

**Ref:** 2020-051384

**Church:** Portsea: St Mary

**Diocese:** Portsmouth

**Archdeaconry:** Portsdown

Form 4A

(Rule 6.2)

Public Notice  
(general form)

**In the Consistory Court of the Diocese of Portsmouth**

**In the parish of St. Mary, Portsea**

**Church of Portsea: St Mary**

NOTICE IS GIVEN that we are applying to the Consistory Court of the diocese for permission to carry out the following:

Funding has been awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to restore the 1889 J.W. Walker & Sons pipe organ, install a 1m raised platform in the organ blower chamber, and repaint the walls of the choir vestry and adjoining staircase. Organisation funding will enable us to undertake timely repairs to the tracery and glazing of the North transept windows.

A detailed historical and technical study of the organ has been commissioned, supported by expert consultation with the Diocesan Organist Advisor and project organ consultant, Dr William McVicker and detailed reports and tenders from four Institute of British Organ Building accredited builders. We propose to restore the 1889 pipe organ to its original Victorian character, realigning the historical integrity of heritage after evident deficiencies through modernisation by organ builders in 1965 and 1981.

The pitch of the organ, crudely lowered in 1965, will be reverted; the electro-pneumatic components installed in 1965 will be remade to better support the reaffirmed natural speech of the pipework - the recreation of lost pneumatic mechanisms has been extensively explored, but without original 1889 designs, a conjectural build has been abandoned - our findings are summarised in the attached Restoration Policy and detailed in the attached Heritage Study; the console will be reconstructed to match the original Victorian style based on the research of contemporaneous instruments around the country; investigation will be undertaken by the builders to revert the damage caused by the 1965 building work and achieve a successful reversion of pitch, with pipework restored to as close to original designs as possible; Kopex conveyancing will be replaced with materials matching original construction; soundboards will be thoroughly overhauled and restored using traditional materials and techniques; electric stop actions will be installed in place of failed 1965 electro-pneumatic stop machines; a new low-voltage electrical system will be installed, incorporating processor-based coupling and piston systems; full rewiring and fusing of the organ; reservoirs stripped and repaired, wells strengthened and control valves fully overhauled and re-leathered traditionally; new humidification system installed; casework cleaned and waxed with two missing finials replaced and front pipes repainted to match the original design; 1981 baffle boards checked for effectiveness and either removed or made discreet.

The windows at the rear of the organ chamber require stonework and glazing repairs. This work has been identified in the 2015 quinquennial report but can only be fully scoped after the organ has been partially extracted.

The organ blower is housed in a chamber 2.5m below the Vestry on the North-east corner of the church. The chamber can only be accessed externally and is undecorated, with a rough concrete floor. To mitigate flood risk, we propose to install a 1m high concrete platform, raising the blowing apparatus off the damp floor. The dimensions of the platform will be confirmed during the restoration work, where the attached control reservoir will be reconstructed due to existing non-repairable water damage.

Following restoration, the choir vestry and staircase walls will be carefully scrapped back to remove inappropriately applied non-breathable paint. A pre-mixed lime fine build will be applied to failed plaster followed by a Kiem primer. A Kiem Ecosil grund will be applied as a first coat, with a Kiem Ecosil –ME applied as a second coat.

Copies of the relevant plans and documents may be examined at

St Mary's Church, Portsea or online at [www.theorganproject.org](http://www.theorganproject.org)

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*(If changes to a church are proposed, a copy of the petition and of any designs, plans, photographs and other documents that were submitted with it must be displayed in the church or at another place where they may be conveniently inspected by the public and if the petition is submitted through an online system, those documents must also be publicly available for inspection online.)*

Petitioners:

1. ROBERT WHITE, VICAR
2. EUGENE ORGAN, PARISH WARDEN
3. LORRAINE DRINKWATER, PARISH WARDEN

Date 23/06/2020

**If you wish to object to any of the works or proposals you should send a letter or email stating the grounds of your objection to The Diocesan Registrar at**

Brutton & Co  
West End House  
288 West Street  
Fareham  
PO16 0AJ

registry.clerk@brutton.co.uk

**so that your letter reaches the registrar not later than 23/07/2020. A letter of objection must include your name and address and state whether you live in the parish and/or your name is entered on the church electoral roll of the parish or any other basis on which you have an interest in the matter.**

### **Directions to petitioner**

You must display this public notice (or a copy of it) for a continuous period of not less than 28 days, not counting the day on which it was put up or the day on which it is taken down, (or for such other period as the Court may direct and subject to any special directions of the registrar) in each of the following places:

1. on a notice board or in some other prominent position inside the church; and
2. on a notice board outside the church or in some other prominent position (whether on the outside of the church door or elsewhere) so that it can be read by the public.