



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH
BOVINGDON

Serving the Community

The St Lawrence **‘Patience’** **Project**



Creating a church at the heart of our community

“ We thank God for those in times past who, through their vision, courage and generosity, have given us a wonderful legacy in our much loved church.

We now have the opportunity to put the church at the heart of the community by making it a warm, welcoming and flexible space, which will benefit everyone in Bovington.

Increasing the use of the church will also help to guarantee a viable future for this precious heritage asset.”

Revd Canon Charles Burch



The church of St Lawrence Bovington serves a parish population of approximately 5,000 in a large village on the edge of the Chilterns, 3 miles from the town of Hemel Hempstead.

A previous stone church dating from the 14th century (possibly earlier) was pulled down and rebuilt in 1846 on the same footprint. While facilities such as electric lighting and an outside toilet have been added, there has been no significant alteration to the structure of the church since then.

The Grade 2* listed church stands in the middle of a 4.5 acre church yard, close to the High Street on one side and Green Belt on the other. The church hall sits 400 yards up a narrow and unlit road and no longer serves the needs of the congregation or the wider community. Both buildings in their current form are poorly suited for modern use because they are inflexible, lack basic facilities and have significant access challenges.

Our Vision

Our Vision is of a building that is in frequent use by both congregation and wider community, not only through Sunday worship, Christenings, weddings and funerals but through events, meetings, concerts and community activities. For all these we need to offer a flexible, warm and welcoming space at the heart of the community with proper toilet, kitchen and baby changing facilities as well as disabled access and good parking.

A flexible, warm and welcoming space at the heart of the community.

As a church

We want to meet together, young and old, with adults, children and young people able to gather in their own groups for worship, study and play and come together as the church family.

We need to be able to arrange the church for different styles of worship and for concerts and fundraising events, and to offer on-site hospitality facilities for baptism, wedding and funeral gatherings.

For our community

Our vision is for the church to take on a bigger role as heart and soul of the village through the provision of a modern, well-equipped meeting and activity space for toddler groups, exercise and art classes, special interest clubs and general village/ social events.

The reordering of the church itself will enable us to offer the largest indoor event space in the village and therefore to host concerts, festivals and fundraising events which can benefit everyone in and around the village.

Our church and our challenges

Our church building requires modernisation in order to fulfil the needs of the congregation and the wider community in the 21st century.

The church is 175 years old, and it shows. While facilities such as electric lighting and an outside toilet have been added, there has been no significant alteration to the structure of the church since early Victorian times.

We need to improve access and facilities for those with disabilities, install modern heating, create a much more open and flexible space for worship, welcome and hospitality, offer space for children's groups to meet and provide modern toilets, a kitchen and office. The location of St Lawrence Hall 400 yards up Vicarage Lane and with limited parking makes it impractical for these purposes.

Our new facility will complement existing spaces such as the Memorial Hall and has the support of our Parish and District Councillors.

Graham Barrett, Chair of Bovingdon Parish Council and former Borough Councillor, says:

“Our Bovingdon Neighbourhood Plan calls for improved social and community facilities and recognises that the existing St Lawrence Hall is old and poorly sited. The proposed new annexe and reordering of St Lawrence Church would improve the quality of our community facilities to the benefit of both church and community and has our enthusiastic support.”

What the proposed annexe will provide

In coming up with the design of our annexe we have consulted Dacorum Borough Council, the Diocese of St Albans, the Church Buildings Council and conservation bodies such as Historic England.

The design blends in with the existing building (while not pretending to be contemporary with it) and minimises disruption to recent graves. It provides step free access to the exterior and to the main church building so that both spaces can be used simultaneously and easily.

- A meeting space for approx. 50 people which can be subdivided into three smaller spaces
- A small kitchen and two toilets, one with full wheelchair access
- An office, welcoming area and storage space

These facilities will be available for both church and community use, either on their own or in conjunction with the main church building.

We will take care to use environmentally friendly and sustainable building methods and materials and to choose green energy solutions in line with our commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.

Previous schemes dating back three decades for a large Hall in the church yard would have significantly obscured views of the church and covered a large number of graves.

The current scheme seeks to minimise both visual and archaeological impacts by combining a relatively modest annexe with a reordered interior which will provide a flexible space for both church and community use.



What Dacorum's Planning Report said:

“ ...there is a demonstrable need for this facility, which would benefit not only the church itself but the wider community and parish. ”

Planning permission was granted in March 2022.



The design blends in with the existing building.



CGI images of the new hall.

What the internal reordering will provide

We intend to reorder the inside of the church to provide a modern and flexible space for worship, performances and community events.

Modern public buildings look very different to how they looked in the Victorian era. Today, we work and learn in environments which are comfortable and bright and encourage movement and participation from users.

