complete movement, check all bearings for wear & polish all working surfaces, to reassemble the escapement correctly as it was originally designed, secure the escapement pinion onto its arbor.

Freshly oil, assemble & test the complete movement.

On completion of testing to return to site, refit the movement back into position, lubricate & service the dial motion works, reconnect the dials & synchronise with each other & the movement, reconnect the auto winding units. Service the hammers & reconnect to the clock movement.

Set up & leave all in good order.

For the sum of ... £5,985 [Five Thousand, Nine Hundred & Eighty-Five Pounds] net plus VAT.

Quotation 2 – Auto Regulator

In our works to manufacture, an auto regulator system to provide accurate time keeping & automatic BST/GMT alterations.

Attend on site & install

For the sum of ... £2,320 [Two Thousand, Three Hundred & Twenty Pounds] net plus VAT

Quotation 3 – Annual Service

Our annual maintenance visit consists of attending onsite once a year, inspecting the clock installation and checking that it is safe, and that there are no apparent signs of wear or areas of concern that may cause problems in the following twelve months.

We will then clean and lubricated the clock movement and all other accessible parts within the building including the dial motion works, bevel gearing and the universal joints. We will also check the bell hammers and bell cranks lubricating and cleaning where necessary. Any adjustments to the hammer wires or hammer check springs will be undertaken.

Once new steel weight lines and hammer wires have been fitted by us, they will be replaced free of charge should they break whilst the clock is under our care.

We will attend as soon as possible once notified of a breakdown and correct the fault free of charge. However, if the fault is caused by normal wear and tear, vandalism or misuse it maybe necessary for us to charge for the visit.

If we have any areas of concern regarding your clock installation we will supply a report and necessary quotations for the work free of charge and without obligation.

The agreement does not include provision for making the Summer/Winter time alterations, or for the regulation and correct timekeeping of the clock, which should be the responsibility of a local person. We will, however, if asked give instruction on how to look after the clock on a week-to-week basis, again free of charge when we are in the area.

The cost for the above service would be ... £195 [One Hundred & Ninety Five Pounds] net plus VAT.

If you would like us to look after your clock please get in contact, no official form of contract is exchanged and this quotation, together with your letter of acceptance, is considered sufficiently binding.

The Annual Maintenance Service Agreement will remain in force until terminated by either party.

Price Maintenance

These prices are firm for a period of six months from the date of this letter and thereafter, subject to price increase to accord with increased costs of labour, materials and travelling costs if necessary.

Guarantees

All new parts made by us carry our ten-year guarantee against failure through faulty workmanship or materials. Repair work is similarly guaranteed for a period of twelve months. Suspension springs and electrical or electronic components of units not of

our manufacture, are specifically excluded from our guarantees, but carry the manufacturers own warranty.

Terms Payment

30% with orders over £ 1,000.00, the balance within 14 days of the date of invoice following completion of the work.

In some cases progress payments may be asked for.

All goods remain the property of the vendor until full payment has been made and any relevant cheques cleared. Risk passes on delivery.

The above quotation is exclusive of Value Added Tax at 20%.

The Cumbria Clock Company Ltd complies with the “Code of Practice for Turret Clock Work” produced by the Clocks Advisers Forum of DAC Clock Advisers in collaboration with Turret Clock Companies and the Church Buildings Council.

Trusting the above information is helpful to you, but in the event you should have any questions to ask, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We assure you of our best care and attention, at all times and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

