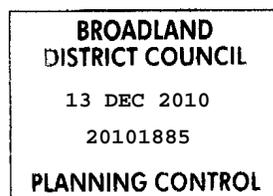


# **The Church of St Laurence Brundall.**



## **Statement of Need**

(for list of contents see page 9)



**The Rector and PCC  
December 2010**



**THE BISHOP OF NORWICH**  
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12 March, 2009

**To Whom it May Concern**

**St. Laurence Church, Brundall**

Norfolk is a county noted for its very large mediaeval churches in small villages. St. Laurence Church, Brundall is not one of them. It is a very small church in a large village, serving a parish of 4,500 people and with inadequate space for routine Sunday worship let alone special occasions, festivals and village events at which people expect the parish church to be used.

The need to address this has long been recognised in Brundall. I'm delighted that under the present Rector an imaginative plan has emerged for a new and substantial church alongside and incorporating the ancient fabric too. A great deal of work has gone into the preparation of the plans, most notably in collaboration with the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches which oversees all alterations and modifications to our church buildings.

This great project for the village of Brundall has been approached extremely professionally by the Rector and the Parochial Church Council and has my full backing and that of the diocesan authorities. There's much to be done in raising a very significant sum of money, of course, but this will be a church which Brundall deserves, given its vibrant community life.

+ Owen Norrie:

## Key facts

- **The original Church of St Laurence dates from the thirteenth century.**
- ***Succeeding generations have altered the building of St Laurence Church to make it appropriate for their needs.***
  - The thatched roof was replaced by tiles in about 1860.
  - The north aisle was added in the early 1900s.
  - The porch was added in about 1900.
  - The west end extension was added in 1962.
  - The planned 2010 extension follows this tradition
- The best view of the original medieval building is from the south side.

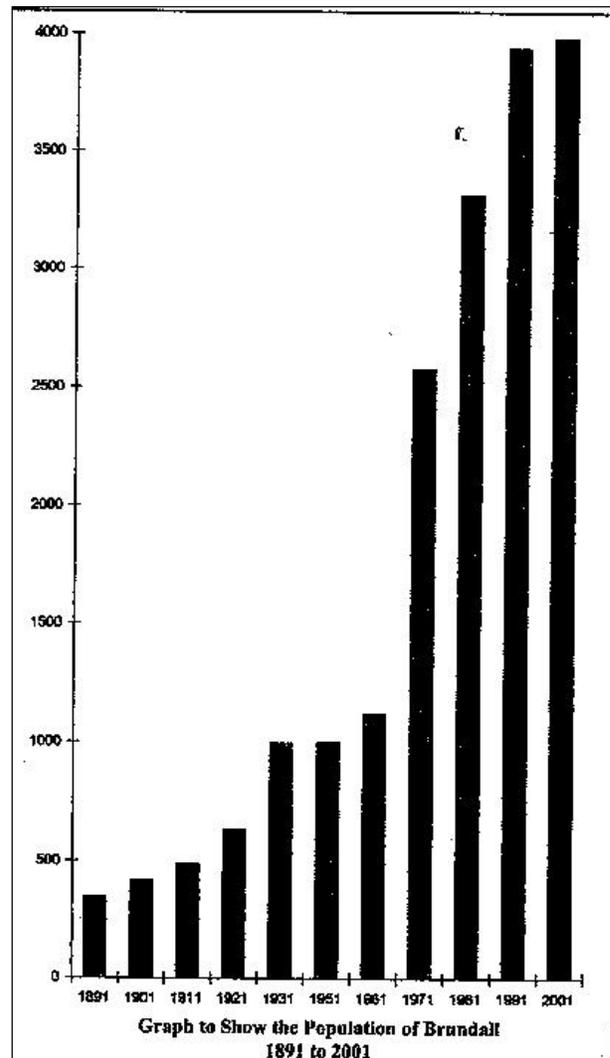


- The north view of the building is currently obscured by a mobile classroom and large yew hedges



- **The population of Brundall Village has grown enormously in the last 50 years.**

- The graph below (taken with permission from *The Book of Brundall and Braydeston, p10*) illustrates this growth from under 500 in 1891 to 1000 in 1931 to around 4000 in 2001.
- During that time Brundall Primary School has been built and extended. Opening in 1970 with 112 pupils, it was extended several times and by 2006, the school had 333 pupils.
- A new Medical Centre was built in 1980. The number of medical practitioners has grown from one in 1968 to five in 2010. In 1969 the Brundall practice had 1,500 patients on its list; in 2007 it had 8,500.



