



Caring for our church building

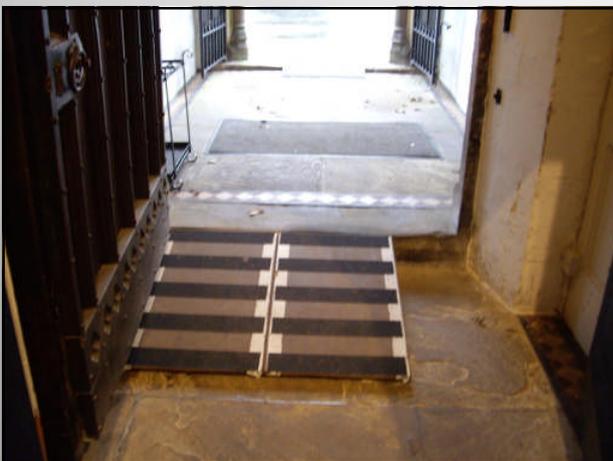
In recent years we have spent a good deal of money and effort on ensuring that it is in good condition:

- Over £100,000 was spent on the exterior of the building, especially its stonework (including the spire and tower)
- We are currently repairing all the windows to ensure that they are handed on to the next generation in good condition (£20,000+)
- The roofs are in good order and will last at least another 30-40 years



Extending our welcome to all

- We have also installed security cameras for the roof and in the church to help protect against damage and theft – and to allow the church to be kept open during the day
- We would like more people to discover St Andrew's as a place of sanctuary: to drop in, connect with their local history, offer prayer and enjoy our strong musical tradition
- But there are some challenges to be faced....



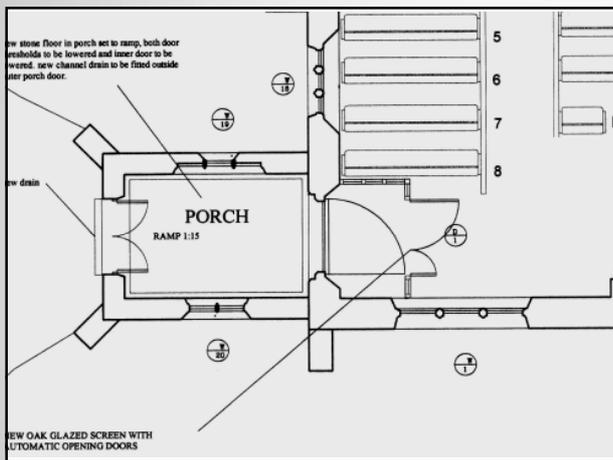
Challenge 1 – hazardous steps

- The wooden ramps leading into church are better than nothing – and have recently been improved by adding a non-slip surface – but they are still far from adequate: they are too steep for wheelchairs and also for those unsteady on their feet



Challenge 2 – obstructive doors

- Our entrance doors (in the inner porch) are difficult to negotiate for many disabled people, and impossible for those in wheelchairs (without considerable help)
- We also believe they are forbidding visually and that more people would be encouraged to come through the doors if they could see what is behind them



Improvement 1 – re-lay the porch floor with a gentle slope

- Relaying the floor in the porch to give a proper ramped access down a gentle slope, removing the steps at both thresholds



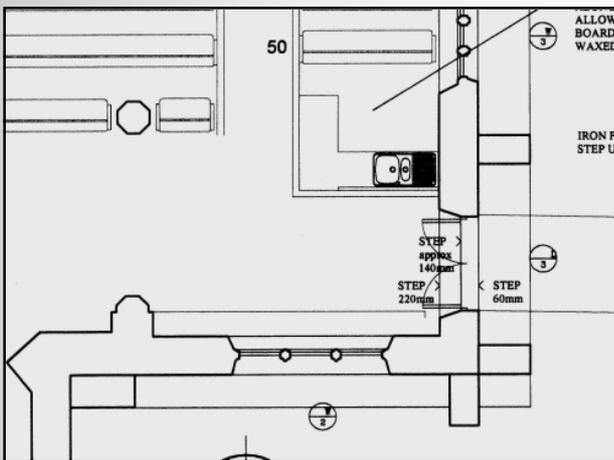
Improvement 2 – provide a new inner porch that gives physical and visual access

- Not as big as this or necessarily precisely of this design, but with plenty of glass to ensure visibility into church and with doors that can be opened by disabled visitors



