

St Mary the Virgin, Twickenham

Statement of need for installing six new storage cupboards as part of our plans for opening the nave of the church

Introduction

The DAC will be aware from Faculty No 2188 for the comprehensive reordering and refurbishing of the building that St Mary's is about to embark on a reordering project, the final details of which are to be agreed with the DAC. By separate communication to follow shortly, the remaining details of the project will be clarified and at the same time an extension of time sought within which to carry out the works. The plan is for the programme of works to commence on 20 July 2020.

Faculty No 2188 did not include provision for how we house hymn books, orders of service and other service books or how we display notices and leaflets. When we remove the fixed pews we will lose the small bookcases attached to the back row of the pews, which currently contain many of the hymn books and service booklets that we use each week.

With the reordering we are looking to create an uncluttered space and to ensure that we have somewhere to put everything that the church needs, whether on a regular or occasional basis. The church wardens reviewed everything that we would want to keep and determined how much and what sort of storage space would be needed. This was then passed to the architect to form the basis for the design we are proposing.

Our storage plans

We plan to construct three pairs of storage units as follows:-

- Two identical open shelved units with back 1100mm wide 1000mm high 300mm deep at the back of the church either side of the bell tower on the west wall.
- Two mirror image shelved units with sliding doors 1980mm wide 1200mm high and 420mm deep. One at the back of the north aisle on the west wall and one at the back of south aisle on the west wall.
- Two cupboard units 900mm wide 1100mm deep with hinged doors built adjacent to the lobby doors leading to the north and south aisles.

The design has sought to retain the symmetrical nature of the building so that in each area of the church the pairs of cupboards mirror each other closely. They have also been designed not to interfere with the historic memorials on the walls, none of which will need to be moved. They will be fixed to the walls by means of mechanical fixing using the minimum required to ensure they are secure.

Detail

West wall either side of the bell tower

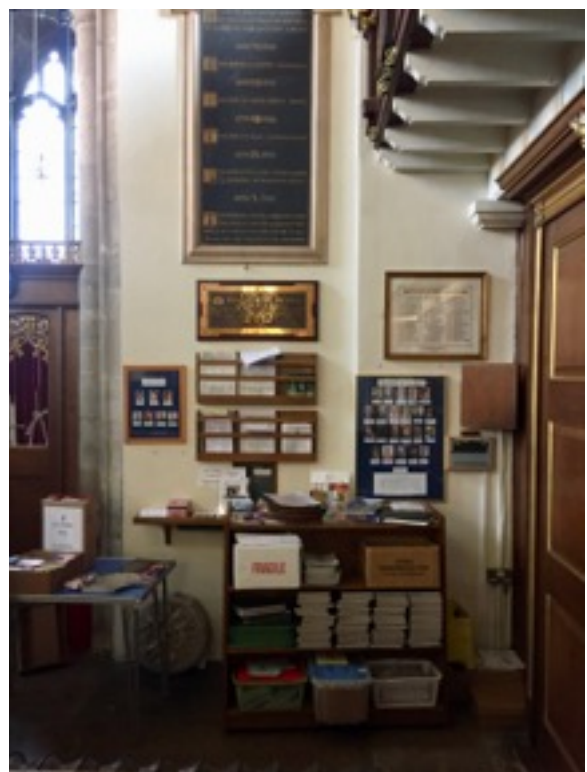


These will be open units without doors but with adjustable shelves supported by brass pegs and will house the hymn books and service booklets. They will be positioned centrally under the arched topped Ten Commandment panels and the memorials beneath them.

South side of west wall



North side of west wall



We will need to remove the c. 1970's wooden shelf (on the north side it is concealed behind the heavy book trolley which will go). On the south side we will retain and continue to use the existing wooden leaflet racks but will reposition them so that one is above the other centrally under the Ten Commandment panel.

On the north side we will remove the two wooden leaflet racks to make space for a high quality felt covered noticeboard (600mm x 900mm landscape) to be fixed to the wall for notices. It will be mechanically fixed to the wall between the top of the new unit and the underside of the memorial above and will cover the money box in the wall, which is no longer used by anyone.