- *Broadland District Council Planning Department has allowed provision for the educational and medical needs of the larger community.*
- **St Laurence Church building has stayed the same size for the last 49 years.**
- The building is too small and unsuitable for:
  - Growth in the present congregation
  - The needs of the present congregation
  - Civic and occasional services (weddings and funerals)
    - The centre aisle is so narrow that coffins cannot be carried into church in a dignified manner. A trolley has to be used.
    - The centre aisle is so narrow that a bride and her father cannot process side by side into the Church at the beginning of the marriage service.
  - Community activities for the people of the Village



This table can be verified using the Register of Services. It shows that over once a month, the building is filled beyond comfortable capacity.

<i>Occasions from November 2009 – October 2010 when the congregation has been 100 or more</i>		
8 November	Remembrance day Service	162
6 December	Christingle and gift service	104
20 December	Carols by Candlelight	100
24 December	Crib Service	108
24 December	Midnight Holy Communion	114
5 March	Women's World Day of Prayer	100
14 March	Mothering Sunday	146
3 April	2 Weddings	Both 100+
4 April	Easter Sunday	114
25 April	St George's Day Scout service	100
2 June	Memorial Service	180
5 June	Wedding	126
10 June	Funeral	180
13 June	Morning Service	111
28 August	Wedding	120+

The designed seating capacity of the Church is 120. See Appendix II. However at least 20 seats have a restricted view of the Communion table area, and the Church feels uncomfortably full with a congregation of over 100 people.

- **Extensive consultation has taken place with the immediate neighbours of the Church, with the Church family, with the Diocesan Advisory Committee and with the Village Community.** There is a list over more than 2 pages in the Design, Access and Planning Statement. Some highlights of that consultation include:

- *On October 6<sup>th</sup> 2008, the immediate neighbours of the Church were invited to coffee in the Church Room and shown the plans. Adaptations to the plans were made as a result of that consultation.*
- *In November 2008 an article in the Village Newsletter, delivered to about 2000 homes in Brundall, informed the community of a display of the plans and of opportunity for comments*
- *On 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2009, a Public Exhibition for the Community was held in the Church. This was publicized in the Village Newsletter. 116 people attended the Consultation and made comments; 104 people signed the attendance lists. A record was kept of all those who attended this consultation. The list of those attending is included with the details of the Consultation in Appendix V.*
- The plans have been adapted in various ways as a result of these consultations.
  - The tower in the original plans has been removed
  - The seating capacity has been reduced from 200 to 180 and the gallery removed.
  - The position of the cars in the car park has been changed to decrease noise and pollution to our neighbours.
  - New plans have been developed to reduce the number of trees affected by the development.
  - Windows on the west end of the building have been designed to be non-opening and with obscured glass in order to avoid our neighbours in Chancel Close being overlooked.
  - The roof line has been lowered, the clerestory windows removed, and flint included in the building materials.
- These changes can be verified by looking at earlier versions of the plans. They represent considerable compromise with those who object to the scheme.
- **The present church buildings are totally inadequate in terms of access for the elderly and disabled.**
  - The walking distance along footpaths from the lych-gate to the porch is 91 yards (83 metres). In the newly developed premises it will be about 44 yards (40 metres).
  - The current church room has one toilet which is impossible to adapt for disabled use.
  - There are currently no designated disabled car-parking spaces. The demographic of Brundall is becoming more elderly year on year; the need for a more accessible building and facilities is becoming more and more urgent.

## FAQs

### **Why so big?**

- The planned extension results from many years of discussion about the current needs of the church family and of the Village of Brundall. Considerable thought has been given to smaller alternatives but these plans represent the vision for growth of an active and committed church family.

