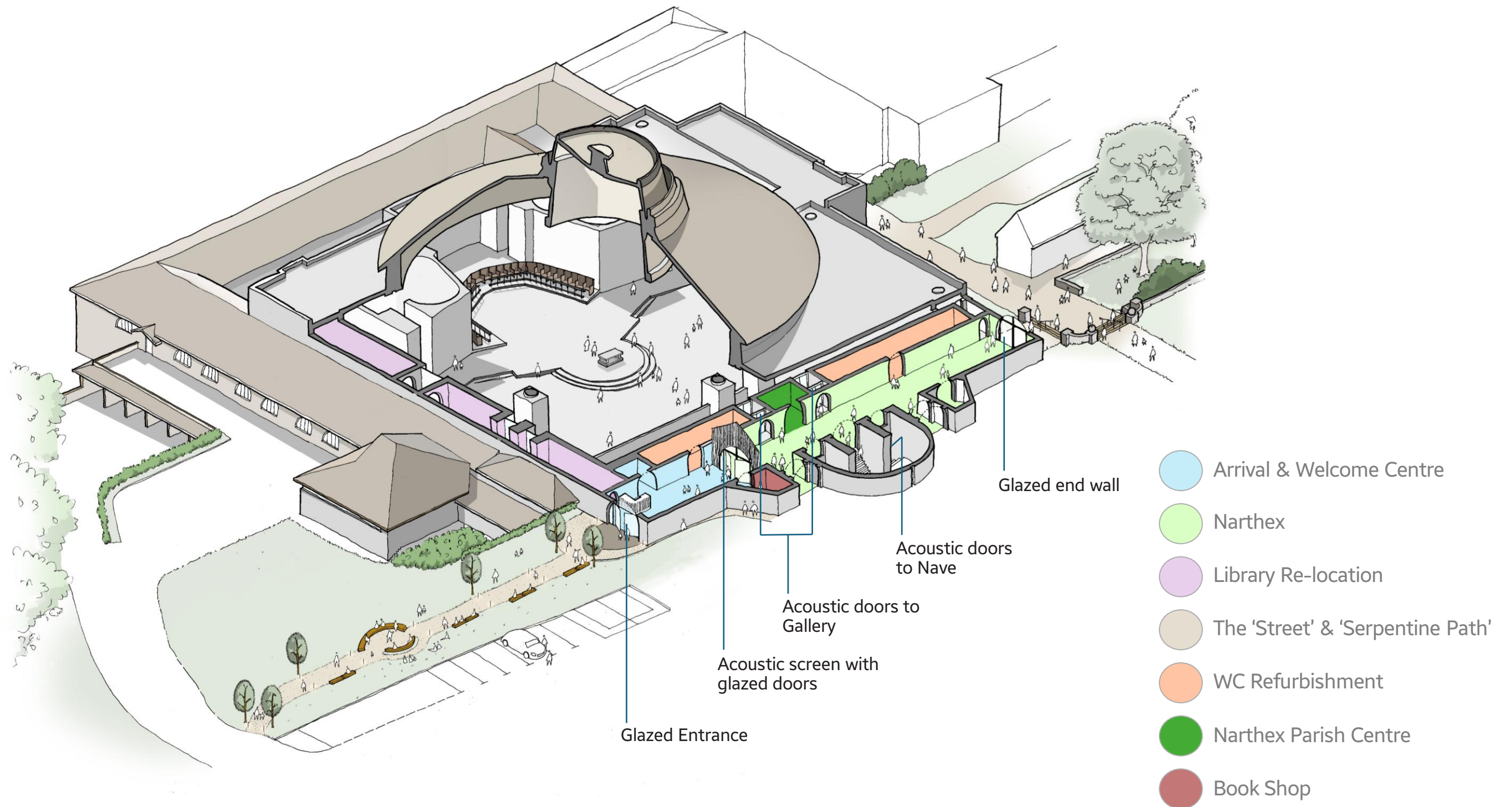


### 3.3 PROPOSALS



## 3.4 PROPOSALS OVERVIEW





### 3.5 PROPOSALS – WELCOME CENTRE

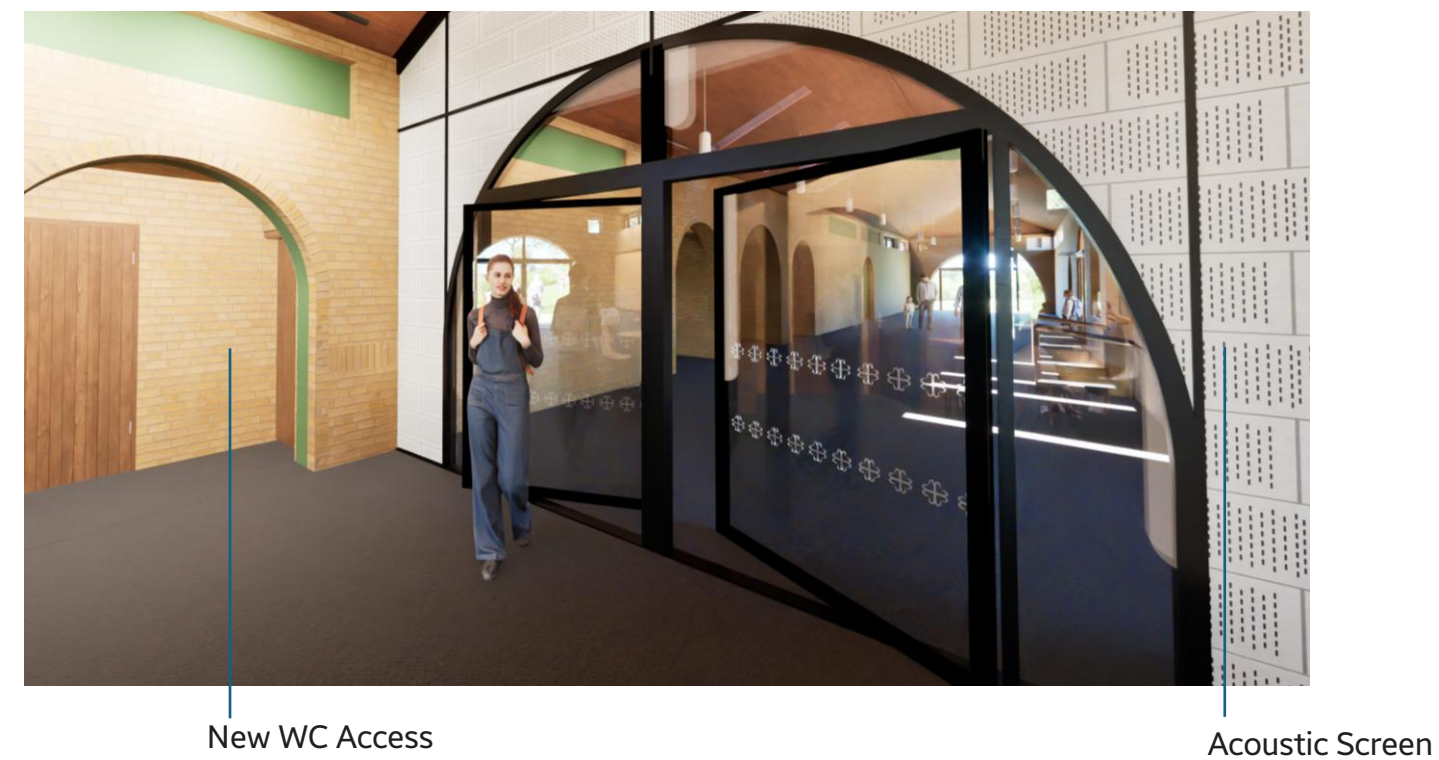
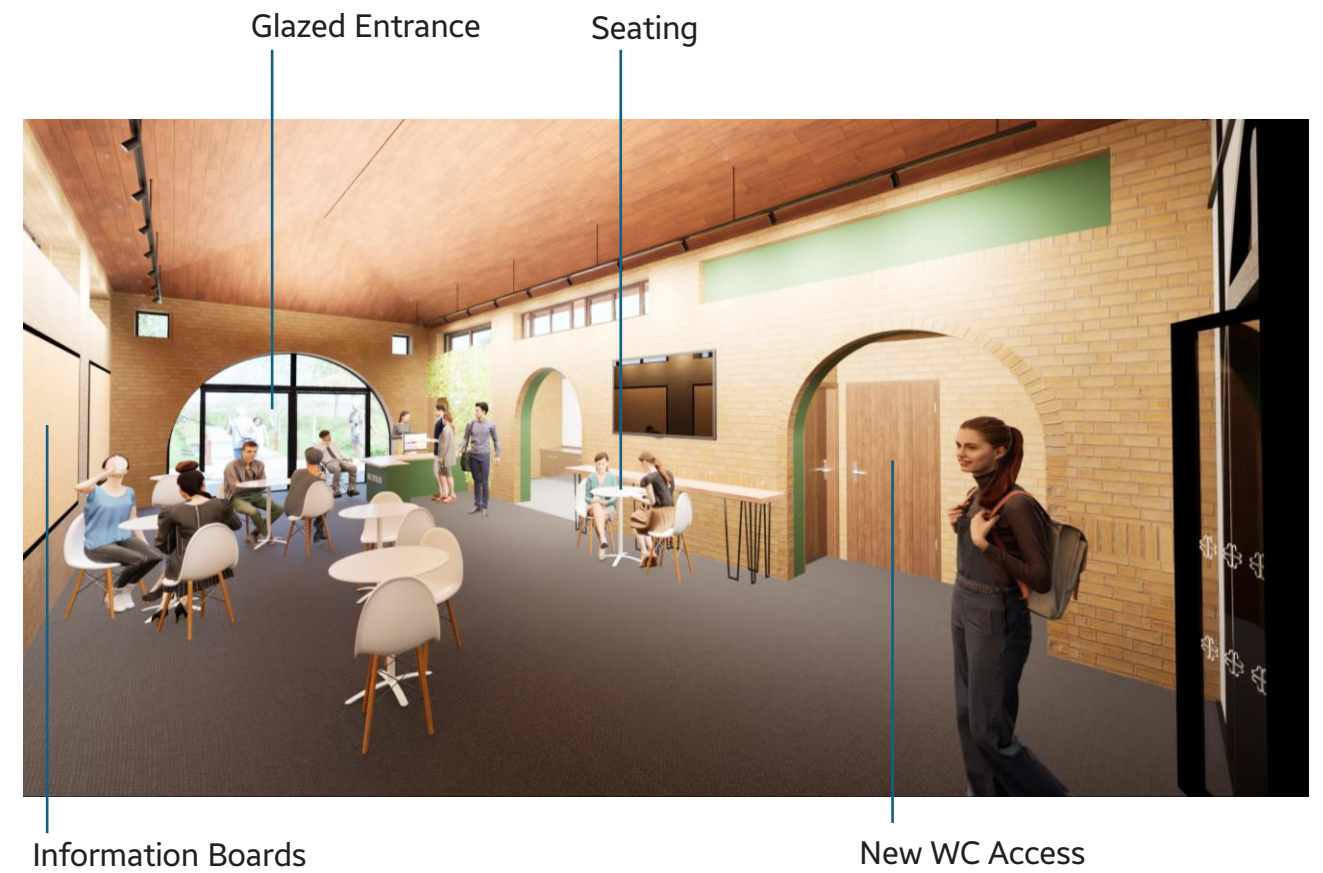
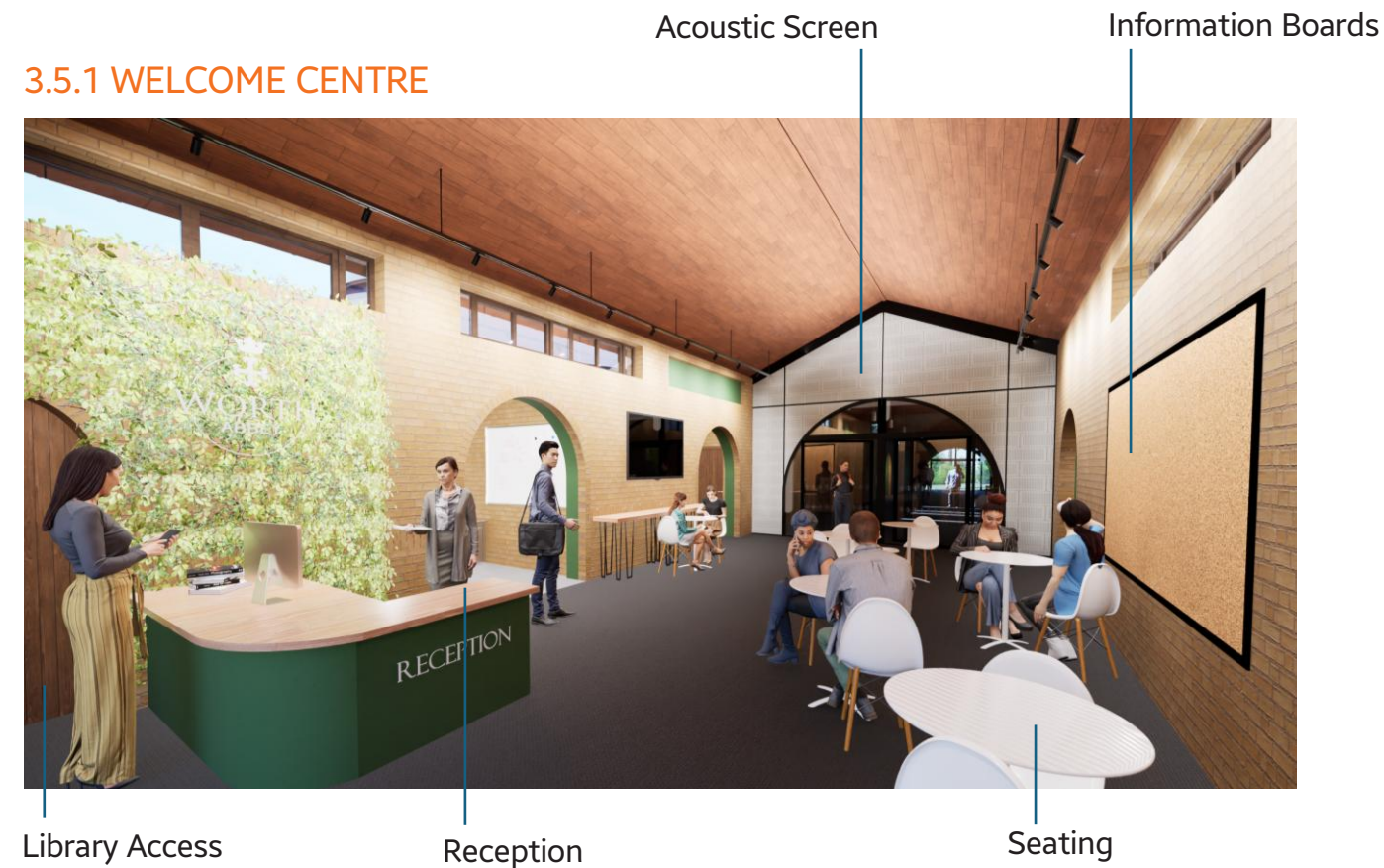
The proposed Welcome Centre will provide visitors with a clear point of arrival, from where they will be able to find information about the building and its setting, obtain refreshments, and navigate to the varied facilities within the church and the monastery.

