

Statement of Needs – Major projects

1. General information

This should provide an overview of the parish and the current use of the building.

Taverham St Edmunds is a single benefice covering the whole of the civil parish of Taverham, which has population of approximately 14,000

A wide variety of worship takes place on a regular basis as follows with average attendance in brackets:

- Sunday worship follows the pattern of Early Communion (20) followed by a later service of Communion on 3 Sundays and all-age worship once a month (70). In the evenings there is a monthly Julian service (6) and monthly Iona service (8) and an informal service of Prayer and Praise at one of the village halls fortnightly (15).
- On weekdays at 5pm small groups gather for prayer (5) and there is a service of Holy Communion on Wednesdays (15).
- Messy Church involves 20+ children and 30+ adults once a month.
- Sunday Club at the Rectory has an average of 12 children and adults and the fortnightly youth group, also held in the Rectory, has about 10 members several of whom are preparing for Confirmation.
- Groups from the local schools visit church regularly when members of the congregation are involved in activities with them and similar visits are offered to the uniformed organisations.
- Occasional offices are held on demand throughout the year and the figures for 2013 were - Baptisms (20), Weddings (17), Funerals (14), Interment of cremated remains (10)

Social events such as concerts are held in church. Twice a year we have seasonal fairs and an annual fun day using the church and grounds.

Occasionally celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries or following baptisms and funerals are held in church..

Electoral Roll – 107

A wide range of ages uses the church, but a significant majority at the principal services being aged 50+.

The church is open throughout the day.

For many years we have been able to pay our quota in full from our regular giving, usually with nothing in reserve.

Several years ago we set up a projects fund which is the recipient of fund raising activities and which accumulates and then used at the decision of the PCC for maintenance projects. This has enabled us to successfully fund some major structural work in the past.

We have recently received some legacies and gifts, specifically for setting up a building fund to finance this major project. At this early stage in our project, with no building permission, no funds have been applied for.

Our last Quinquennial report was in 2013. This immediately followed the completion of considerable work on the upper parts of the fabric as identified in the previous inspection. As a result nothing major was identified, which would give us financial concern. We do perform regular maintenance on our building and churchyard.

2. What do you need?

Briefly explain your needs (not your proposals). Append any brief for your architect.

The following brief was prepared for the architect:

A place of worship has been on the site of St. Edmund's church for over a thousand years. For the vast majority of that time the church has been at the heart of the community.

The church of St. Edmund's has been a focal point of the community during the Black Death, the Reformation, two world wars and other conflicts since. At these times people have come to pray and share their difficulties together. It has also been a place of celebration as people have married and had children baptised and given thanks for the lives of loved ones.

Its building and land is, therefore, a place of great significance, a beacon of hope, a symbol of security in an unsettled world. It points to things much bigger than just us.

Over the years the building has been changed and added to. In the fourteenth century the chancel was added and at some stage a building was attached, the remains of which can still be seen on the outside of the church. Other additions were made during the Victorian era, including the south aisle and the porch, as more space has been needed for an increasing population and as society has changed.

Society continues to change but the vision remains, to have a place of gathering which serves not only those who come regularly to worship on Sundays but the wider community of which we are a part.

Over quite a few years now we, as the present worshipping congregation of St. Edmund's, have had a vision, a desire, to continue to build both spiritually and physically upon all that has gone before and to carry on being at the heart of the community in order to serve and care for all people in Taverham. In order to accomplish this we have looked carefully and thoughtfully about the way forward and, inevitably, we realise we need more physical space.

We believe that a new building alongside the church would enable us to more effectively serve the community, keeping us at the heart of life in Taverham.

We have always worked hard to establish relationships with the local schools and to work in partnership with them. With more space we would be able to expand and develop what we have been growing over the last few years.

We would welcome local groups using the building for community events. It could also be used as a venue for wedding receptions and funeral gatherings.

An office within the building would also be an essential facility for us. Apart from being a centre of administration, it could be used for meetings with wedding couples, those who are bereaved and other pastoral needs.

