

# Statement of Need: St James, Woodside – November 2020

## Section 1. General information

### 1.1 The Parish

The parish of Woodside has a population of c. 8250 (and growing) and makes up half of the town of Horsforth and its surroundings (the neighbouring parish of St Margaret's, Horsforth contains the rest). The majority of the town is fairly affluent, and its housing market is thriving especially attracting young professionals, partly because of seven excellent Primary Schools and Horsforth High School. On the Index of Multiple Deprivation, the Parish of St James Woodside was ranked as 9,116 (where 1 is the most deprived and 23,382 the least deprived). The majority of housing is owner-occupied, and there is high employment with only 7% in receipt of out of work benefits. However, in the area around the church there is significant deprivation. The local Churches Together group runs a Foodbank under the umbrella of the Trussell Trust.

There were (as of December 2019) 96 names on the electoral roll and the average Sunday attendance figure in 2019 was 73 (60 adults and 13 children).

The Parish Centre adjacent to the church building provides a popular venue for community activities and church use, which generally see it operating 7 days per week. In 2018 the PCC passed a resolution to support a proposal to repurpose the redundant Scout Hut (also adjacent the church) and create a community workshop. Work on this project is nearing completion.

### 1.2 Ecclesiology

St James' follows a broadly Evangelical orientation but includes members from a variety of backgrounds from Reformed Baptist to Roman Catholic with everything else in between. It is a welcoming church offering something to everyone who seeks in order to find.

### 1.3 Services of Worship

St James' offers a variety of services on Sundays each week. A 09.00 service alternates between BCP Holy Communion and Common Worship Morning Prayer; average attendance 13 adults. A 10.30 service generally has a more contemporary style alternating between Holy Communion and a Service of the Word; average attendance 52 adults and 11 children. The 10.30 services attract a cross section of all age groups from octogenarians to young families. Accessibility at this service is enhanced using a projector and screen, and music is led either by a versatile instrumental and vocal group and or the traditional pipe organ.

The 10.30 service on the first Sunday of the month is an *All Age* non-eucharistic service, while *Kids Church*, catering for children and young people up to 11 years operates on other Sundays. Messy Church takes place on 10 Sunday afternoons in the year in the Parish Centre adjacent to the church.

Sunday evening services are offered on an occasional basis and range from traditional services of evening prayer to café-style services led by a worship band.

The usual Occasional Offices are provided on an as required basis. In 2019 there were 3 weddings, 2 church funerals, 10 baptisms and 2 services of thanksgiving for the gift of a child.

### 1.4 Other uses

The church building is of limited utility other than for Services of Worship because of its layout and fixed furniture. It is not generally accessible by the public outside service times.

## 1.5 Maintenance

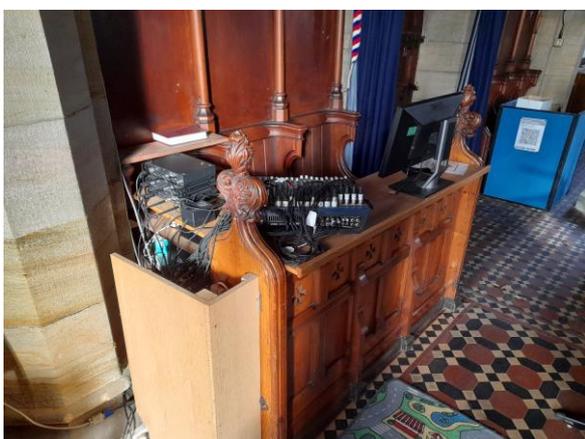
The last Quinquennial report was in September 2018 and the major issues highlighted are being completed within the given timescales. During 2020 internal plaster and stone repairs have been carried out and the church has been redecorated. The churchyard is well maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers and enhances public perception of the church.

## 1.6 Church life in the pandemic

In common with other churches across the Church of England, St James' has used Facebook, YouTube and Zoom to enable church life during the pandemic. This effort has been complicated by the absence of an Internet connection in the church building and this is something that the PCC seek to address. A direction on minor works was obtained from the Diocesan Registry to install a fixed cable between the Parish Centre and the Church in October and the PCC is poised to complete this work.

## Section 2. What do you need?

### 2.1 Audio system



The size and acoustic of the church building mean that a sound reinforcement system (and hearing loop) is necessary at St James'. Music during worship is mostly provided by a worship band whose sound needs to be mixed effectively. The existing sound equipment, which includes a rudimentary mixing desk, is approaching the end of its life and there are frequent complaints about audibility.

Figure 1. The sound desk at St James'. Lots of wires!



Figures 2 and 3. The existing speakers at St James'.

The Fabric Committee of the PCC has identified the need to replace the existing sound system.

## 2.2 Video system



Position of existing 'removable' screen.

Projector positioned in the pulpit.



Some years ago, the PCC at St James' installed a removable screen in front of the chancel arch at the position indicated in the photograph. A projector was positioned in the pulpit and this combination has been used in lieu of printed materials for the 10.30 service on Sunday mornings. This video technology provides significant flexibility for worship and is highly valued by the worshipping community. The main screen is only visible down the centre of the nave. The screen is augmented by a 32" TV screen fixed to a column in the south-west corner of the nave which serves the children and family area. Up to three other TV screens/ monitors of varying sizes are deployed on an ad hoc basis in the side aisles and for the worship leader.

