

Supporting Documentation

Grappenhall St Wilfrid – Choir AV

Note to parish

This bundle includes all the supporting documentation to your faculty application as required under Rule 5.5 of the Faculty Jurisdiction Rules 2015.

List of documentation

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Caroline Hilton, DAC Secretary



19 October 2021

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

Addition of 2 screens to existing A/V system to benefit the Choir and rector

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 for improved Audio-Visual equipment for St Wilfrid's Church



Statement of Need for Improved Audio-Visual Equipment

St Wilfrid's Church

Grappenhall

Warrington

1 General Information

a) Population

At the 2011 census the Civil Parish of Grappenhall and Thelwall numbered 9,687 people¹. Grappenhall is a suburban Parish, with some rural areas, on the southern edge of the growing town of Warrington.

b) Normal Regular Service Pattern at St Wilfrid's prior to March 2020

Sundays: 8am Holy Communion, 8am- Morning Prayer (once a month)
10am Family Communion, 10am Family praise (one a month)
12pm twice monthly Baptism service (usually 3 children being baptised with an average attendance of 126 including 26 children)
5pm Monthly Evening Communion

Weekday services:

Mondays - Morning prayer, Wednesdays - Midweek Communion, Alternate Wednesdays - Pre-school Praise twice monthly (average 24 children with 20 parents/grandparents/carers); 71 families and 98 children on the preschool register in July 2017, an increase of 7% on 2016.

In partnership with local Nursing/Care Homes we have introduced regular services for people who are quite frail and find it difficult to attend the 10am services on Wednesdays. It is on 11.30 am (first Thursday in the month) Holy Communion followed by lunch.

12+ times a year school services (60+ children, 5 staff and 50+ parents/grandparents/carers) At Harvest, Christmas, Easter and the end of the School year - Key Stage School Worship which will see all 400 children + staff and parents in church over the course of a week.

Baptisms 61, Weddings 17, Funerals- 39

c) Current Constraints

The Covid Emergency and the restrictions on the number of people who can attend services has prompted St Wilfrid's to use portable camera and recording equipment to stream services from its website and Facebook to a wider congregation including Grappenhall residents in care/residential homes throughout the Parish. The number of regular services has been much reduced to just 1 service in Church on Sundays and a streamed morning prayer on Wednesdays. Hymnals and prayer books have been removed in order to reduce the risk of infection transmission.

d) Electoral Roll

265 in July 2021. During 2020/1 there have been significant numbers of deaths and movements out of the Parish to live nearer relatives. We have also welcomed new parishioners, some of whom made initial contact using our online presence. Overall there has been a net increase of 11 people on the electoral roll since March 2020.

e) Financial Situation

The reduction in services and the halt to fund raising activities involving large community gatherings has reduced our routine income, compared with 2019, by 25% although it is most encouraging to see that the income from planned giving has been sustained. Savings of 21% in running costs have been made, and the PCC have authorised a transfer from reserves to cover the predicted shortfall of £21,352 over the year. There have been no major maintenance issues and the Quinquennial Review

in January 2020 had no unexpected findings. Significant support has been provided by DCMS which has enabled St Wilfrid's to progress reinstatement of activities, notably baptisms, weddings and offering support to the community at large. The Parish Centre was used as a Covid testing centre and a new before/after school club will start this September to benefit the Church School and other families in the area and provide a regular income stream.

2. The Need

In addition to improvements to the audio quality, we have now installed 4 fixed screens on the stone pillars on both sides of the church to provide worshippers with the opportunity to read liturgy and sing hymns and so participate confidently in the service. The congregation can see the text of Bible readings, so they can reflect further on the Word. The screens are also being used to show pictures and short videos to illustrate the life of a person who is being commemorated at a funeral. For other expressions of Worship, pictures and short films are used to engage the interest and inspire worshippers. For national events, like the service from the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday, the screens will be used to enable the people of St Wilfrid's to join with people across the country so that their local service can be integrated into the national act of worship. The screens are linked to the screen in the newly completed Annexe so that for larger services worship can be linked between the two areas.

However, it has become clear that there are three major practical problems with the current arrangements.

1. Anyone sitting in the chancel is unable to see a screen. When leading the service, the Rector cannot see the images on the screens that are located within the nave from her location in the chancel when she is at the altar. At present, services are conducted from a nave altar placed at the chancel steps, near the screen which faces the south aisle.
2. The choir and anyone in the Lady Chapel or sitting in the north Transcept cannot see the nave screens. So, at present, the Choir is singing from the west end of the nave and the seats in the Lady Chapel and North Transcept are not used.

It is also important that the experience of worship is the same for everyone and that choir and people sitting on seats that are forward of the nave can participate fully in services. We would like to have our Choir back into the choir stalls.

3. Moving the AV controls out of the Baptistry and into the new console situated at the Northwest of the church has proved a great success. However, the receivers for the microphones are picking up interference from the other electrical equipment which is affecting sound quality both in church and on the livestream. We have been advised that moving them to a higher position would solve this problem. We experimented by re-siting the receivers on the top of the now defunct freestanding cupboard that used to house the equipment and the problem has been solved.

4. Proposal

a. Equipment

Our proposal are to install:

- 2 x 43 inch diagonal, 8cm thick screens that can be seen by both the priest and the choir, with carefully concealed electrical sockets and wiring as required.

Statement of Need for improved Audio-Visual equipment for St Wilfrid's Church

Our proposal is to attach these screens to the masonry behind the choirstalls, in the same manner as was done for the much larger screens in the nave. These screens would be aligned with the nave so that only the 8cm (3.14 inch) wide side of the screen would face the congregation.

