



Worth Abbey Welcome Centre

Creation of a welcoming arrival and environment to the Abbey church for both visitors and congregation, including new footpath, library space and refurbishment of WC's

MADE ARCHITECTS LTD
Registered in England
Company No. 14061864

info@made-architects.com

arb Architects
Registration
Board

RIBA 

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Roman Catholic (Benedictine) Abbey church. 1964-89 with later additions to the conventual buildings, to the designs of Francis Pollen. Reinforced concrete frame clad in brick, with exposed concrete beams, floors and details. Tiled roofs, the central drum over the church is slated, but was designed to be tiled when money permits.

Clever plan on steeply sloping site. The hillside site makes the most of views out into the Sussex countryside. Central square church under central circular top-lit drum. Central altar with monastic choir and two chapels behind, with further chapel separate to side. The church is entered by the laity from an entrance at first floor level, which gives on to a long vestibule gallery, and imperial stair that descends to the main church level. This projects from the entrance facade and is flanked by entrance doors. The other three sides of the church are encased by one and two-storey buildings for the monks, with cells, refectory and library (not inspected but understood not to be of special interest). Side entrance from car park to left, with the entrance to the monastery further down the hill on this elevation. Doors and windows of heavy-sectioned timber, save those in the clerestory under the dome, which are set between the exposed concrete frame. Exposed, too, is the circular top of the drum, with features concrete gargoyles modelled on those by Le Corbusier at Notre Dame du Haut, Ronchamp, France, and which is surmounted by a cross.

Vestibule and staircase lined in brick with exposed concrete beams and dressings, timber roofs. Round-arched openings to bookstall, stairs and into lobbies serving adjoining rooms. The austerity of the church interior enhances the sense of its great scale. Rear balcony of exposed concrete. Exposed beams to the slope of the drum with timber ceiling between, central concrete lantern supported on exposed ring beam and braced by internal cross of concrete beams. Battered brick piers with shallow concrete capitals define ambulatory round three sides. Raked floor leads to near-central altar; the difficulties of worship in the round are avoided by having the monks' choir behind the altar, together with two large side chapels - largely enclosed brick drums with curved and battered brick walls reminiscent of Oscar Niemeyer's work, to either side. Pierced opening over tabernacle behind the freestanding altar in each. Forward altar a single stone, resting on two piers and raised up three steps. Timber offices and confessionals set either side off the ambulatory. Foundation stone dated 1968; memorial stone to Francis Pollen (1926-87), and Dom Victor Farwell, first Abbot of Worth 1965-88. Plaque to Simon Dominic Woods, died 1972. The other interiors not inspected.

The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians was founded at Worth in 1930 as a daughter house of the Benedictine Abbey at Downside, and with the same function of running a boys' boarding school. Pollen's first design, published in 1956, was for a tall, elliptical reinforced concrete building surrounded by an ambulatory with side chapels all the way around, and with a central circular lantern. In 1961 this was revised in favour of a central, square building surrounded by conventual buildings for fifty monks and ten novices. Pollen and his clients were thus in the vanguard of liturgical thinking among the Roman Catholic Church in Britain. His scheme was enlarged to provide seating for a congregation of 800, and the design took on its present form in 1963-4. The main concrete structure was built in 1964-5 by the contractor Lovells, but as local contractors were unwilling to commit themselves to a price for the curved brickwork, John Lyles, then teaching carpentry in the school, undertook the brickwork by direct labour, and supervised the completion of the building. The first service was held in 1970 and the church was

consecrated in 1975, leaving the flanking buildings for later completion. As part of this use of direct labour, a pitched roof was preferred for the vestibule or narthex as cheaper and easier to build, and the surrounding buildings followed this more vernacular approach. This serves to make the central drum still more dramatic and space-ship like.

Francis Pollen was trained at Cambridge and the Architectural Association, but his early career was influenced by Edwin Lutyens, who had remodelled Lambay Castle in Dublin Bay for his grandparents and who remained a family friend. But in 1958 Pollen adopted the tenets of the New Brutalism, preferring heavy brick and concrete construction to what Alan Powers describes as the 'physical shallowness' of much contemporary modernism. In a more extreme way, Pollen's career mirrors that of Sir Basil Spence, who began his professional career with Lutyens and who went on to embrace the style of Le Corbusier's Maisons Jaoul; Worth Abbey is suggestive of what might-have-been had Spence designed a major church in the manner of his listed Sussex University. Pollen himself wrote, 'I believe that churches must feel as if they had just happened as a result of divine laws of geometry, mechanics and proportion, timeless laws' (quoted in *Architects' Journal*, p.35). The debt to the Renaissance ideas of humanism and proportion expounded in Rudolf Wittkower's *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism*, a key text of the Brutalists and of the Liturgical Movement, is as important as Pollen's own deep and personal Catholic faith. Powers has also made comparisons with Louis Kahn's First Unitarian church at Rochester, New York. The artist Patrick Reyntiens considered that Pollen had 'produced singlehanded a style that has reference to the past and can give hope for the future' with its mixture of modern and primitive forms and austere control of space. It is one building that has successfully made a virtue of the most rigorous economy.