- The Diocesan Advisory Committee whose role is to protect ecclesiastical listed buildings has approved in principle the design and size of the planned development.
- The new building will be little higher than the surrounding low-rise residential properties and on a par with the Chalet bungalows in Chancel Close.
- The gross footprint of the present buildings (church, church room and mobile classroom) according to the measured site survey (7016.01B) is 304 sqm. The gross footprint of the proposed new Church building is 600 sqm (471 sqm of new build + 129 sqm of retained church) with 72 sqm of useable space at first floor. This represents an increase 2 times at ground floor level and less than 2.5 times overall.

**Why is the present building being relegated to a side-chapel?**

- In discussions with the Diocesan Advisory committee, a major concern was that the thirteenth century gem which is the present Church should be preserved and clearly articulated.
- The present building, apart from the Victorian north aisle, will be preserved and utilized for smaller services and as a place of prayer and reflection.

**Isn't it wrong to disturb graves?**

- There are no plans to disturb any graves. The plans involve moving some headstones to another part of the Churchyard. Any buried remains found are considered as archaeology and there are strict guidelines as to how they are dealt with, always with due respect.

**Why disturb the tranquility of the Churchyard described by Mortlock and Roberts as the most beautiful garden-like churchyard (*A Popular Guide to Norfolk Churches, Vol 1, 1981*)?**

- The planned development will ensure that the churchyard will continue to be a beautiful tranquil asset to the Village, protecting and enhancing an important heritage asset and its setting. The north side has been compromised by development and this what has lead suggestions that the south side should be un-touched.

**What about the wild life in the Churchyard?**

- The planned development will protect the ecology of the churchyard and provide an even wider variety of habitats. Bat boxes and nesting boxes for Barn Owls and other species are part of the recommendations of the Ecologists employed by the Church to survey the churchyard. The ecologists have followed recognised guidance about the way that the survey has been conducted and presented.

**What about parking?**

- Brundall Church has, over the years, failed to develop its buildings partly because of its lack of car parking. The Property Committee of the Diocese of Norwich has agreed to use of part of The Rectory garden to provide a solution to this problem. The number of parking spaces will deal with the problem of on-street parking apart from occasional exceptionally large services. Elsewhere in the Village, a shoppers' car park has been constructed in much closer proximity to adjacent houses, and the change of use of houses to a nursery was allowed despite the absence of dedicated parking and associated concern by the Highways Department. Every effort has been made in the plans to reduce nuisance to the residents near to the new car-park with quiet surfacing, low-level lighting and screening provided by hedging and planting. The Travel Plan, and its undertakings, is a recognized part of the Planning Process and legally binding. The County Highways authority has commended it.

This document explains the need for expansion of the present building and the vision of the present congregation for growth in their ability to fulfil the Church's mission statement

**'To love and serve in the name of Christ'**

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## **Introduction**

Until the second half of the twentieth century, St Laurence Church, Brundall, was large enough to accommodate all its parishioners. The North Aisle was built in 1901. In the last thirty years there has been significant residential development, such that at the 2001 census the Brundall ward had a population of 5,580. The population of Brundall itself is approximately 4,500. Despite this surge in population, the Church building is still its original size with the exception of the small extension built in the 1960s at the west end of the nave.

## **Section A – General Information**

### **Numbers of people:**

Approximately 4,500 people live in Brundall ward which includes the parish of Braydeston St Michael; 135 people are on the electoral roll of St Laurence, Brundall; Present seating capacity is 120 (excluding the choir) though the building is uncomfortable full if the congregation is over 100 people. The building has very narrow aisles making circulation around the building difficult when over 100 people are present. Two areas, the chancel and the west end extension can only be accessed via steps.

### **Services :**

The normal pattern of services provides a variety of worship experiences as shown in Appendix I

### **The general make-up of the congregation:**

The congregation at the Sunday 8 a.m. Holy Communion service is mainly elderly. The Tuesday 10am Holy Communion service attracts mixed ages including mums and babies. On the first Sunday of the month at the Memorial Hall, with café style worship, the congregation is of mixed ages with up to 40% of people only coming to this service. The congregations at the '10 to 10' service on the other three Sundays are mixed in ages with almost one quarter being in the 25-35 age group, most of the remainder being over 50. The evening service congregation is mainly elderly and is led by a robed choir. Attendance at Christmas Communion/Family Service is consistently between 160 and 200 people (exceeding maximum safe capacity).