- a small wooden shelf about 40cm long and about 20cm deep on the west wall of the north aisle, near the control cabinet. The existing radio microphone equipment will be moved onto this elevated shelf and the electrical and control wiring will be concealed using existing ducting. We have conducted a practical test to check that this separation will cure the electrical interference. The wooden shelf will be dark in colour and attached using screws into the mortar so no holes will be made in the stonework. The radio microphone equipment is quite small and in black cabinets.

b. Impact on the Church Fabric

Concealed wiring runs and the fitment of screen brackets onto the pillars in the nave have been very successfully planned and executed by our chosen installer in consultation with our church architect, Mark Pearce. The wiring diagram for electrical power and network connection to the control laptop is in the Appendix. (The presence of the solid sandstone pillars makes Wi-Fi not viable in this area.)

The Attachment describes the detail of how the brackets can be attached to the masonry without damaging the stonework, by using 2 steel bars that are fixed using the mortar between the stones.



5. Why we need this improvement and why now

We have found considerable enthusiasm for returning to attending services in the church building itself. However, we have found recent attendees have mainly been the older members of the congregation. Feedback from parents of young children has been that they have found the online services particularly helpful. They have been concerned that if their children felt restless, they could upset people who are understandably concerned to maintain social distancing.

Children respond very well to visual imagery, so the proposed screens could offer new possibilities for expressions of worship to encourage young people back into church again.

So, whilst we wish to continue with live streaming, we do also want to return to using the whole of the chancel for worship. We recently have installed a PTZ camera that has the magnification to offer close up pictures of worship at the altar, as well as providing long shots along the nave. This capability cannot be used in practise, unless the priest can easily check exactly what is being displayed at any time throughout the service.

6. What is the evidence for the need

The initial purpose of the displays was, in response to concerns about spreading infection, replace paper documents such as hymnals and service sheets with on-screen displays. As such, we did not think that the choir would require to see the screens. However, we are recognising that the screens provide an opportunity to inform and inspire our worship with visual imagery and short videos.

The response to the installation of the screens has been universally positive with all age groups finding a benefit. Recent comments have included, 'The hymns are so clear and easy to read, much easier than a hymn book', 'The pictures this morning really inspired me', 'I loved seeing scenes of the Holy Land as we sang, it reminded me of the pilgrimage I went on', 'My little boy was fascinated, he was taking part all the way through'.

Recent experience from our online worship has illustrated the value of these visual, and sometimes audio, prompts for reflection. We want to carry forward that learning into our Church services. We therefore need additional screens to enable people in our Choir stalls to experience the same visual sources of information and inspiration as the rest of the congregation.

The Minister must be able to see and influence what is on screen, as she observes how the congregation are responding to what they can see.

Some of our services have attracted over 1000 internet connected participants. Typically, our online services attract about 200 -400 participants and there is clearly a continuing opportunity to reach out to our wider community. Before 2020, our church seating could accommodate 270 people, although we have packed in 400-500 people for popular services such as the Christmas crib service. Our new annexe will allow us to expand the numbers who can attend in church, but we do recognise the value of being able to reach out to the wider community of online participants.

Additionally, as the PCC has recently voted to adopt a sustainability plan for the church with a view to becoming an eco-church, the screens have reduced the need to print service booklets. Prior to Covid service booklets were printed regularly and any change in liturgy required a re-print. Liturgy on screen enables us to refresh liturgy often with no significant environmental impact.

7. How is the Proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability

Using screens reduces the need for printing and distribution of paper particularly for orders of service, typically thousands of sheets per month, have been printed to support our regular pattern of services. The proposed equipment is energy efficient.

7. Alternatives Considered

(a) Return to using paper orders of service and printed hymnals

St Wilfrid's has resolved to work towards being an eco-church so we wish to continue minimising waste and cost from using paper and printing ink.

(b) Ask the priest and choir members to view screens using personal i-Pads or phones

The masonry tends to block Wi-Fi transmission, so wired connections would be needed to maintain an acceptable quality of transmission. The current wifi connectivity would not support multiple handheld devices if all of the choir needed to use them. We do not think it is practical to balance handheld devices like phones or i-Pads on the narrow ledges of the choir stalls or appropriate to clutter the altar with wires and technological equipment. The age of our choristers would also prove challenging as some do not use any technology at all. The cost of providing iPads or phones would be prohibitive and they could be easily damaged, misplaced or stolen. Visually, using phones to read liturgy in the chancel would not be desirable.

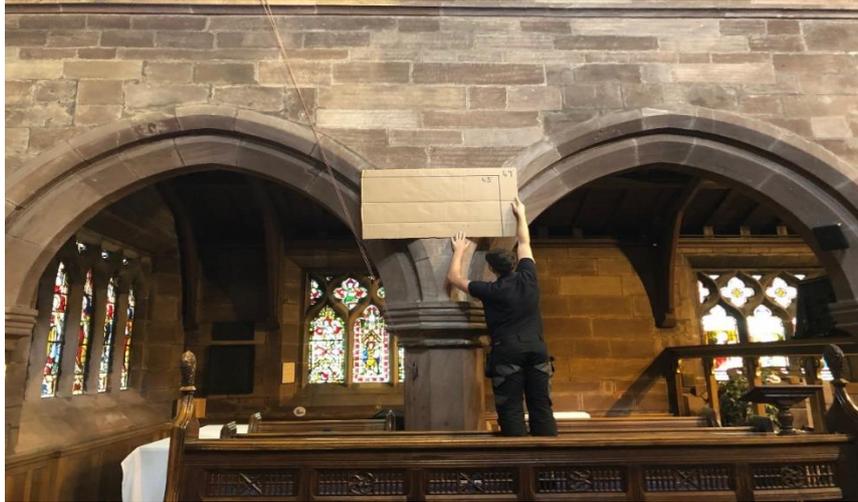
(c) Use one additional screen rather than 2