Sources *The Builder*, 28 September 1956, pp.530-1 *Architectural Review*, January 1963, p.70 Alan Powers, 'Church Triumph' in *Architects' Journal*, 30 January 1991, pp.30-37 Alan Powers, *Francis Pollen Architect, 1926-1987*, Oxford, Robert Dugdale, 1999.

Statement of Significance

Section 1: The church in its urban / rural environment.

1.1 Setting of the church

How does the setting out of the church contribute to its landscape / townscape value and to its significance?

Worth Abbey is nestled within the rural expanse of a 500-acre estate located between Crawley and Haywards Heath. The estate encompasses open countryside, farmland, and woodland, with the built-up area covering roughly 80 acres to the south of Paddockhurst Road.

In close proximity to the Abbey church of Our Lady Help of Christians (the church) are various buildings, including the monastery, retreat facilities, Worth School, and several residential properties.

The church itself is situated in the south-east corner of this cluster of buildings and, due to its design and location within the High Weald Area National Landscape, is something of a landmark in the Sussex countryside overlooking the South Downs National Park.

1.2 The Living Churchyard

What is the significance of the natural heritage of the site?

The church is positioned on the hillside, with a commanding view of a steep slope and the expansive High Weald National Landscape, as well as the South Downs National Park in the distance. The location of the Abbey church holds **high significance**. In addition to its role as the parish church for the surrounding Worth Abbey parish and the nearby Worth School, it also attracts visitors and those on religious retreat.

1.3 Social History

What is the historic and present use of the church and churchyard by the congregation and wider community? How does this contribute to its significance?

The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians (Worth Abbey) was established in 1933 as a daughter house of the monastic community at Downside Abbey in Somerset. It remained a dependent priory of Downside until 1957, when it became an independent priory. In 1965, Worth was officially recognised as an abbey.

The church was consecrated in 1975. It is an active place of worship for the resident Benedictine monastic community who attend church six times a day to celebrate the liturgies. It is used by the 600-plus pupils of Worth School for their liturgies and assemblies. It is used by the Worth Abbey parish for their Sunday and weekday liturgies.

1.4 The church building in general

Provide a description of the church.

The church was built between 1964 and 1989, with subsequent extensions. The structure features a reinforced concrete frame, clad in brick, and an exposed concrete roof structure, including rafters surrounding a central ring-beam.

The pitched roofs are predominantly tiled, with the exception of the central circular drum, which is finished with felt. This was originally intended to be tiled once funding permitted.

The walls of the building are faced with brickwork, featuring arched elements, clerestory windows, and small, punched windows that allow limited natural light to filter into the interior.

The building's distinctive design is situated on a steeply sloping site, maximising views of the Sussex countryside. The central church is square in shape, crowned with a circular, top-lit drum that includes clerestory windows and a modern, sculptural crucifix.

Positioned to the south of a paved piazza-style area, which is flanked on three sides by landscaped, grass-covered terraces that form an amphitheatre, the church is wrapped by the expansive views across the surrounding countryside.

The church is accessed via two arched entrances from the piazza, located on either side of a curved, brick-faced protrusion that houses the main staircase. To either side of the church, the landscape gently slopes downwards to the south.

1.5 The church building in detail

Assess the significance of either each historical phase of the building or of each area within it. For example, north aisle, south chancel elevation, Norman tower

The church, designed by Francis Pollen between 1956 and 1964, is a distinctive structure that blends elements of Brutalist and Liturgical architectural styles. Today it is a Grade II listed building of **high significance**.

The church is accessed by the congregation through an entrance at First Floor level, which leads into a long Narthex and a grand staircase that descends to the main church level. This stair enclosure projects from the façade and is flanked by double doors.

