

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

1. **Statement of Significance** (statements_of_significance_and_need_forms_altar frontal.docx)
2. **Advent frontal proposal** (HPC LC Altar Frontal Proposal - 15 June 2020 (002).pdf)
3. **Designer information** (ST JOHN AT HAMPSTEAD.docx)
4. **Response to DAC comments** (2020 08 20 I.Woolf.pdf)

TO THE CHANCELLOR OF
THE DIOCESE OF LONDON

28/08/2020

VIEWED by the London Diocesan
Advisory Committee

Statement of Significance

Guidance on completing this form can be found on the ChurchCare website at <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/statements-of-significance-need>

This document must be accompanied by the Standard Information Form 1A

Section 1: Brief history and description of the church building(s), contents, churchyard and setting

Grade 1 listed church –see listing particulars

Section 2: The significance of the church (including its contents and churchyard) in terms of:

i) Its special architectural and historical interest

ii) Any significant features of artistic or archaeological interest

Please state if you have taken expert advice to help you define the significance, and from whom.

See listing particulars

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals on the significance defined in Section 2

The Lady Chapel has a painting behind the alter painted by a local artist in the 1950s. Although the Lady Chapel is to the right of the main Chancel altar the feel of the Lady Chapel is different from the Chancel which has choir stall and organ casing in good quality wood as befits a Georgian Church which was enlarged in the 19th Century.

On the right hand side of the lady chapel is a recently created clergy vestry with glass double doors.

The Lady Chapel is used for weekday services.

A modern altar frontal for Advent will draw attention and provide a focus for mid-week prayers and reflections during the season of Advent.

Statement of Needs

Guidance on completing this form can be found on the ChurchCare website at <http://www.churchcare.co.uk/churches/guidance-advice/statements-of-significance-need>

This document must be accompanied by the Standard Information Form 1A

Section 1. General information

The Parish Church is a working building used by over 300 people per week with Sunday and weekday services. The Church is used for services throughout the year by the CofE school and carol services for a number of schools. The Church is kept open during the week for visitors and for prayer.

Section 2. What do you need?

A suitable altar frontal for advent

Section 3. The proposals

A proposal is attached as a separate document

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

Improve timekeeping and ensure that the Bell is struck on the hour

Section 5. Justification

If the proposals are likely to harm the significance outlined in the Statement of significance, explain how the proposals would result in public benefits which outweigh such harm.

An Advent altar frontal appears only in December and will not harm the significance of the Church

Hampstead Parish Church
Lady Chapel Altar Frontal Proposal
15 June 2020

Artists

Fredericke Liese and Anna Sikorska. Liese, who has a background in tailoring, produced a highly successful temporary textile project for the church in October 2019. Sikorska has many years' experience as an artist and has produced critically acclaimed projects including an altar frontal for St James' Piccadilly and St Martin-in-the Fields.

Summary

Following a careful longlisting and shortlisting of artists across the past 12 months, the altar frontal committee has selected Fredericke Liese and Anna Sikorska's design. The committee are: Gaynor Basse-Fish, Judy East, Esther Fitzgerald, and Ayla Lepine. We are entirely confident that their design fits the brief, will look excellent in the chapel, and will be produced in good time and to a very high standard. The full cost of the project will be covered by donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

This design represents the duality of the calm reflection associated with Advent alongside the chaotic circumstances which surround us both today and at the time of Jesus' birth. The concept strikes a balance between the original story and our own time.

The central image of the design is the large capital and declarative 'O.' This symbolises the anticipation of the glory of the birth of Christ (as in the O Antiphons) but also a sense of apprehension. In the context of political upheaval and dislocation, the pregnancy of Mary before Christ's birth is by no means a peaceful one. And yet, it was and is undergirded by a profound and sustaining faith. The 'O', embroidered in gold, emerges from a concentric cyclical pattern which symbolises both the chaotic cries of the world and the protective embrace of Mary's womb.

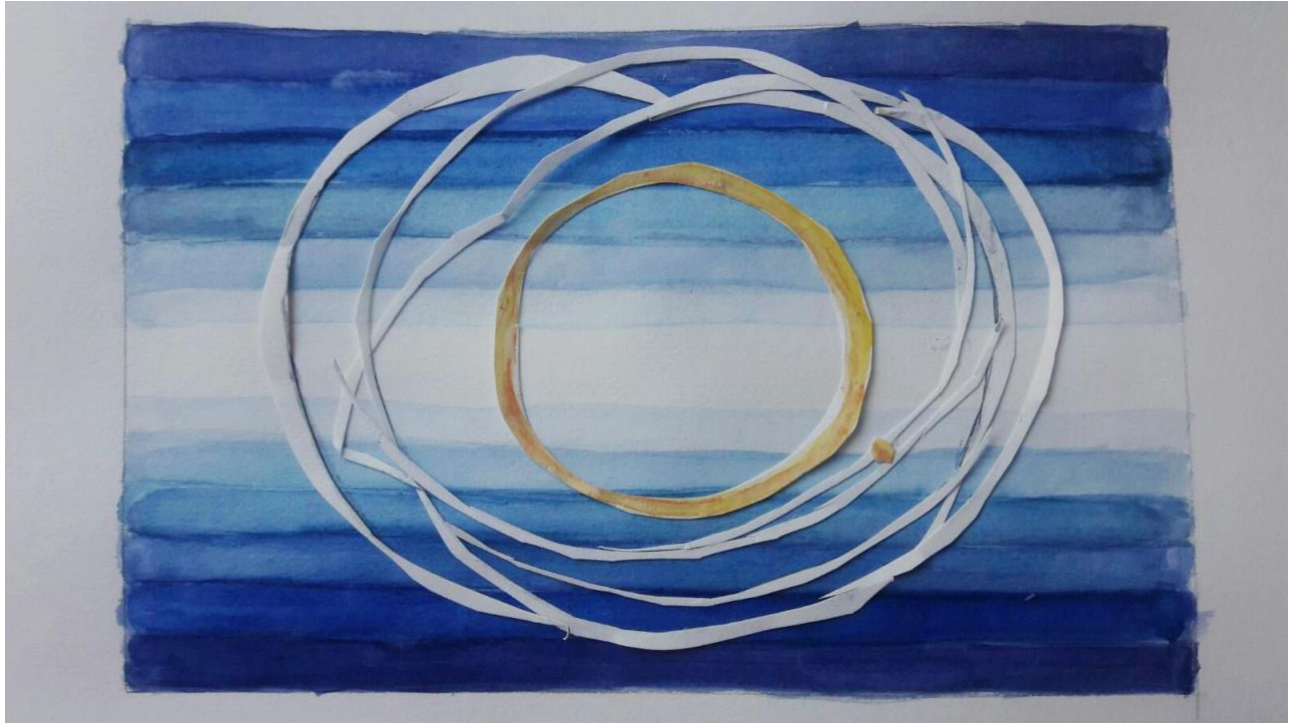
The background is a blue gradient gradually getting lighter towards the centre. This references the horizon as a symbol of understanding, insight, and hope. Inspired by the Sarum Blue Advent tradition, the palette incorporates deep indigo hues. This will highlight the Marian associations of the Chapel and the accents of blue in the borders of Mary's cloak in the reredos painting. The frontal will be made using natural indigo 'alchemical' dye, a global ancient and natural technique. The Sarum blue tradition for Advent continues to this day in churches and cathedrals including York Minster and St Paul's, Knightsbridge.