We looked carefully at the chancel layout, the positioning of the pillars and the different floor levels. There is no location where a single screen could be placed that could be visible to both the priest and all of the choir, other than right in the middle of the nave, where the back of the screen would block the view of the altar by most of the congregation. It could also obstruct positioning the coffin in front of the altar for funeral services.

d) Consider the size of screen that is required

The screen initially proposed for the choir is just 49 inches from corner to corner. However, we have experimented with the option of using a 43 inch screen and placing it slightly higher. The choir and possibly the congregation sitting behind them may not find the text quite so easy to read as they would on a 49 inch screen, but the smaller screen fits better into the shape of the masonry arches. In the picture on page 7 of the South side of the choir, the screen would be placed a little higher than the young man was able to reach without a ladder. Members of the congregation who are sitting in the Lady Chapel (which is through the arches and parallel with the choir) would be able to look through the arches to view the screen on the North side of the choir.

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The choir screens would be facing across the chancel, that is to say they will be at 90 degrees to the nave screens. The 43 inch screens are 8 cm (3.1 inches) thick, so the visual impact of the presence of the equipment when looking down the nave, will be minimal.

e) Consider future technological advances when selecting a method of fittings

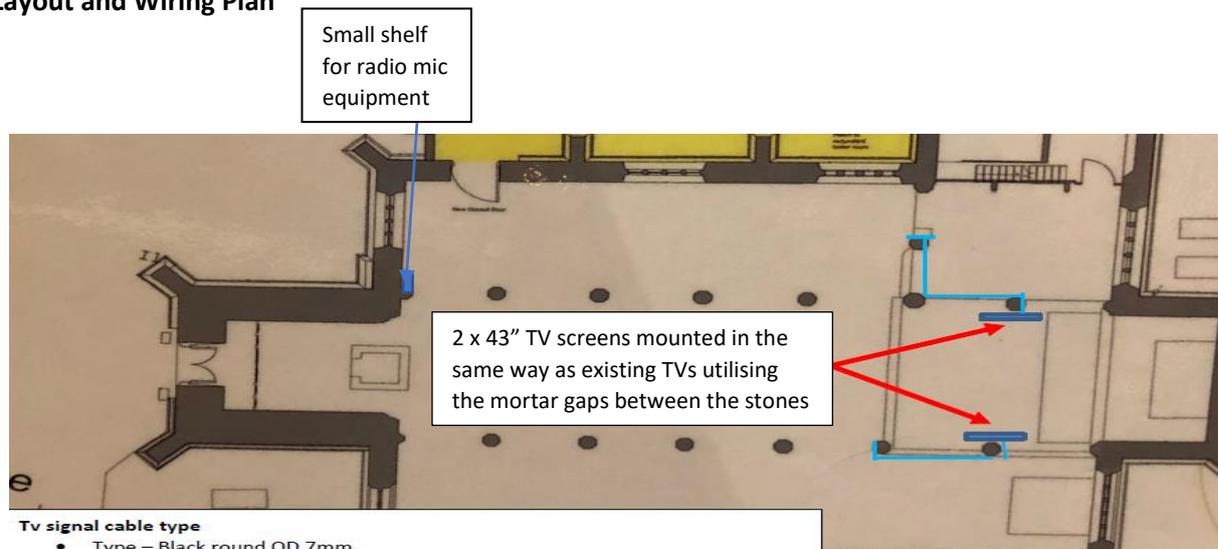
Screens have become considerably thinner, and the proposed screens are just 8cm thick. Even if technology were to advance so that screens could be perhaps 2cm thick, and much lighter, the fittings would be broadly similar. No drilling of the masonry is proposed, only mortar gaps which can be refilled if/when the screen supports are to be removed.

f) Position screen on a stand or trolley

We are concerned that, as we wish to make the church open to the community during daytime hours, we wish to reduce the risk of theft. A trolley would make it far too easy to roll a valuable TV set out of the building. A stand would be more difficult to shift, particularly if it can be attached to the wooden floor but the maximum height of a stand is just 6 foot, and that is insufficiently high to enable all choir members to see the screens when the choir is standing.