The remaining three sides of the church are enclosed by one and two-storey buildings housing the monks' cells (south side), meeting rooms and vestry (west side), and the sacristy, choir vestry, Unity (conference) Room and unused Ambulatory (east side). The First Floor ambulatories on the east and the west offer view into the nave from behind glass screens. Confessionals are set to the north of the main church nave.

There is a side entrance from an accessible car park to the east, with the main monastery entrance further down the hill along this elevation. Doors and windows are made of sizeable timbers, except for those in the clerestory under the dome, which are set within the exposed concrete frame. The circular top of the drum is also exposed and surmounted by a cross.

The Narthex and staircase are finished in brick, with exposed concrete beams and dressings, and timber ceilings with rooflights and clerestory windows providing natural light and views to the sky. Arched openings along the length of the Narthex lead to a bookshop, stairs, and into lobbies that serve adjacent rooms and the main gallery to the church.

The rear balcony is constructed of exposed concrete, with concrete beams in the sloping, circular ceiling, between which is a timber finish. A central concrete lantern is supported by an exposed concrete ring-beam.

Battered brick piers with shallow concrete capitals define the Ambulatory around three sides of the church. The raked floor leads to the near-central altar. The challenges of worship in the round are addressed by positioning the monks' choir behind the altar, with two large side chapels, each with their own altar.

The church building was listed in 2007 as it is considered to be a good example of the Brutalist style.

1.6 Contents of the church

Provide a description of its contents and their significance. It is reasonable to group these if there is a contemporary scheme which is significant as such, for example one could say a complete scheme of 18th-century furnishings, of high significance.

The altar is a single stone, resting on two piers and elevated on three steps.

The foundation stone is dated 1968, with memorial stones to Francis Pollen (1926–1987) and Dom Victor Farwell, the first Abbot of Worth (1965–1988), as well as a plaque commemorating Simon Dominic Woods, who died in 1972.

Hardwood pews, a monastic choir, and two chapels are situated to the rear, behind the altar.

In 2011 the renowned architectural practice led by Thomas Heatherwick refurbished the church. The renovations included new lighting, a new sound system, and new pews constructed from dark American walnut.

1.7 Significance for mission

What are the strengths of the building as it is for worship and mission? What potential for adapted and new uses does the church and its setting already have with little or no change?

The church is set in the round and reflects the liturgical style of the Second Vatican Council. A gentle slope in the nave allows for visibility of the main altar without any major change in height. There are no plans to change the central area of the church which has the flexibility to fulfil its mission.

The large narthex space meets the liturgical need to create a “gap” between the sacred and secular. However, such is its size that it often fulfils other uses as well including social/welcome, meeting room, “market-place” and parish information. This can create a messy-feel at times and lose the purpose of a Narthex. These plans aim to restore some of the separation between these purposes.

Safeguarding rules affecting the adjacent School have meant that access to the monastery to the south of the church has become difficult for guests with no clear reception area. The creation of a Welcome Centre will create a more formal space for the guests to the monastery come and be met.

The eastern ambulatory area is unused and often becomes a storage space. These plans aim to bring that area into a use that supports the mission of the Abbey.

Section 2 : The significance of the area affected by the proposal.

2.1 Identify the parts of the church and/or churchyard which will be directly or indirectly affected by your proposal.

The purpose of this project is to design a Welcome Centre that provides a clear and inviting entrance to the Abbey church and its Narthex, catering to monks, church visitors, and the wider congregation.

The project will also incorporate a new library space, with the goal of relocating some of the current monastery library from its position at a difficult to access mezzanine level in the heart of the monks' enclosure, to a more accessible location within the visitor area.

Additionally, the opportunity will be taken to address practical improvements, including the refurbishment of the existing toilets and the maintenance of the current spaces within the Narthex.

Externally, the new Welcome Centre will feature a clear and accessible route from the visitor car park. This will improve safety of visitors and enable them to better enjoy the expansive views of the countryside to the south.

