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Ideas and concepts for realising your home's potential

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## **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT/HERITAGE STATEMENT**

### **CHANGE OF USE OF FORMER METHODIST CHURCH TO PRIVATE DWELLING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE CHANGE OF USE MIDWAY, CHALFORD HILL, STROUD**

#### **Preamble**

The proposal is to convert the church building and its associated side extension to provide a single private dwelling. The remainder of the buildings on the site will not be part of the application and will remain as F1 use.

#### **Conservation Area**

Chalford Hill Methodist Church lies within Conservation Area 19 – Chalford Hill. The Conservation Area does not have an adopted Conservation Area Statement. The church is assumed to be a non-designated heritage asset for the purposes of this statement and application.

#### **Present status and condition of the non-designated heritage asset**

Chalford Hill Methodist Church was built in 1823. A lean-to extension to the main chapel was erected in the early-20<sup>th</sup> Century and a village hall (James Gibbs Hall), ancillary rooms, and an entrance foyer added in the 1960s.

The main body of the church has been essentially unchanged since its erection and is in a good condition. The gallery has been blocked off and a floor inserted above. The remainder of the church has had a ceiling inserted at a lower level. There is no floor above it. Apart from the windows in the south elevation all other church windows have been replaced with PVCu windows. There are two fine oak king post trusses, and the original roof structure is still intact. Modern rooflights have been added to the western slope of the church. The sarking felt and ridge vents indicate that the roof has been recovered in modern times.

The lean-to extension is of rendered masonry with PVCu windows and concrete roof tiles. It is in a fair condition.

The 1960s additions are of artificial stone blockwork construction with artificial ashlar stone detailing, partial render and concrete tile hanging, PVCu windows and a concrete tiled roof. All are in good condition.

The modern extensions are unsympathetic additions to the church and detract from its essential character.

### **Significance and setting of the heritage asset**

The church sits on the upper reaches of a steep slope in the middle of the village and is a significant landmark in the area.

### **Design and Impact on Heritage Assets (Conservation Area)**

#### **Impact of the proposals on the heritage asset**

The church fell out of use recently and the property was put on the market. The applicant has purchased the buildings with a view to convert the main body of the church, the entrance foyer, and the lean-to extension into a single private dwelling. The proposed external interventions are deliberately minimal.

- i Two of the window openings in the west elevation will be elongated and the windows replaced. One of these openings has been partially blocked up in the past and this action will be reversed as part of the works. New ashlar stone surrounds to match the existing will be installed on the sides of the elongated openings.
- ii The existing south elevation stone window surrounds will be carefully removed and relocated in new openings at a higher level to maintain the original appearance. The rubble stone removed will be used to infill below. Two new openings will be made below the existing windows and new windows with ashlar stone surrounds and sills will be installed to provide light into the proposed ground floor bedrooms.
- iii It is proposed to insert a round window with an ashlar stone surround into each of the gable ends of the church building at high level.
- iv The existing Velux roof windows are to be removed and 3no. new rooflights inserted into each slope of the main church roof.
- v There will be no changes to the entrance foyer.

Internally the following is proposed:


- i The existing first floor, staircase, gallery, and false ceiling are to be removed and a new first floor and staircase inserted within the church building.

- ii The original plain church ceiling will be taken down and the two oak trusses, which are a major feature of the original construction, will be exposed within the new first floor open plan living area.

The James Gibbs Hall will not form part of the application and will retain its F1 use as a community facility.

## **Summary**

The proposals to convert the church and extensions are modest and will have a minimal visual impact on the external appearance of the building whilst giving a redundant building a new lease of life. The village hall will retain its F1 use, retaining a community asset that can be exploited in the future.

  
DesignForLiving Architects Limited  
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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SITE AND BUILDINGS



Fig 1: Main entrance.



Fig 2: View from Midway.



Fig 3: View from Midway of James Gibbs Hall.





Fig 4: View of front of James Gibbs Hall.



Fig 5: View of St James Gibbs Hall with church beyond from car park.



Fig 6: View of east side of the church showing the lean-to extension.



Fig 7: View of the back of James Gibbs Hall.





Fig 8: View of south wall of church and the lean-to extension.



Fig 9: West facing wall of the church.



Fig 10: View from the west showing the church and their neighbouring property.





Fig 11: View along the front of the buildings.



Fig 12: King post truss in the roof space.





Fig 13: Roof space.



Fig 14: Existing rooflight in roof space.



Fig 15: Church windows in south elevation (proposed to be raised to a higher level).



Fig 16: Typical replacement window in the church building.



Fig 17: View of the church from below.





Fig 18: View of the church from below.





Fig 19: View of the church from the east over the rooftops of the village.



Fig 20: Interior of the church.



Fig 20: Interior of the entrance hall looking towards the church.



Fig 21: South elevation windows as seen from inside the church, showing false ceiling.