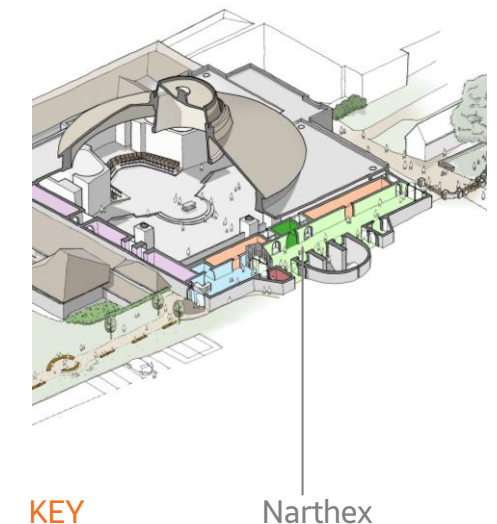
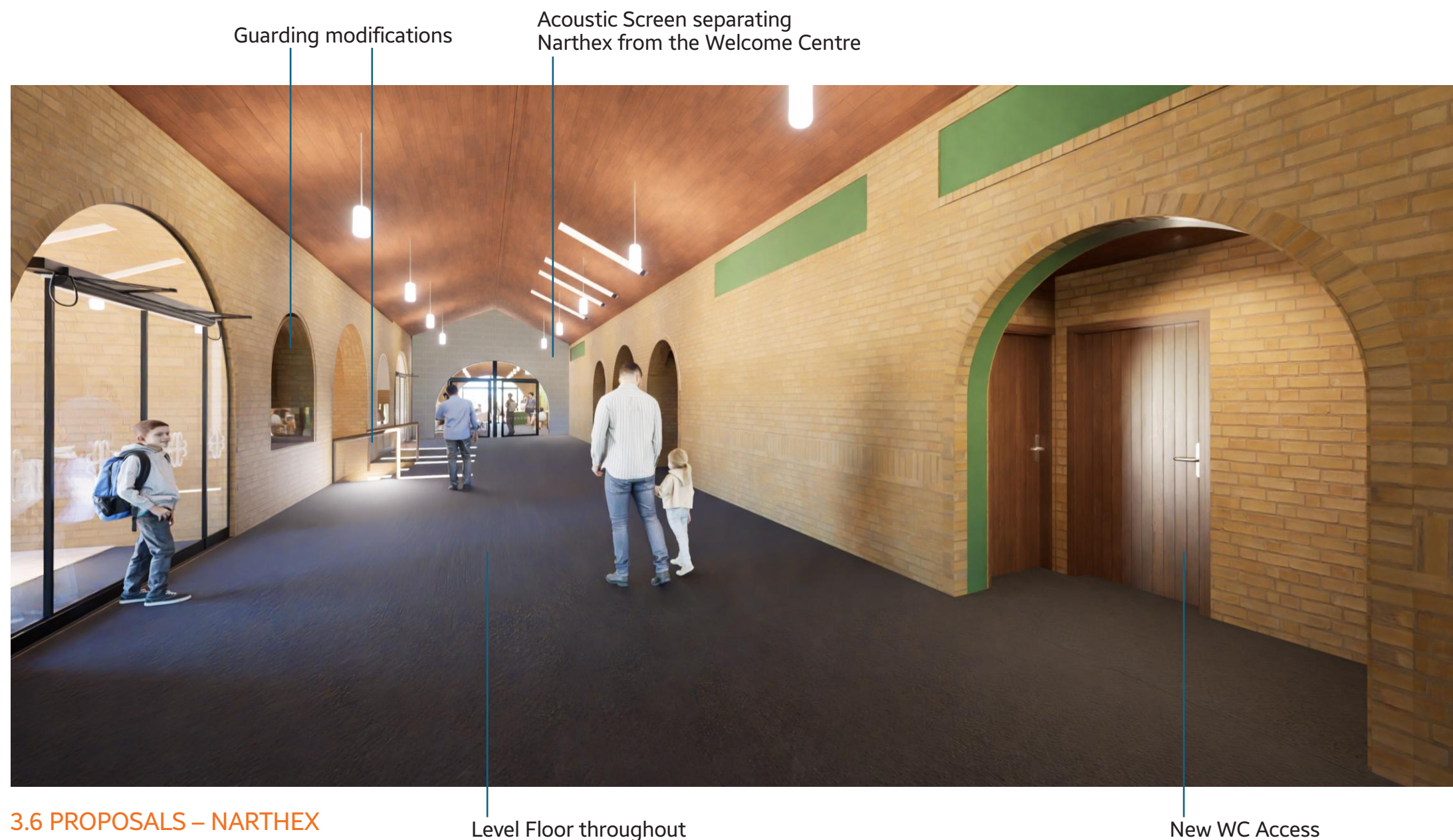
The centre will be fully accessible and include a new reception with seating, information screens, book-shop, café/servery and fully accessible WC's.