The schedule of accommodation will include:

Welcome Centre:

- Path from car park, with opportunities for gathering as well as solitary reflection
- Reception desk
- Signage / AV
- Snacks and refreshments
- Seating and tables
- Relocated bookshop
- Enhanced finishes

New WC's:

- DDA Compliant / Accessible WC's
- Female and Male toilets

Library:

- Entrance (fully compliant)
- Reading spaces and study areas
- Bookshelves
- Environmental control

Narthex:

- Level floor
- Increased natural light
- Acoustic treatment
- Small parish centre

2.2 Set out the significance of these particular parts.

The parts of the existing Abbey church and its grounds that are impacted by the proposals vary in significance:

- The sloping lawn next to the church, proposed for the new pathway is of **low significance**. It offers magnificent views across the South Downs and the new pathway will better enable pedestrian visitors to safely enjoy these.
- The Narthex is a long, carpeted entrance vestibule with a honey-coloured, slatted-timber ceiling. Its importance within the context of the church, symbolising arrival, is **moderate-high significance**; however, the space itself is mainly circulatory.
 - The ends of the Narthex were originally designed with arched openings, although these have been sealed off with **low-quality** timber infill panels. Replacing these infill panels with high-quality glazed entrance doors or screens would enhance the overall experience within the Narthex and improve the visual connection to the surrounding exterior spaces.
 - The brickwork in the Narthex, like the brickwork throughout the building, is of **good quality**. The arched openings in the wide walls are constructed using two courses of bricks laid on edge. The detailing of the brickwork is important in defining the quality of the space, and as new openings are proposed, to provide access to the reorganised WCs, it is intended that these will be treated with as much deference as though they were part of the original design.
- The eastern ambulatory provides largely unused circulation around the sides of the church. It has mainly been used for storage and is therefore of **low significance**.
- Areas off the Narthex, such as the bookshop and WCs, are of **low significance**.

Section 3: Assessment of the impact of the proposals

3.1 Describe and assess the impact of your proposal on these parts, and on the whole.

- The proposals aim to improve access to the Abbey church by establishing a visual connection to the car park and creating a pedestrian route that allows for stopping to enjoy the view. The impact on the grass-covered area would be an enhancement, providing visitors of all mobility levels with access and the opportunity to pause, meet, and reflect on their journey to the church.
- The creation of a Welcome Centre at one end of the Narthex begins with the removal of the timber infill panel that currently blocks an existing opening, replacing it with a high-quality glazed set of entrance doors. This would be a positive change for several reasons – it would enhance the sense of arrival, improve the visual connection to external spaces, and increase the amount of natural daylight.
- The installation of a dividing partition within the Narthex would provide flexibility within the space. It would allow the Welcome Centre to function without disrupting the usual use of the Narthex or its connection to the church, offering the congregation a point of arrival and gathering before and after services. The partition would maintain a continuous visual connection through a glazed set of doors, matching those of the Welcome Centre entrance, which could be held open to ensure a physical connection. The partition would also provide acoustic separation, allowing each space to function independently without disturbing the other.
- Raising the floor level of the central lowered section of the Narthex would improve accessibility, as the current arrangement relies on non-compliant temporary ramps for wheelchair access. The impact of this alteration would be that the stairs to the lower level would require two additional risers, and access to the gallery would involve two additional steps. These spaces are currently not wheelchair accessible, and the proposed changes make them no less accessible.
- Converting the section of the Ambulatory, at First Floor, currently used for storage into a library space with study opportunities will enhance the overall use of the area and improve the existing low-quality partitioning and finishes. Not only does this opportunity provide better access to the library collection for public view, it also addresses the need for more accessible library space for the resident monks.
- Refurbishing the existing WCs is considered an improvement, with the adjustments providing fully accessible facilities for all at either end of the Narthex, serving both the church and the Welcome Centre separately.
- The relocation of the bookshop from its central niche to another existing niche has minimal impact by bringing it within the Welcome Centre.
- The relocation of the small parish centre into the existing bookshop niche will improve the sense of the Narthex as a circulatory space into the church.

3.2 Explain how you intend, where possible, to mitigate the impact of the proposed works on the significance of the parts affected and the whole.

- The new pathway leading to the Welcome Centre entrance is designed to integrate with the natural landscape and context, driving the change. The impact is expected to be positive.
- Opening both ends of the Narthex with either glazed entrance doors or fixed screens will enhance the space by introducing natural light and establishing a visual connection to the outside. As the existing openings are being reused, there is no anticipated negative impact. It is thought likely that opening these spaces up for natural light was part of the original design of the building.
- The proposed dividing partition within the Narthex will include glazed doors to ensure both visual and physical connectivity. The acoustic screen will allow the space to be used for multiple purposes simultaneously. The installation of the partition will be carefully considered, with fixings chosen to minimise the impact on the building's fabric for the life of the proposal and if it became necessary to revert to the original design.
- The raised floor level and associated steps will be constructed using a removable floor system, ensuring minimal impact on the building's fabric with the possibility of reverting to the original design.
- The First Floor Ambulatory, designated for the new library, is currently positioned at a different level to the Narthex. As such, a compliant ramp will be required to ensure accessibility for all. The ramp will be constructed using a removable solution, allowing the space to revert to its original design if necessary. Additionally, the space features regularly-spaced circular concrete rooflights, which serve as the primary source of natural light. However, given that natural light must be carefully managed in library environments, a sculptural, light-diffusing element will be suspended beneath the concrete openings to prevent direct sunlight from damaging the books.
- Overall, the proposals aim to expand the range of services offered at the Church, better catering to a larger number of visitors and improving accessibility both around and within the Church.

