

Supporting Documentation

Altrincham St George – Treeworks

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 2019.

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Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary



8 April 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

This petition seeks the removal of four large Horse-chestnut trees, and other tree works in the churchyard, as described in the Project Overview document, which also gives the financial information: existing PCC Funds are more than adequate to cover the cost of these works.

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

Tree Works with Safety Concerns following Storm Damage

Overview with Statements of Significance and Need

Overview

This Faculty application primarily concerns the felling and replacement of Four large Horse Chestnut Trees in the churchyard, which is within the Altrincham Old Marketplace Conservation Area. None of the trees are covered by a TPO. These are the remaining trees that formed an avenue; two of the trees “went” (fell or needed removing) several years ago.

During the gales at the end of November 2021, a large member of one of the trees was blown down (see photos) with the top reaching the garden of the adjacent Arnolds Yard flats.

We asked our arboricultural consultant, Chris Frankland, to advise us on how to proceed. He discussed this with the Trafford Tree Officers, and their conclusion was that the trees should be felled, and a new avenue started with more suitable trees, Whitebeam being the suggestion.

We were advised a few years ago that these trees had a limited life expectancy of 5-10 years, so this is no great surprise.

We asked Chris Frankland to look at the other trees in the churchyard, and he is advising some additional works to avert future storm damage, and also to remove intrusion/overhang on gardens of adjacent flats.

A copy of Chris Frankland’s quote for Frankland Tree Services (FTS) is included, together with a plan of the churchyard showing the locations of the trees.

The PCC approved the application for a Faculty for this work at its meeting on February 8th, 2022, but has yet to give formal approval for the expenditure.

The total cost quoted for these works is £7,260, including VAT. We have had three other quotes for the main works (Felling of the Horse chestnut trees and removal of the wood), and found the FTS quote to be competitive. FTS have been our regular Tree Surgeons for the last 10 years and more. The work will be paid for out of existing PCC funds. One of the reasons for the size of the quote is the difficulty of access; Church Walk, at the west end of the churchyard is not wide enough to allow a full-sized wagon to be brought close to the works.

Statement of Significance.

St. George’s Church is Grade II Listed, and the churchyard is wholly within the Altrincham Old Marketplace Conservation Area. The proposed works do not affect the significance of the church; if anything they will enhance it by making it more visible from Church Walk.

The Horse Chestnut trees are old, and are not covered by TPOs. Two trees within this avenue were removed many years ago. The original intention was presumably that the trees be pollarded on a regular basis, but this has not happened in 40 years or more

These works will set the churchyard with a new Avenue on a more modest scale, and more easily maintained, enhancing the churchyard as an open green space near to the centre of Altrincham.

Statement of Need

The Horse Chestnut Trees need to be reduced, because they have now been shown to be susceptible to strong winds, and are thus a safety concern, as expressed by the management of Arnolds Yard flats shortly after the November incident. Some work is therefore essential.

The recommendation from our arboricultural consultant and Trafford tree officers is that pollarding is a short-term solution, and that the trees should be felled to allow a new avenue to be started, as proposed.

The other work amounts to maintenance on the sycamore (T9), removing some branches overhanging Arnolds Yard property, and some precautionary reduction of two beech trees (T1 & T2), as set out in the quotation from FTS.

David Benson
Fabric Project Officer
St. George's Church Altrincham

March 3, 2022.

**Mr D Benson**

9 Claremont Drive
 West Timperley
 Altrincham
 Cheshire WA14 5ND

Estimate

Valid for six months

Client Ref :
 FTS Ref : 35577/CF
 Date : 25 January 2022

Site Address

ST George's Church
 Church Street
 Altrincham WA14 4DB

RE: Tree work at above address (see sketch)

T1 Beech - Crown reduce by 2 to 3m to reduce the risk of failures due to squirrel damage (only as if necessary and priced as worst case scenario)	£320.00
T2 Beech - Crown reduce by 2 to 3m to reduce the risk of failures due to squirrel damage (only as if necessary and priced as worst case scenario)	£320.00
G3 Four Chestnut (no realistic pruning options and recent major failure) - Fell to low stumps to allow for replacement with six Whitebeams or similar to provide feature similar to original design (4 to 5m from path to reduce excessive shade in future)	£4,000.00
Grind stumps leaving grindings on site	£620.00
Supply and plant six Whitebeam (approximate price depending on size and availability)	£320.00
T4 Laburnum - No action at present	
T5 Laburnum (structural defects) - Fell to low stump	£30.00
T6 Lime - Tidy suckers and reduce overhang on neighbour's side by 1 to 2m	£80.00
T7 Lime - Tidy suckers and reduce overhang on neighbour's side by 1 to 2m	£80.00
T8 Holly (getting too large and very close to wall) Reduce height by 2 to 3m and reduce from adjacent young trees by 1 to 2m	£80.00
T9 Sycamore (extensive large decay pockets) - Crown reduce by 3 to 5m to reduce the risk of major failure	£200.00
Miscellaneous - Cherry suckers in the grassed area at the front of the Churchyard - Fell to low stumps (not on the plan as they are exempt)(no charge if most of the work requested)	



[continued..]