The Welcome Centre also provides access to the new monastic library collection, which can be monitored by staff, and can host events without disrupting the day-to-day operation of the church.

The Centre is to be segregated from the main Narthex by an acoustic screen, with a glazed screen that can be held open to incorporate the Narthex space and make a single event space.

## 3.5.1 WELCOME CENTRE



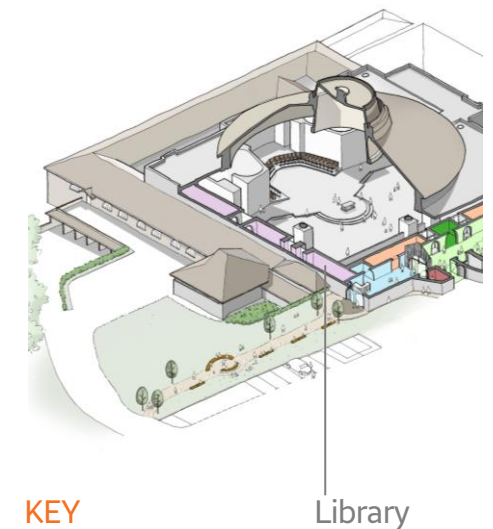


Following the division of the existing space into the Welcome Centre and the remainder of the Narthex, there will be several interventions to enhance the usefulness and useability of the space.

Currently there is a section of floor, in the centre of the space, which is lower than the areas at either end. This low area provides access onto the church Gallery and down an impressive staircase into the church itself. This important space is not easy for those with mobility issues to traverse, which is

why the proposals include making the floor level. The necessary adaptations include ensuring that the threshold at the entrance to the Gallery retains its accessibility and that the extra steps required at the head of the stair are functional, compliant (including new guarding to openings) and appear as part of the original design.

Also, within the space, is a new opening into an open lobby, leading into each of the newly configured WCs, including one of the two new fully accessible WCs.



### 3.7 PROPOSALS – LIBRARY RE-LOCATION

Currently, the monastery library resides in the heart of the monk's private residence. There is a desire to make the collection more accessible to visitors and academics. Therefore, an under-utilised space, accessed from the existing Narthex, was identified as a potential new home for some of the precious books and manuscripts.