APPENDIX

Layout and Wiring Plan



Equipment specification

	<p>Specifications</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td rowspan="10">PANEL</td><td>Screen Size</td><td>43"</td></tr> <tr><td>Backlight Type</td><td>LED (Direct)</td></tr> <tr><td>Resolution</td><td>3,840 x 2,160 (4K UHD)</td></tr> <tr><td>Brightness (cd/m²)</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>Dynamic Contrast Ratio (Dynamic MCI (Hz))</td><td>1,000,000:1</td></tr> <tr><td>Static (Panel) Contrast Ratio</td><td>1,200:1</td></tr> <tr><td>Viewing Angle (H x V)</td><td>178 x 178</td></tr> <tr><td>Response Time (G to G, ms)</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>• (PAL/SECAM)</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>BROADCASTING SYSTEM</td><td>Analog</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Digital</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Vesa</td><td>200 x 200</td></tr> <tr><td rowspan="3">DIMENSION (UNIT : mm)</td><td>W x H x D / Weight (with stand)</td><td>977 x 629 x 216 / 8.4 kg</td></tr> <tr><td>W x H x D / Weight (without stand)</td><td>977 x 575 x 71.7 (SPIC: 80.8) / 8.3kg</td></tr> <tr><td>W x H x D / Weight (Packing)</td><td>1,060 x 660 x 152 / 10.5 kg</td></tr> <tr><td rowspan="5">POWER (UNIT : WATTS)</td><td>Voltage, Hz</td><td>100 - 240V, 50/60Hz</td></tr> <tr><td>Max</td><td>117.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Typical</td><td>92.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Energy saving (Min/Med/Max)</td><td>68 / 52 / 33</td></tr> <tr><td>Stand-by</td><td>0.3</td></tr> </table>	PANEL	Screen Size	43"	Backlight Type	LED (Direct)	Resolution	3,840 x 2,160 (4K UHD)	Brightness (cd/m ²)	400	Dynamic Contrast Ratio (Dynamic MCI (Hz))	1,000,000:1	Static (Panel) Contrast Ratio	1,200:1	Viewing Angle (H x V)	178 x 178	Response Time (G to G, ms)	6		• (PAL/SECAM)		BROADCASTING SYSTEM	Analog			Digital			Vesa	200 x 200	DIMENSION (UNIT : mm)	W x H x D / Weight (with stand)	977 x 629 x 216 / 8.4 kg	W x H x D / Weight (without stand)	977 x 575 x 71.7 (SPIC: 80.8) / 8.3kg	W x H x D / Weight (Packing)	1,060 x 660 x 152 / 10.5 kg	POWER (UNIT : WATTS)	Voltage, Hz	100 - 240V, 50/60Hz	Max	117.7	Typical	92.2	Energy saving (Min/Med/Max)	68 / 52 / 33	Stand-by	0.3	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Screen Size</td><td>43"</td></tr> <tr><td>Backlight Type</td><td>LED (Direct)</td></tr> <tr><td>Resolution</td><td>3,840 x 2,160 (4K UHD)</td></tr> <tr><td>Brightness (cd/m²)</td><td>400</td></tr> <tr><td>Dynamic Contrast Ratio (Dynamic MCI (Hz))</td><td>1,000,000:1</td></tr> <tr><td>Static (Panel) Contrast Ratio</td><td>1,200:1</td></tr> <tr><td>Viewing Angle (H x V)</td><td>178 x 178</td></tr> <tr><td>Response Time (G to G, ms)</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>• (PAL/SECAM)</td></tr> <tr><td>BROADCASTING SYSTEM</td><td>Analog</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Digital</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>Vesa</td></tr> <tr><td>W x H x D / Weight (with stand)</td><td>200 x 200</td></tr> <tr><td>W x H x D / Weight (without stand)</td><td>977 x 629 x 216 / 8.4 kg</td></tr> <tr><td>W x H x D / Weight (Packing)</td><td>977 x 575 x 71.7 (SPIC: 80.8) / 8.3kg</td></tr> <tr><td>Voltage, Hz</td><td>1,060 x 660 x 152 / 10.5 kg</td></tr> <tr><td>Max</td><td>100 - 240V, 50/60Hz</td></tr> <tr><td>Typical</td><td>117.7</td></tr> <tr><td>Energy saving (Min/Med/Max)</td><td>92.2</td></tr> <tr><td>Stand-by</td><td>68 / 52 / 33</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>0.3</td></tr> </table>	Screen Size	43"	Backlight Type	LED (Direct)	Resolution	3,840 x 2,160 (4K UHD)	Brightness (cd/m ²)	400	Dynamic Contrast Ratio (Dynamic MCI (Hz))	1,000,000:1	Static (Panel) Contrast Ratio	1,200:1	Viewing Angle (H x V)	178 x 178	Response Time (G to G, ms)	6		• (PAL/SECAM)	BROADCASTING SYSTEM	Analog		Digital		Vesa	W x H x D / Weight (with stand)	200 x 200	W x H x D / Weight (without stand)	977 x 629 x 216 / 8.4 kg	W x H x D / Weight (Packing)	977 x 575 x 71.7 (SPIC: 80.8) / 8.3kg	Voltage, Hz	1,060 x 660 x 152 / 10.5 kg	Max	100 - 240V, 50/60Hz	Typical	117.7	Energy saving (Min/Med/Max)	92.2	Stand-by	68 / 52 / 33		0.3
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Sheet 2 - Q2184 St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, Warrington – Fixing summaries

Cable summary

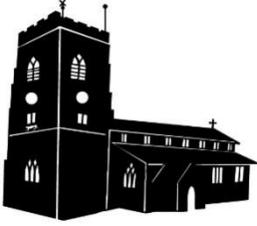
Purpose	Size - overall diameter	Colour	Fixing method*2	Route summary
TV signal cable	6mm	Black*1	Surface clip -with nail/screw head blacked out where normally visible.	Refer to plan A
TV mains electric	10mm	Black*1	Surface clip -with nail/screw head blacked out where normally visible.	Refer to plan B

*1 – fixed cables (LSZH) Low smoke zero halogen

*2 – all fixed cables will be supported in accordance with the requirements of BS 7671 for cables to be adequately supported against their premature collapse in the event of a fire. (Regulation 521.10.202)

