



Design and Access Statement

Blue Plaque Installation – Vestry Wall

St Margaret's Church, Angmering, West Sussex (Grade II* Listed)

1. Introduction

This Design and Access Statement accompanies an application for Listed Building Consent for the installation of a commemorative blue plaque on the exterior wall of the Vestry at St Margaret's Church, Angmering. The church is a Grade II* listed building recorded on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE Entry 1027708).

The plaque commemorates Sir Aubrey Fletcher (Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, 4th Baronet), a significant figure in both the church's and Angmering's history.

2. Site Context and Heritage Significance

St Margaret's Church is a 13th-century Grade II* listed parish church with later extensions including the 1507 tower and 19th-century reordering.

The Vestry wall proposed for the plaque is a visually understated elevation, suitable for adding a discreet commemorative feature without harming historic fabric.

3. Description of the Proposed Works

3.1 Plaque Design

- Size: 14" diameter × 11 mm depth
- Material: Cast aluminium
- Fixings: Two hidden rear resin anchors
- Font: Times New Roman
- Background colour: Blue (BS 20 D 45)
- Text & border: White lettering, white outer ring

3.2 Text on Plaque

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher,

4th Baronet

1835–1910

Squire of Ham Manor, MP for Sussex, Privy Councillor and Grenadier Guards officer. Churchwarden at St Margaret's for 40 years, remembered as a great benefactor of Angmering.

3.3 Installation Method

Fixings will be made into existing mortar joints using the hidden anchor system. No historic stone will be drilled unless unavoidable.

4. Historical Significance of Sir Aubrey Fletcher

Sir Aubrey Fletcher served as rector's churchwarden at St Margaret's for over 40 years. A memorial clock was installed in the church tower in 1911 following his death.

He also served as Member of Parliament for Sussex constituencies, was Squire of Ham Manor, and held numerous civic roles.

5. Justification for the Proposed Works

The plaque enhances understanding of a major historical figure, aligns with heritage aims, and has negligible impact due to reversible fixings.

6. Access Considerations

The plaque will be visible from ground level. No changes to pathways, entrances, or circulation routes.

7. Materials and Appearance

The design is sympathetic to heritage settings, with cast aluminium construction and traditional blue-and-white appearance.

8. Policy Compliance

The proposal complies with the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, NPPF, Arun District Council policies, and Historic England guidance.

9. Conclusion

The proposed blue plaque commemorating Sir Aubrey Fletcher is a sensitive, justified addition to St Margaret's Church and suitable for Listed Building Consent.