

## St Giles-in-the-fields

### Tower Lighting

#### Heritage, Design and Access Statement

#### 1.0 Setting

- 1.1 The present church is the third church to be built on this site and sits upon the footprint of its two predecessors. It was designed by Henry Flitcroft and constructed around 1731 – 33. The present detached Vestry House, adjacent to the south west corner of the church, was also constructed (in brick) at the same time as the church and remains in such use by the church today.
- 1.2 The church is Grade I Listed (extract Appendix 1) The Vestry house is Listed Grade II, as is the Resurrection Gate. The site is in the Denmark Street Conservation Area.
- 1.3 At the time of its construction the area was less developed but the site is now part of an intensely urban metropolitan scene, sandwiched between a road to the north and mostly flats to the east and south, of five or more storeys. To the northern side of the road (St Giles High St.) is Centrepoint, the new Tottenham Ct. Rd. Tube station and several commercial blocks.
- 1.4 The churchyard was clearly once an integral part of the environs of the church and is said to be one of the most intensely buried locations in this part of London. The churchyard ceased to be used for burials from about 1805, after a further burial ground was acquired at St Pancras in 1803 and consecrated. The churchyard was finally closed to burials, by Order, in 1854.
- 1.5 The general environs of the church have changed little over the years, save for a few realignments of the north boundary, relocation of the Resurrection Gate and several different designs of the North Gate. For most of its life, the churchyard has been defined by a closed boundary (as is common for churches), but in more recent years the sense of enclosure has been made more acute by the growing height of the surrounding buildings and the planting of large trees on and within the boundaries.
- 1.6 The churchyard is under the lease and management of the London Borough of Camden and maintained and operated as one of their public open spaces.

#### 2.0 Design and Significance

- 2.1 It is the first church in London built in the Palladian style. It is commonly referred to as the Poets' church.
- 2.2 The church continues its liturgical services on Sundays as well as many weekdays. Along with this it also used by support groups, artistic events, concerts, local community events etc. and maintains an active role in the community.

#### 3.0 Background and Policy

- 3.1 Camden Planning Guidance 6, section 5 gives guidance on artificial lighting.
- 3.2 Lighting installations are minimal, and will not be visible during the day.
- 3.3 A faculty application is also being currently processed. As part of the faculty application assessment, Historic England and the Georgian Group have been consulted by London Diocese. They have looked at the application and have no comments.

#### 4.0 Proposals

- 4.1 The church is now heavily overshadowed by encroaching new developments, and only the spire can be seen from certain viewpoints in the area.
- 4.2 A tower lighting scheme is proposed to highlight the architectural features of the tower, and signal the presence of the church at night time. The design is explained in detail in the accompanying specification documentation report.

- 4.3 The lighting scheme includes a basic background lighting, with some details picked out. All features can be individually controlled, and the whole scheme will be used together at festivities while reduced lighting will be used on most nights.

## **5.0 Sustainability**

- 5.1 Low energy lights are used for all the features. The LED scheme will consume far less light than the traditional external tower lighting it will replace.
- 5.2 The external lighting will be controlled by an astronomical time clock, automatically adjusting to changes of sunset and daylight savings time.

## **6.0 Impact**

- 6.1 It is hoped that the tower lighting will improve and highlight the views of the historic tower at night. This scheme takes the opportunity to enhance the appeal of this heritage asset and to improve the setting of the Grade I listed church and its environs.
- 6.2 External lighting scheme will also help to make the churchyard safer at night, and contribute to general ambient light.
- 6.3 The luminaire position ensures glare will be avoided for people walking or driving past the church.
- 6.4 There are no bats in the area.

## **7.0 Access Statement**

- 7.1 No change is proposed to the current access of the building.

## **Appendix 1**

Extract of Listing Information

Name: CHURCH OF ST GILES IN THE FIELDS

List entry Number: 1245864

Location: CHURCH OF ST GILES IN THE FIELDS, ST GILES HIGH STREET

Grade: I

Date first listed: 24-Oct-1951

List entry description (in full).

Church. 1731-33. By Henry Flitcroft, restored 1896, and c1952 when N Haines and G Jackson also restored interior decoration. Portland stone with copper roof. Classical style. Rectangular plan, nave of 5 bays plus vestibule at west end with tower over. EXTERIOR: rusticated stone to string course marking interior gallery level, above plain ashlar with rusticated quoins. Ground floor windows rectangular with flat arches; gallery windows round-headed with keystones, moulded architraves and plain impost blocks. Modillion cornice with blocking course above. At west end of south and north facades an entrance door with Gibbs surround. Pedimented west end has flight of 7 steps leading to 2 leaf, fielded 3-panelled entrance door with a Gibbs surround. Above, a semicircular headed window with a round-headed niche to either side and a square niche to either side above that. H FLITCROFT ARCHITECTUS carved on the entablature. East end pedimented with Doric Venetian window (glass to centre only). Tower of rusticated base, ashlar belfry with round-headed openings, coupled pilasters supporting an entablature, surmounted, on each face, by a clock & urn finials at each corner. Octagonal lantern with engaged Ionic columns supporting an entablature broken forward at each angle. Spire with rustic bands & golden ball weathervane. INTERIOR: vestibule at west end of 3 lobbies, centre being entrance to nave, to either side containing open stairs to galleries. Tunnel-vaulted nave with shallow sanctuary, groin-vaulted aisles over which galleries which continue across west end. Square panelled piers rising to the underside of galleries support Ionic columns with block entablatures, all of Portland stone; these carry the roof & ceiling. Font 1810, much restored Father Smith Organ 1671 in case probably of 1734, inlaid mahogany pulpit 1676. Carved monument to George Chapman (translator of Homer), dated 1634, probably designed by Inigo Jones. In front of west door, pedimented entrance gate by William Leverton, c1810, incorporating wooden relief of Resurrection of the Dead, 1686-7 by Love. (Survey of London: Vol. V, The Parish of St Giles-in-the-Fields Part II: London: -1914).