Fixing summary for items other than cables

Item	Position details	Additional notes
Choir stalls tvs	Refer to:- • Plan A • Information sheet 1	Standard tilt bracket. Mortar gaps between the masonry will be used for mounting holes. 8mm hole
Tv electrical sockets	Refer to:- • Plan B	Mortar gaps between the masonry will be used for mounting holes. 6mm hole. Socket outlets to be standard 1 gang metal clad finish



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Statement of Significance ST WILFRID'S CHURCH, GRAPPENHALL, Cheshire

September 2021

Form 1A (Rules 3.2 and 4.6) - Standard Information

Diocese of Chester
Church of St Wilfrid
In the Parish of Grappenhall

Approximate date of church	1120
Is the church listed?	Yes
If so, please state whether it is grade I, II* or II	1
Is the church, churchyard or any adjoining structure wholly or partly scheduled as an ancient monument?	No
Is the church, churchyard or any adjoining structure in a conservation area?	Yes
If it is, please state which	The church and churchyard reside within Grappenhall Village Conservation Area
Is the church, churchyard or any adjoining structure in a national park?	No
If it is, please state which	N/A
Is there any evidence that bats use the church, its curtilage or any adjoining structure?	No
Please give details of any privately owned chapels, aisles or windows	N/A
Name of lay rector, if known	Diocesan role
Is the churchyard or burial ground consecrated?	Yes
Is the churchyard or burial ground still used for burials?	Yes
If the churchyard or burial grounds is no longer used for burials has it been closed by Order in Council?	No
If it has, please give the date of the Order	N/A
Are there any graves that are identified as war graves by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission?	Yes
Please identify any historic structures, listed tombs, war memorials or significant trees in the churchyard or burial ground	Sundial in front of porch (1714)
Please give the name and address of the architect or surveyor appointed for the church under the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955	Mark Pearce, Kulczyk, Pearce, Sanderson 75 Wilmslow Road Wilmslow SK9 3EN

Signed: Date:

Office or position held:

Section 1: The church in its urban / rural environment.

1.1 Setting of the Church

Grappenhall is listed in the Domesday survey as a small rural township with 6 adult male inhabitants. In 1881, around the time of the last major building improvement to St Wilfrid's Church, the civil parish had grown to 788 adults. By 2011 the civil parish had 9,700⁴ inhabitants. The population continues to grow, as the village is gradually enveloped by the growing conurbation of Warrington.

The oldest part of Grappenhall is the picturesque village centre on Church Lane. This linear settlement of intimate scale creates a strong and traditional village character, now a Conservation Area, comprising a mixture of mainly 17th to 19th Century buildings, which display a wide range of architectural styles and supporting features. Church Lane is partly cobbled and is flanked on its south side by substantial sandstone boundary walls. The focal point of the village is St. Wilfrid's Church. It is constructed in local sandstone and parts of it date back to the 12th century¹.

The setting of the ancient church within the conservation area provides a reassuring sense of the continuity of Christian worship, and rural peace in a rapidly urbanising landscape.

1.2 The Living Churchyard

The northern and eastern sides of the churchyard are fringed with trees which border the Bridgewater Canal, St Wilfrid's Primary School and the District Scout Campsite. As the church is part of the Grappenhall Village Conservation Area, all of the trees are protected.

No rare, protected or unusual flora or fauna have been reported in the churchyard.

1.3 Social History

The church continues to be the sole, local Parish Church for the people of Grappenhall, as it has been for over 800 years. Perhaps its greatest cultural and religious significance is this record of continual service to local people. In 1068 Grappenhall was waste⁸, but the Normans were enthusiastic church builders, and early in the 12th century, local masons were commissioned to create a small stone church which today forms the foundation of the present, mostly 16th century, building.

The church has a plaque with a continuous record of Rectors of Grappenhall going back to Robert of Gropenhale, who is known to have witnessed a charter in 1189⁹. Throughout the turmoil of the reformation, civil war and then the 20th century aerial bombing that hit much of the Mersey valley, Grappenhall people have treasured their church and protected its artefacts. Today, babies can be christened in the Norman font, which was saved from destruction by being buried during the reformation. Visiting schoolchildren (and distinguished historians) can see the fragile windows that in 1316 the Boydell family installed to illustrate their honoured Saints.

The churchyard originally only ran to the south of the church, as shown on the 1828 Tithe Map⁷. During the 19th century, additional land was purchased on the North side (in several tranches) to extend the churchyard and enable the vestry to be built. ²

It is an active churchyard, which is well maintained by volunteers known as God's Gardeners. The oldest memorial, dated 1624, is of the Drinkwater family of Thelwall. This is on the south side of the church. Church burial registers date back to 1574 and are preserved in Cheshire Records Office. The graveyard is actively used by the congregation and local

1 The church in its urban/rural environment

residents. There are no grave memorials to people who have achieved national fame. A plaque was erected in Victorian times, commemorating Thomas Danyers of Appleton who fought heroically with the Black Prince at Crecy (1346), recapturing the prince's standard.² Thomas Danyers is an ancestor of the Leghs of Lyme. Thomas Peter Legh of Lyme was a major landowner in Grappenhall until his "Moiety of the Manor or Lordship of Grappenhall" was sold in 1827, however Grappenhall is not the established burial place of the Leghs of Lyme.

Around the Church there are reminders of the generosity of parishioners through the centuries, from the 12th century Parish Chest; the Jacobean oak table; the Bells dating back to 1700; a fine 19th century oak carving depicting the Last Supper and a similarly oak carved lectern and pulpit through to some Church Plate, donated within the last 50 years². Their significance is that they provide tangible evidence that St Wilfrid's continues to serve local people and be cherished by them.