Sources consulted

List the sources consulted

Historic England, National Heritage List – [Abbey Church of Our Lady Help of Christians, Turners Hill](#)

Statement of Needs

1. General information

This should provide an overview of the parish and the current use of the building.

Worth Abbey is a Community of 17 benedictine monks of whom 11 permanently reside on site. The church is used by them six times a day for the recital of the Office and celebration of Mass.

Adjacent to the Abbey is Worth School, founded by the monks. The church serves as both a space of worship and general assembly for the School.

The monks run a parish on behalf of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton which serves the nearby villages as well as a transient population from neighbouring parishes. This includes Sunday vigil and morning Mass, weekly rosary and adoration as well as funerals, weddings and baptisms.

The monks run a retreat centre with up to 30 bed spaces and the church serves as their place of worship.

During the School holidays the school buildings are often let by religious groups including the Ascent youth programme, the Joel's Bar charismatic programme, Jesus Youth, an Easter pilgrimage and others. They will use the church in different ways as part of their worship.

The church is one of, if not the, largest Catholic church in the region and often hosts large diocesan events such as the Good Shepherd celebration by the diocesan education service.

2. What do you need?

Briefly explain your needs (not your proposals). Append any brief for your architect.

Under Abbot Mark, Worth Abbey has alighted on four guiding themes for our missionary development – Worship, Welcome, Wisdom and Witness.

Benedictine hospitality and welcome is a key part of the charism. Over the last twenty years or so, as the safeguarding requirements on the School have increased, the Welcome the monastic community is able to offer has been diminished. There is a need to do a subtle re-architecture of the site through signage to create greater sense of the separate identity of the Abbey and School and a need to have a space where visitors “arrive”. In addition, the car park has become increasingly busy which is beginning to pose a health and safety risk to pedestrian users of the church.

The monks have a reasonable large monastery library which is over two floors (a ground floor and mezzanine) within the monastic enclosure. The mezzanine level is accessed via a steep stair case which is posing a problem to the monks as they age. The library itself is not generally accessible to the public.

The Abbey is at the early stages of looking at a partnership with St Mary’s Catholic University in Twickenham to develop the Worth Abbey library collection and make it accessible to the public in a way that would bring benefit to the Church, particularly PhD students of the University.

See Appendix A for original project brief

3. The proposals

Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in section 2

The core of the proposal is largely three-fold:

- Develop part of the large narthex space to create a Welcome centre that can function as a reception and welcome space for the Worth Abbey complex
- Develop the unused eastern ambulatory of the church into a library and study space to house some of the monastic collection and facilitate study by monks and the public.
- Create new paths to the church so as to move pedestrian traffic away from the road.

4. Why do you need it and why do you need it now?

Justify your proposals by explaining why you can't meet your needs without making changes. Also include anything which may have prompted the proposals.

The Worth site was originally designed to be accessed via what is now the School drive and it is possible to get from the School-reception to the monastery and church. However, changes in safeguarding requirements mean that it is no longer appropriate for monastery visitors to come through the School. Many monastery visitors now struggle to find the monastery as there is no clear front-door or reception area for it. The creation of a welcome centre alleviates this problem.

The car park has 128 spaces and is now much busier than when first designed. Pathways from the church to retreat centre and car park run along the road. This can pose a health and safety risk particularly at times of the year when monastic offices take place at dusk and dawn.

The Worth Abbey parish has a growing number of young families attending Mass. Meeting the needs of these requires a slightly more relaxed welcome area than the current Narthex. The division into a Welcome Centre and more traditional Narthex helps preserve the current purpose of the Narthex while meeting the needs of our young families.

Worth Abbey has a strategic ambition to welcome more people to the natural beauty of its estate and hopes that through this they may encounter Christ. A part of this ambition requires a place for people before and after exploring the estate, a place where they might meet a monk or read about the Abbey and thus have their encounter deepened.

