

PROJECT  
BLACKJACK  
*OR THE TOWER STATUES*

Restoring part of Cirencester's  
Heritage

# The empty niche



# PROJECT BLACKJACK

FROM  
VISION  
TO  
REALITY



1 The outline frame



2 Creating the clay model



3 Preparing the silicone mould



7 Pouring the bronze



6 Preparing for the ceramic cast



5 The Cotswold lamb



4 Admiring the Virgin and Child

THE STATUES WILL BE FINISHED AND READY TO INSTALL IN AUGUST 2021

# Process

- Design Brief
- National competition
- 10 responses
- Shortlist to five candidates
- Payment for design stage
- Sift panel of independent experts
- Recommendation to PCC
- Application to DAC for faculty

# Objectives

- The two pieces should represent St John (on left; north-west niche) and the Virgin and Child (on right; south-west niche)
- The two figures should carry a message that is relevant to today's society
- The statue faces and detail must be clearly legible to convey an unambiguous message to the viewer
- The two figures must be of an appropriate size to fit in the niches (approx. 2,230mm)
- Clean, convincing, dynamic, expressive forms, lines and silhouettes. Design lines will be made rigorous so that the new figures are as expressive as possible, whilst their profiles and corresponding silhouettes will relate to the existing confines of the medieval niches
- The two pieces must work together, opposing yet in harmony, contrasting yet complementary.

# Design brief

- To encourage the widest understanding that the Parish Church *stands at the spiritual heart* of the community
- To enhance the appearance of the church now, and for future generations
- To demonstrate a progressive and active approach to engaging with surroundings and people to inform the design proposals
- A considered approach to material selection will be essential.

- Be visually engaging, exciting and of high quality in terms of both creative design and proposed material output
- Be original, innovative and visually interesting whilst also being sympathetic to the surrounding environs and integrated into the rationale of the overall context
- Be deliverable within the evolving defined budget and programme
- Include a design rationale, outline costings, an outline programme and some details of possible fabricators.

# What did the DAC Say?

- The statues are striking and convey a clear, universal Christian message. They break from and do not conform to the artistic convention of still and motionless figures of the Middle Ages. Instead, thanks to the selected medium, they would be capable of expressing motion and dynamics; something difficult to replicate in stone, and perhaps announcing a departure from the traditional way of communicating the Christian message in a contemporary manner.



# What did we learn?

- Involve the DAC at an early stage
- O level maths – “show your working” -make sure the DAC has the right level of information.
- Ensure you help them to see what you are aspiring to.

# Virgin and Child



# St John the Baptist