Whilst it is possible to remove the screen, the reality is that it is rarely moved. In its retracted position the screen interrupts the view of the east window. In the open position the view of the east window is almost totally obscured by the screen. The projector is in a vulnerable position in the pulpit and, when deployed, the wiring to the temporary screens introduces trip hazards. During successive visits, the Archdeacon has requested that the video installation at St James' be regularised<sup>1</sup>.

The use of video facilities is integral to worship at St James'. It has been noted however that the position of the large screen does detract from the Communion Table which is directly under the screen. To reduce glare on the screen the chancel lights are extinguished during worship which means that the chancel area, the area of main liturgical focus, is not well lit. When the large screen was taken down during recent redecoration works a number of people commented positively about the unimpeded view of the east window. The Fabric Committee of the PCC has concluded that the existing video system should be replaced with a more permanent, less visually intrusive installation.

## Section 3. The proposals

Members of the PCC acknowledged the need for specialist input and began to engage with Audioworks<sup>2</sup> in late 2018. Following an initial survey, Tim Parsons, a project manager at Audioworks set up some demonstration sound equipment at St James' in January 2019. Members of the St James' Fabric Committee and worship band witnessed the demonstration. From this meeting, and subsequent discussions, Audioworks developed a set of proposals for a new AV installation that are described on the attached documents.

<sup>1</sup> With the exception of the TV screen serving the children's area, the current system is not covered by a Faculty.

<sup>2</sup> Audioworks (NW) Ltd, Unit 2A Bentham Business Park, Bentham, Lancasater LA2 7NB.

## Supporting documents:

Date	Reference	Description
20 October 2020	0555/TP/1.6 – Quote	Quotation from Audioworks for the proposed AV system including equipment list.
Ditto	0555/TP – Supporting information	Supporting narrative from Audioworks.
Ditto	0555/TP – Layout	Church plan showing the proposed layout of equipment.
Ditto	0555/TP – Visualisations	Selected photographs showing the positions of equipment.
11 November 2020	AV desk proposal	Sketch of proposed alteration to pew at existing sound desk location to accommodate new equipment.

The pictures on document 0555/TP – Visualisations are not to scale. Members of the PCC Fabric Committee have used boards of various sizes to mock-up key elements of the proposed AV installation and satisfied themselves that the equipment selected is appropriate for the space. To reduce the visual impact of the new installation it is proposed to paint the new speakers per the optional extra item listed in the Audioworks quotation.

The documents describing the proposed AV installation have been shared with the Inspecting Architect, Sebastian Rowe of Pearce Bottomley Architects, and he commented as follows:

*“I have had a look at the proposal. I note that the pictures show the monitors and the speakers, but with a caveat: not to scale [!]. Have you measured out these speakers and monitors? I would suggest that you do a simple cardboard cut-out of both speaker and monitor and place them in positions suggested so that the PCC can see actually and clearly what is proposed.*

*As far as the specification is concerned, it looks to be good. The DAC might wish me to meet the Contractor just to go over and agree the actual routes for the cables.”*

We were in a position to reassure the architect about the sizes of equipment and are happy to engage him to finalise cable routes if that is what the DAC require.

**PCC Resolution:** *At their meeting on 17 October 2020, the Woodside St James’ PCC reviewed proposals for the replacement of AV equipment in the church building. It was put to the committee that a faculty application be prepared for this work and submitted via the Church of England online faculty system. All in favour.*

## Section 4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

### 4.1 Audio system

The sound reinforcement provided by the existing audio equipment is no longer of sufficient quality to meet the needs of public worship at St James’. Advice from our specialist advisors at Audioworks is that the type and location of the speakers in particular will not enable the sound quality to be improved in an appreciable way. The PCC consider that replacement of the system is the only option available to meet the identified need.

### 4.2 Video system

The existing video system is temporary/ removable, and the use of video is integral to worship at St James’. The identified need can only be met with a new permanent installation.

## **Section 5. Justification**

The PCC do not consider that the proposals outlined for a new AV system at St James' will harm the significance outlined in the Statement of Significance. Taking down the screen from across the chancel arch will remove what had become an almost permanent interruption to the view of the east window from the nave and allow the chancel area to be properly lit during worship. The proposed new screens will give improved visibility across the whole of the seating area in the building, especially in the side aisles where visibility has been poor. When blank these screens will not be visually intrusive.

The simplification of wiring for the AV system will tidy up the AV desk where the wires are an eyesore and potential hazard. The proposed system will especially help those with hearing issues, sound quality will be clearer and more focused, and the system incorporates a hearing loop. The new system will benefit congregation, musicians, and those leading worship. Simpler and more controlled sound for the voices and instruments will reduce the need for fiddling with the system in services.

Overall, an updated sound reinforcement and video system at St James' will enhance the worship offered, which is a key element of the PCC's strategy for mission.