

Norwich Diocesan Advisory Committee Report of a Visit

Church: Holt, St Andrew

Grade II*

NNDC

07/114

Date of Visit: 23rd April 2010

PRE: 4140

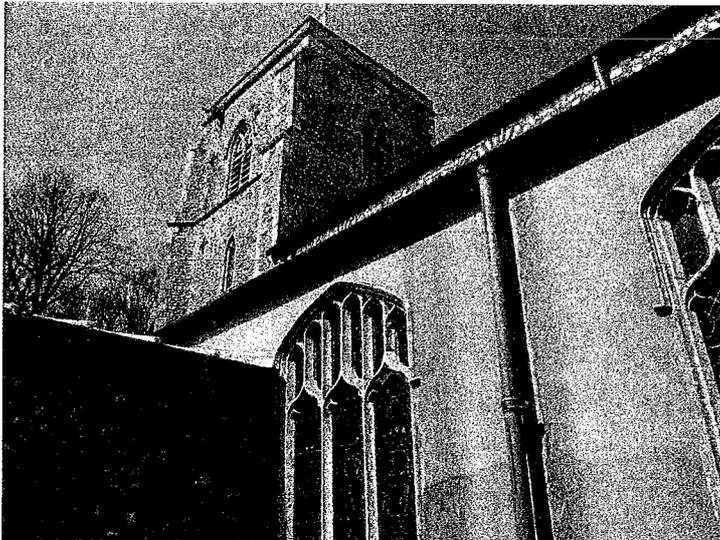
Electoral Roll: 199

DAC Representatives: Mr Hugh Richmond (Vice-Chairman), Mr Charles Carus, Mrs Jean Gosling (DAC Secretary)

Parish Representatives: The Revd Howard Stoker (Rector), Mr Dick Copas (C/W)

Church Architect: Mrs Ruth Blackman

Also in Attendance: Mr Chris Young (Conservation Officer – North Norfolk DC)



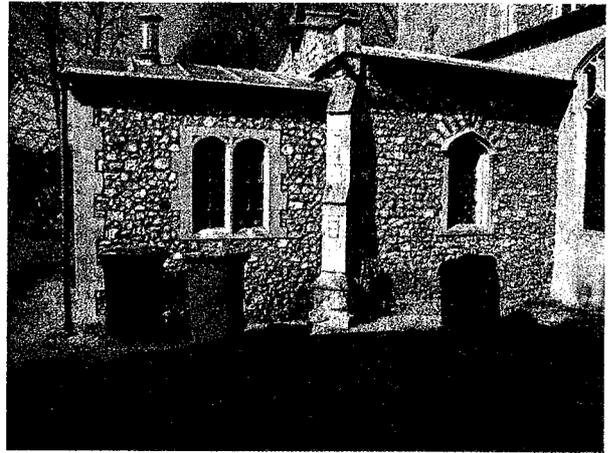
Purpose of Visit:

To look at the latest proposals for the new extension on the south side of the church to be built against the boundary wall of the churchyard on land to be purchased from Greshams School, and linked to the church through the south porch.

The Rector explained that negotiations are well advanced with Greshams School for the purchase of the necessary land. The southern elevation of the new extension will blend in with the existing boundary wall, and with the church itself. The land outside the boundary wall will eventually become a car park.

Hugh Richmond and Charles Carus both encouraged the new design which was felt to be a great improvement on the original proposals.

Chris Young said that he felt that the impact on the church itself was the most important consideration and now that the new extension will be further away from it there is more scope for creating a good new building. He felt that the siting and footprint were now acceptable and it is just the elevation and massing which need addressing. The levels in the porch also need looking at.



Ruth Blackman said that it was important to retain the existing porch and that she proposed to design a glazed entrance link leading from the porch into the new building. All agreed that a modern design for this link would be good.