1.4 The church building in general

The Norman church (circa 1120) was extended in 1334 with the addition of the Boydell Chapel, to the south. Virtually all of the Norman church was demolished in the rebuilding that was organised by the rector Richard Gerrard from 1527. The Norman corbel table and the foundations along the line of the original nave were retained as a support for the roof pillars. The Tudor restoration retained the south wall of the Boydell chapel and much of the 14th century glass. The tower and most of the present outline of the building were established in 1525. The vestry was added in 1851 and quite extensive, mainly internal changes were made in 1874, supervised by the Rector, Thomas Greenall.

In Summary:

Church, C12 (nave and corbel-table), 1334 (South Chapel), 1525-39 (tower and most of fabric), 1834 and 1874 (clerestory). Red sandstone with slate roof. West tower, aisled nave with south chapel, chancel, vestry and north transept. Tower of 3 stages has Tudor-arched west door, restored 4-light west window with panel tracery, diagonal west buttresses and square east buttresses, paired bell-openings with quatrefoil heads and crenelation. Aisle windows have round-headed mullioned lights. South chapel has reticulated tracery. Clerestory windows have paired round-headed lights. Vestry constructed in 1850 with east window (moved from chancel) has 5 lights with panel tracery. The south porch and north transept are probably 1874, by Paley and Austin.³

1.5 The church building in detail

The foundations of the 1120 church lie within the present nave and chancel.² The North aisle, the outer wall of which would form the inner wall of the extension, was added during the Tudor rebuilding in (1525- 1539).

In 1539 the tower appears to have been built before the north wall, as the north east buttress runs down to the ground and the west wall of the north aisle has been built to meet this with a straight joint without ties.² Visible on the tower is a relief sculpture of a "Cheshire Cat"¹ which may have inspired the young Charles Dodgson (aka Lewis Carroll), whose father was vicar of the nearby Daresbury church. There is an inverted V shaped marking on the tower showing where the roof beams of the original St Wilfrid's School were attached in 1712. The school relocated to its present building in 1846.²

The piers of the arcade at the south side of the north aisle were found, in 1873, to be resting on the foundations of the north wall of the Norman church. The original corbel table, which once supported the Norman roof, can be seen above the arches of the south aisle, with its ornamentation of rudely carved gargoyles. Cheshire has very little Norman

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stonework as, in Norman times, it was the poorest county in England¹⁰. In that context, the building has major regional significance.

In 1851 the vestry was thrown out to the North, converting the east end of the north aisle into a transept. The church is built of local red sandstone from the now closed, Cobb's quarry near Lumb Brook.² The 1874 reconstruction was the last major change to the church, when amongst other changes, most of the pews were removed.

1.6 Contents of the Church

Interior. - Continuous nave and chancel of 7 bays with 6-bay aisles. Octagonal pillars with plainly moulded caps carry double-chamfered arches. Easternmost the highly significant south window of south aisle has C14 glass (re-arranged 1834) depicting St. John Baptist, St. Thomas, St. Bartholomew (flayed, carrying his skin over right arm), St. Mary Magdalene, St. James (or a pilgrim), St. Philip and an unidentified saint. The east window of south aisle is by Mayer of Munich and London. Fragments of medieval glass elsewhere.

Other regionally significant contents include the stone effigy in chancel (north side) of Sir William Boydell, died 1275, found in churchyard and placed in church 1874, restored. Norman arcaded rectangular font, found in churchyard and reinstated in nave 1874. C13 dugout chest. Peel of 8 bells: 5 by Bagley of Ecton Northants 1700, one by Richard Sanders 1718, the treble recast by J. Taylor of Loughborough 1890 and the 4th by Mears and Stainbank, who supplied 2 new bells, 1890.³ In 2018 the bell frame was replaced and a peel of 10 bells installed by J. Taylor of Loughborough. The 2 oldest bells are retained on the bell frame but are no longer in operational use, the other bells were recast to create our new 10 bell peel. A camera and display screen were installed in the Tower to help with bell ringer training.

1.7 Significance for mission

The building is very actively used as the Parish Church with a regular Sunday congregation averaging more than 200 people, which has been growing rapidly by about 40% since 2011 and is expected to grow further. In 2017 the government Housing Agency (HHA) was granted outline planning permission for 400 homes at Grappenhall Heys to provide urgently needed housing.

The ministry to children is particularly important for safeguarding the long-term future of both worship at St Wilfrid's and the historic building. Baptisms are currently in excess of 50 a year. The Preschool Praise group regularly attracts up to 30 children and their carers to worship on Wednesday afternoons. However, on Sundays the provision of a temporary crèche made from a circle of chairs at the west end of the church, is not a satisfactory solution for children, their parents or other members of the congregation. It can be noisy, and parents find it impractical to take their toddlers outside, cross a cobbled street and walk round into another building when a toilet is required. In 2020 Preschool Praise has been translated to the internet which children and their extended families can enjoy. They have now resumed using the church are all looking forward to being able to use the annex which has just completed construction.

Strenuous and sustained efforts have been made to offer age-appropriate worship to children aged 5-11 in the Parish Centre across the road. However, the correct provision needs to be in the right place. Attendances at the Parish Centre dwindled to the point when children's services in the Parish Centre stopped in 2014.

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Some 400 St Wilfrid's School pupils regularly attend mid-week or termly services, and attendances of the under 16s at regular Sunday worship show that there is a continued and growing potential for age-appropriate worship. Links have also been established with other schools in the Parish. They welcome the opportunity to make use of the new Annex with its meeting room, toilets and audio-visual facilities to extend children's learning opportunities.