5. What is the evidence for the need?

Please explain who has been consulted.

Consultation has been with:

- The Abbot, his Council, and the community of monks
- The leadership team of the Worth Abbey parish
- A number of key donors who may support the project

All have shaped and expressed support for the project.

6. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?

How is it reducing the carbon footprint, contributing to the Church's commitment to be 'net zero carbon' by 2030?

The proposals at Worth have been considered with a view to reduce carbon emissions, in line with the Catholic Church in England and Wales stance on the protection of the natural environment. Whilst the interventions proposed are considered to be more 'refurbishment' than 'new-build', there have been discussions and design outcomes that aim to improve the carbon footprint of the Abbey:

- External landscape design
 - Hard landscaped areas will receive a permeable surface treatment (SuDS) which will be designed to reduce water runoff. SuDS can enhance biodiversity as a consequence of the water infiltration.
 - Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) has been built into the designs. This ensures that there will be a 10% minimum increase in quantifiable biodiversity, native to this country, on the site once the construction work is completed.
- Improved Mechanical and Electrical systems (M&E). Several services, such as the heating systems in the Narthex, the light fittings generally and the ventilation in the WCs are original to the building. By updating some of these items, the energy efficiency of the building will be increased, which will in turn lower the carbon expenditure.
- The infill panels at either end of the Narthex are not likely to provide much of an insulating effect on the building. The proposals include the replacement of these infill panels with glazed screens with a lower thermal transmission rate. The effect of having a better performing thermal envelope will be a reduction in the amount of energy used on heating and cooling, leading to a lower carbon expenditure on the whole.

7. What other options to meet the need were considered, taking Point 6 and the impact identified in the Statement of Significance into account?

Prior to commissioning Made, the Abbot and his Council looked at a range of other options. Most of this involved construction of another building or a more significant extension to the church. Inevitably these would have a much greater impact on the church and its setting and were dismissed on these and cost or practical grounds.

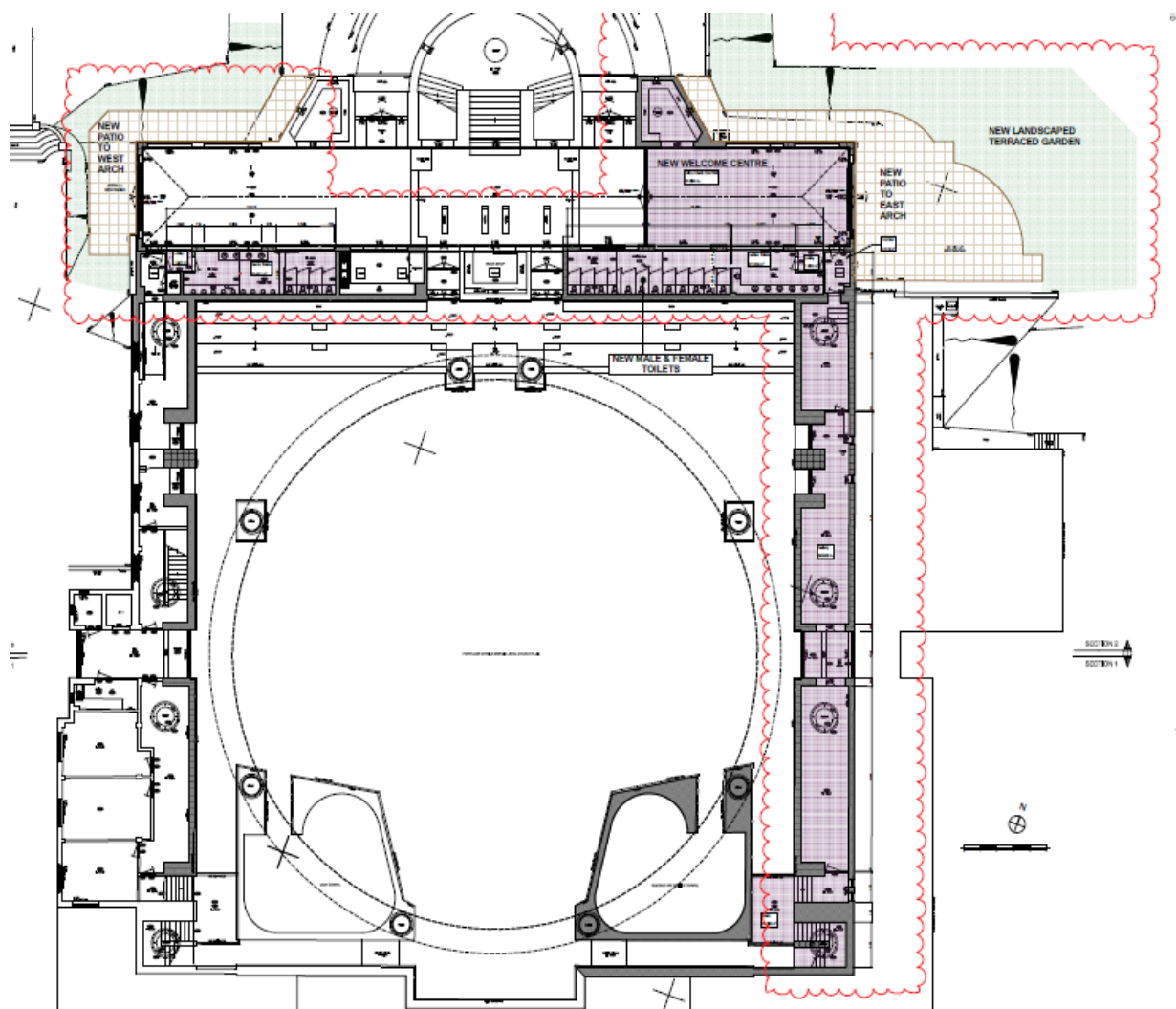
Made initially did an options appraisal of ways of fulfilling the brief before alighting on the preferred option. This considered five options with the final option being a hybrid of some of these.

