

St.Lawrence Building Projects Group

Progress Report 9th March 2017

Our Vision

A church for the 21st century

Mission Action Plan (MAP)

- **Our Values: what is most important to us**
 - Striving to be a prayerful, Christ-centred Church
 - Being open, welcoming and caring for all
 - Nurturing our faith and our fellowship
 - Loving and serving our community

Changes since Victorian times - School



Changes since Victorian times - Office



Changes since Victorian times - Theatre



Changes since Victorian times

- Victorian Home



Meeting the Need (Statement of Need)

- Modern domestic facilities (proper toilets, disabled access, kitchen, office and storage space)
- Space for children's groups (including Sunday School) - Small rooms for use during and outside service times
- A flexible and comfortable worship space of adequate size to allow for inclusive and participatory worship
- An adequate vestry
- A communal congregating area
- Improved access to and movement within the church building
- A performance/presentation space
- Modernised heating system

Project Aim

- To develop our church building to be
 - one that is suited to diverse and flexible forms of worship and teaching
 - one of broad suitability to be used throughout the week by both the church and the community

while

- preserving its heritage and beauty.

Survey Dec 2016 – rank of importance

Overall	Bovingdon Residents	Attend at least once a month
Disabled access	Disabled access	Disabled access
Better toilets	Better toilets	Better toilets
Improved heating	Flexible space	Improved heating
Flexible space	Modern facilities	Flexible space
Modern facilities	Improved heating	Modern facilities
Comfortable seating	Comfortable seating	Comfortable seating
Improved lighting	Kitchen / rooms for hire	Refreshments
Kitchen / rooms for hire	Improved lighting	Improved lighting
Refreshments	Refreshments	Kitchen / rooms for hire
Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi	Wi-Fi

Statement of Significance – Significant Assets

- Heritage (a church on this site since Anglo-Saxon times)
- Environment (large open churchyard with views of the building from all sides)
- Exterior (beautiful and appreciated mid 19th century Gothic revival Victorian building)
- Interior (pews, 14th Century chest tomb, memorials)
- The building has been changed to meet changing patterns of worship over centuries of Christian worship

Cultural Significance

- Patterns of worship have changed and with it, the needs of congregations.
- Without a congregation, worship in the church will not continue.
- Without worship and a congregation, the continuing support for the upkeep of the fabric cannot be sustained.
- 324 Anglican churches closed in the period 2008-2013 (source www.eauk.org – the evangelical alliance)

Changes in the last 38 years

- Outside toilet fitted
- Organ replaced and repositioned
- Vestry repositioned
- Sunday entrance moved from South Door to West Door
- North Aisle Pews removed
- Font repositioned
- Rearmost Nave Pews removed
- Pews in front of organ removed
- Banners added – nave walls, above lectern, behind holy table
- Sound System installed
- Children's Corner created

Presentation to Church Congregation

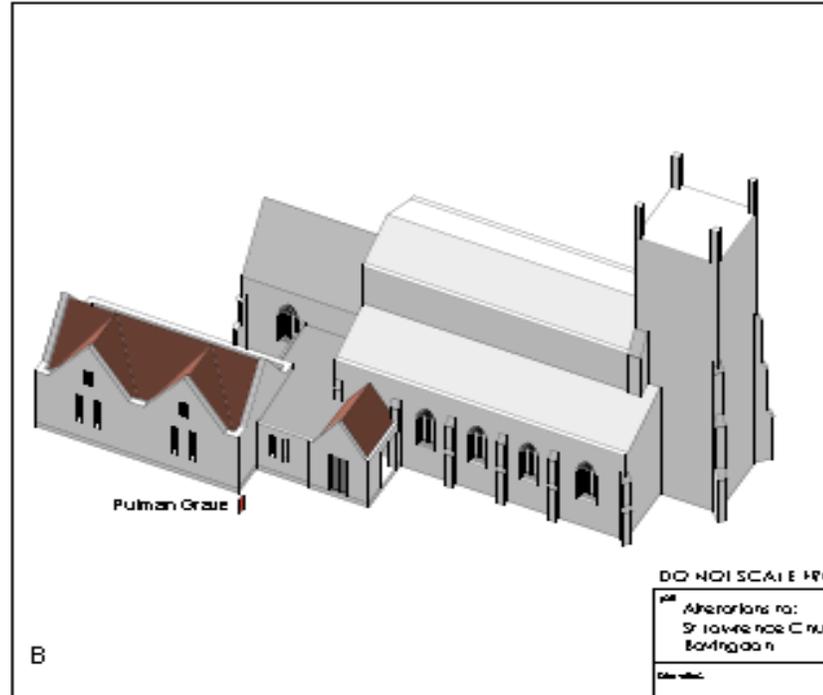
7th February 2016

- To learn from previous experience where the options considered were:
 - Separate Building to the South of the Church
 - 2007 Internal Alterations (with no external building)
 - 2010 Hall to North Side of Church with connection to it
- Three options under consideration in February 2016
 - Option 1 : North Aisle Extension
 - Option 2 : North East Extension – angled to create maximum space within sensitive graves
 - Option 3 : North East Extension parallel to the lines of the church.

What has happened in the last 12 months

- Dialogue with the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) and the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
 - The DAC is a statutory body which provides advice at diocesan level in relation to church buildings and other places of worship.
 - The DAC includes clergy and specialists and meets six times a year.
 - The DAC's role is to enable parishes to care for and develop their church buildings, their contents and churchyards.
- The process has involved refinement of the options to achieve a proposal which meets the needs identified by the PCC and is viewed favourably by the DAC.