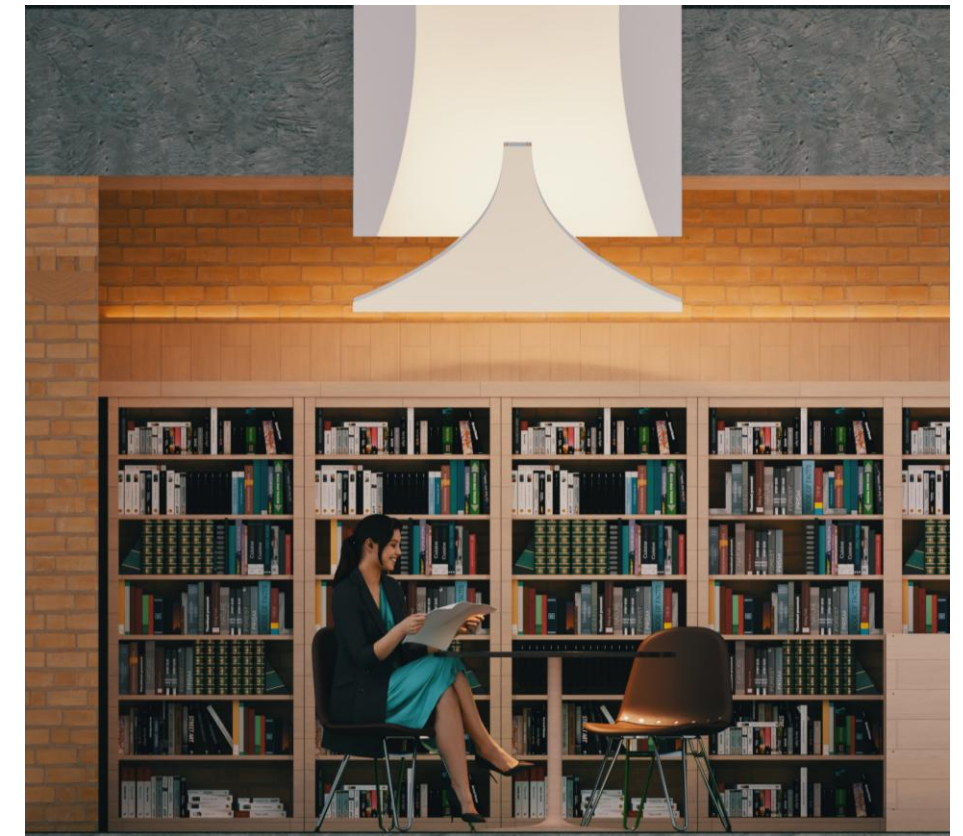
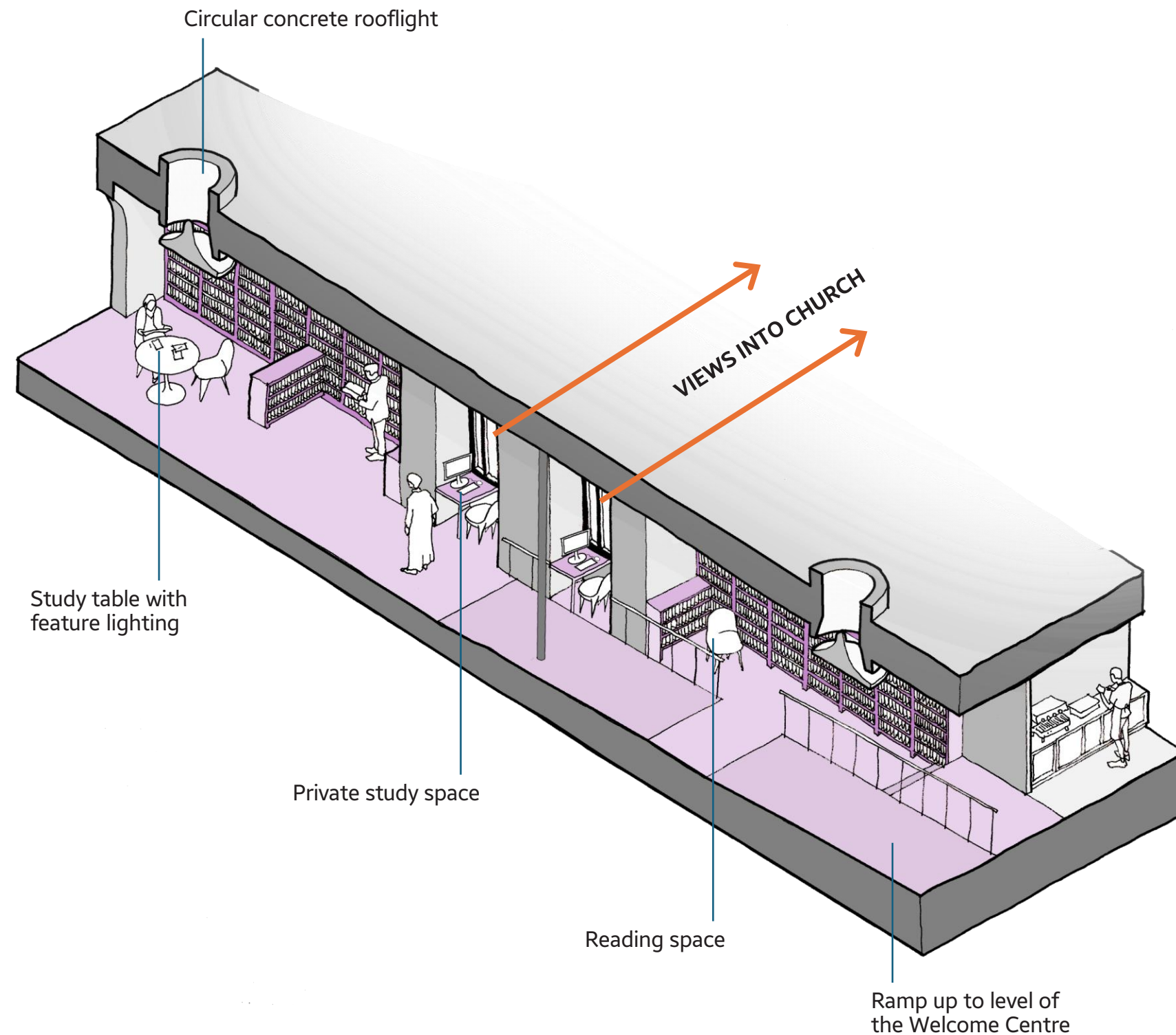
The Eastern Ambulatory was being used for storage for a number of years and was identified as a potential library space. This space could be more accessible to the resident monks, to

visitors and academics who wish to study the subject-matter.

The Ambulatory is a space with similar environmental conditions as the current library. It would allow the books to be displayed on shelves protected from sunlight and would provide areas for quiet study.

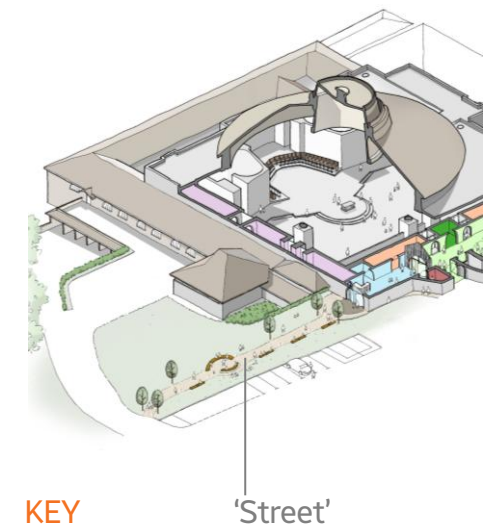
Features of the Ambulatory include circular, concrete rooflights and views into the church.