APPENDIX A

Worth Abbey Welcome Centre Project Brief / Updated 04.07.2024

Objective

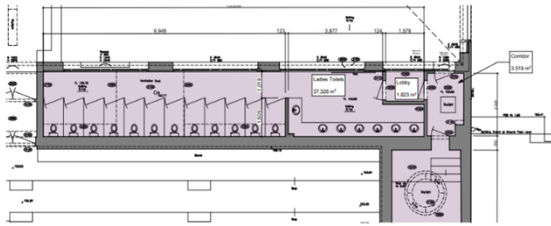
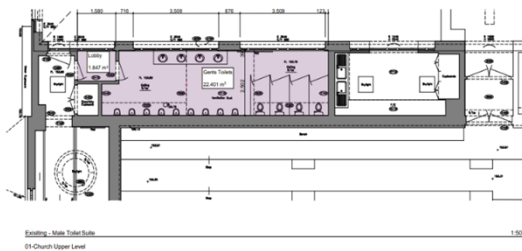
- 1) To create a Welcome environment to the Abbey Church for our visitors and member congregation, this is to purposeful, easily accessible and inviting to include a Welcoming Reception Desk including useful Abbey Church information and Welcome Packs, Welcoming Signage, Plants, AV Screens promoting Church Welcome video loops, limited facilities for snacks and refreshments, comfort seating and occasional tables, play areas and improved ambient and focus lighting.
- 2) The Welcome Centre Project is to include the total refurbishment of the existing Male & Female toilets and DDA Compliance facilities at both existing locations.
- 3) The Welcome Centre is also to include to introduction of the Monastic Library for the public to be able to access during specific hours. While the design of the Library is to achieve the maximum of the books that can be accommodated with new book shelving all within the existing Eastern Ambulatory, provision must also be made for the floor loadings to be structurally checked and potentially reinforced, the inclusion of a DDA Platform Lift / ramp, Library Reception Desk, occasional reading tables and chairs, new flooring, electrical, HVAC, lighting, decorations and an Evac Chair at the rear fire exit which will also require upgrading works to the staircase to form a safe and compliant means of escape. All which will be subject to The Abbey Church, Local Authority Planning & Building Regulations Approvals.



