

All Saints' Church Wroughton

STATEMENT OF NEEDS 2025

- 1. General Information** (an overview of the parish and the current use of the building)

Services on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Holy Days

Marriages/Baptisms/funerals/thanksgiving

School services

Toddlers group, and messy church

Church & village Meetings

Concerts

Exhibitions

Lunches/teas

Coffee mornings

- 2. What do you need?** (Briefly explain your needs)

A fully 'accessible toilet' in church as the best way to meet our care and safeguarding responsibilities. This facility would provide wheelchair access and baby changing facility for all needs, from the very young to the elderly.

- 3. The proposals** (Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in Section 2)

Install a fully 'accessible' toilet under the tower, within the present vestry with level floor access, (current raised floor to be removed due to deathwatch beetle infestation and original lias stone flags reinstated) The toilet will be accessible when the church is 'occupied' enabling the vestry doors to be left open.

The existing south wall cabinetry and storage will be largely left unchanged. Doors will be added to areas currently open and security improved. The opportunity will be taken to modify the existing west door storage units to ease removal should this be required for access to the west door for tenor bell removal.

- 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 your proposals)

We have no fully 'accessible' toilet facility to meet the needs of our village and wider community.

Re-ordering completed in 2017 introduced improved heating/lighting, a server and flexible space at the back of church, as a result the church is much more widely used by both small and larger groups/events, emphasising the need for a fully accessible toilet in church.

We wish to encourage families and young children, reflecting our community and providing for the future sustainability of our church.

A fully accessible toilet within church would fulfil our care and safeguarding responsibilities in the best way.

5. What is the evidence for the need? (Who has been consulted)
*APCM in 2021 – indicative vote in favour following discussion and invitation to give views.
Process approved by PCC Nov 21, and continued by PCC meetings in 2021/22/23/24.
Draft plans have been displayed in church inviting comments on a number of occasions.
Consultation with organisations and attendees of services and events over the last 3 years has provided confirmation of the need for an accessible toilet.*

6. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?
*Introducing a toilet within the church enables better use of the existing heating and lighting provision. Greater use of the church would reduce the per capita environmental impact of energy usage.
The current wooden floor has been found to have a significant infestation of deathwatch beetle. The opportunity will be taken to remove the old floor and Victorian heating pipes, insulate and incorporate underfloor heating minimising heat loss.
A separate building would require additional heating and lighting.*

7. What other options to meet the need were considered?
*Other locations for an accessible toilet, both attached and outside the church were considered by our church architect during the planning phase of the last re-ordering project completed in 2017.
These considerations have been revisited and summarised in a review document provided together with the 2017 study as part of the faculty application. A DAC visitation was conducted in 2024 to review our two preferred WC locations, the vestry tower and north door lobby. The DAC notes stating, the vestry location has already achieved in principal support from the statutory consultees, the north door lobby is considered visually harmful requiring considerable justification.*

3.1. Describe and assess the impact of your proposal:
*The introduction of an accessible toilet within the church will bring our church up to the facilities expected in the 21st century whilst maintaining the inherent beauty and sanctity of the Medieval Church.
The impact is reduced due to locating the facility within the C20 fabric of the vestry, utilizing a soil pipe already installed beneath the floor in the recent reordering.*

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 current vestry front design/cabinetry will be retained, providing minimal visual change to the church interior.
The toilet will be a separate room within the vestry, environmental design considerations will minimise any associated noise, odour etc.
The location chosen is sympathetic to the west door internal visual appearance.
A gravity sewer drain pipe to the vestry was incorporated into the 2017 reordering project, negating the need for further disturbance of the church floor or churchyard.*

(7th April 2025)