

**DIOCESE OF SHEFFIELD
In the Consistory Court**

Her Honour Judge Sarah Singleton QC
Chancellor

**In the Matter of
ST LUKE LODGE MOOR
REORDERING AND EXTENSION WORKS**

Judgment

Concerning the Petition of the Incumbent and Churchwardens of St Luke Lodge Moor to carry out various works of reordering and extension of the church premises

1. St Luke's Church Lodge Moor is an ecumenical partnership between the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and United Reform Churches in the Lodge Moor area in Hallam in Sheffield. Their online petition seeks permission for extensive works of extension, internal structural alterations and reordering. The works are recommended for approval by the DAC subject to the proviso that the design for the internal chapel should be in accordance with a particular drawing submitted by the Petitioners (Drawing no 1015-050 Revision B August 2019). The petitioners accept this proviso.
2. St Luke's Church was constructed in 1966. It is unlisted. It is set in a housing estate constructed between 1955 and 1963. The area is affluent. The church is an unprepossessing modern building. The exterior is somewhat unwelcoming. The interior, twice altered, is complicated; it includes striking modern glass windows which will continue, on the plans submitted, to be incorporated in the building so that they can be fully enjoyed. The Church has benefitted from previous alteration and modernisation in 1988 and 2005. The present proposals take a more holistic approach to the building to increase its capacity and accessibility.
3. St Luke's Church is a vibrant and successful church in an affluent area of Sheffield. The church has achieved growth in the numbers of its congregation and membership. There is a need to expand the capacity of the main worship space to welcome larger

congregations. The meeting rooms are used to 100% capacity during daytimes and evenings, demonstrating a further need for greater capacity in those parts of the building.

4. The Petitioners wish to energise their already successful outreach to the community. After consultation with local councillors and health care professionals they have identified a need to provide a café / drop-in style meeting place. The combined statement of significance and need accompanying the Petition includes an apposite quotation from an article by Fiona Leigh in the January 2016 edition of Christianity magazine:- "My vision is for churches that are open most of the day, providing coffee and conversation – and whatever else can be done to that to reach those hungry for human contact and a deeper sense of life purpose". The present proposals seek to fulfil that prescient vision, all the more relevant during society's emergence from lockdown in 2021.
5. The plans submitted for approval would create a café style space evident from the outside of the building and would alter the appearance of the exterior to create an attractive and welcoming space. The project also includes extensive interior alterations which render the building more accessible, increase meeting room capacity and increase seating capacity in the main worship space.
6. This is a carefully planned project. The cost is estimated at £1 million. The church can access just less than half of that sum at present and have viable plans to raise the balance. The DAC recommends the plans. Sheffield City Council have granted planning permission for the proposals subject to a number of pre commencement conditions. As the project proceeds, the petitioners must work closely with the city council to ensure compliance with their strictures.
7. In all the circumstances I endorse and commend the plans and direct that a Faculty be issued accordingly.

Sarah L Singleton QC
Chancellor of the Diocese of Sheffield
8th May 2021