Materials

Indigo hand-dyed cotton strips sewn together to form horizontal gradient. The concentric Os will include subtle background embroidery. This will create a textured effect from far away from the nave and the chairs in the chapel, and a satisfying detailed pattern when viewed close up by communicants at the altar rail.

Timescale

- June-July: Initial tests of materials, processes and design refinement.
- August-September: Making, including potential indigo dyeing workshop with parishioners in the churchyard, Covid-19 guidance permitting
- Late October: Completion



Working concept, May 2020

ST JOHN AT HAMPSTEAD

ALTAR FRONTAL – proposed Advent Frontal for Lady Chapel

The PCC at its meeting on 13 July received the following statement from our curate Dr Ayla Lepine:

‘The frontal’s designer, Rika Liese, is one of our parish’s talented young people. The superb design and accompanying proposal, together with her high quality work for a parish dedication festival banners project, demonstrates the way in which young people are leading the way in our mission and discipleship at Hampstead. The combination of artistic merit and the opportunity to support young creative talent is a unique and exciting one. She will begin a degree in English Literature at York in the autumn. Making a strong start on this project in Hampstead before she begins this degree is of real importance and will prevent delays.’

INIGO WOOLF

15 July 2020

Patrick Booth

From: Inigo Woolf <Treasurer@hampsteadparishchurch.org.uk>
Sent: 20 August 2020 15:40
To: Patrick Booth
Cc: Jeremy Fletcher
Subject: 16/01 St John at Hampstead: Altar Frontal - response to DAC

Patrick,

We have done our best to address the questions raised by DAC members.

Our local textiles expert is very excited about the project and looking at the mock up below, we can see why there is excitement from those who know the Lady Chapel. Please read on and I hope we can have support from the DAC.



- The modern aesthetic with its flowing gold against the clean lines of the background would be an ideal fit for the space.
- A photo may be possible; a mock-up is not, and would be excessive as well as expensive for a project of this scale and kind.

- We believe the stripes contrasting with the flowing gold of the embroidery are ideal for the church's Classical aesthetic – they pick up on the striations in the pilasters and columns in both the sanctuary and the Lady Chapel. They respond contextually in a contemporary and dynamic way to the Neo-Classicism of every phase of the building, from the Georgian right through to the early 20th-century Temple Moore design and its post-war reredos. The central circular form and the colour scheme resonates with the mosaic floor in front of the altar (this mosaic pattern is also present within the high altar chancel and sanctuary). The composition – horizontal gradations of colour supporting gold ovoid forms – is resonant with, but in no way a derivative of, Bauhaus designs by Anni Albers and Paul Klee, as well as Abstract Expressionist work by Agnes Martin and Lee Krasner. The approach to the embroidery, linking abstraction with clear and legible Christian symbolism, is comparable to Beryl Dean's progressive yet traditional approach to vestments and Church textiles. Another excellent example of a striped textile altar frontal is the Lenten frontal by Jacqueline James: <https://www.artandchristianity.org/jacqueline-james-lenten-altar-frontal>
- Regarding the colour, the blues will range across shades from light to deeper violet, tying the palette of the Piero della Francesca and Italian frescos which inspired the Donald Towner reredos to the colour symbolism of Advent. Please note that in the attached photo, which inserts the artists' sketch into the space, the ovoid forms are whiter than they will appear in the final design (which will use more gold embroidery than is present here).
- Moreover, the frontal's design and colour will also pick up on the colours used by Joan Fulleylove in her Arts and Crafts WWI memorial window, which is in the clergy vestry and visible through the glass doors into this space to the north of the Lady Chapel. Highlighting and drawing the eye to these two works of art by modern artists is a key factor in the development of this new altar frontal by two women, one of whom is an established artist and the other is a young emerging artist whose work is a vital part of our church's mission and vision.

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Revd Dr Ayla Lepine
Assistant Curate

Hampstead Parish Church
Building an inclusive community of Christian love, faith, witness and action

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