

Ref: 2020-046148 **Church:** Hyde: Holy Ascension
Diocese: Winchester **Archdeaconry:** Bournemouth
Created By: Mrs Heather Clark (06/01/2020) **Contact Tel.:** 01425656820
Status: Ready for formal application

Statement of Needs

General information

Hyde is a rural parish and its catchment area is a number of hamlets rather than a single, identifiable village. There are about 400 dwellings in the parish and this number will not increase because the church is in a National Park - no planning permission will be given for extra houses. However, as older people die the houses are being bought and "improved" by younger and richer owners so the demography of the village is changing.

The church was built in an inconspicuous position and has a long and fairly steep path down to its entrance - it would have been better at the top of the hill! Currently the building is used for church services once a week, for Messy Church worship once a month and for Hyde School services twice a term.

Internally the church is a typical Victorian building although the furniture was changed in the 1950s, when the current pews were installed as was the crucifix - the position of which was changed with faculty permission in 2008.

What is needed?

We are currently carrying out the first phase of our re-ordering project - sanding and polishing part of the floor and recarpeting the rest. Removing pews at the back to make more space and at the front to make more flexible space for informal services.

We now need to move the audio controls from the current very inconvenient space at the bottom of a cupboard at the back of the church to a purpose-built audio desk.

We very much need audio-visual equipment so that the church can use videos and suchlike in informal services and we have now been offered a grant from "the Benefice of the Future" project and another anonymous grant towards audio-visual equipment.

We have sought the advice of our architect, Louise Rendell from St Annes Gate Architects and she is totally supportive of our plans; the architect's forms are attached.

The proposal

We are proposing to have a custom-made audio desk at the back behind what will be the back pew to replace the current inconvenient system on the floor at the back of the church. The audio system (and visual system) to be moved to this purpose-made desk. This will be made from the redundant pews. It is being made by a local carpenter and will measure approximately 1m wide; it will have a knee hole one side and a lockable cupboard on the other side designed to take all the audio-visual equipment; there will be a lockable top which can be folded back using piano hinges. Enclosed are pictures of a commercial desk of the kind we envisage, but the one we are having made is purpose built to our dimensions and in the same wood as the pew in front of the desk. The desk will be behind what will become the back pew and the whole of the church and chancel can be seen from this position.

After much discussion we have decided that a dual motor screen is best for our requirements. It will be invisible when not in use and the cassette can be lowered by up to 5m before the screen is lowered - so totally meets our needs - it is remotely operated from the audio desk. In combination with the screen we will use a projector which can be mounted high up at the side of the church on one of the diagonal trusses (so not visually intrusive); this will also be remotely controlled from the audio desk.

The "Benefice of the Future" project is giving us the use of a Mi-Fi Unit so we will be able to stream material to a computer and thus to project it in services.

Why?

Our Regular Sunday morning congregation has been decreasing and we are trying to instigate more informal services which, we hope, will appeal to younger people who don't normally attend church; we are inhibited at the moment because we don't have the audio-visual aids which are in regular use in schools and elsewhere – we need to get into the 21st Century! We have begun a 4o'clock slot and so far this is proving popular, but we find we are in constant need of aids which we don't have. We also have a Messy Church, which is well-attended, but which would be greatly enhanced by having access to more audio-visual input. From May we are also beginning the experiment of having a variety of morning services and again these would benefit from the ability to use audio-visual aids.

Justification

We do not feel that the proposals will harm the significance of the church building in any way. However we do feel that they will enable us to meet our missional objectives more effectively; to meet the expectations of a younger generation and to expand the material we can use in church.