Another significant group of facilities for the mission of the church is those that support the frailer members of the congregation. 22.4% of Grappenhall residents are aged 65+⁴. Loneliness has been identified as a significant social need, particularly amongst the 20-25% of residents in Grappenhall who are aged 65+⁵. Good a/v facilities are important to people attending church and also those who are participating via the internet linked to their TV.

With the new audio-visual facilities, the church can more fully address the needs of churchgoers and the community of Grappenhall, so this **historic building** will be **cherished** and **sustained** by Grappenhall people – thus fulfilling the St Wilfrid's vision for the future of this church.

2 The significance of the area affected by the proposal

Section 2 : The significance of the area affected by the proposal.

2.1 Identify the parts of the church and/or churchyard which will be directly or indirectly affected by your proposal.

Only minimal physical changes will be required to the interior of the church to fit in the proposed addition to the audio-visual equipment to enable the whole cancel to be used for streamed services. The 2 pieces of equipment will be fitted on either side of the choir.

The small shelf high on the wall behind the pillar at the back of the north aisle can be attached using screws into the mortar. The wiring will be within existing ducting.

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.



A screen is installed on the masonry between the arches.

The bracket can be secured without damaging the stonework by using 2 steel bars which are attached using fixing points in the mortar between the stones. The screen would be slightly higher than could be reached by the young man in the photo. There is a slightly higher line of masonry which would enable the screen to be attached so it does not protrude beyond the arch.

There is no requirement for any drilling into the masonry. Only the 8cm wide edge of the screens at the sides of the choir will be visible in the view down the nave towards the altar.

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals

3.1 Describe and assess the impact of your proposal on these parts, and on the whole.

- (i) The screens have a thin black surround and are shaped to facilitate reading from them at an angle. Low impact.

- (ii) The overall impact of the proposal will not change the street view of the historic church from the Conservation Area nor will it make a significant change to the Church interior. The new facilities will give new life to the ancient building and enhance its value as a working Parish Church, serving the needs of the people of Grappenhall.

3.2 Explain how you intend, where possible, to mitigate the impact of the proposed works on the significance of the parts affected and the whole.

- i. The equipment will be inconspicuously coloured as will the wiring runs and the steel bars used to attach the screens to the masonry.

Sources consulted

- 1 Parish of Grappenhall and Thelwall – Village Design Statement 2004
- 2 St Wilfrid’s Grappenhall by Gordon Berry, published 1989, revised 2000
- 3 Historic England website - Church of St Wilfrid’s Grappenhall
- 4 Grappenhall Ward profile, published by Warrington Borough Council, 2015
- 5 NHS/Warrington BC JSNA Loneliness and social isolation 2013
- 6 Map of burials in St Wilfrid’s graveyard
- 7 Tithe Commutation Map 1826/7
- 8 Cheshire Archives translation of the Domesday Book
- 9 G. Omerod History of the County Palatine and City of Chester 1882
- 10 Cheshire under the Norman Earls 1066-1237 B.M.C. Husain 1973
- 11 Archaeological Evaluation April 2018 Matrix Archaeology

Grappenhall St Wilfrid – Choir AV - 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
<p>23/06/2021</p> <p>To: Caroline Hilton, Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p> <p>With attachments</p>	<p>Please see attached a further tweak to the configuration, as we learn more about how the equipment can be used to support our mission as we emerge from covid restrictions, and realise we need to extend the coverage of the display screens to people at the Eastern end of the church.</p> <p>Thank you for all of your help with this project, sorry it has taken a little time to identify what we really need to make the changes required, within the physical configuration of our building</p> <p><i>Superseded variation proposal</i></p>
<p>23/06/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>Thanks for sending this through. I will send it for review today, however, it is too late to include on the agenda for Friday's meeting. I'm sorry to say that there is not a full DAC meeting planned until mid September, although we do often end up having one in August if there are enough cases that need to progress. The next meeting in July is just a standing committee, which is unable to consider Grade 1 proposals.</p> <p>We will see what can be done, but I'm afraid you may have to wait a while. It is also possible that the Registrar or Chancellor may ask for a new application rather than a further variation, but we can ask.</p>
<p>23/06/2021</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>That is really disappointing that it cannot be accommodated within the forthcoming DAC meeting – the type of screen and method of fixing is exactly the same as for our initial application which has been sealed. Would it not be possible, please to slip it into Friday's agenda, Charles understood from his discussion with Caroline that Wednesday would be a possibility.</p>
<p>23/06/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>I'm sorry, we will have to see what we can do, there are other parishes whose proposals were received closer to the two week cut off date that have had to be postponed, because of the tight agenda.</p> <p>However, we do have the review comments from the AV advisor and architect</p> <p>The architect commented "Subject to any comments the AV advisor may have, no issues with this variation, although cable runs will be prominent in this more intimate part of the building and will need careful locating/fixing preferably under precise instruction of the Architect."</p>

