

**St Andrew's Church, Church Lane, Aldringham IP164QT**  
**Rebuilding of existing single storey Victorian link between the nave of the church and the attached modern vestry to improve the Parish Room, and related works.**  
**Design & Access Statement V3 dated 5 Mar 2024**

## **1.0 Scope**

1.1 This statement is to support a Full Planning application to take down and rebuild the single storey Victorian extension of approx 10sqm floor area that provides a corridor link between the older church building and its modern vestry extension. The proposed rebuild will be to a larger footprint, but still single storey with no change to the existing ridge height, and located between the diagonal buttresses of the modern extension. The dismantled walls will provide salvaged material suitable for incorporation into the new external walls. In addition, modest changes are proposed within the nave of the church, overlaying the existing parquet floor with a suspended floor also finished as parquet, to reduce the current changes of level for the benefit of those with restricted mobility. And removing the two westernmost pews (reconstructing as bookshelves) to provide space for wheelchairs and children's play.

1.2 This Planning application is being submitted in tandem with a Faculty application.

1.3 St Andrews is a parish church, C13 core, with later work especially C15. Ruinous by early C19 and extensively restored 1843 when remains of the west tower were cleared away and the west end rebuilt with the present belfry. C19 south porch and north vestry. Flint walls, cement rendered in part. Nave and chancel under one slate roof. C14 priest's doorway (blocked) and lancet window to south wall of chancel; other windows of C15, restored. Fine C15 font; remains of C13 piscina on south side of sanctuary. Victorian furnishings. Listed Grade 2. A new vestry and parish room were added in 2003.

1.4 Today, the church provides seating for a congregation of around 110 people but access for the disabled is compromised by steps down into the church and up to the pew platforms, and facilities are restricted for wheelchairs, children, functions, display and storage. The proposals are designed to address these shortcomings and have been discussed informally with the DAC who visited the church in April 2020 and gave their informal approval.

1.5 St Andrews Church is a small rural church located at the end of Church Lane in Aldringham, close to The Ogilvie Almshouses but otherwise remote. It is some 500m off the B1353 road linking Aldringham to Thorpeness. The church stands within a large churchyard.

## **2.0 Use**

2.1 The site will remain in church use and the modest additional area proposed will significantly improve the existing facilities, for display, refreshment, for pastoral needs, for meetings and for access and storage.

## **3.0 Amount**

3.1 The additional floor area proposed is in the region of 10sqm.

## **4.0 Layout**

4.1 The north side of the nave of the old church includes a Victorian extension associated with a former boilerhouse, which became a corridor when a vestry extension was added in 2003. The proposal is to rebuild the corridor as useful accommodation to a larger footprint, still concealed from the churchyard to the south and north by existing elements. On the west the existing corridor wall would be rebuilt in brick and salvaged materials to an eaves height similar to existing, and on the east side a new glazed wall would also rise to a similar eaves height. Above, slate roof slopes would rise at a shallower pitch than existing to a ridge height the same level as existing.

4.2 The layout is significantly improved in the proposals, allowing a new vestry to be locked and private, increasing the area available for storage, display and pastoral activities, and providing new flush access avoiding the existing steps. Raising the floor in the church itself will also improve access for the disabled.

## **5.0 Scale**

5.1 No change in scale of the principal elements of church and vestry; the increased width of the link will be mitigated because it is mostly concealed by those elements. The existing corridor is a very small proportion of the overall footprint, doubling it will not detract from the existing appearance.

## **6.0 Appearance**

6.1 Minimal change in appearance as a result of using materials similar to those existing.

## **7.0 Landscape**

7.1 No change to existing.

## **8.0 Access**

8.1 Significant improvement to access into the church, vestry and Parish Room, and circulation between them, as a result of alterations to floor levels.

## **9.0 Conclusion**

9.1 Modest alterations proposed to the existing layout will significantly improve facilities for the church without significant impact on the fabric or setting of the Listed building. They will also allow the public display of information relating to the heritage of the site, which is not at present possible.

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