### 3.7.1 LIBRARY RE-LOCATION



Books, particularly older volumes, are vulnerable to damage from natural sunlight. As the existing space is lit by circular concrete rooflights, it is proposed to install custom-made light-controlling diffusers. These will regulate the light levels to protect the valuable book collection while maintaining adequate illumination.

The Narthex and the Ambulatory are set at different levels, so a new ramp is being proposed to ensure smooth and accessible movement between them for people of all mobility levels.



### 3.8 PROPOSALS – THE 'STREET'

Upon arrival at the Abbey site, visitors are directed to the car park and continue on foot toward the church building, eventually crossing a landscaped piazza at the front where the main entrances are located.

The proposed 'Street' is designed to gather visitors from the car park and lead them along a pathway marked by a series of stopping points, guiding them naturally toward the entrance of the Welcome Centre.

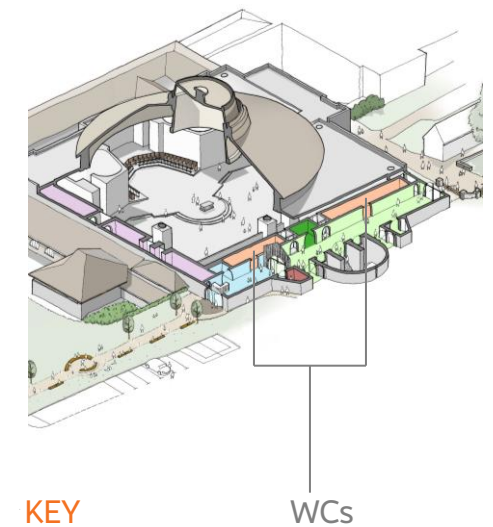
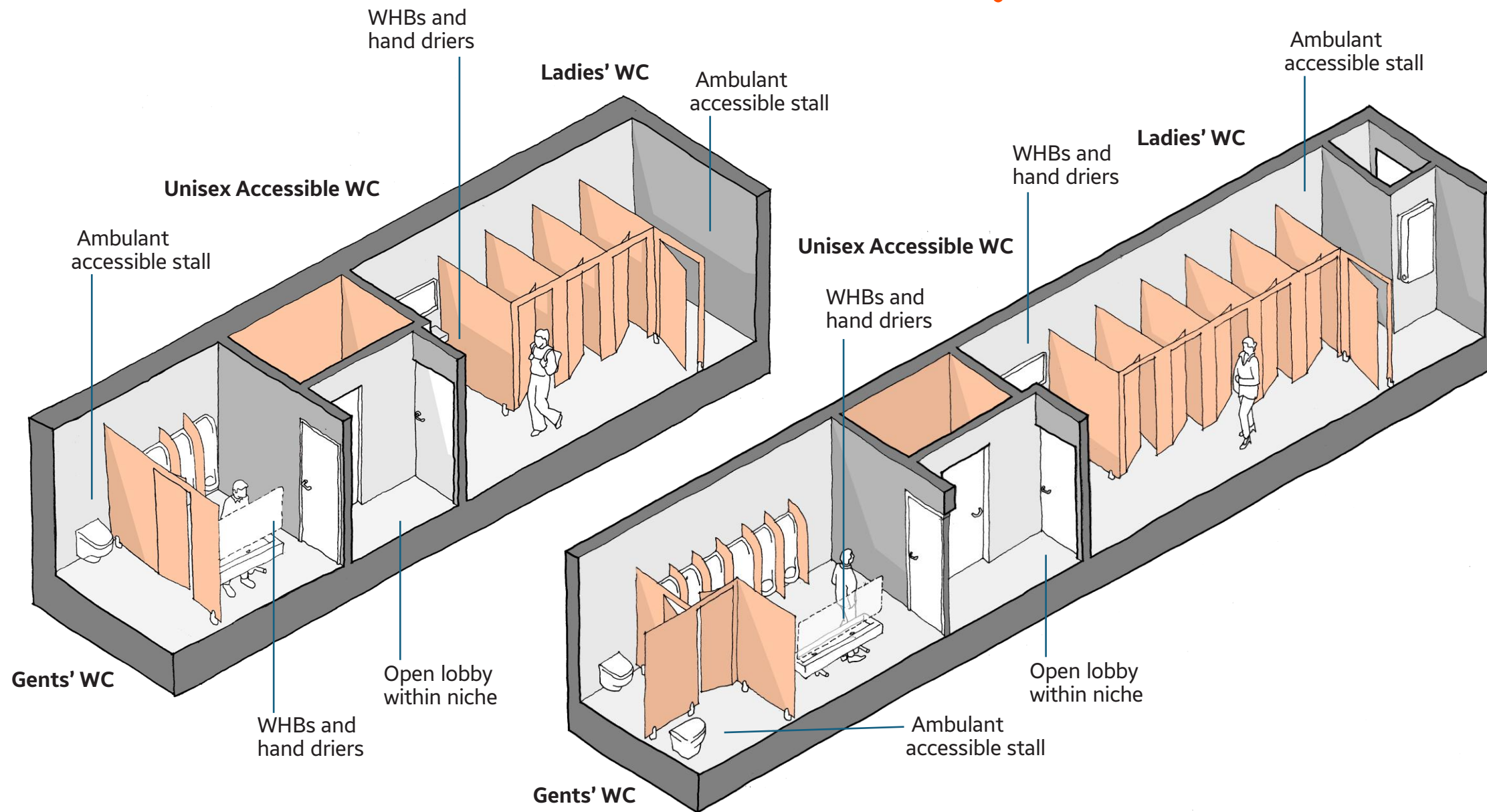
Set perpendicular to the slope, the Street not only provides a level and accessible route to the church but also frames stunning views across the High Weald National Landscape and the South Downs.

Benches and grassy banks along the way invite visitors to pause and reflect, meet and discuss, play and enjoy the unique setting.

Bollards, with down-lighters, illuminate the path to ensure that the church continues to remain continuously open.

## 3.8.1 THE 'STREET'





### 3.9 PROPOSALS – WC REFURBISHMENT

The WCs are accessed from two points, one at either end of the long Narthex. They are configured by gender into two facilities, with the ladies' at the eastern end and the gents' to the west.

