

1104 – Christ Church Ardsley Design & Access Statement

Existing Setting:

This relatively small church is located on a parcel of land next to the A635 in Ardsley, Barnsley. The church is constructed with sandstone and general walling stonework with ashlar detailing with the pitched roofs being covered with natural slates with angled ridge tiles and copings to raised gables. Around the building are several pathways made of stone slabs and tarmac with grass areas which have been used for the internment of human remains marked with stone monuments. To the East of the Church building is a car park accessed by a set of stone stairs which pass through a retaining wall.

The plan form of the church is set with the altar towards the building's eastern end. The chancel and nave are open with truncated transepts to the north and south. The gallery at the western end provides additional seating space over and helps define the narthex which is formed by screens at the western end of the nave. Off the narthex to the north is a kitchen with a servery hatch. There is a small west porch which to the south contains stairs to the gallery; to the north there is a small toilet compartment

Proposal:

The proposal is to add new ramped access from the car park to rear of the church with the pathways between the rear and the Western entrance of the Narthex being regraded to allow for the addition of a new set of stone steps with bespoke stanchions and handrails and a ramp to replace the current stone steps to the western entrance. Several light fixtures will also be incorporated along the side of the existing paths and new ramps both for aesthetic and functional purposes, four more will be positioned around the memorial plinth to the west of the Narthex. To accommodate the new car park pedestrian access ramp the existing entrance will be widened by cutting the existing wall back and adding two new stone columns by incorporating the ends of walls as to better define the car park entrance from the road and protect the ramps from vehicles.

Relation To Street Scene

Regarding the street scene, the building will remain largely unchanged since the proposal is targeted at improving access to the building rather than the building itself. The new ramps in the car park will be visible from the A635 however the walls will be formed from stone and the bespoke handrails and stanchions will create a functional yet aesthetically appealing feature. This will be enhanced at night and in the evenings with low level lights which will illuminate the ramps and pathways. The existing paths which lead from the car park to the southern entrance at the rear of

the church will be regraded with new tarmac complying with the steepness stipulated for disabled access in Approved Document M. The Narthex entrance will feature a set of sandstone steps which will radiate out in a circular shape from the entrance with the ramp being formed on the right-hand side with a small partition wall dividing the ramp from the steps. Halfway up the ramp will receive the path which runs down the south side of the church, this path will be regraded with new tarmac allowing for a gentle rise between the ramp and the floor level of the southern entrance

Environmental Management

Where possible all building materials will be sourced locally with all waste being disposed of in accordance with industry standards. Additionally, the proposed works will not impact or adversely affect any of the grass areas or any of the trees on the site.

Impact and Privacy of Neighbours

The proposed works will not have any anticipated impact on privacy as the building will remain unchanged and is surrounded by trees and shrubs on the Eastern, Western and Southern sides. Also, the neighboring properties to the South have large fences, meaning there are zero visibility issues with the main neighbors.

Access

The existing means of access to the Church are mostly being retained as they are, except for the key items which are being implemented. The planned works are intended to improve the existing access for the disabled rather than replace the existing provisions, most of the works proposed involve regrading existing pathways to accommodate the new ramps / steps.

Conclusion

In conclusion the proposed works will greatly improve accessibility for all who use the Church. This is especially noticeable for the disabled who currently have no access provision from the car park. Furthermore, the general regrading and improvements made to the existing pathways will make them easier and safer to navigate, which is beneficial to all who use them.

The improved aesthetics and better access will also make the Church more appealing to those in the local community, especially for the elderly who tend to make up a large proportion of the congregation. Ultimately in a modern world where we strive for inclusivity for all there is no reason why a small feasible scheme such as this one should not be undertaken, especially when the benefits are so numerous for both the church and the wider community.

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