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**Re Bampton Fair Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

Dear Friends,

A quick introduction to Bampton Fair for stall holders in the Craft Fair held within St Michael and All Angels church Bampton. As many of you know the stands consist of boards laid on top of the pews in the central area and the right hand side pews, these tops are about 3050mm x 1220mm (10ft by 4ft).

The left hand isle has no pews and tables about 2438mm x 762mm (8ft by 2ft-6") are provided, some stall holders like to also display their wares using rails, but there are only three positions where this can be done.

Electricity is available to both side isles but not to the central area, though these days many use battery powered LED lights.

The church is Grade 1 listed so there can be nothing fixed to the walls or furniture.

For those who have not exhibited before the church is centrally placed within the town, there are some restrictions of access on fair day. The road from Tiverton is closed from Midnight on the Wednesday and the road between Taunton and South Molton is also closed where it passes through Bampton, there are diversions in place, but ideally you want to come in from the South Molton Road which gets you to the right end of town.

The church is open for setting up from 6.00pm to 8.00pm on Wednesday evening the 26<sup>th</sup> October and from 6.00am on fair day, stall holders in the church usually start packing up from about 5.00pm.

Access to the church is from Station Road and cars can be driven in for unloading, the night before and on fair day, however if stalls are erected in Station Road on fair day then access becomes a problem after about 7.00am.

Breakdown down is different; cars can be brought into the surgery car park, behind the Vicarage and you can go through the Vicarage garden to load your cars.

A car pass is provided to get you into town and is also used for car parking which is in the nearby school, a five minute walk away. A map is also provided.

In addition, there are two other areas used for crafts, one is the Riverside Hall which also sells refreshments and has live music on fair day and the car park opposite the hall where there are marquees for "local producers" this is more food and recreational activities orientated.

The location of these areas is about halfway down the main street between Britain and Brook Streets so visitors from the car parks either end of town have to pass through this area.

Similar problems with access as for the church occur but there is no setting up on the evening before. As for the church, car pass and parking arrangements are sent out shortly before the fair.

In 2016 the finishing time was 7.00pm instead of 5.00pm at the Riverside Hall and Marquees.

The Fair has been running for over 750 years and gets many visitors but of course with many of the activities being outside and at this time of year much is dependent on the weather, rain in the morning can keep visitors away if they are travelling any distance.

Kind regards

Anthony Mount (For Bampton Charter Fair)