Challenge 3 – hospitality space

- The church historically has had plenty of seats but not much room for standing – a problem, as hospitality and refreshments are important both on Sundays and for concerts and other events (we would like to see greater use of our building for community events)
- We have now created space at the back end of the south aisle for serving refreshments, but this involves much lugging of equipment in and out of the clergy vestry



Improvement 3 – install a permanent refreshments area

- ‘Bar’-style at back of south aisle, fitted around the corner of pew flooring
- This would include storage space and a sink – designed to be hidden when not in use



Improvement 4 – create more space for hospitality at the back of church

- Moving the back pew (to be re-located)
(This would both create more space at the back and also give greater harmony to the pew layout)



Challenge 4 – hazardous flooring

- The current divide between wooden pew platforms and stone flooring does not correspond to where the pews now actually are – which is both visually unattractive and also, in places, a trip hazard



Improvement 5 – harmonise the flooring

- Replacing the areas of wooden platform that no longer have pews on them with stone flooring that matches its surroundings
- Replacing heating grills that are in well-trodden areas with solid flooring



Improvement 6 – make permanent the move of the children's area

- This was experimentally moved to its present location 18 months ago
- The PCC believes this is the right place for it: not too intrusive but ensuring that young children and their parents are not just relegated to the back
- It will need a minimal upgrading (e.g. new carpet)



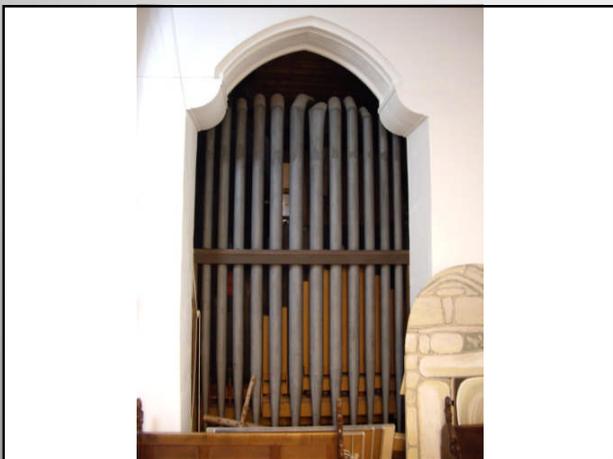
Improvement 7 – make permanent the current position of the choir stalls & north aisle pews

- These have been in their current position experimentally for over two years
- The PCC and our musicians would like this layout to be made permanent
- To make room for the organ (see below) the congregational pews currently facing south would be replaced by three shorter (and older) ones



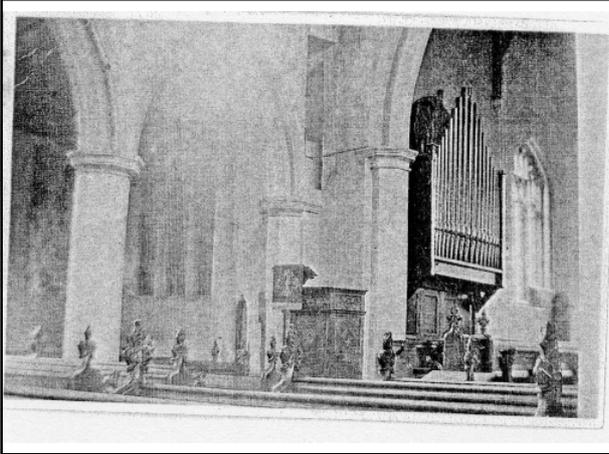
Challenge 5 – liturgical reordering

- Legally the current position of the altar is experimental and needs a proper, approved scheme
- The PCC has decided in principle both that the main altar should be at the east end of the nave and also that it needs some sort of dais to make it properly visible and prominent
- At the same time the flooring around the altar is uneven in appearance



Challenge 6 – an ageing organ

- Parts of our organ date from the first instrument (made by Bryceson) installed in 1859 at the west end
- The organ was moved to the east end of the north aisle in 1880 (when the choir was seated at east end of the nave, in front of the chancel arch)