### **Work with young people:**

There is a group meeting on Sunday mornings catering for the three age groups, Key Stage 1 (ages 4-8), Key Stage 2 (ages 8-11) and Key Stage 3 (age 11+). There is also a crèche for pre-school children. Approximately 12 children attend these groups.

### **Supporting information:**

- Apart from the Westfield Mission (a small Brethren Assembly) there are no other denominational worship centres available in Brundall.
- The main body of the Church is normally left open during daylight hours but the rear west extension is locked for storage.
- Other village community facilities available include the Memorial Hall and a small Scout Hut. Within the Church yard there is a separate small Church room building and temporary mobile building (see Appendix III) which has reached the end of its life and is in urgent need of replacement.
- The main issues raised in the last Quinquennial Inspection Report are being actioned.
- Current parking facilities are severely limited causing congestion and safety issues. However, recent initiatives have addressed this problem with the co-operation of the Dental Surgery. A travel plan has been developed and forms one of the supporting documents for this application.
- Significant growth in both young families and the elderly has highlighted the need for facilities which address the needs of the wide range of the village population. *The Book of Brundall and Braydeston* (Brundall Local History Group, 2007) describes the building of a new Health Centre in Brundall in 1980 because of the increase in the population of the Village (ps100, 101). It also refers to the building of the Primary school in 1969, and its expansion in the period leading up to the early eighties because of the growth in the population of Brundall (pages 81-83). During this period the size of the Church building remained unchanged. By 1985 it was obvious that the Church building was too small.
- The need described in this document existed prior to the arrival in 1980 of the previous incumbent and has been subject to serious examination for some years. Appendix IV contains a copy of the minutes of a meeting in 1985 at which the shortage of space in the Church was discussed. It is interesting to note that whereas numbers attending evening services, where there is no pressure on

the space, have been maintained, numbers at other services when the building was overcrowded have declined.

- Alternative plans have been drawn up in the past and the current project builds upon knowledge gained from that process. The PCC drew up a wish list of requirements and then in June 2007 a highly focused working group was formed, and an architect was invited to submit new ideas. The current plans are a progression of those ideas following a comprehensive consultation process. Those consulted included members of the Church, immediate neighbours of the church building, the local community, the Diocesan Advisory Committee, English Heritage, spab, Ancient Monuments Society, Victorian Society, its Broadland District Council Conservation Officer, the Parish Council and other concerned bodies. Details of the consultation process in Appendix V.
- Throughout the consultation process, the document '*Statement of Community Involvement*' (Broadland District Council, April 2006) has been referred to.
- The proposed church extension project has been financed sufficiently to take the initiative to planning permission stage and further funding will be generated by avenues pursued by the Finance Committee including application to grant awarding bodies as well as local fundraising efforts.

## **Section B - The Need**

- Flexible single worship area for 180 people that can provide a wide variety of worship experiences. This number is based on current statistics produced by the organisation Christian Research which suggest that 6% of the population currently attend church regularly. Allowing for the proximity of a number of large city churches to Brundall, a possible regular congregation of 180 people is not unreasonable. (*Religious Trends No 7*, Peter Brierley, Christian Research Organisation, 2008)
- Meeting rooms for children and young people; there is currently one group which caters for three age groups (Key stages 1, 2, and 3), and a crèche so there is a need for four meeting spaces in addition to the worship area for use on Sunday mornings.
- Communal area with facilities to serve refreshments.
- Meeting rooms for church groups.  
These include the Parochial Church Council, other committee meetings, courses such as Christianity Explored, and Christians Together in Brundall meetings throughout the year,
- Meeting rooms for community use throughout the week. The church's mission statement is 'To love and serve in the name of Christ.' In order to be able to serve the community more space and better facilities are needed.  
The community organisations that would value such facilities include Weightwatchers, Luncheon Club, Acle and Brundall Lions. Broadlands Emergency planners would like to include such facilities on their list of possible Emergency Rest facilities. Letters from groups which need such a meeting place are included in **Appendix V**. Existing community facilities in Brundall include the Scout Hut and the Memorial Hall. The former is small, has poor catering facilities and, whilst being adequate for the meetings of the uniformed organisations, is inadequate for many other events. The Memorial Hall is very well used by the community, so well used that there is little spare capacity for other regular activities. This is demonstrated by booking records from the Memorial Hall for two weeks chosen randomly in the month of March 2009. This is attached as Appendix VI. The Memorial Hall does not have good acoustics making it less than ideal for musical events. The worship space of the new development will provide a venue which is good acoustically and beautiful aesthetically. It is not intended to usurp the role of the Memorial Hall as the major centre of village activities.
- Kitchen suitable for group catering;
- Sufficient toilets compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and Child Protection Act.
- Office facilities for parish administration.
- Clergy and choir vestry.
- Improved parking provision.