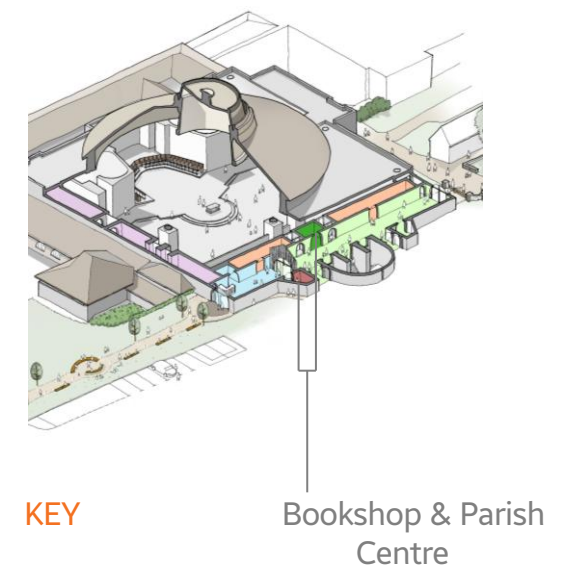
The proposals address three strategic aims:

1. Update the tired finishes and appliances including making improvements to the ventilation and services
2. Divide the facilities up so that there are toilets for both

ladies and gents at either end of the Narthex, thus allowing the Welcome Centre to operate independently of the Narthex and provide toilets for both

3. Provide compliant ambulant and fully accessible WCs as well as providing baby changing facilities

There will be two new archways created in the wall of the Narthex, creating niches from which all WCs will be accessed. This will make them more apparent to visitors.



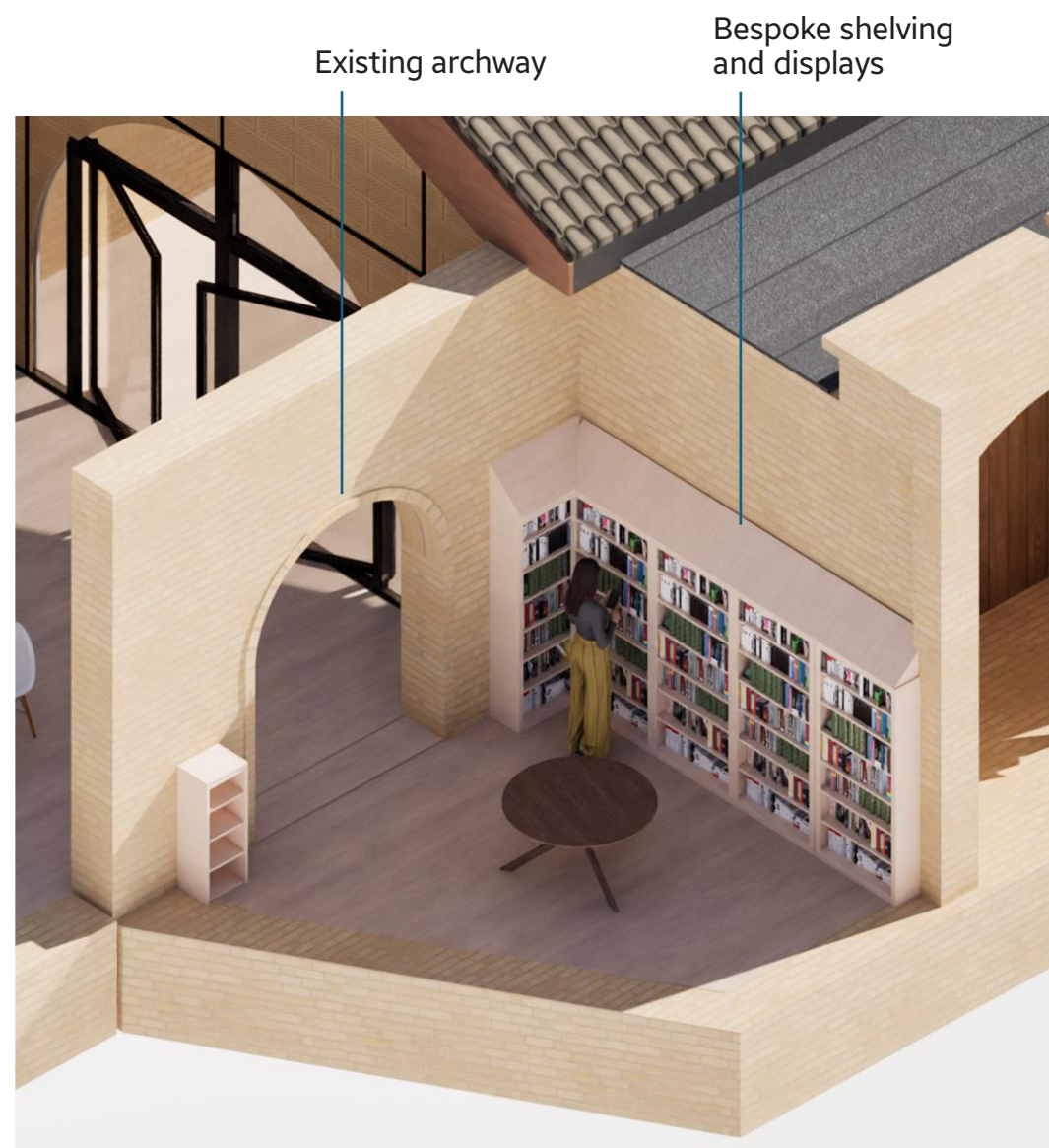
### 3.10 PROPOSALS – ANCILLARY SPACES AND MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

With the bookshop being relocated to the niche in the proposed Welcome Centre, the central space, opposite the main entrances, can be made available to provide information for parishioners.

The new Bookshop will be lined with bespoke shelving and display cases. The position of the Bookshop, through an archway within the Welcome Centre is ideal from an adjacency point of view.

New archways off the Welcome Centre and Narthex are proposed. These have been carefully considered, given the listing of the building and its distinctive brickwork, but are necessary to provide the additional services, accessibility and usability of the newly configured spaces.