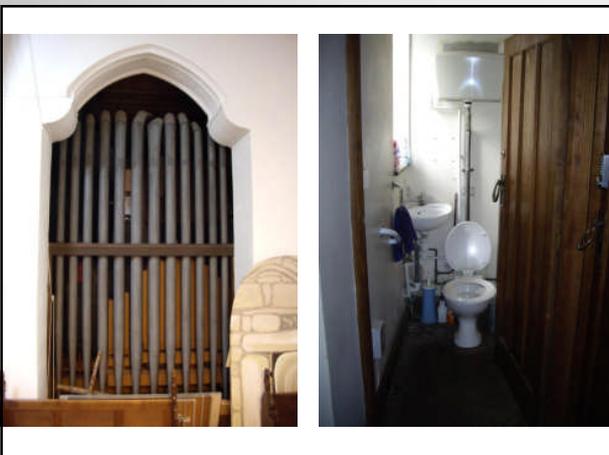


- The instrument was moved into a newly-built organ chamber in 1896 (when the choir was moved into the chancel)
- The organ was rebuilt in 1939 and the console (now electrical) detached and moved back into the north aisle (the choir moving back into the nave)
- After 72 years, organs begin to show their age, their leather and felt parts are worn out, they wheeze, gasp and emit strange noises...



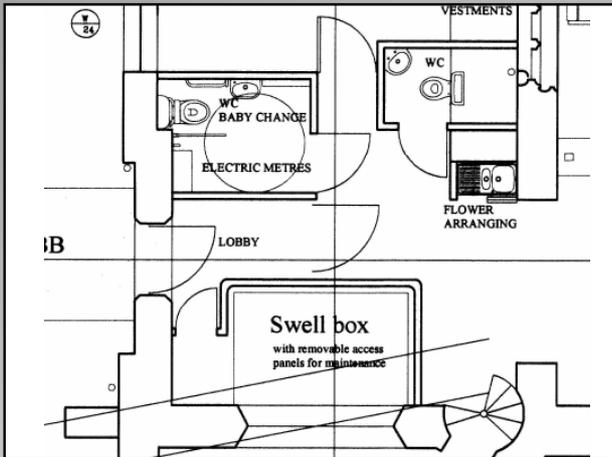
Challenge 7 - inaccessible facilities

- Our one toilet not only doesn't look very nice, it's also very difficult to get to – and impossible for anyone in a wheelchair
- With the use of the Hall we may be able to live with this on Sunday mornings, but on other occasions (such as weddings, funerals and concerts) this is a real problem



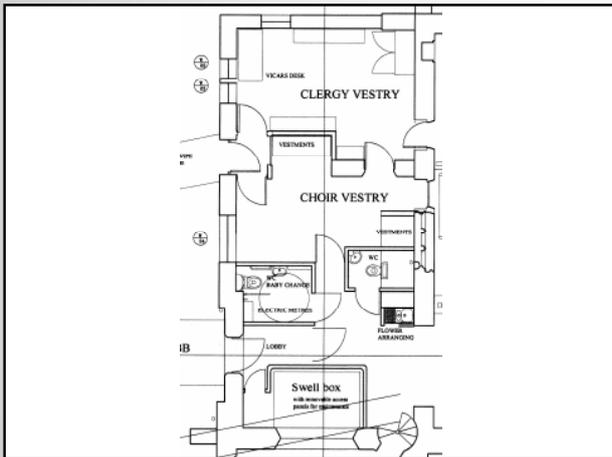
Two birds with one stone?

- The organ needs rebuilding
- It doesn't need to be in the organ chamber (and would probably sound better in the north aisle)
- There is no feasible space for a disabled toilet at the west end of the church (we have tried...)
- How about putting our new facilities in the organ chamber?



Improvement 8 – renovate the organ
 Improvement 9 – move the organ,
 reorder the organ chamber, vestries &
 chancel

- Move all or part of the organ into the north aisle (east end)
- Install toilets and sink in the organ chamber
- Create a new outside door through what is now the organ chamber window

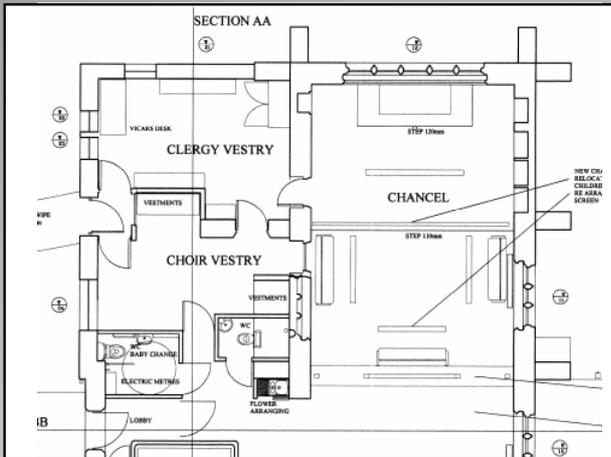


- The current toilet would be removed, giving office space in the clergy vestry
- A corner of the clergy vestry would be taken into the choir vestry (for storage of choir robes)
- There would be access to a first floor of the organ chamber for storage, especially choir music