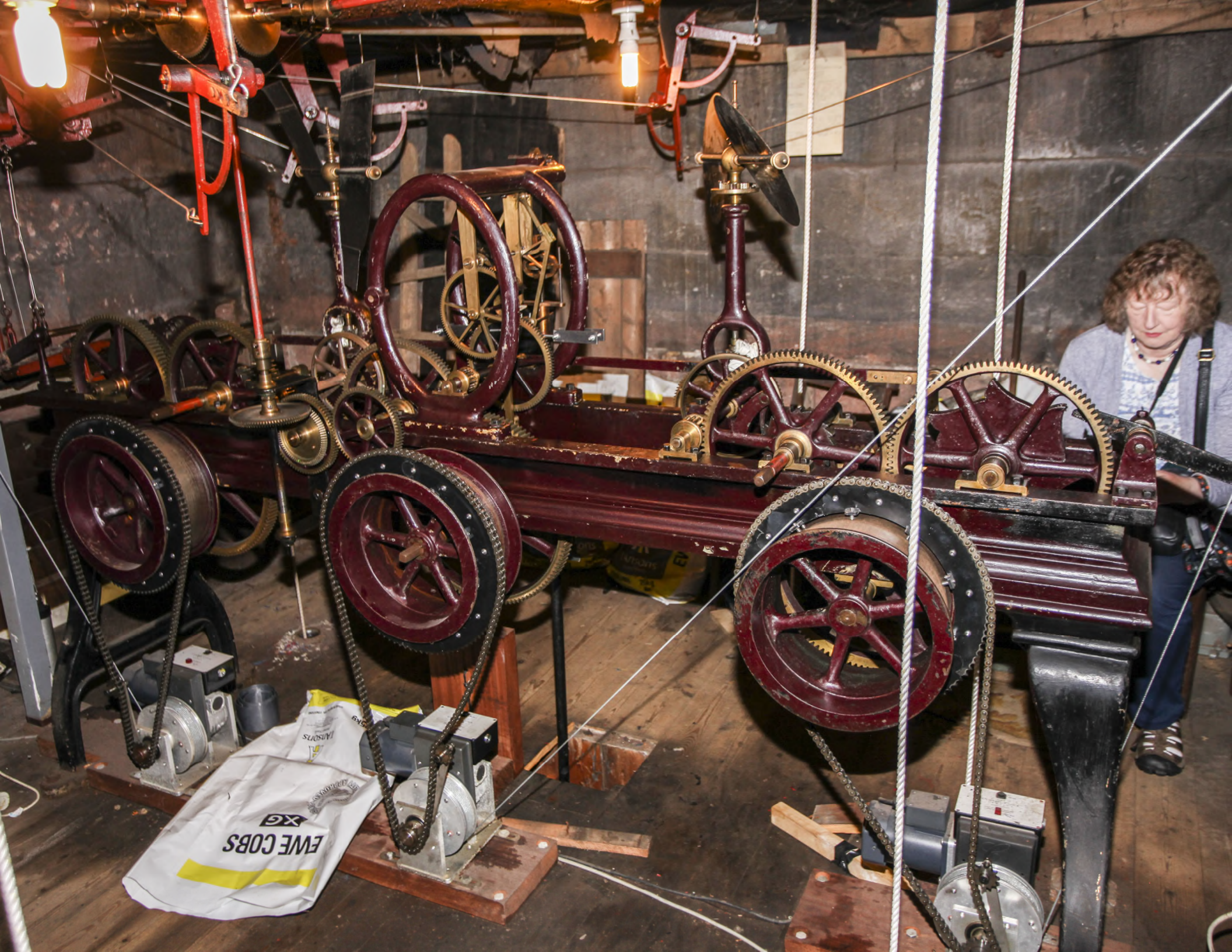
Yours sincerely

Keith Cotton.

Technical Sales Manager

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Witton St Helen - Clock - Correspondence with parish and others

Attachments are listed according to the numbering on the supporting documents list

- Attachments in blue are included within the proposals section

Date	Message
<p>28/06/2022</p> <p>To: John Webster (CBC) From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>I am contacting you from St Helen's Church Northwich, CW9 5PB. Our Church is a Grade 1 listed building which sits on a small hill a little higher than the town. The Church tower and Clock are 'landmarks' for the town. The parish is relatively poor, particularly for Cheshire and we serve wards that are in the upper quartile on the index of multiple deprivation.</p> <p>Our clock was manufactured by W H Bailey of Salford Manchester in 1888. The clock has not worked for some months and the PCC has decided to NOT spend money on adhoc repairs as it really requires refurbishment as well as servicing. The total quoted costs, including VAT amounts to £9,960. In order for us to have the clock refurbished by a respected clock repair we need to identify realistic grant funding opportunities.</p> <p>Could you please advise as to where we should apply with reasonable chances of success.</p>
<p>29/06/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: John Webster</p>	<p>Thank you for your application. I would be happy to review the proposals in advance of an application</p>
<p>29/06/2022</p> <p>To: John Webster From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>Thank you for your message.</p> <p>Is the attached sufficient for you to review and advise</p>
<p>29/06/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: John Webster</p>	<p>Do you have the contractor's report/estimate?</p>
<p>29/06/2022</p> <p>To: John Webster From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>Yes, please find attached.</p>

