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Reverend Adrian Miller  
The Rectory  
The Common  
Mulbarton  
Norwich NR14 8JS

4 May 2017

Dear Revd. Miller

**St Mary's Church, Mulbarton, Norfolk: Font**

I write further to visiting the church on Wednesday last week. As requested I am offering two alternative sets of proposals with up to date estimates; one for works to conserve the font in its present position, and secondly to conserve the font and to move it to a new location slightly to the south and east.

I have reviewed the proposal given by Paul Wooles in his letter from Skillington Workshop Ltd to Denis Tuttle on 18 July 2011 and have a slightly different take on how to do things in that I would actually carefully deconstruct the bowl along the fracture lines and then pin it back together. This would require the removal (and reinstatement) of the lead liner, and would also be best carried out in the controlled environment of our conservation studio, but would have the advantage of achieving much neater repairs with a greater prospect of returning to the correct alignment, with no visible stainless steel cramps.

A revised method statement for conserving the font in its present location is as follows:

1. Record the font with a good set of photographs and notes prior to undertaking any work.
2. Set up site. Provide hardboard floor protection taped together, and erect an A frame gantry with chain block for lifting purposes.
3. With soft foam padding between the straps and the stone, provide temporary stability using ratchet straps around the sides. Ensure straps are sufficiently but not over tightened.
4. Carefully sling the bowl and remove from the stem.

**Skillington Workshop Limited**

Director: Dr. David Carrington BSc(hons) MA DPhil ACR Company Secretary: Wendy Carrington  
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5. Place the bowl onto a trolley and transfer to our van, packing and securing carefully, and transport to our conservation studio in Grantham.
6. Carefully extract the lead liner then, as the temporary strapping is released, deconstruct the stone along the fracture lines allowing for the removal of the iron.
7. Reconstruct the stone bowl using 316 grade stainless steel pins set across break lines and, if necessary, cramps set across the stone to the rear. All steel to be set in Hilti HY epoxy resin.
8. Reinstate the bowl lining.
9. Transport the bowl back to the church.
10. Clean the font stem and bowl following on site trials. Note the presence of small traces of polychromy on the stem, and some graffiti etched into the soft clunch. Whereas these appear quite stable care will need to be taken in cleaning these areas, adapting the methodology accordingly as required.
11. Provide biscuit lime mortar samples to determine suitable mixes and carry out mortar repairs to bowl and stem, filling all cracks/ joints between repaired sections of the bowl.
12. Remove cementitious repairs from plinth with tungsten chisels.
13. Clean the plinth following on site trials.
14. Provide biscuit lime mortar samples to determine suitable mixes and carry out repairs to plinth.
15. Clean the font cover following onsite trials and apply a coat of microcrystalline wax.
16. Reinstate the bowl bedding and repointing in lime mortar.
17. Clear site leaving clean and tidy.
18. Provide a conservation report on the work carried out.

Our estimate for carrying out the above works is **£5,611.00 plus VAT**.

If the font is moved to a new location we would in addition need to dismantle and rebuild the stem and base, bedding and pointing all stone in lime mortar as before, and allowing for ensuring that the drain runs sufficiently into the ground below the font. The extra-over price for doing this work in addition to the above is **£2,084.00 plus VAT**.

Note that I have assumed that another contactor will have dealt with any alterations to floor tiling and the pew platform in the new location, and provided a new foundation to the satisfaction of the architect (consulting with ourselves). We could technically do this work but I have assumed it is more economically done by others.

Finally, in moving the font I have assumed that all existing plinth stones will simply be re-used. However you may wish to allow for a contingency of **£900.00 plus VAT** which would cover unforeseen items such as any

replacements subsequently deemed necessary. The contingency may not be required at all but is a wise precaution for this type of work.

The prices remain valid for 12 months and are subject to payment within 30 days of completion (or of monthly valuations of completed work if for any reason the works extend beyond a month in duration). I have not allowed for provision of a WC, assuming that there is one available in the church – if not we would have to charge for hire of a portaloos whilst we are on site.

Note that we carry insurance for the font bowl whilst in transit and in our studio, although we would need to agree a value for insurance purposes prior to undertaking any work. The font will be covered by your own insurers whilst it is in the church, even when dismantled, and they will need to be notified by yourselves prior to the works being undertaken.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'C'.

Dr David Carrington ACR  
for Skillington Workshop Ltd