Challenge 8 – the vestries & chancel
 are an over-used corridor

- Access to the church requires too many people to have keys to the vestry door. Over the past three years we have had at least four thefts or break-ins
- The sacred space or chapel area at the east end – currently used for daily prayer and for prayer ministry on Sunday services – is compromised by being also a corridor



Improvement 10 – make chapel area at east end of chancel permanent and restrict access through the vestries

- The new outside door would mean that the number of vestry keyholders could be significantly reduced
- The new route from the vestries to the nave would mean less traffic through the space reserved for prayer at the east end
- Moving the pews up a few feet will block off access from the choir vestry



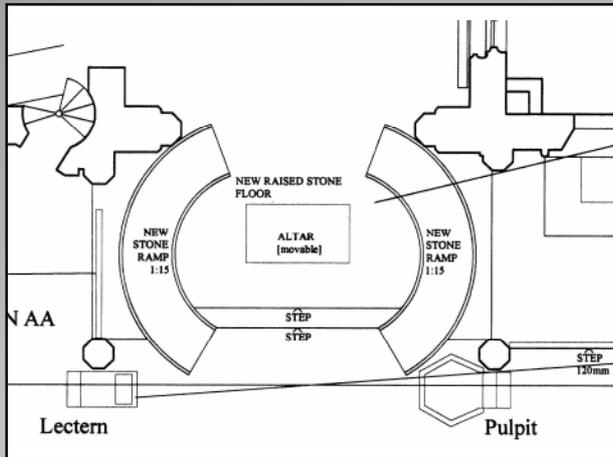
Historical note

- This picture uses a surviving fragment to give an impression of what the old rood screen would have looked like. For centuries this stood between the nave and chancel separating the space. It was removed (supposedly for restoration) in 1880, was never replaced and was subsequently lost...



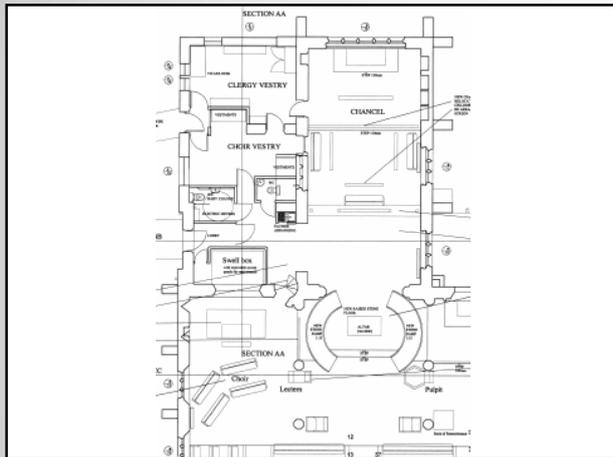
Improvement 11 – (re-)introduce a sanctuary screen to demarcate the chapel/sacred space

- We have toyed with the idea of re-introducing a rood screen but positioned half way up the chancel, in order to give the sense of a different space to the newly formed east chapel, separating it from the western space that will be part corridor, part ante-chapel
- The design would be rather different from this picture (of another church) but this does give an impression of the effect



Improvement 11 – provide a raised platform for the altar and disabled access to the east end

- This is our first draft plan for producing a new raised area for the altar that would also incorporate ramps, enabling disabled access to the chancel and the new facilities at the east end



The east end

- All the elements of the improvements for the east of the church fit together in one scheme: the toilets require floor space that requires moving the organ and providing disabled access into the chancel. (The screen, though, is optional and could be added at a later stage.)

Cost?

These estimates exclude professional fees, preliminaries & contingencies

Organ	£100,000
Organ case	£20,000
Organ console	£30,000
Toilets plus works to organ chamber, vestries	£65,000
Dais	£14,000
Porch – ramp	£6,000
New inner porch	£20,000
Coffee area (with plumbing)	£8,000
Sorting out uneven flooring	£23,000
Chancel screen	£27,000
Total	£333,000

What do you think?

- These ideas have been drawn up by the PCC and its development committee over quite a period of time, but nothing is fixed yet, we want to know what you think and have entered into a period of consultation.
- The works would need to be phased (otherwise we'd have to shut the church for a year) so we won't be doing everything at once and some decisions don't need to be made yet
- We hope to be in a position to place firm proposals before the annual church meeting on Thursday 28 April