<p>30/06/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: John Webster</p>	<p>Thank you for your prompt response. You would be eligible to apply for a grant towards the cost of this work. Details of our grant scheme for clocks can be found on our website: https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/our-conservation-grants/grants-historic-church-interiors-and-churchyard . I would recommend contacting your Diocesan Clocks Adviser (via the Diocese) and including his advice in your application. Please also include images of the clock mechanism and (if applicable) dial/s). If you are unable to upload any documents as part of the application process, you can send them to me as email attachments.</p>
<p>05/07/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p> <p>With attachments</p>	<p>We are trying to apply for grants to help with funding for some essential maintenance and refurbishment of our tower clock - please see message below.</p> <p>Can you please advise me as to who our Diocesan Clock Advisor is plus email address.</p> <p><i>Emails as above</i></p>
<p>06/07/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>Please could you send details of the work you are proposing? I can then send the details for review by the clocks advisor, which would generate some advice to fulfil that requirement for the CBC. I expect the DAC clocks advisor will want to talk to you directly, but this is the normal way we would organise this, you will probably need List B or faculty permission too, and the CBC will also want to see evidence of your seeking or have permission, so this way would do both jobs at once</p>
<p>06/07/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p> <p>With attachments</p>	<p>Attached is a "sort of" summary of where we are financially and also attached is a copy of the clock survey.</p> <p>For many many years Cumbria Clock Company looked after our clock. Lancashire Clock company were then involved. I am told they were cheaper but, as I am sure you know, in most cases cheaper usually isn't in the longer term.</p> <p>I have consulted with previous Church Wardens going back 20 + years and the overwhelming responses was that Cumbria Clock company did a good job. There was, apparently, a short period of time when the engineer who came was a bit inexperienced.</p> <p>Further 'asking around' has indicated that the current senior engineer has an excellent reputation.</p> <p>If the information provided is not sufficient at this stage please let me know</p> <p>4) Finance summary 5) Cumbria clocks survey and report</p>
<p>06/07/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>I will send this over to the clocks advisor tomorrow but on first reading I think he is likely to be in favour. I think you will need faculty for the overhaul works, and the auto regulator so I would recommend starting an application online. Unfortunately the July and August DAC meetings</p>

<p>From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>are standing committees so can't recommend works for grade 1 churches, so this will need to go to the September meeting, which will be a delay. The cbc may be OK with the fact that an application is in hand and the clocks advisor's advice, assuming he is supportive as expected.</p> <p>It might be worth approaching Northwich Town Council for help with funding too, they may not have any funds, but they do have an obligation to maintain public clocks such as yours</p>
<p>06/07/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>I have progressed the application and hope it is fit for purpose. If not then I will respond as necessary.</p> <p>I have also spoken to the Town Clerk, Northwich Town Council who are adamant that they have no funding and will not be able to financially support this work. For completeness I will also write to CW&C but anticipate a similar response.</p>
<p>11/07/2022</p> <p>To: Keith Cotton (Cumbria Clocks) From: Steve Thomas</p>	<p>What an interesting clock. You are currently quoting for this job - clock currently not operating. Presume you know that Mathew, Lanc Clockmakers have worked on this and made some strange alterations. I went to see it yesterday and am not sure what is original and what has been added re auto winding - frame is so narrow, there would not have been sufficient room for conventional barrels, yet the anything like the current "car wheels" would not have allowed manual winding! If you have an opportunity could you fill me in on this clock's evolution.</p>
<p>14/07/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Thomas</p> <p>With attachment</p>	<p>I have not yet had a response from Cumbria. I need to know why Cumbria and Lancashire Clockmakers have been involved, and what happened to the auto regulator - very odd!</p> <p>6) Photo of clock</p>
<p>02/08/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>With reference to the above application related to our clock could you please update me on the process and likely timings.</p> <p>I am part way through a grant funding application which can't be completed until I can confirm that all permissions are in place.</p> <p>Do you know if the information that has been submitted is sufficient or if further details are likely to be needed. I am assuming the report from the clock advisor has arrived with you</p>
<p>02/08/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>I am not sure if your funding requires all permission to be in place or in process, this makes a big difference. If the funding is from the Church Buildings Council, I would hope that they would accept an in process faculty application which has support of the DAC clocks advisor at this stage.</p> <p>As you know you need faculty for this work. Unfortunately, we don't have a full DAC meeting until September, as standing committee are not able to recommend works to Grade 2* or Grade 1 churches. That means that assuming the DAC do recommend, which I think you will,</p>

