

**Proposal to install a screen and data projector in All Saints' Church, Cottenham:  
application to DAC for a Faculty. Prepared by Graham Appleby and Chris Lowe,  
churchwardens. February 2021.**

**Motivation**

Increasingly, images and short video clips are being used during the course of services and for other activities, such as Messy Church, public lectures, etc., in All Saints' church. These activities have been supported by placing a portable screen on a table in front of the Nave Altar and a portable projector on a stand in the nave. Following their use, for instance in a service of Holy Communion, they have to be removed and tidied away rapidly before the service can continue. This setup, for a pre-COVID Messy Church service, is shown in Figure 1.

A much more robust, professional solution would be to install a wide format screen behind the chancel arch and fix a projector to a pillar on the nave side of an aisle. When required, the screen would be lowered under computer control from behind the arch, to be hidden again after use. This solution has been implemented successfully at other churches in the Diocese. The Cottenham with Rampton PCC agreed at its virtual meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020 that the project as described here should go ahead.

**Detailed proposal**

Figures 2 and 3 show a system similar to that being proposed for Cottenham. That system is in frequent use at St Mary's church Ely, where the churchwardens paid a fact-finding visit prior to the imposition of COVID restrictions.

To replicate that successful system, we would purchase a 4m-wide screen unit and employ an installation company to fix the support mechanism for the screen to the chancel wooden roof beam immediately behind (on the eastern side of) the nave arch (Figure 4). It is pointed out here that the wooden roof of the chancel is relatively modern and thus of limited architectural interest. This would be done at a vertical height such that from the nave the screen will not be visible when it is not in use. When required for use, the screen casing would be lowered and the screen itself unfurled, under computer control. The usable size of the screen that we propose is of width 402cm and drop 251cm.

Two options for the location of a projector have been researched; on balance of cost and simplicity, the proposal here is to use a projector off-axis mounted on the north-side pillar, just east of the nave-transept crossing (Figure 5). The projector would use an optical system capable of correcting the screen image for its off-axis location.

Both the screen mechanism and the projector would be operated by a PC to be installed in the existing sound desk that was built at the western end of the nave as part of the Reordering Faculty work that was completed in 2018. Every care would be taken to hide all signal cabling running from the sound desk to the screen unit and to the projector, as well as the power cabling running to both units.

**Quotes**

A quote solicited in 2019, with a more expensive option for a long-throw projector, has been rejected by the PCC. A 2021 quote from AVANTIT Ltd, of between £13,400 and £16,800 depending upon our choice of projector luminance, and including installation and VAT, is under review prior to a recommendation to the PCC.

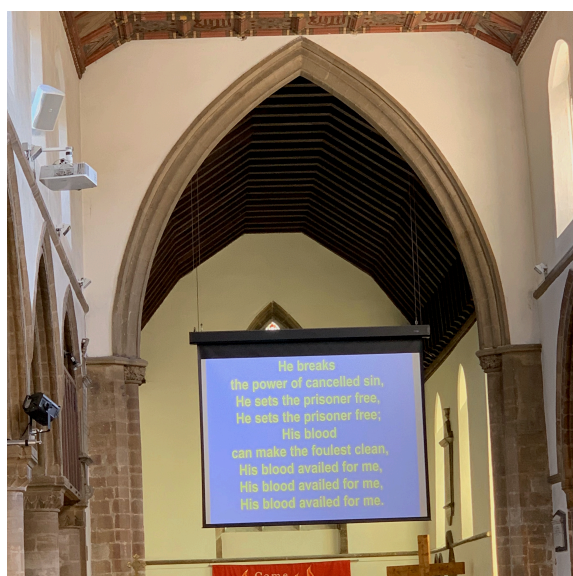
## Grants

Grants towards the cost of the installation, subject to a successful outcome of the Faculty application, have been sought and awarded; approximately £6,000 has been pledged so far.