## **Section C – Difficulties in meeting the need.**

### **Facilities and access (See Appendix VII):**

- A toilet exists within the detached church room but it cannot be adapted for non ambulant use due to space restrictions.
- The kitchenette within the church room cannot be used for preparing and cooking food as it is too compact.
- Due to the lack of current facilities, activities which require the provision of food, other than buffets (prepared off premises), force us to use other venues within the local community which do not have adequate cooking facilities either.
- There are areas of the church and site that are not accessible to wheelchair users due to awkward changes in level and there is no designated disabled users parking.
- The aisles in the church are very narrow so that manoeuvrability and circulation are significantly restricted. This could become a serious issue in an emergency situation.
- Parking has to be on the street causing congestion or in the local dental surgery park (informal agreement) requiring congregation (including young children) to cross a busy road to access the Church.

### **Space and liturgy:**

- The church building does not provide enough space to accommodate any growth of the congregation with the Church being regularly filled to within 80 % of its total capacity during Sunday morning worship.
- At Christmas, Easter and at other times such as funerals, memorial services, ordinations and confirmations, capacity can be exceeded by 100%; a video link in the Church Room has been unsatisfactory at such times.
- The church building is too small to accommodate civic occasions such as Remembrance Sunday services involving the Royal British Legion and local uniformed organizations.
- In the past three years at least 4 young couples living in Brundall have been married elsewhere because Brundall Church does not have room for all their family and friends wishing to attend the wedding service.
- Visibility is severely restricted from the west end extension due to the layout and those using it feel detached from the rest of the congregation. It illustrates that extension of the Nave would be unsuccessful.
- The fixed pews do not allow for alternative seating arrangements to be used, circulation around the building is impaired and the use of any floor space for a church band, choir or serving of refreshments after services has to be at the expense of seating space.
- The existing meeting spaces will not meet future needs for outreach and work with children.
- The buildings are such that they could not be adapted for alternative use. The mobile classroom is beyond its 'sell-by' date; the Church Room is too small and lacks the most basic facilities; removing the pews from the Church would not increase the seating capacity at all. In fact, replacing the pews with chairs has been drawn out and proven that it would significantly reduce the seating capacity of the present building.

### **Section D – The proposal**

#### **History of previous plans:**

Various discussions and proposals have been considered and abandoned by the PCC over the last 25 to 30 years as shown in the Appendices:

- Appendix VIII lists the alternative sites investigated by the Revd Bob Baker (Rector, 1980-2005) and Mr Arthur Calff (Parish Councillor at the time) together with the reason why each was rejected. Most of the possible sites have now been developed for domestic dwellings.
- Appendix IX – An excerpt from a DAC site visit (05/03/07) considering the erection of a new Church Hall detached from the current Church building.

This idea was rejected for three reasons. First, the DAC report suggested that a separate complex would take the emphasis away from the existing Church and could lead to it being 'lost'. Secondly, it is clear that the present site has been the spiritual centre of the village of Brundall for the past 700 years; it does not seem right to deprive the community of its much valued spiritual centre where the inhabitants have been baptized, married and buried for so many centuries. Thirdly, it has not been possible to identify an appropriate site within the village now. However, if these plans are rejected, the church may have to find an alternative site. That would almost certainly lead to the present building falling out of use and into disrepair unless a Charity like the Norfolk Churches Trust take it on.