West wall at the back of the north and south aisles

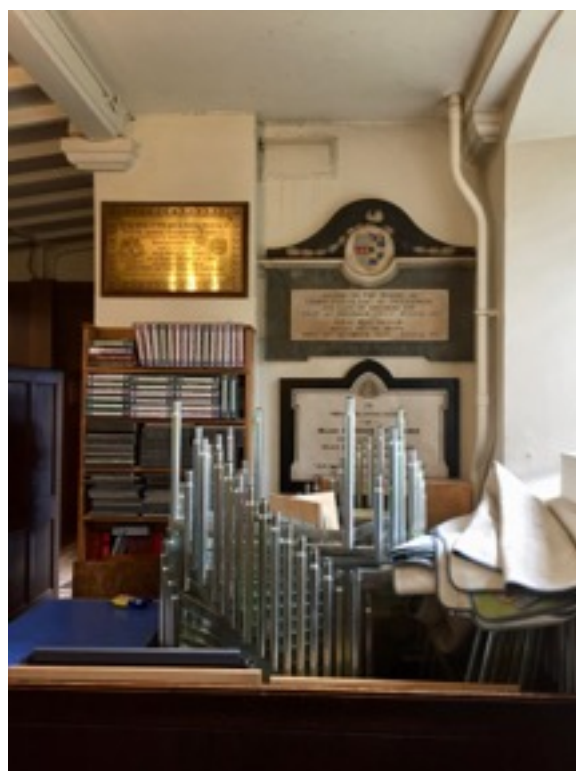
These will be shelved cupboards with sliding doors, mirroring each other on both sides, and will run across the west wall of each side aisle below the level of the existing monuments in situ. There will be two sets of sliding doors designed symmetrically. The new storage units will match the existing oak environment and will allow the memorials and monuments to shine rather than be blocked and hidden.

The loose items shown below (children's book rack on the right and up-turned staging on the left) will all be moved.

South aisle



North aisle



On the south side we will remove a small set of modern white shelves fixed under the grey and white Thomas Terry monument of 1816. These shelves were installed c.1970s.

On the north side we will remove a modern wooden bookcase installed in 1981 that is positioned, very close to, the wall mounted monuments from World War I. The new unit will come up to approx 50mm below the bottom of the lowest memorial.

Cupboards built around the existing lobbies

These full height storage cupboards will be created by using the existing voids on the north and south sides of the church from the doorways into the side aisles. The cupboard doors will be hinged doors (facing east) and the units installed under the galleries, in each case to the top of the brown wood. They will be used to house folding chairs, the high and low funeral trestles, the food bank collection and the items currently stowed in spare corners around the church. The horizontal tops shown below level with the top of the back of the pews will need to be removed with the pews. We will align the panels of the new cupboards with the existing panels of the doors (shown propped open in the left hand photo below). Where the cupboard is taller than the door, we will add an additional plain panel at the top.

South lobby looking to the west



North lobby looking to the west



Colour and finish

All new storage units will be made from oak to match the existing cladding (shown above), internal doors and balcony fronts. The unit tops, sides and doors will be made from solid oak and the internal carcasses from oak laminated MDF. The Shaker style flat panelling on the existing cladding and internal doors will be mirrored on the new units.

We will be using the Ritz range of door ironmongery from A&H Brass in an antique brass finish, as specified by Richard Griffiths.

Architect's plans

The plans have been drawn up in consultation with our inspecting architect, Richard Griffiths, and have been approved by him.

PCC resolution

The PCC has been involved with plans for these storage cupboards giving its approval to petition the DAC at its meeting on 24 February 2020:

To seek DAC approval for the six storage units at the west end of the church, as shown on the plans circulated to the meeting, subject to approval by Richard Griffiths.

Proposed by Sarah Waller, seconded by Elizabeth Sledge, agreed by all with one abstention.