

**2016 ECC LIN 5**

**In the Consistory Court of Lincoln**

**In the matter of St Mary and St Nicholas Spalding**

**And in the matter of a proposed Faculty 4440**

Judgement

1. The Petitioners seek a faculty for the installation of a servery at the west end of the nave. There no objectors but Historic England ('HE') have set out their concerns about the placing of the units that have been chosen and seek a change from the plans submitted. The Petitioners have not agreed with HE. In the light of this disagreement I am setting out my decision in this short judgement.
2. The Petitioners propose the servery at the west end of the nave and south of the west doorway. There is no objection by HE to the design of the units that have been chosen nor this position. They object to the 'L-shaped' design of the units running along the south wall and the west wall. They are concerned that this will give the appearance of a domestic 'fitted' kitchen rather than a free standing piece of ecclesiastical furniture. They suggest that there should be 2 free standing units set further apart running down the same walls but with a gap between them removing the corner unit from the design and relocating a small cupboard for the boiling water tap.
3. The DAC have considered the HE opinion and in their letter to the architect dated 7 June 2016 they do not agree with HE for the following reasons:
  - (i) The corner void would be rendered useless. Putting the 2 units further apart will take up more space and lose storage capacity;
  - (ii) The alternative site for the boiler is not acceptable (under significant wall monuments);
  - (iii) The servery unit will pull out and in these circumstances it was not felt that it would look domestic;
  - (iv) The units will be more used as a café than a servery given the high volume of use.

4. The Vicar of Spalding has written to me dated 10 June 2016 explaining why his view remains that the existing proposal should not be changed to meet the HE concerns. He considers that the quality of the units will be such as to avoid the risk that HE consider will be present by the 'L-shaped' units. I have also had a letter from Mrs Ann Howard, the catering team leader dated 26 June 2016 setting out her disagreement with the HE views. She thinks the existing plans should be maintained because:
  - (i) 2 separate units will mean there is a gap in the corner. The redundant space will become cluttered and dirt will accumulate.
  - (ii) The existing design hides all the cabling
  - (iii) The instant boiling water tap is located well away from the monuments and also any other source of danger. It should therefore not be moved from its present proposed position.
5. I have considered all these points carefully and am persuaded that the existing proposal for an 'L-shaped' configuration is appropriate. The design of the units is of high quality and I therefore consider the risks that HE are concerned about will be minimised. I judge that if the units were moved apart leaving a gap in the corner the separation will lead to a spread of 'kitchen activity' over a wider area and leave a gap in the corner which will inevitably become filled with unattractive items. I note that the use of this area will be more like a café given the number of visitors rather than an occasional servery used at the end of services and for specific events.
6. Weighing all this up I am satisfied that the plans proposed can be granted a faculty.
7. The DAC proviso that the installation should avoid the edge of the base mouldings is a condition of the faculty.
8. I note that the DAC wants to know the destination of the altar currently in the area of these proposed works. No doubt the Petitioners can write to the DAC with an answer to that, if this has not already been done.

**Mark Bishop**

**Chancellor**

**24 August 2016**