Notes:

It is difficult to provide a precise price for the Chestnuts mainly because of the bulk of timber and access for branch removal

I would assume we could use the area at the car park entrance just to the side of the entrance and Beech T1. The entrance would not be blocked

We would probably hire a skid steer to move the timber from the churchyard, down Church Walk, to be loaded onto a truck on Albert Place

This obviously depends on obstacles we may be challenged by, but if all went very smoothly we would hope to reduce the price

Other items have been included and although not necessarily important at the moment, would be included in any application to give more options without doubling administration

If you would like all or some of the above carried out, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can apply to the Council on your behalf

If a fixed price were required for the Chestnuts then we would charge £4000 for the felling and stumps grinding. Further deductions on any items might be considered if all went well but this would be unlikely

Pricing for all items other than the Chestnut felling are dependant on being on site to do the Chestnuts

As in previous tree works for the church, Council tree officer meetings and subsequent applications are included in the price

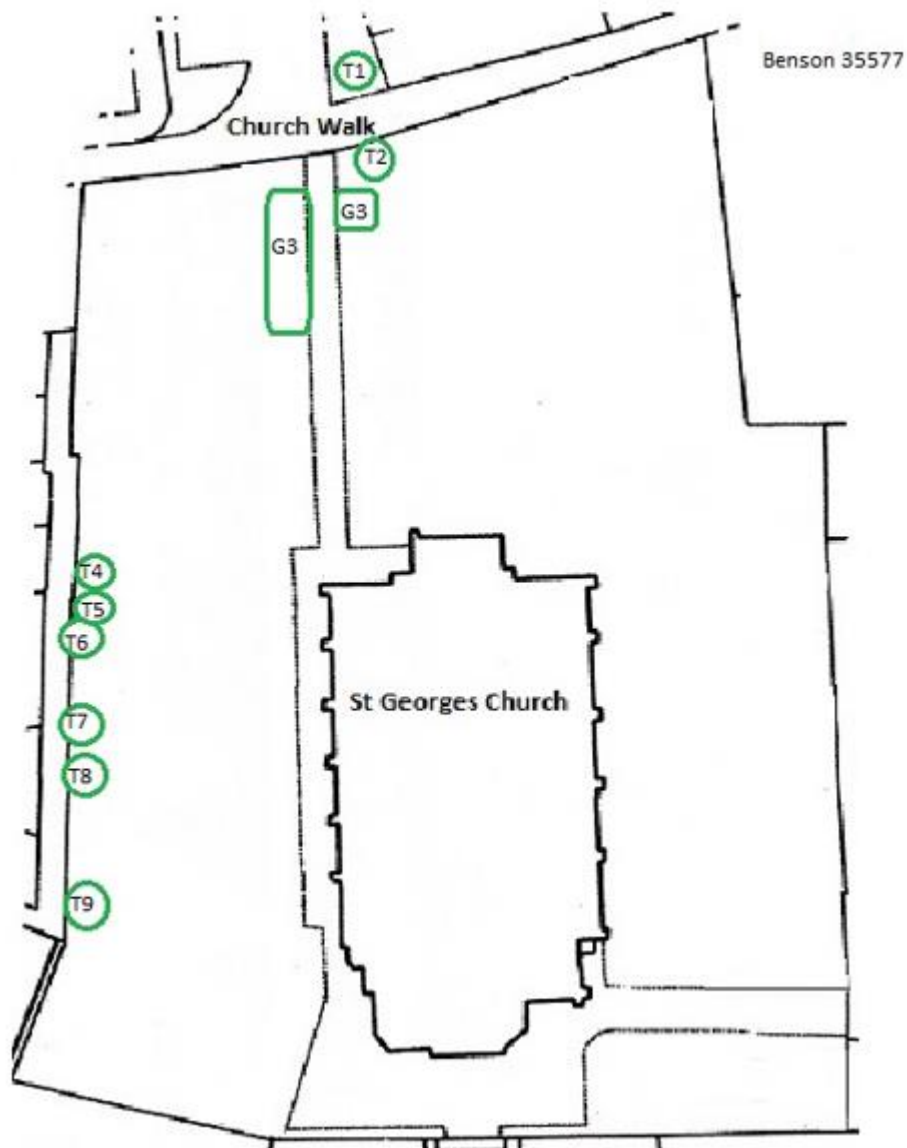
VAT @ 20.00% to be added to the above prices

Stump grindings are not removed from site. Other arising materials are removed

All tree work carried out to BS3998 (Recommendations for Tree Work)

FTS Ltd will arrange consent for the above tree work from the local authority (FOC)

Any payments would be due on receipt of invoice



Photos of Storm Damage.docx







Photos of Trees



Looking West from beside the South Aisle,
with the Parish Centre on the Far side of Church Walk

KEY:

Red Arrows point to Horse Chestnut Trees

Blue Arrows point to Beech Trees

St George's Church Altrincham



Looking South
Church is to the Left; Parish Centre to the Right



Looking East, across Church Walk
Beech Trees T1 (in grounds of Parish Centre)
& T2 (behind in Churchyard)
Church Walk is Conservation Area Boundary, so (T1) is not in CA.



Storm-Damaged Tree, showing Scar



Laburnam (T4)



Sycamore Tree (T9)

Altrincham St George – Tree works - Correspondence with parish

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

- [Attachments in blue are included within the proposals section](#)
- *Attachments in black italics are superseded and not included within the application*

Date	Message
23/03/2022 To: David Benson From: Katy Purvis	I'm writing to let you know that at its meeting of 18 <i>February (should say March, CH)</i> 2022 the DAC considered the formal application for the removal of trees and resolved to recommend the scheme. This means that when you have completed the petition form online, Caroline will be able to raise the notification of advice, which will allow you to produce and post the public notice. Please let me know if you have any queries.