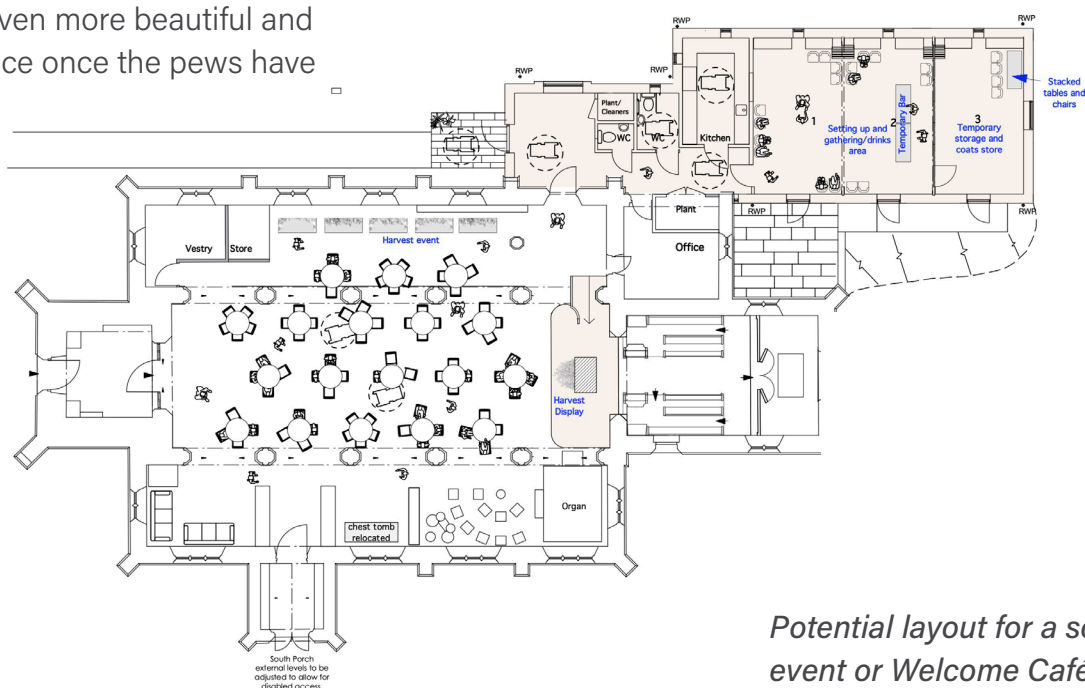
We need to provide a modern church environment in which we can worship, and the whole community can learn and socialise in new, more dynamic ways. Removing the pews and replacing them with modern, elegant and robust chairs will give us flexibility and comfort while retaining the essential beauty of the building with its high vaulted roof, pillars and stained-glass windows.

We understand that for some people the pews hold fond memories and represent an important tradition. Our strong belief is that the current seating stands in the way of our mission to welcome and involve new generations in the life of our church, and that the building will become an even more beautiful and awe-inspiring place once the pews have been removed.

We will also take the opportunity to:

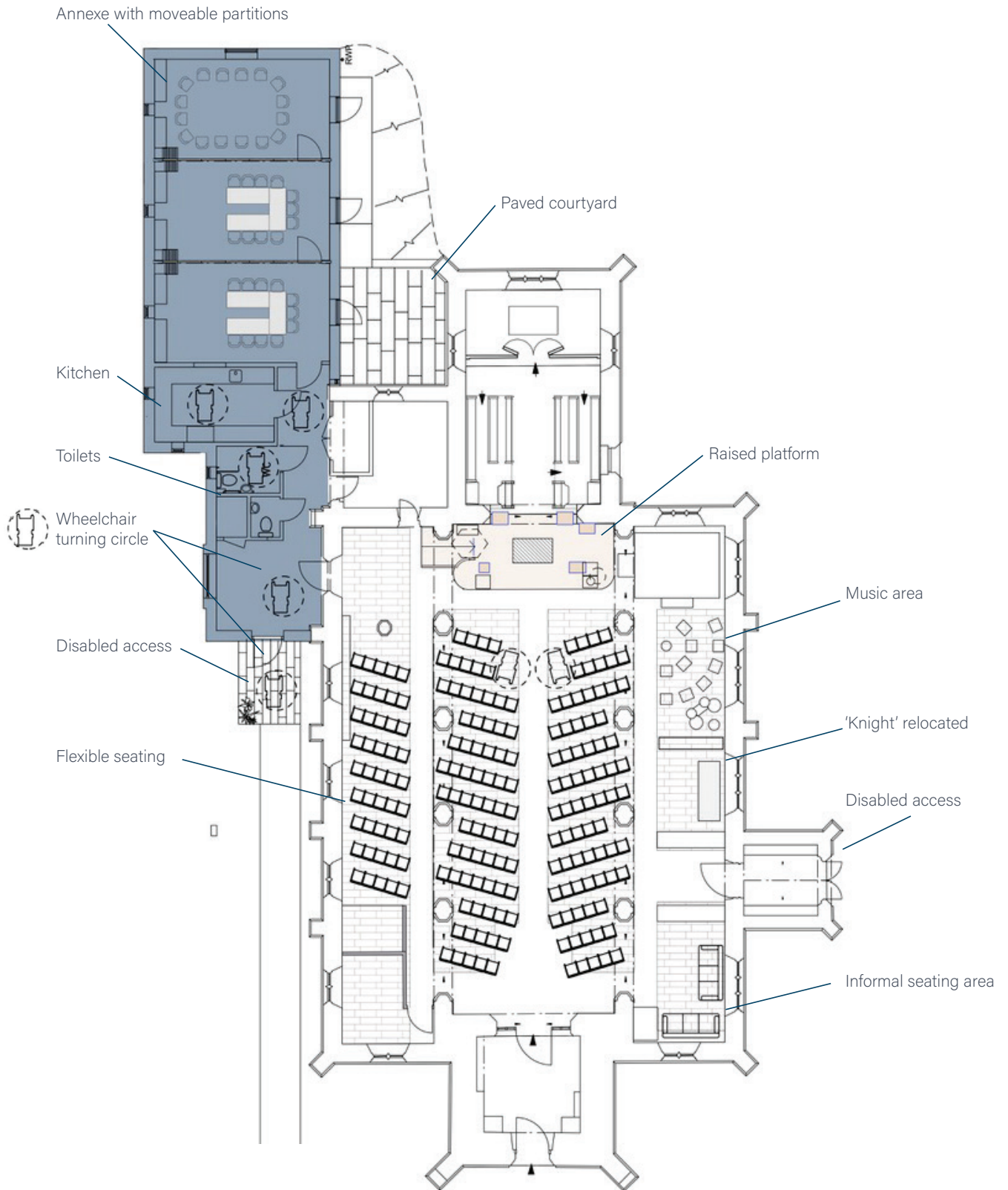
- Install modern and energy efficient heating and lighting
- Provide a raised platform at the front of the church to enhance visibility and access
- Set out an area of informal seating at the back of church for quiet conversation

We will carefully document and record the current interior of the church including the pews as described in Historic England's guidance (Level 2) and retain an example pew end with poppyhead.



Potential layout for a social event or Welcome Café

The Floor Plan



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The Church Buildings Council 'recognises that this proposal offers an excellent opportunity for the parish to expand its worship and mission' ... and that the impact on the significance of the building and its contents has been robustly justified.

The best way to preserve heritage assets for future generations is to have them well used. Increased use of our church and new annexe will benefit the community and enhance our income, enabling us to maintain our beautiful Grade 2 listed building.*

Community support

We have surveyed existing and potential users of our current Hall. They tell us that they would welcome flexible and modern user-friendly facilities with a real community feel.

Among groups that have used the church as a performance space, there is strong support for our scheme.

“The church has a fine acoustic but very limited space. The raised platform, flexible seating and access to warm up and changing facilities would be welcomed by us and other groups.”

Miriam McKay, Chair, Lea Singers.

Bovingdon Primary Academy use the church for whole school assemblies at the end of each term and for their Christmas performances.

“We love bringing the children down to church but the current layout, sight lines and facilities restrict what we can do. This project will give us opportunities to do so much

more whether during our RE visits, whole school assemblies, annual Christmas production or other events.”

Anna Williams, Y6 teacher and choir lead,
Bovingdon Primary Academy.

There is great potential for more community use of the church.

“The church is a great venue for our Welcome Café with so many people visiting or walking through the church yard, but it's too cold in winter. With year round access we could really develop our café and other community activities.”

Dena Tyler MBE, Welcome Café organiser.

“Being welcomed by the Church to use their beautiful new facility in the heart of our community would be a fantastic opportunity for our village yoga group to practise and socialise together locally once again.”

Jo Bain, Yoga instructor

Costs and Progress

We began planning this project ten years ago, following a series of proposals which stretch back a further 30 years. That's why we've called our project 'Patience', which also happens to be the name of the mother of St Lawrence! During this time we have consulted widely, assessed a variety of different options and finally obtained approval from both local authority and church bodies.

Detailed construction plans are now in progress and we are preparing to go out to tender.

The full cost of the project was assessed in 2022 to be £1.4m so we have set our target at £1.6m to allow for inflation and contingencies.

An outline of the latest project status and cost appears as an Appendix to this document.

How you can help

To secure the funds needed is a considerable challenge and, if we are to move forward, we need to explore a range of funding avenues.