BRIEF SCOPE OF WORKS

1) CHURCH PUBLIC TOILETS

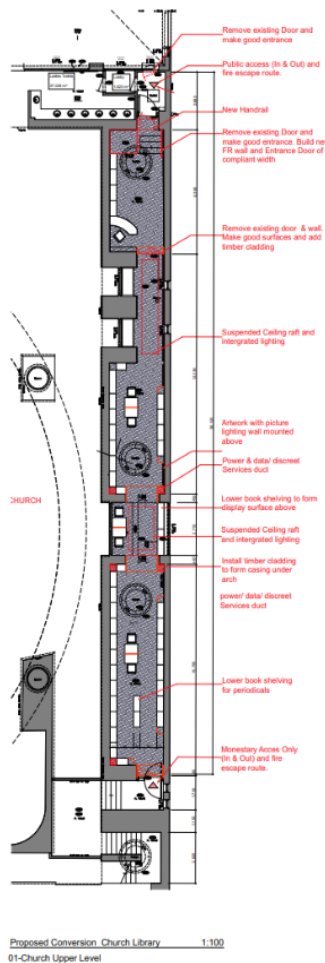
- a) Strip out the existing Male and Female church public toilets and dispose
- b) Design, supply and install new fresh, well lite and ventilated public toilet facilities within the existing locations in line with current Building Regulations.
- c) The new Public Toilets are to include for new access openings and doors to be provided from the Narthex along with the provision of DDA compliance to both the Male & Female toilets at both the existing locations.
- d) Include for new low noise hand dryers



2) MONASTIC LIBRARY

- a) Clear the area of all materials, furniture and files etc and store else where, location TBC
- b) Carry out a Technical Structure Survey relating to the floor loadings to support the library including a check on the crack in inner wall that has been identified.
- c) Pending the results of the above survey, carry out a detailed design to establish the book shelf and furniture layouts with a view to maximise the quantity of the various size books and furniture that can be safely and conveniently accessed by the public.
- d) The design brief is to include and not limited to for all Fire stopping, compartmentation and Fire doors, Ambient and accent lighting, Ceiling features, DDA compliant Reception Desk [with facilities to include storage and the display of church library literature and brochures] along with concealed Power & Data for a PC and Telecom. Fixtures and Fittings, Flooring, Fire Alarms, Emergency Lighting, Fire Signage and Signage general, MOE Evac chair, the existing windows over looking the church will also need to be checked for any fire rating / risk and possibly for the introduction of a window film to be applied to avoid any views through.
- e) Supplier to be instructed to attend and survey the existing library books and provide an inventory. Upon receipt it can then be identified which and how many books can be relocated to the new library location or remain in the existing. It is anticipated that the older and most valuable books will remain in the existing Monks library.

- f) Carry out an Architectural and M&E Design, seek Church, Local Authority Planning and Building Regulations Approval and Tender and implement.



3) WELCOME CENTRE

INTERNAL

- Construct a new dividing wall within the existing Narthex to form the new Welcome Centre "enclosure". The exact location of the new dividing wall and doors are to be confirmed [See adjacent sketch plan].
- Remove and dispose of the existing timber infill at the eastern end perimeter wall and supply and install a new glazed window complete with a pair of external entry doors.
- Supply & Install a designed Lighting scheme to improve the overall Ambient lighting [incl. EML] along with new Accent Lighting to draw attention to specific features and focal points can help you highlight cool Abbey Church architectural elements, artwork, antiques, and treasured Church collections.
- Supply & Install Xno. Audio / Visual wall mounted screens c/w concealed Power and DATA.
- Supply & Install a new Abbey Church DDA compliant Welcome Desk with facilities to include storage and the display of church literature and brochures along with concealed power & data for a PC and telecom.
- Supply & install various occasional chairs and tables and display plants, exact spec. and quantities TBC

- g) Supply & install various church welcome signage, wall mounted, suspended and via portable "A" boards and pop up banners, exact spec. and quantities TBC
- h) Retain the existing flooring.
- i) Supply & Install a designed HVAC installation to maintain comfortable environment conditions throughout a seasons
- j) Upgrade the existing Fire Alarm to suit the new dividing wall introduction, additional entrance / exit and audibility.
- k) 4.7.24 / Remove and dispose of the existing timber infill at the Western end perimeter wall and supply and install a new glazed window complete with a pair of external entry doors and include for the introduction of a new external set of fully compliant access steps to pick up the existing paved pathway and make good.
- l) 4.7.24 / Included to Supply and install an external glazed canopy / enclosure to the new eastern entrance, c/w lighting and welcome signage.



EXTERNAL

- m) Cut back part of the existing slopping embankment, shore up and create a new paved hardstanding and access ramped access pathway from the front of the Church around to the newly formed eastern side new Welcome entrance.
- n) Introduce a raised level and balustrade at the rear corner of the new paved area set into the exposed grass banking c/w access steps and handrail.
- o) Design, supply and install new external ambient and feature lighting

- p) Design, supply and install new external directional and Welcome signage
- q) Supply & Install new external specification table and chairs / picnic tables
- r) Carry out an Architectural and M&E Design, seek Church, Local Authority Planning and Building Regulations Approval and Tender and implement.

