

Supporting Documentation: What other options to meet the need were considered, taking point 6 and the impact identified in the Statement of Significance into account?

We considered a number of design options prior to the one submitted, as detailed.

In **January 2020, we considered 3 options.** Figure 1 details option 1. The facilities are housed in a NW extension, external to the church building. This was believed essential, from the beginning, to preserve the architectural integrity and aesthetic of the building, and the worship space. The font is moved from its current location (along the centre W-E axis of the church in front of tower/office and along the axis between the porch and proposed extension) to a location near the porch door. A glass screen encloses the Lady Chapel. Some cafe style seating is placed at the west end of the church, with perhaps 2 pews removed to allow for some extra space.

Option 1

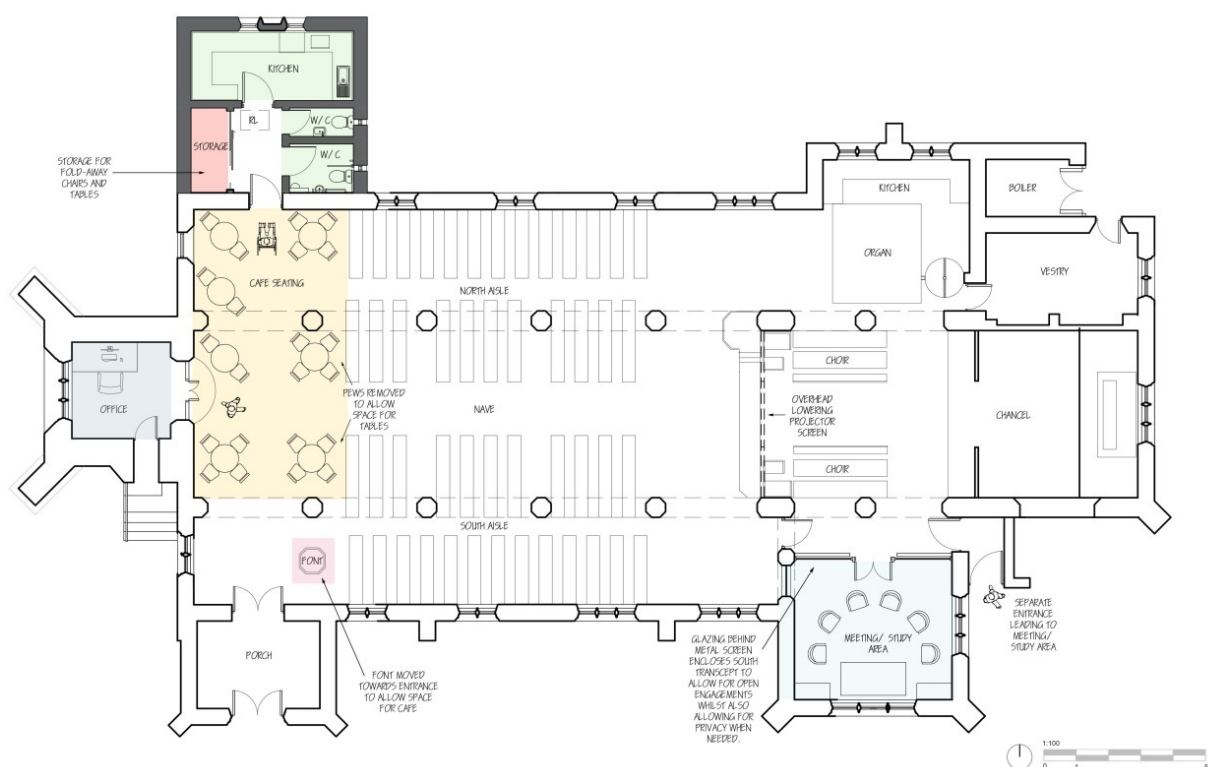


Figure 1: Option 1, January 2020. See text for details.

Option 2 (not shown) differed from option 1 by removed perhaps another 2 pews from the north aisle to accommodate a small crèche area. Option 3 (not shown), was the same as option 1, save for the Lady Chapel screening being placed across the rear of the choir stalls on the south side, and blocking off entrance into the chancel.

The advantages of these options included minimal interference with the internal design of the church, and the provision of a cafe space at the back of the church. Option 3 was rejected, since it would interrupt/stop the flow of the community during Eucharistic worship, who receive from the high altar and then return via the south aisles. The other 2 options were rejected for two primary reasons. First, there was strong objections to re-locating the font, since it was felt to degrade the sacrament of baptism, e.g., inhibiting the gathering about the font and destroying the spiritual

aesthetic with, e.g., background views of the impressive west and east windows. Second, it was felt the design centre of gravity focussed on the provision of a cafe only, which was to neglect the need to provide a variety of other worship and community activities in the church. A secondary reason was it was felt the cafe table and chairs would need to be moved more often to accommodate other activities in the nave, and therefore would be better placed along the north aisle.

