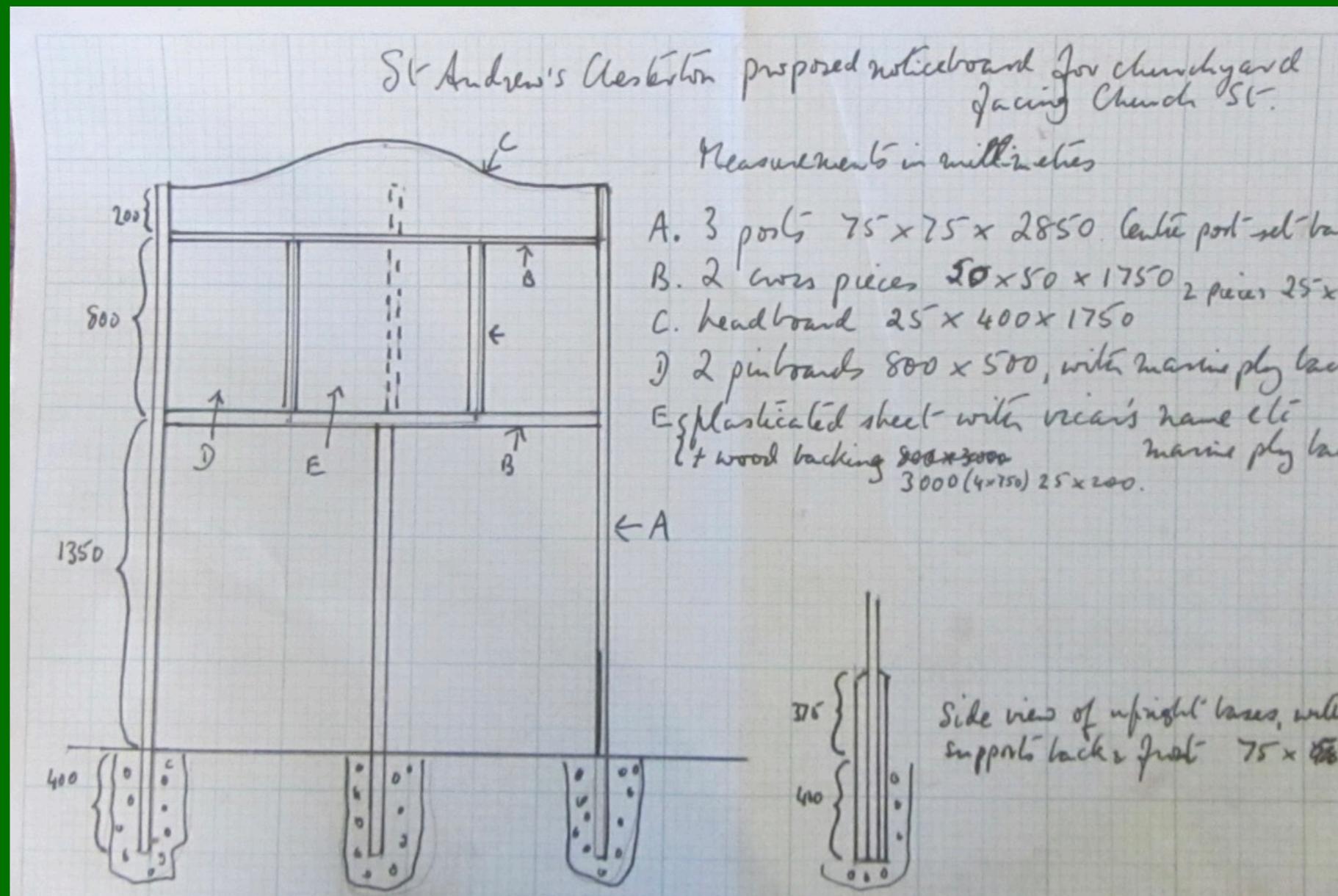


# New noticeboards for St Andrew's Church, Chesterton

The two St Andrew's church noticeboards facing Chesterton Church Street for some time needed replacing, and the one that used to stand at the other end of the churchyard fell down several years ago. The Vicar, Nick Moir, and PCC accepted an offer from Peter Hilken to make new boards.





Nick wanted the new main noticeboard to combine the functions of posting ephemeral notes, and giving more lasting information on staff and service times. The centre panel would have the more durable names and times, and the panels either side would take the posters. The outside boards would consist of weatherproof rubber material. It is called 'self healing' - when pins are removed they leave no trace - the rubber closes the holes.

The plans for the two boards had to be approved by the Diocesan Advisory Board, and the Cambridge City Council.



Peter built a model of the noticeboard, to give a better idea of what it would look like. We decided to give it three legs, for extra strength to resist wind force. The estimated cost was £1,200, perhaps a third of what it would have cost to have the noticeboards professionally made.



Construction under way in the workshop. The timber, supplied by Ridgeons, is Red Grandis, a variety of eucalyptus. It is grown on plantation in Uruguay, and so is renewable. It happens that Peter lived and worked in Uruguay for four years from 1967. Fifty years ago the economy there was in a parlous state. There was masses of unused land, and a great need for exports. The panel is marine ply.



The structure was too large to be laid out in the workshop. Fortunately the weather was fine and the grass was dry.

The crosspieces are morticed into the uprights, and secured with dowels, so no screws were needed in the frame.

Small screws are holding the panels in place so that they can be removed and renewed if need be. Let's hope they do not have to be replaced for many years to come.

The noticeboard was too large and cumbersome to transport in one piece. Helen and Seb Barker kindly agreed to carry the bits in their van to the church. Peter then glued and assembled the structure. It waited there while holes in the ground were being dug to receive the legs. We found there had been generations of previous noticeboards in that location, and each had left behind large chunks of buried concrete. It was no light task breaking these up, in the spots where we needed to put our own concrete to support and protect the noticeboard's legs.





Note that the third, central leg has not yet been attached. From time to time Peter was happy to put down his tools and talk to visitors about Olaudah Equiano, or the Doom painting in St Andrew's.

The lettering and crests for the central panel and the headboard were professionally - and beautifully - executed by Alan Palmer of City Signs.

As the picture shows we needed four strong men and two strong women to carry the board from the church to its designated position. The Hastings family formed half the team.

Happily - well, as the result of careful and repeated measurement - the holes were accurately placed, and the operation went smoothly.





It was a huge relief and gave the team great satisfaction when we had the board in place, vertical, and with the crosspieces horizontal.

The second board was small enough to be assembled on the workshop floor, which made the finishing and varnishing easier. Once again Maggie and Ollie Hastings, together with their neighbour Andrew, provided the muscle power. We could have carried it from Hamilton Road to the churchyard, but Peter made a skateboard, with four casters, which took the weight. The pavements hereabouts are very uneven, so we travelled down the middle of Hamilton and Montague Roads. Luckily we didn't meet any cars going in either direction.





No explanation needed at this point.

The smaller board stands at the western, recreation ground end of the churchyard. It is passed by hundreds of walkers and cyclists every day, so gives the church the opportunity to communicate with non-church-going members of the public.

This picture shows the transport vehicle which had done such good service.

The churchyard is a designated wild-life site, home to a great variety of plants, insects, birds and animals. (The PCC has recently been invited to apply for a grant to make the area more hedgehog friendly.)





THE PARISH CHURCH OF  
ST ANDREW CHESTERTON





Several months' work successfully concluded!