**From:** Mayra Shaw <mayra.shaw@stalbans.anglican.org>
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 10:53:02 AM
**To:** Alan Lowe <alan.lowe@allsaintskempston.com>
**Cc:** DAC - Diocese of St Albans <dac@stalbans.anglican.org>
**Subject:** 161410-0524G Kempston, All Saints - Font Cover and Lifting Equipment

Dear Alan,

I would like to update you with very important information provided by our DAC consultants regarding this case: 161410-0524G Kempston, All Saints - Font Cover and Lifting Equipment.

The DAC supports this idea in principle, although one member of the Committee has come up with another option:

* Has the church considered fixing four cabinet handles to the existing canopy so that it can be lifted on and off without a hoist? This would save another £800 and keep some history.

Answer:

Point 1. The PCC considered fitting handles and lifting it off as and when needed but decided that it was too hazardous. We have calculated the weight as about 35kg, it will need 2 fairly strong people, most of the congregation are in their 70's and 80's so probably would not manage it. If 2 people do attempt it, they need to lift it from chest height, step sideways away from the Font, being careful not to misjudge the step down from the raised Dias around the Font. They would then need to carry it away from the Font to allow the Baptism to go ahead. Then repeat the procedure in reverse to place it back onto the Font.

I presume that the reason the Victorian's installed the Lifting Equipment was because of the same concerns.

Because of this I have concerns that we will not be able to lift it up onto the cupboard.

If you still wish to have the original proposal, further information will be needed, please:

* The fabrication of a new font cover. The DAC will need to see a specification for the proposed cover including measured drawings showing design details.

I will draw out the layout for supporting the Cover on the cupboard and send that to you so that you can see what is in our mind.

The Friends of All Saints are paying for the new cover, I will ask them to provide the drawing and dimensions of the new cover when they are available.

* Display of the existing cover. The proposal to place it on the top of the cupboard adjacent to the font has merit, provided it does not hang over the bookcase, but the DAC will need to see detail of:

(i) How it will be secured in place.

(ii) The extent to which it will be supported on and secured to the stonework of the windowsill.

(iii) Whether or not it will rest directly on the crenelated front of the cupboard or be supported on a frame fitted to the top of the cupboard.

(iv) What fixings will be used.

(v) How the suspension mechanism will be displayed.

The suspension mechanism will hang from the ceiling, above the Font, just as it does now, but without the Font Cover.

We will appreciate the above to be sent either by email or upload a document with the answers to the case.

Warmest regards,

Mayra Shaw