

COMMISSARY AND CONSISTORY COURT JUDGMENTS
2012

6 January St John the Baptist, Bromsgrove Worcester Mynors

Petition to re-roof north and south side aisles and south porch with glass reinforced plastic following a series of lead thefts. English Heritage formerly opposed the works on the grounds that GRP would be inappropriate historically, visually and technically as a roofing material for this Grade I listed church. EH expected churches to install anti-theft products to prevent thefts rather than use substitute roofing materials. Petitioners argued that the only part visible was the thin slivers of lead that lip over the castellated parapet, and this they intended to retain. GRP had a lifespan of about 50 years, half that of lead, but much less likely to be stolen, it was a fraction of the cost of lead and it had a proven track record as being a sustainable alternative. Chancellor sees no reason to insist on the use of lead and authorised the use of GRP. Faculty granted.

20 January St John the Baptist, West Wickham Southwark Petchey

Removal of one pew at the back of this Grade II listed church and install a new control desk for new speakers, projector and screen. The present control box requires operation by two people, separated by a pillar. This would be removed and the space used to install pewed seating. Supported by the PCC and DAC although one objection from a parishioner suggesting siting the control box on the gallery. Faculty granted on condition that the pew to be removed should be stored.

31 January St Peter & St Paul, West Wittering Chichester Hill

Removal of existing heating system and installation of 8 floor mounted internal fan units, one wall mounted unit plus external apparatus in the churchyard which will be painted to match the stone of the church and shielded by a yew hedge. This system is largely untested in ecclesiastical buildings but has been reported as being eco-friendly and much cheaper to run. One objection by letter from a resident whose boundary adjoins the churchyard and who is concerned about the noise that will be generated by the external units. Environmental health officer is of the opinion that any noise generated would be within acceptable levels. Chancellor is satisfied that necessity has been proved. Faculty granted.

9 February St James, Thornton Bradford Walford

Installation of telecommunication equipment and an agreement with Vodafone Limited. Listed Buildings Consent and Planning Permission have been granted and there are no objections although there is a signed petition in opposition, concerned with the health and safety of those living nearby. There is no compelling evidence which indicates a risk to health by the installation of this type of equipment and the Statement of Need establishes that there is a good reason for a faculty to be granted. Faculty granted.

10 February St Saviour, Harden & Wilsden

Bradford

Walford

To replace the inadequate heating system with a gas fired "wet" underfloor system; replacement of pews in the Nave with chairs; construction of a dais; and removal of inner swing doors. There is only objection to the removal of the pews on the grounds that it would destroy the character, style and special atmosphere of the church. Also the need for a more flexible space could be met by greater use of the adjoining family room. Chancellor is satisfied that necessity has been proved and that the works will not adversely affect the character of the church. Faculty granted.