- Appendix X shows Plan 16a (29/04/03) and Plan 16b (08/09/03)
- Appendices XI lists the reasons for rejecting these plans.

In response to the advice from DAC, a new architect was therefore invited to submit proposals based on the original concept to include a building attached to the original Church. This has led to the current proposal now being submitted in the form of the plans accompanying this document. The DAC has advised on the liturgical and design elements of the proposals and have confirmed their support for the current scheme.

#### **Summary of proposed use of the new facilities:**

Appendix XII provides a weekly timetable and description of the anticipated types of use of the new facility and should be used in conjunction with the text below:

- **Worship Area:**

- The new worship area will accommodate a maximum of 180 people depending on configuration
- The northern wall of the worship area can be retracted when necessary, allowing audible and visual links to the reception and conversation area.
- The worship area will be large enough to accommodate the monthly café style services currently held in the village Memorial Hall.
- The sanctuary will be recessed and side-lit.
- It is not intended that this area should compete for usage with the Memorial Hall in any way. The latter is clearly the central, large available space for village events, but it is in high demand, and it is hoped that the worship area will be flexible enough to provide another valuable community space.

- **Reception and Conversation Area**

This space, being the normal point of entry to the building, will serve as a meet and greet area and contain information and displays about parish activities. It will have comfortable seating for relaxation and discussion with proximity to the kitchen. It will also serve as a dining area, when appropriate, seating about 50 people. The Luncheon club can only cater for 34 elderly people at present because of space limitations. The larger space will allow for more of the house-bound elderly people of Brundall to share in a lunch and to socialize with other people.

- **Meeting Room 1a and 1b**

The room could be sub-divided and has specific access to a toilet in compliance with the requirements for a nursery/play-group. The size of the room allows for a pre-school group of 12 children per session. It will have separate access from the outside via a west door.

On Sundays it is envisaged that it will allow two groups of children to meet there.

- **Meeting Area 3 (Arcade Area)**

The area bridging the new worship area and the nave of the current church building would form an additional meeting space. This space, being attached to the new worship area, would have glazed walls allowing visual connection to the activities underway and also be included in the audio system. It is intended that this would provide a crèche facility, allowing parents to have full audio and visual participation with the services while attending to their infants.

- **Meeting Room 2/Storage area.**

This will utilize the space above the kitchen and meeting room 1.

These meeting rooms will help to overcome a shortage of compact/flexible meeting rooms available in the village and will provide seminar facilities for other user groups.

- **Existing Nave and Chancel:**

- This part of the new development will remain as in its present form.
- The existing pews will be retained.
- The spiritual integrity of this area will be preserved and will be included in the regular pattern of services (Appendix XII).
- The current practice of keeping this area open during the day for visitors and private prayer will continue.
- It will be connected to the new worship area by way of glazed partitioning including doors.
- The lead font will be kept and will continue to be used.

- **Existing West Extension**

It is proposed to continue with the use of this room but as a storage facility with subdivided secure areas for different user groups.

- **Vestries**

These areas will provide preparation facilities for Clergy and Choir prior to services.

- **Administration Office**

The proposal provides for a dedicated office on site, primarily to be used for Parish administration.

- **Kitchen**

The proposed kitchen will comply with catering standards and will enable the preparation, cooking and serving of meals on the site.

- **External Environment:**

- Access to the new development will be provided which is accessible to all members of the community with appropriate transition areas.

- The surrounding area will be landscaped in keeping with the location. The Broadland DC Officers have asked that a landscape designer is appointed and that a strategy to manage both small-scale planting and existing and future tree planting is compiled and submitted as part of the planning permission application. The introduction of a new garden area to the north, albeit challenging side of the development and a planted roof on part of the new building will add further variety to the Churchyard environment. The heritage setting of the Church will not be destroyed. It will be preserved and enhanced. Once the work is completed, the churchyard will continue to be the tranquil space much loved by the community.
- There is already space for 3 cars to park in the Rectory driveway. These will be reconfigured to suit the altered access and provide 3 additional. A new parking area for 9 cars, including 2 designated disabled car users spaces will be created. There will be hard-standing and consolidated paths to the Church. No car parking in Church Lane for church users.
- The Travel Plan explains and encourages systems for car-sharing, and walking and cycling, all as healthy approaches to getting to the church. When large numbers are expected at a funeral or wedding, the Traffic police will be asked (as they are already) to help with traffic management.
- Care will be taken moving up to 20 headstones which are of considerable age. No maintained graves or areas of cremated remains will be disturbed.