	<p>you won't be able to display the 30 day public notice until the end of September at the earliest, and then the Registry and Chancellor need to do their bit before faculty can be issued, so that would probably be late Autumn.</p> <p>However, if you will lose your funding with this timescale, I suggest we try to progress this via email before the August meeting, and if the full committee are ok with that, we could save a month and a bit?</p> <p>I don't think I have had the clocks advisors final report. I know he came to see the clock and had some questions for the contractors who had previously looked after it, but I haven't heard any further. There is a slight concern about what has been done to it in the past. I think those questions need answering and would be required by the DAC before they would recommend. If you have anything on that, please send it on to me.</p> <p>I also wonder if it is possible that there might be objections from the neighbours lodged during the notice period, given that there have been complaints previously? There could be further delay if there are, as the Chancellor will have to give due consideration to any objectors. This may not be an issue at all, but I just want you to be aware of the possibility.</p>
<p>02/08/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>Thank you for your message and support.</p> <p>We have a real problem regarding what has been done to the clock in the past and this is the principle reason we are keen to work with Cumbria Clock Company who looked after the cock for many years until recent times.</p> <p>I have spoken to people who were Church Wardens many years ago and they report excellent service from Cumbria. I am told that the more recent Church Wardens decided to use others because they were cheaper ! - regrettably that apparent cheapness will be very expensive. The other issue is that both of those more recent Church Wardens are no longer members of St Helen's and have been very difficult to communicate with regarding past decision making.</p> <p>These are all unfortunate circumstances and we feel the best remedy is to move forward on the basis of best advice from the clock advisor and Cumbria. We do know that the diocese clock advisor will strongly recommend using Cumbria Clock.</p>
<p>08/08/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Thomas</p>	<p>Extract of email</p> <p>I do not know whether we will get to the bottom of what has happened to this clock - what we do know is that the work described by Cumbria is necessary.</p> <p>Cumbria have also quoted £2320 for the supply and fix of an auto regulator: no mention is made of the fact that the clock was previously fitted with such a device which was later removed. I do not know which company removed it - I cannot believe that Cumbria removed it then quoted for a replacement! - so, who has done this?</p>

	<p>There was also a problem with the chime train being silenced - the church thinking that a part had been removed, which I understand turned out not to be the case. There has at the very least, been a communication problem - again I do not know whether this is with Cumbria or Lancashire Clockmakers</p> <p>It is clear that funds have been wasted and that more money is now needed to reinstate this otherwise splendid clock.</p> <p>This note is copied to Lancashire Clockmakers and Cumbria Clocks to ensure that we are not missing a vital part of this sorry story.</p>
<p>10/08/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Steve Thomas</p>	<p>I have since heard from Gordon that Mathew removed the pendulum regulator, but the device was not removed from site - so where is it now? Could you take this up with the church?</p> <p>I have not yet received a reply from Mathew - presume he is on holiday. - there must be more to this than meets the eye - I certainly hope so because, otherwise we would have to remove Lancashire Clockmakers from our list of recommended contractors.</p>
<p>17/08/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>Can you shed any light on the whereabouts of the regulator?</p>
<p>17/08/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>Yes the regulator was recovered from Lancashire Clock and I did show it to the Cumbria Clock engineer when he visited for the service. However he said that it would not be best use of funds to have it checked / serviced and re fitted as the technology was out of date and that if we wanted a regulator, which we do, then fitting new technology would be the best way forward - hence the quote</p>
<p>13/09/2022</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Gordon Atkinson</p>	<p>We have a PCC meeting next week and it would be helpful to understand the next steps with respect to our faculty application for refurbishment of the clock.</p> <p>We also have a grant application on hold - this particular application requires that we submit evidence of permission to proceed with the work before we can activate the grant application</p>
<p>15/09/2022</p> <p>To: Gordon Atkinson From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>DAC Advice</p> <p>I am writing to let you that at its meeting of 9 September 2022 the DAC considered the proposal for the clock refurbishment and resolved to recommend the scheme</p> <p>This means that Caroline will shortly be able to raise the notification of advice, so you will be able to post the public notice.</p>