Option 4 – revised North East Extension



DO NOT SCALE FROM THE DRAWING

JOB			
Alterations to: St Lawrence Church Barnham			
DRAWING			
Single Storey Option 4			
DRAWING NUMBER		DATE	
1248 3D SK D			
SCALE	DATE	BY	CHECKED
1:1 A3	08/16		CH
WEAL Architects			
We are part of the WEAL Group www.wealgroup.co.uk			
REGISTERED ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS SURVEYORS			

Option 4 (I)

- Position of extension
 - preserves southern aspect of the church.
 - minimises impact on east, west and north aspects of the church.
 - does not impact sensitive graves
 - has main axis parallel to that of the church.
- Appropriate materials will need to be selected and agreed and further development of the design is in progress.

Option 4 (II)

- Extension to the North East Corner of the church (provides wheelchair access, three rooms with active walls, kitchen, two toilets one designed for use by disabled)
- External entrances at the north and east side of the church.
- Internal entrance beneath the “Suffer the little children” window.
- Existing kitchen reworked as an office
- Storage along north and south aisles
- Creation of sitting out area

Option 4 (III)

- Expanded area for the music group / choir
- Raised platform area in front of the Chancel Arch to be used for presentation of the gospel (bible reading, preaching, presentations, nativity plays, festival services, communion ...)
- Reworked chancel enabling its flexible use as a worship space for smaller numbers, exposing the historical memorials covered by the later pews and bringing back into use the external door.
- Reworked seating in the nave to create flexibility in the only large worship space available in the church building.

DAC Reaction — extract from the minutes of Nov-16 meeting

- *The Committee considered that the position and form of option 4 (b) could be developed with appropriate materials into a fitting solution to meet the parish's long-standing needs.*
- *However, the gables should be replaced by a continuous roofline and amended fenestration, to make the extension timeless in its design, as well as more visually subservient to the main church. An east elevation drawing would be helpful.*
- *It was noted that as the scheme was developed, further work would be needed on the associated internal re-ordering, including commissioning a specialist report on the present seating.*

Scripture – ways and types of worshipping

- Praise and Thanksgiving (2 Chronicles 5:13, Ephesians 5:20)
- Joyful Songs (James 5:13, Colossians 3:16)
- Dancing (2 Samuel 6:12-14, Exodus 15:20-21)
- Observing annual feast days (Matthew 26:17, Acts 2:1)
- Cheerful help to others (2 Corinthians 9:7, Acts 2:44-45)
- Use our spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1, Ephesians 4:7)
- Be a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)

The Issue of the Pews

- The proposal is for a modest extension to the church building
- The nave and aisles of the existing church building will continue to be the large space
- Fixed, gated pews prevent this space being flexible and hinder access and movement around the space.
- The best method of heating the space is underfloor heating.

Removing pews to create space for flexible worship

- The space created by the removal of pews in the North Aisle is or has been used for Family Praise, Come and Praise, Refreshment Serving, Alpha Course, Art work display and the display of the drawings in this presentation
- Chancel pews are more recent additions. They obscure floor memorials and block an entrance to the church.
- Nave Pews are attributed to Thomas Talbot Bury but differ from his concept as recorded in 1846.
 - Accommodating alterations are consistent with the adaptation of standard design.
 - Their quality is not of the designs by other noted church architects
- Victorian design is in line with cultural values now obsolete.

Church Interiors (I)



Church Interiors (II)



Church Interiors (III)



An example of how a large
flexible worship space may be
used

Christchurch, Chorleywood

Christchurch, Chorleywood



Christchurch, Chorleywood



Christchurch, Chorleywood



Examples of other ways of
“doing” church:

Café Church
Messy Church

Café Church (source cafechurch.net)

At **cafechurch** you'll tackle issues such as fair trade, the environment, stress, adoption, parenting, debt and divorce, together with quizzes, interviews, round table discussions, live music with great coffee and great chat!



Messy Church



Messy Church (Source messychurch.org.uk)
is a way of being church for families involving fun
is found across the world
values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages,
based on creativity, hospitality and celebration



What will it cost and who will pay?

- Order of magnitude: £650,000
- Muriel Swan legacy £150,000
- Appeal to the congregation
- Appeals to grant making trusts and major donors
- Fund raising activities in Bovingdon

Church finances

- Over the last 5 years we have lost money or broken even each year
- A specific Stewardship campaign in 2016 has improved the position.
- The Diocese of St Albans provides the Vicarage, we look after the church.
- The Church of England has a lot of assets but its income is committed to paying clergy pensions and supporting cathedrals



IT'S DOWN TO US

Next Steps

- Pre-application to Dacorum Borough Council
- Design adjustments responding to the latest DAC Advice
- Conservation Advice
- Consultation with Historic England, Victorian Society, independent church pew specialist
- Consultation with Parish Council

Charles Tracy B.A. Ph.D FSA

Church Furniture Specialist (www.charlestracy.co.uk)

- I can assist architects and church wardens, by defining the historical and artistic significance of the affected components, such as pews and screens. In potentially sensitive reordering proposals, English Heritage, and other bodies, require a scholarly report to inform any debate arising from a possibly contentious application.
- I am a leading authority in this area of scholarship, having published widely on church furniture in both Britain and the continent of Europe.

End of Presentation