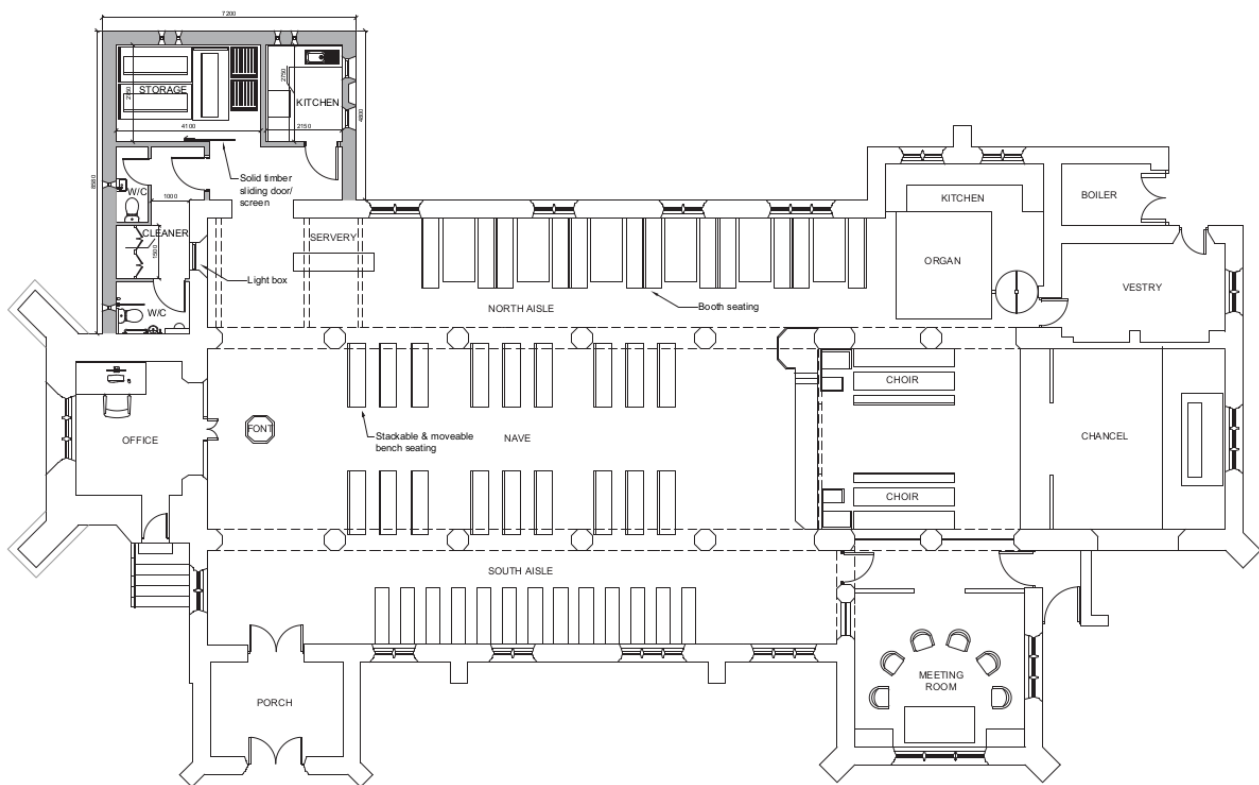


Figure 2: Option 4, June 2020. See text for details.

The primary advantage of the option 4 design was it largely retained the aesthetic and character of the church as one containing pews, while also afforded significant flexible space (the central nave area) in order to undertake the variety of worship and community activities desired. In addition, the PCC favoured the wrap around NW extension, as blending in better to the external landscape when compared with the prior options; the north tower wall has markings which indicate a structure has been attached to it in the past. The disadvantages of this design included the static booths in the north aisle which reduced the flexibility of the space, blocking up the beautiful 1884 Kempe window of St Elizabeth (albeit seeking to minimise the impact through the use of a lightbox), the awkwardness of accessing the toilets if you, e.g., a wheelchair user (this became clear to us later in

the process, however, following consultation with a wheelchair user), the larger space required in the extension to accommodate pew benches, and the comparatively more difficult process of moving and stacking pew benches over, e.g., chairs.

We undertook a preliminary consultation with the DAC on option 4.

The DAC commended the parish and their architect for demonstrating their consideration of a range of options, and noted they did not consider the pews to be of highest quality. Further, they questioned whether the arrangement of pews facing each other in the café area was the best solution in terms of flexibility of the space and suggested the parish may wish to reconsider the configuration of this area. They wondered if the kitchenette may be too small, and did not feel there was a need for improvement of the heating.

