



HELEN WHITTAKER

COMMISSION DETAILS

Helen is a versatile and experienced artist with many successful projects to her credit. She is comfortable working in any ecclesiastical or secular context, and is happy to discuss her work with new or potential clients without the need for any immediate commitment.

How does the commissioning process work?

A good commission grows from a respectful understanding between client and artist. The process usually begins with a conversation about reasons for the commission, the proposed site, the likely cost and any first thoughts about themes or content. These ideas are gradually refined into a brief for the new work. The location of the window will be of prime importance, because the intensity of light or shifting patterns of light and shade during the day will have a profound influence on the final design.

Once these basic ideas have been agreed, Helen will make a site visit to look at the location in detail and begin examining how the client's wishes can best be accommodated. She will then produce a series of preliminary sketches, and when the client is content with the basic concept, she will work these into a scale design drawing in colour.

Getting permission

If the commission is for a window in a church, permission of some kind will be necessary from the ecclesiastical authorities. For example, in an Anglican church it would be sensible to submit the design for the advice of the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches), and the Committee may be able to make helpful or constructive suggestions. Once the final scheme has been settled, a faculty (effectively, ecclesiastical planning permission) will be essential before the window can be made and fitted. This will require the support of the PCC who are legally responsible for the church and its care.

In some secular situations (in Listed Buildings, for example) other permissions may occasionally be required.

Payment

An approximate budget cost can be given at the outset, but the final overall cost will only be agreed once the preliminary sketches are underway.

Payment is usually divided into four instalments. The first instalment of 25% is payable on presentation of the colour design. This includes a non-returnable design fee (variable according to the scale of the project, and agreed at the outset) should the client decide not to proceed with the whole project. The remaining payments will be payable at intervals set out in the contract.

Potential clients are welcome to come and visit Barley Studios by appointment to view Helen's portfolio and examine examples of work in progress.

Helen Whittaker
STAINED GLASS
& SCULPTURE