### **Section E – Support and Practicalities.**

#### **Current use:**

- The layout and facilities within the existing Church building limit its use almost exclusively to Church services
- The temporary Church Building in Appendix III is currently used almost exclusively for children's work.

The following points summarise the current use of the Church Room:

- In the past the Church Room has been used by community groups such as Brundall Bridge Club, the Parish Council and for various private functions such as family celebrations.
- One of Brundall's Play Groups used to be based in the Church Room and met on weekdays during term time but OFSTED inspections have been critical of the environment, which is far from ideal for a nursery/play group.
- Until recently, a 'Weightwatchers' group used the Church Room, but they found the space too small and have moved to another venue.
- Christians Together use the Church Room for monthly evening meetings throughout the year.
- During February and March a Lent Course is held but they are enforced to impose a ceiling on numbers.
- After some services e.g. Women's World Day of Prayer - light refreshments are served in the Church Room but the safe and sensible capacity of the building has been exceeded.

#### **Evidence of need for new building as a community facility**

- One-off hire of the Church room has diminished recently because the hirers regard the facilities as sub-standard.
- The organiser of Weightwatchers group struggles with the constraints of the building and has indicated that a more modern building providing facilities for group activities as well as for private consultation would be much more suitable.
- Christians Together have stated that expanded and more flexible accommodation would better match their present needs and provide opportunities for future growth.
- Groups that are currently having to impose a ceiling on numbers would have more scope for increased attendance e.g. Lent Course and other syndicated sessions.
- Brundall Luncheon Club have indicated that in more suitable premises at least 50 people (currently 34) would make use of this community provision within a population where the demographic is likely to have increased proportion of senior citizens in the future.
- Additional parking provision will be a positive influence on safety and congestion.
- Initial approaches to community groups such as Brundall and Acle Lions and The Royal British Legion have provided evidence that, with new premises, additional groups would be interested in using such facilities.

Given the planned improved parking facilities, the proposed building extension would be ideally placed within the village to offer new opportunities to the Brundall community and to the wider church. Preliminary approaches have indicated a high degree of interest from new users as well as renewed interest from current users. Letters from prospective users and selected letters of support are attached as Appendix XIII. Whilst room hire charges must necessarily cover overheads and leave a small margin, it would not be managed as a profit centre but rather be regarded as an opportunity for service to the community, an essential component of the life of St Laurence's Church.

#### **Section F – Significance and Impact**

- The proposed development will have an impact on the present building. The Statement of Significance shows clearly how the building has been modified and developed over the centuries to meet the needs of successive generations of worshippers. The proposed development is in continuity with that ongoing development.
- Apart from removal of the North aisle and the present Vestry, the charming south view and interior of the present church would be unaffected by the development.
- The valuable lead font will remain in its present position, and care will be taken with moving the stained glass memorial window and memorials (where necessary) into suitable positions in the proposed new building as directed by DAC.
- The octagonal building will be demolished but its footings used as the basis for a memorial garden, keeping the memorial plaque. Some of the components from that building will be incorporated into the new building; it is possible that some of the beams might be made into a cross as a feature of the new building.
- Care will be taken to move the Romanesque capital to an appropriate position in the new development as directed by SPAB.
- If, as objectors suggest, the Church building gains prominence when viewed from The Street, a proposal to seek permission to erect a free-standing cross may not be necessary. If it seems appropriate, it would be constructed similar to those used outside churches that have no tower, located so that it can be seen through the retained line of trees on the Street frontage. The free-standing cross does not form part of the current application.
- There is much local attachment to the bell-cote, and after considerable discussion, it has been possible to keep that as the highest point of the church and affirm its position as the landmark feature of St Laurence's Church.

#### **Conclusion**

The mission statement of St Laurence Church is 'To love and serve in the name of Christ.' The proposed new development will enable us to continue to do that and to develop the ways in which we do it.