The DAC feedback made the church realise it has offered a compromised proposal which did not fully meet our needs, rather was aimed at being acceptable to stakeholders, as was perhaps evident in the aforesaid advantages and disadvantages noted for option 4. This encouraged the PCC to replace the pew benches and pew booths with chairs. In subsequent discussions, the partial retention of pews in the South aisle was challenged by the PCC and members of the church community. It was felt the South aisle would become dead space, and the aesthetic of the church would be unbalanced with mostly chairs and a small number of pews. These factors combined with ongoing and further analysis of the uses of the church, and reasons to be noted presently, led to the option of our submitted faculty, **option 5, c. February 2022.**

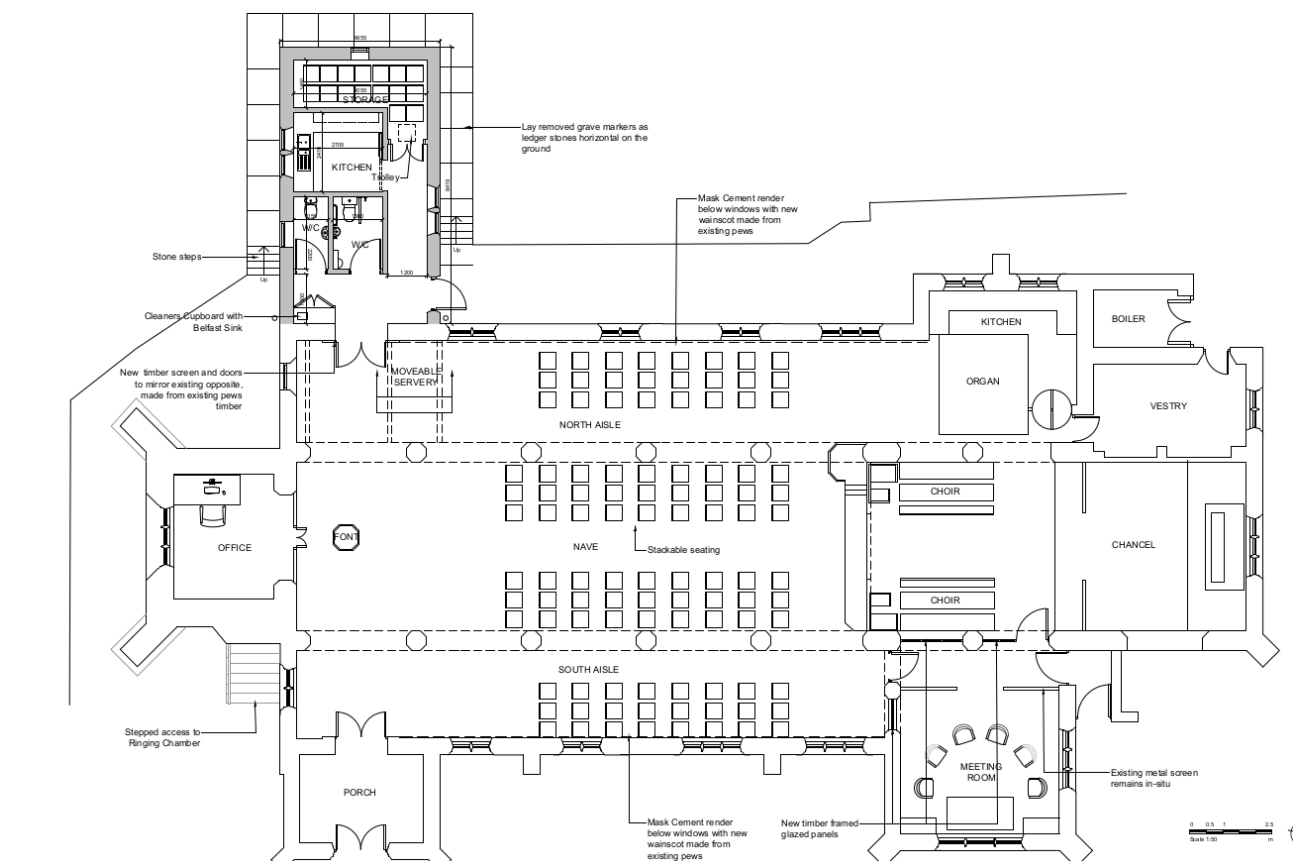


Figure 3: Option 5, c. Feb 2022. See text for details.

Key features of option 5, compared with option 4, include. The NW extension now follows the form of options 1 through 3, and does not wrap around the tower. This was at the strong advice of the

architect who considered it more favourable to stakeholders – not touching the oldest part of the church, and, of lesser importance, lower cost to build. The kitchen is also around 2 feet wider after further consultation with the community; this was offset largely by using chairs, c.f., pew benches. The location and number of toilets is tweaked (moved directly in front of the extension entrance) post feedback from, not least, wheelchair users. There is flexible seating throughout the nave to accommodate the range of worship and community activities required, with the intention of the cafe area through the week being set up along the north aisle (the churchwarden and vergers pews on the west wall are not shown on the diagram but will remain in place). The Lady Chapel screen details awaits further consultation, however a door was added into the chancel for access. As noted previously it was recognised it likely need to be sited behind the c. 1950 metal screen which bounds the chapel. The key advantages of this design option were it afforded the maximum flexible space for the range of worship and community activities being undertaken and planned, while, through the highest quality seating, maintains an appropriate reverential resting state for the church. The use of single seats also provided more COVID secure seating arrangements and allowed better tailoring of seating arrangement for different types of activities in comparison with pew benches. At the same time, it mitigated against many of the disadvantages of option 4. Namely, kept open the Kempe window of St Elizabeth, provided better access to the toilets, and sufficient storage space for the chairs. We also recognised it was a design that fully met our needs, rather than partially met our needs (as discussed in the statement of need and other supporting documentation).