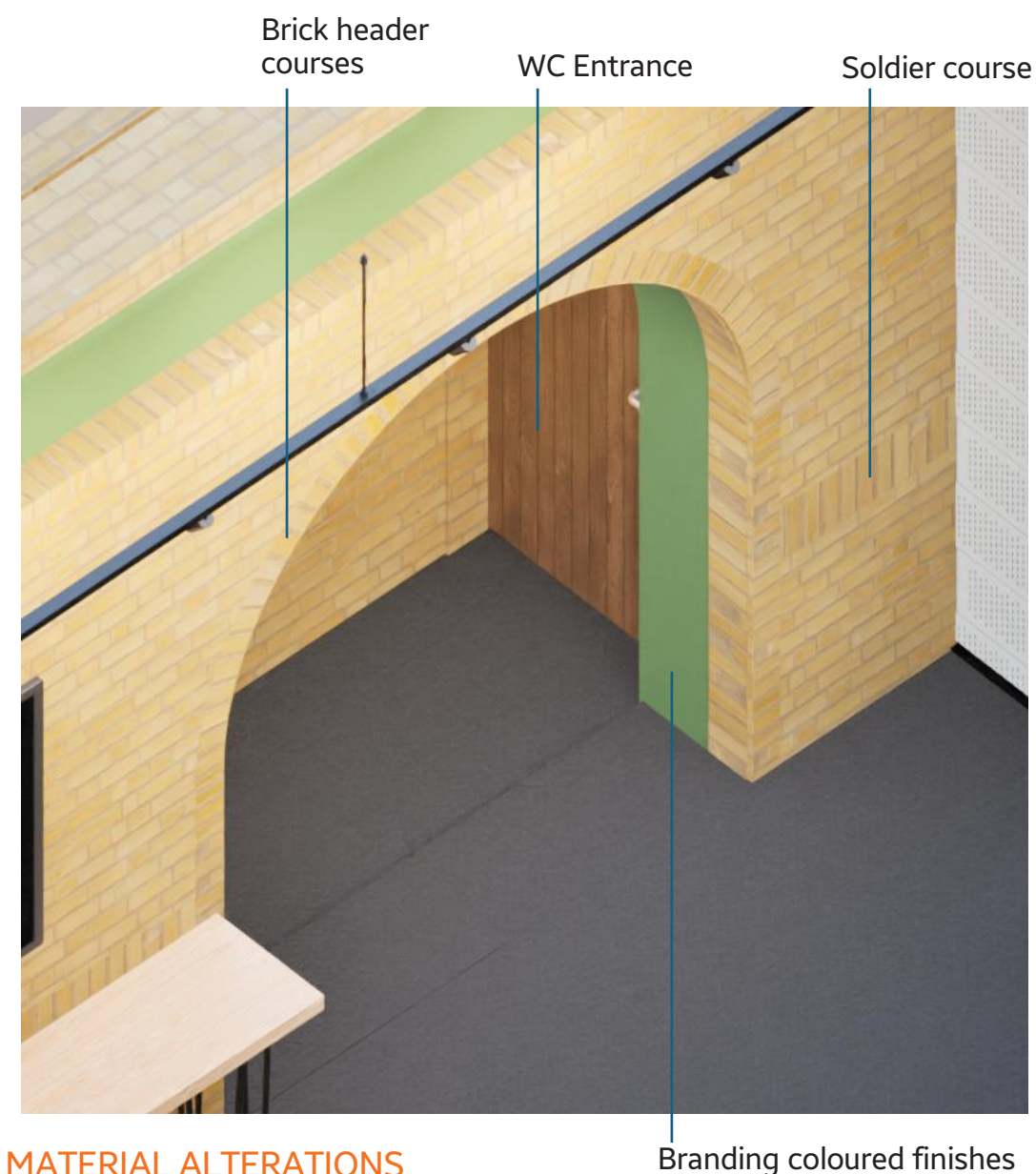
The opening into the WC entrance [open] lobby will align with the existing niche opening opposite (which will be the new Bookshop) and the servery opening will be the same size also. The removed bricks will be re-used to form the surrounding details for the new arches.



### 3.10.1 BOOKSHOP

The Bookshop will be relocated to one of the existing niches, currently used as a small, informal meeting or waiting space. The Welcome Centre seating (café-style tables and chairs) provides a replacement for these uses, thereby freeing up the niche to receive the Bookshop.

The books and other items for sale will be displayed on custom-built shelves and cabinetry lining the walls.



### MATERIAL ALTERATIONS

The main material alterations within the project are the new openings within the brick Narthex walls. The arched openings will receive a curved steel lintel with brick 'slips' applied to mimic the detailing of the arches at Worth. The brick 'slips' would be made on site by cutting the face from the bricks removed during the creation of the openings.

The finishes to the rear face of the wall are not likely to be brickwork to the same quality; therefore, the use of an alternative finish, including branded colours will be applied to the inside face of the arch.



Existing archways have brick 'header' surrounds and a soldier course where it springs from

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 1.0 | INTRODUCTION     |
| 2.0 | SITE AND CONTEXT |
| 3.0 | DESIGN PROPOSAL  |
| 4.0 | SUMMARY          |



### 4.1 CONCLUSION

This Design and Access Statement outlines the key priorities, challenges, and opportunities that have informed the design proposals submitted for approval.

The design has been shaped through an iterative process, in close discussion with key stakeholders, with a strong emphasis on the following priorities:

- **Conservation** – Preservation of the existing church building, with interventions that are sympathetic, integrated and critical to the operations of the Catholic Church
- **Quality materials** – Where possible, re-using original materials and, if necessary, using complimentary materials to minimise the impact of the development
- **Increased accessibility** –
  - It was critical to make the area around the church easier to navigate through clear design and improved wayfinding
  - By moving pedestrians off the shared surface road, routes to the church itself have been made more safe
  - Existing routes and spaces, affected by the proposals, have also been reviewed to address problems with the building's usability, inherent within the existing design, felt by occupants and visitors with mobility issues.

In conclusion, we believe that the proposals represent a high quality design response, which seeks to enhance the building user's experience, attract new visitors to the site and help in delivering the Catholic Church's mission at Worth.

