

Church Buildings Council

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(by email)

Dear Alan

Leicester, St Saviour (Leicester)

Your request for the Council's revised information and advice on Leicester St Saviour was considered by the Statutory Advisory Committee at a meeting held on 11 November 2015.

The Committee endorsed the revised Pastoral Measure Report with Part 3, advising that the Grade II*-listed church has high townscape value and is of moderate-high significance overall.

In 2005, the Advisory Board for Redundant Churches recommended retention of the envelope of the church without addition or demolition. It indicated that, in principle, no objection would be raised to, *inter alia*, the removal of the building's historic furnishings, subdivision of the nave aisles and the provision of an even floor level in the nave and choir; however, in signalling that it would not object to the introduction of a west gallery or mezzanine in the nave, the ABRC stipulated that this should extend no further than the first pier west of the crossing.

No new use for the church has been secured in the decade since this advice was given. The Committee has therefore reassessed its advice, and now advises that, in principle, it would not raise any objection to the wider subdivision of the interior, if this would enable a new use for the building to be found and its high townscape value preserved. The Committee continues to advise that the envelope of the church should be retained without addition or alteration.

Four of the stained glass windows in the church were noted in 2005 as being of museum quality:

- South aisle: Doubting Thomas by *Edward Woore*, in memory of Sacristan Tom Peet, died 1927;
- South transept: two windows depicting the young Jesus, as the carpenter's apprentice, and discoursing with the priests in the Temple, *Edward Woore*, 1928;
- North transept: St Mary with rose garlands, *J. E. Nuttgens*, in memory of school headmaster Joseph Baines, died 1939.

It is not appropriate that these nationally significant windows should continue to languish in a closed and deteriorating church a decade on. A strategy for their preservation by relocation must be agreed and implemented as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely



Tom Ashley
Church Buildings Officer

cc Jeremy Tipping, Closed Churches Team Secretary

Nicky Caunt, Leicester Senior Property Manager

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