Success will depend on gaining early gifts and establishing the willingness of local people and organisations to invest in the project at a level which demonstrates genuine congregational and community support. This will show other potential funders such as trusts and foundations that there is real local need and commitment, encouraging their own support and generosity. In summary, we need your help to achieve our goal.

The good news is that we can launch our individual giving campaign from a position of strength. We have secured a buyer for the existing church hall site and have pledged a significant sum to the project from our own

church reserves. Furthermore, major gifts have been pledged to Project 'Patience' by a local family trust and two national grant-making trusts. Collectively, these various contributions mean that £850,000 has already been raised towards our £1.6m target.

Of the gifts already pledged, two gifts totalling £150,000 are pledged as match funding for our giving campaign.

To unlock the full value of these pledges, we therefore need to raise a minimum of £150,000 from our own local giving campaign.

Tax Efficient Giving

As St Lawrence has charitable status, the Project Patience fundraising campaign will be able to recover income tax that you have paid relative to your gift through the Gift Aid scheme, provided you make your gift out of taxed income. At the basic 20% income tax rate, this will increase the value of your gift by a quarter, at no extra cost to you.

If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can also claim tax relief at the difference between basic rate and higher rate (40%) income tax on the total value of your donation. This applies to both the amount you have donated and the tax that we have reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme. Once you have reclaimed this tax relief your gift will have cost you only 60% of its value to us. The tax efficiency of your gift is even greater if you are a highest rate (45%) taxpayer.

All of this means that with generous giving the taxman will be a major contributor to the campaign.

Ways to Give

Planned Giving

Giving by standing order under the Gift Aid scheme will usually be the most efficient way of contributing to the capital campaign, since it spreads your contribution over several years.

This helps to make a larger gift affordable and enables us to predict future income with a higher degree of certainty. There is no minimum period for a standing order, but we hope you will consider a three-year or longer-term

commitment since it will enable a significant sum to be given by means of quite modest regular payments.

Planned giving can also be used as collateral for bank loans and may help us to release other committed funds earlier than would otherwise be possible.

The table below shows the value to us and the cost to you of a three-year gift by standing order at various levels of monthly commitment.

Monthly investment	Cost over 3 years to a standard rate taxpayer (20%)	Cost over 3 years to a higher rate taxpayer (40%)	Gift Aid	Total value of planned gift to the campaign (if gift aided)
£1,500	£39,000	£29,250	£9,750	£48,750
£1,000	£36,000	£27,000	£9,000	£45,000
£750	£27,000	£20,250	£6,750	£33,750
£500	£18,000	£13,500	£4,500	£22,500
£250	£9,000	£5,400	£2,250	£11,250
£100	£3,600	£2,700	£900	£4,500
£75	£2,700	£2,025	£675	£3,375
£50	£1,800	£1,350	£450	£2,250
£25	£900	£675	£225	£1,125
£10	£360	£270	£90	£450

“My distant relative Granville Dudley Ryder, second son of the 1st Earl of Harrowby (my six times great grandfather) was Church Warden of St Lawrence and a major contributor to its rebuilding in 1846. He was also a great local benefactor and helped to fund the first Bovingdon School.

I am delighted to be President of this Appeal which seeks to continue his vision of a modern place of worship for the whole community of Bovingdon. I wish the church every success in its campaign to raise the funds for this exciting project.”

Our Appeal President, Conroy Ryder, 8th Earl of Harrowby

Donor Recognition

**Become
a Major
Benefactor
(£100,000)**

All gifts made via the campaign office will be personally acknowledged.

**Become a
member of our
Ryder Circle
(£25,000)**

**or Join our
Gold Circle
(£5,000)**

**or our
Silver Circle
(£1,000)**

All gifts over £1,000 will be permanently commemorated in the new building and donors will be invited to special events.

In assessing the value of gifts, we will include the additional value of any contribution by Gift Aid, but not the value of any match funding which the gift may help unlock.

While all are asked to give generously; no-one is asked to give more than they can afford and every gift is valued equally.

One-off Gifts

Planned giving may not suit all donors and it is important to say that single gift payments are both possible and most welcome. If accompanied by a Gift Aid declaration these can be worth considerably more to the campaign than their actual cost to you as the donor.

Donations by Companies

Although we cannot reclaim tax on company donations, a company can set the value of its donation, whether by standing order pledge or lump sum, against its corporation tax liability. For further details please contact the campaign office.

Donations of Shares, Land and Buildings

Donations of shares, land and buildings, whether by an individual or a company, are very tax efficient for the donor. We would be happy to speak to anybody thinking of giving through these means.

For Further Information

We would be happy to discuss any aspect of this Appeal and Project with you.
Please contact Anna Murkowski, Campaign Co-Ordinator
by email at anna.murkowski@stlawrencebovingdon.com

OR you can contact the vicar, Revd Charles Burch, on 01442 833298,
or email him at vicar@stlawrencebovingdon.com

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