## Figures

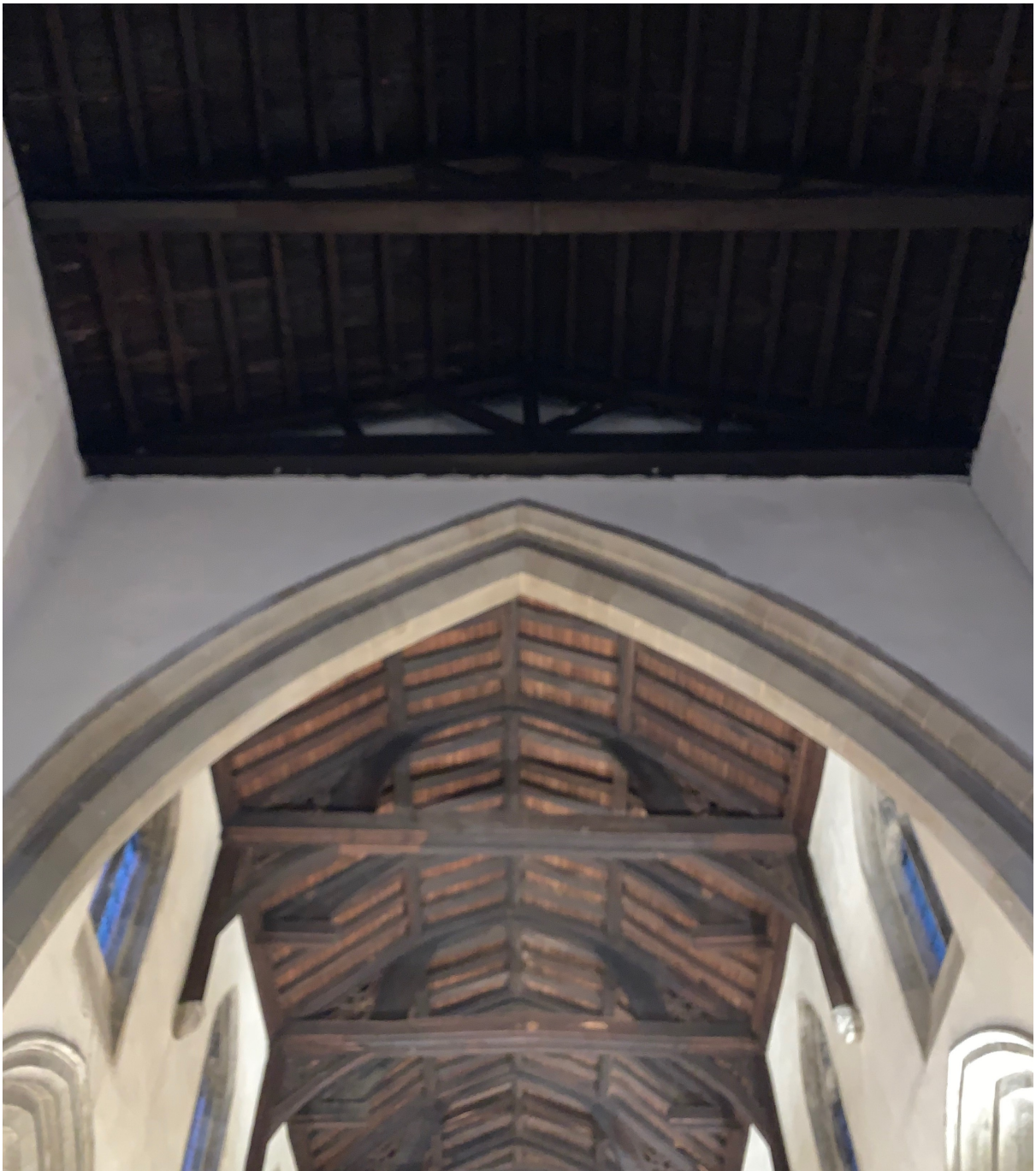


**Figure 1** Existing, pre-COVID, use of portable screen and projector at All Saints' Cottenham



**Figures 2,3** Screen and projector of the type proposed for Cottenham, in use at St Mary's Ely





**Figure 4** View from the Chancel towards the Nave. It is proposed to tether the screen-drop mechanism to the wooden chancel roof-beam that abuts the chancel arch on the nearside



**Figure 5** Proposed location for off-axis projector system; just below the capital of the N pillar