By adding a new space we would be able to make better use of the church building itself. We are increasingly in need of more room with more families attending.

We are a lively, working, vibrant and growing church. A new building would, therefore be a tremendous help to us in the life and mission of our own calling to share the Good news of Jesus Christ with the people of Taverham. We could use it for Alpha courses, quiet days (both our church and the wider Diocese), Sunday Club

(presently meeting at the Rectory), refreshments after services, toddler groups, Messy Church (a new after school initiative which we have recently started) and hospitality, which is a huge part of who we are.

Our chosen design allows has the advantage of not requiring disturbance of any known graves and should retains the present disabled parking and vehicle turning capability. Apart from the desired gathering spaces it provides essential kitchen, toilet and storage facilities. Early on in our planning we identified an essential requirement that it be closely linked to the church to create a building, which will allow us to use of the complex as an integrated whole providing a physical, spiritual and psychological link, and our proposal allows for this.

We believe the time is right for us to actively pursue a new building. We believe it will benefit all the people of Taverham as we use it as a base for becoming increasingly involved in our community.

This will be our generation, building for today and for future generations, just as our predecessors did, and for which we give thanks.

3. The proposals

Set out what you are proposing to do in order to meet the needs set out in section 2

We are proposing a two story detached building which contains versatile meeting spaces. It also houses facilities to meet modern requirements, which were never envisaged by our predecessors and which cannot be fitted into the existing building - parish office, kitchen, storage and toilets. Our architect's proposals accompany this document.

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 the proposals.

The building was designed for formal worship for a small farming community in medieval times and expanded in Victorian times to serve an enlarged population but worshipping in similar way.

It is impossible to meet the changing needs of Society and a growing population solely using this beautiful, but impractical, building in a way that is, at best, makeshift.

We need to be better equipped to interact with our community and we recognise that this will only be effective when we can offer facilities that are appropriate to enhance our ministry and outreach in Taverham.

Following our experience of outreach in the west of the parish, especially our community café, we are being challenged to provide welcoming facilities for people living in the area nearer the church, such as the lonely and bereaved who regularly visit graves in the churchyard. The local primary schools are keen for us to extend the learning experience we already provide.

As a result of the Sunday Club and youth groups meeting at the Rectory we realise that, as well as more suitable premises for these children/teenagers to meet, parents are interested in exploring the Christian faith very often at the same time as their children but in a different room.

5. What is the evidence for the need?

Please explain who has been consulted.

A building group was formed who consulted with the congregation at various stages.

A preliminary visit was made by the DAC, including a representative of Broadland District Council to assess a previous plan, different in design, but in the same general area as our current proposal. At this meeting the merits of the scheme were generally accepted, but the particular design was not.

Preliminary and Informal consultation has taken place with the chairman of the Parish Council Planning Committee.

The plans have been on public view at a May Fair which was well attended by members of the Village, with generally favourable comments.

6. How is the proposal contributing to the need for environmental sustainability?

How is it reducing the carbon footprint, contributing to the Church's commitment to reduce to 20% by 2050?

At present we are not into a detailed planning stage, but it is envisaged that not only will the building itself comply with modern environmental standards, but it would include solar panels or a ground source, not only to power the new build, but also the existing building, thereby reducing our existing carbon footprint.

7. What other options to meet the need were considered, taking Point 6 and the impact identified in the Statement of Significance into account?

As part of our initial deliberations we considered various options which might be considered:

Re-ordering - this might be an option in large churches with spare space but is not an option for us since the church is regularly well filled.

Build on the South Side - This area contains fairly recent burials and would be a visual of the only public line of sight. It would also involve alterations to the oldest part of the church and the possible obscuring of the mediaeval window.

Build on an unused part of the churchyard alongside Taverham Road. This would be a building in totally the wrong place to meet our aspirations for an integrated complex. It would require its own entrance from the road and simply turn into a separate 'church hall'. Once again it would be a visual impairment.