

Ref: 2025-121173

Church: North Newton: St James

Diocese: Salisbury

Archdeaconry: Wilts

Form 4A

(Rule 6.2)

Public Notice
(general form)

In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Salisbury

Church of North Newton: St James

In the parish of North Newton

NOTICE IS GIVEN that we are applying to the Consistory Court of the diocese for permission to carry out the following:

- 1: Removal of all remaining fixed pews to clear the nave for flexible seating arrangements.
- 2: Retention of 2 pews for heritage and historical evidence.
- 3: Confirmatory permission to introduce 75 stacking wooden chairs.
- 4: Confirmatory permission to remove pews already removed.

Copies of the relevant plans and documents may be examined at

St James Church
North Newton,
Pewsey
SN9 6LA

(If changes to a church are proposed, a copy of the petition and of any designs, plans, photographs and other documents that were submitted with it must be displayed in the church or at another place where they may be conveniently inspected by the public.)

Petitioners:

1. REVD CANON RHONA FLOATE, TEAM RECTOR VALE OF PEWSEY
2. JENNIFER BRISKER, CHURCHWARDEN
3. ROB MARSH, CHURCHWARDEN

Date 18/06/2026

If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals you should send a letter stating the grounds of your objection to The Diocesan Registrar at

Minster Chamber
42/44 Castle Street
Salisbury
Wilts

registry@battbroadbent.co.uk

so that your letter reaches the registrar not later than 18/07/2026. A letter of objection must include your name and address and state whether you live in the parish and/or your name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish or any other basis on which you have an interest in the matter.

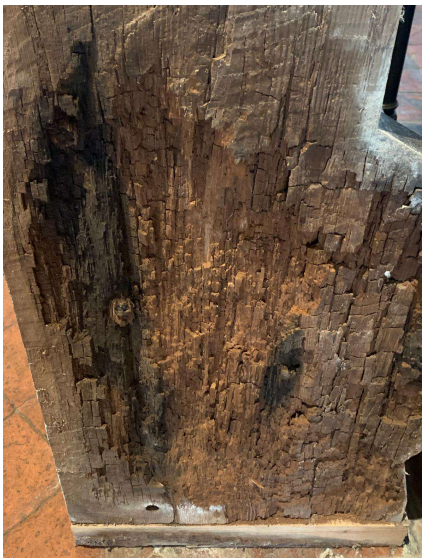
Our 'petition' to Salisbury Diocese requests permission for the following:

1. Removal of all remaining fixed pews to clear the nave for flexible seating arrangements.
2. Retention of 2 pews for heritage and historical evidence.
3. Confirmatory permission to introduce 75 stacking wooden chairs.
4. Confirmatory permission to remove pews already removed.

Here are further details on each request:

Removal of all remaining fixed pews to clear the nave for flexible seating arrangements.

We had intended to leave some fixed pews, however this does not achieve fully flexible seating for future uses for worship, social and community events. Furthermore, having removed some fixed pews it was obvious they have been damaged by being fixed tightly against church walls which are quite damp - being near the river, with a very high water table. This significantly deep damage to pew ends would eventually make them unsafe.



Retention of 2 pews for heritage and historical evidence.

Once the damage was clear, we planned to remove and dispose of all the pews. However some local people and one of the statutory consultees [Historic England] felt it would be a harmful to remove them all. We have therefore decided to retain 2 pews that will be free-standing; so not fixed to a damp wall. We realise that we will have to research the best way to repair/conservate them, perhaps moving a sound pew end from another pew onto a damaged pew.

Confirmatory permission to introduce 75 stacking wooden chairs.

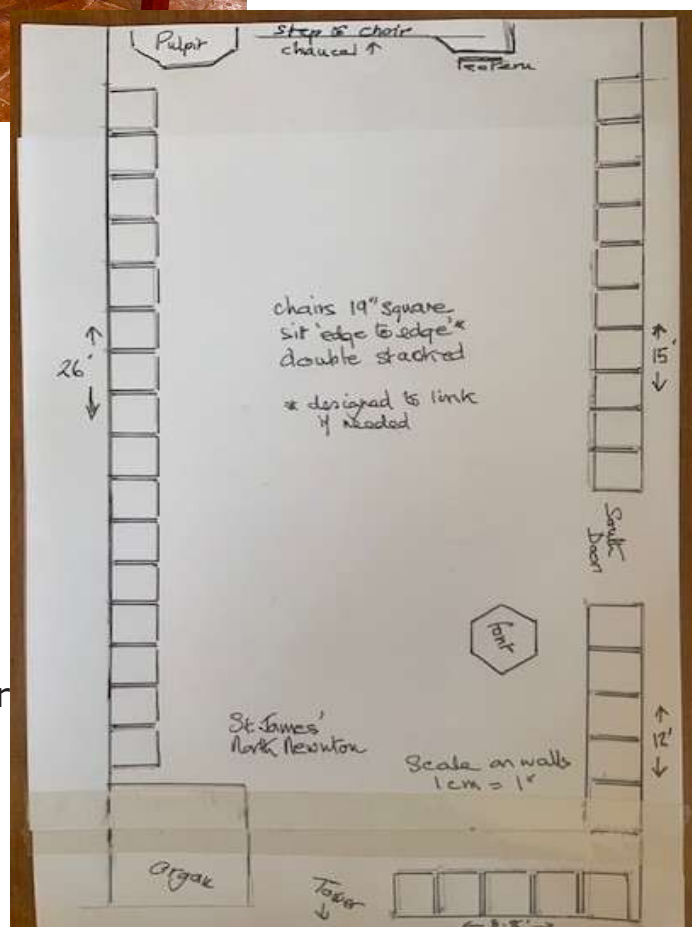
We already have an interim faculty – giving temporary permission for us to use the wooden chairs that are now in church – until this petition is determined. We're seeking permission now to retain the chairs permanently. Concerns were expressed about how easy they are to stack and/or store. They can be stacked 4 high, but are easier to stack/unstack quickly 2 high like this:

Plans for seating - pews to chairs - display in church.



Once all the fixed pews have been removed, the nave can be entirely cleared for events needing a performance space (drama, dance, music, singing), standing room, tables (for art, workshops, fete/fair, sale of home-grown fruit / veg / cakes), musical instruments etc by placing all the new chairs around the walls, stacked 2 high, as shown on this scaled drawing >>

A small number of chairs could be moved into the chancel, vestry, porch, or tower room if even more floor space is needed; or for example to accommodate the 2 free-standing pews being retained.



Confirmatory permission to remove pews already removed.

As can be seen, a number of previously fixed pews have already been removed. At the time we understood that we had permission to remove these under a faculty that had been issued and indeed extended by a further year. However, this faculty was subsequently cancelled and withdrawn as it had been issued in error. In order to retrospectively put this matter right we are requesting confirmatory permission to remove the pews already removed in good faith.

If anyone has any questions or would like to see more of the many documents submitted to the Diocese relating to our seating changing from pews to chairs, please contact Rob Marsh – Churchwarden on email rob.j.marsh.5@gmail.com or whatsapp / text 07941388852 quoting 'pews'.