	<p>The AV advisor commented "This looks fine, if anything these screens look a bit big to me for the space they cover? Comments from the architect about cable runs are particularly relevant in this space."</p>
<p>24/06/2021</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>You can only do, what you can do. Thank you for quickly getting the feedback on the proposal. It is very helpful to know the outcome of that scrutiny.</p> <p>Who knows when choirs will be allowed to sing again in church? Maybe we will not need screens for them until September.</p>
<p>02/08/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Caroline Hilton</p>	<p>DAC Advice</p> <p>I am writing to let you know that at its meeting of 27 July 2021 the DAC Standing Committee considered the above request for a further Variation to the AV faculty.</p> <p>Due to the Grade 1 listing of the church the responses of the full DAC had been sought prior to the meeting (the details for the repair of the plaque having been circulated to the full DAC. The Sub-Committee noted that the majority of the DAC had responded but there had not been a majority of the respondents who felt ready to recommend the proposals at this point.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee wished to offer the following feedback:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Sub-Committee (along with the wider DAC that had been consulted prior to the meeting) is not ready to make a recommendation at this point and the matter will therefore need to come back to the full DAC, its next meeting being on 17 September b. The Sub-Committee was concerned that due to the prominent east end positions and relatively large size of the screens this latest proposal may not be permissible as a Variation and that it would therefore be helpful for the parish to start a new faculty application for this proposal, including a Statement of Need c. It was concerned that the proposed screens are a big visual intrusion and too large for this particular need. It asked what other options had been considered by the parish d. If screens are to be fixed in the chancel, the Sub-Committee considered it preferable that they be smaller and if possible angled facing back into the chancel. It also noted that other churches have been able to use one carefully placed screen to serve the choir and questioned whether this had been considered by the parish e. It noted that technology can become obsolete quite quickly, and it was concerned that if at some point in the future the screens are removed for an updated option, care will be needed to ensure they will not leave noticeable holes in the fabric from the fixings f. It also suggested the parish consider exploring options for Bluetooth handheld devices for the choir, and therefore avoid any impact on the fabric (and maybe at similar cost to the screens). Another alternative option may be a portable screen on a trolley.

	<p>The submissions deadline for the DAC meeting on 17 September is 3 September. We can pencil the proposals in on the agenda for this meeting pending receipt of your response to the above feedback.</p>
<p>02/09/2021</p> <p>To: Caroline Hilton From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>In response to the attached feedback, we have raised a new application 2021-064953 to which statements of need and significance have now been prepared and attached. I hope that will be sufficient to answer the concerns that were raised. Please let me know if any further information should be supplied.</p>
<p>03/09/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Caroline Hilton</p>	<p>Thank you for your message, and it was good to speak with you a few moments ago. I'm glad to hear the annexe is now fully built and look forward to popping over to see it at some point.</p> <p>As discussed the faculty application for the screens for the choir will be on the agenda for the forthcoming DAC meeting on 17 September. Also further to our discussion just now, we can relay to the DAC your request for a speedy process (ie variation) for this matter to be dealt with ready for the Bishop's visit in October to bless the annexe - but I'm not sure the DAC would be willing to change from its previous advice that this needs a faculty.</p> <p>We'll get back to you with the feedback as soon as we can following the meeting on 17 September.</p>
<p>07/09/2021</p> <p>To: Caroline Hilton From: Jane Proudfoot</p>	<p>We have as requested, submitted an application for Faculty for addition of 2 smaller video screens in the Choir, plus a small shelf in the nave, for consideration at the September DAC meeting.</p> <p>It would be enormously helpful if this application could be considered as a Variation to the Faculty granted on 16/2/2021 numbered 012/21 2020-056222 for the audio visual improvements in the Nave.</p> <p>Bishop Mark has very kindly agreed to attend our 10.00 am service on Sunday 17th October 2021 for the Blessing of our new Annexe. There are certain to be many people who would like to be present, so we would like to be able to use as much of our Church Building as possible, in addition to offering live streaming.</p> <p>The application for consideration at your meeting in September will enable us to open up more of the church to accommodate more people.</p> <p>If it were to proceed as a full faculty application, then we could not make the changes before 17th October. If the additional information we have supplied, and the changes made in response to your feedback from the DAC discussions in August, are sufficient to enable the work to be considered appropriate, we would very much appreciate if the request could be treated as a Variation to the Grant of Faculty.</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>I am writing to let you know the that at its meeting of 17 September 2021 the DAC considered the proposal to introduce further screens in the choir area and it resolved to recommend the scheme, subject to the following provisos</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The fixings and cable run arrangement to be agreed with the Church Architect as is the usual requirement b. Any electrical works should be carried out by an electrical contractor accredited with the NICEIC or ECA, to the standards

	<p>recommended in the Churchcare "Guidance Note: Electrical Wiring Installations in Churches" available via https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/CCB_Electrical-wiring-installations-in-churches_Apr-2013.pdf</p> <p>The Committee also wished to offer the following informal advice:</p> <p>a. It had noted the parish request for speedier permission in time for the Bishop's visit by way of a Variation, however the Committee still considered that the choir screens required faculty permission for the reasons set out in the feedback from the Standing Committee meeting of 27 July 2021</p> <p>This means that once you've submitted the faculty application on the Online Faculty System Caroline will be able to raise the Notification of Advice so the application can be progressed for the public notices to be raised and displayed.</p> <p>If you have any queries please do let me know.</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>A new application for Faculty for the A/V improvements for the Choir has already been raised on the Faculty computer system, with the usual Statements of Need and Significance uploaded in the usual manner. I hope that this will enable Caroline to raise the Notification of advice, so that we can start the 30 day public consultation. Please let me know if there is anything further we need to do at this stage.</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>That's fine, it's just that it hasn't been submitted yet</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>I have now clicked the button to submit.</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Jennifer Pearce From: Katy Purvis</p>	<p>No problem Jenny, you just need to fill in the petition form and submit again now</p>
<p>27/09/2021</p> <p>To: Katy Purvis From: Jennifer Pearce</p>	<p>Now done, thank you</p>