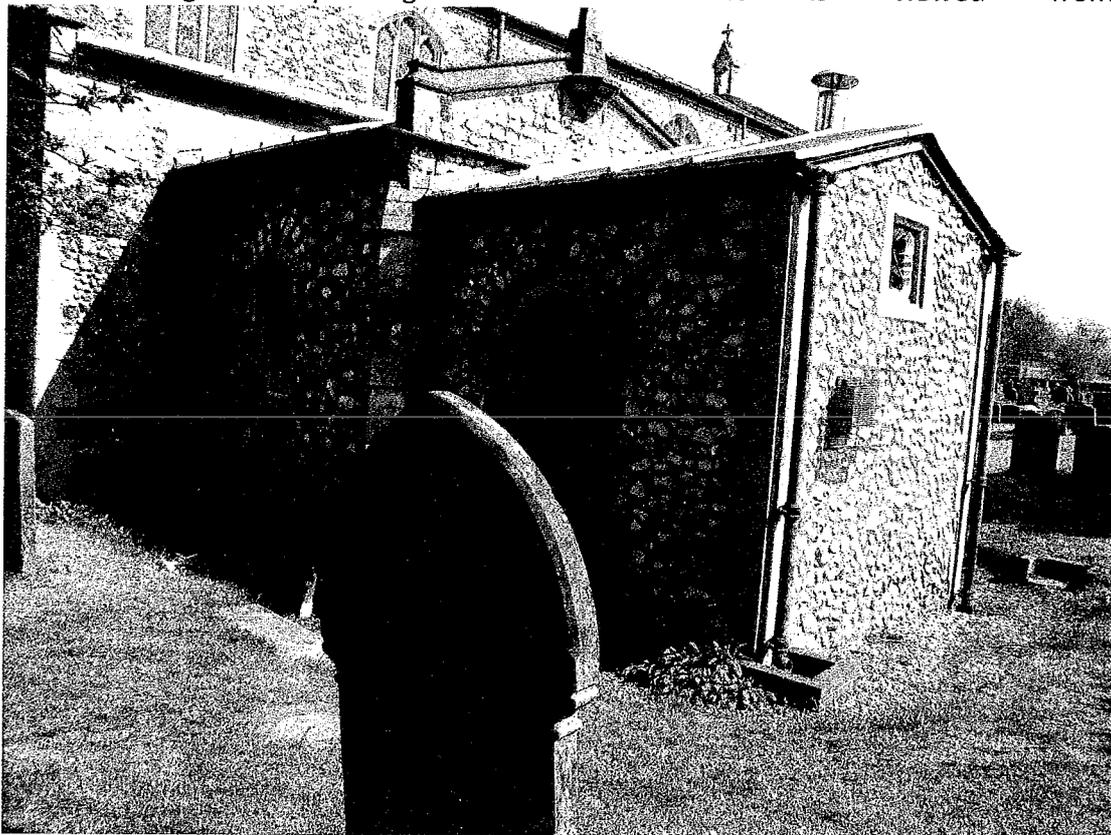
The meeting discussed whether the boiler house at the extent of the south porch should be removed or not.

Ruth Blackman said that she felt that the new link should be entered from the west through a solid door, and that a lift with a hydraulic platform should be used to raise the level from the church, thus removing the need for a ramp. The back wall of the link would be of glass giving views into the inner courtyard, which would be landscaped. The new link should form one unit only between the south porch and the new extension.

Hugh Richmond said that he liked the cloistral feeling that the inner courtyard would give. There are several headstones in this area which will need to be removed, and the area will be accessed through both the meeting room and the entrance link. The area will encompass a change of level and a terrace will be built outside the meeting rooms. It was agreed that this area will have a high usage and that therefore hard landscaping would be preferable to grass.



The window openings to the south side of the new extension are to be minimal, although it may be possible to gain light through roof lights on this side. The roof is to be a curved structure and made of well-insulated zinc. The possibility of a sedum roof was also touched on. The difficulty of the curved roof slightly obscuring the clerestory windows was discussed and the consequent possibility of separating the roof into two sections. However, Ruth Blackman felt that for maintenance reasons the roof needs to be kept reasonably high and pointed out that the view of the roof will change depending on where it is viewed from.



Ruth Blackman agreed to re-draw the extension and link, making slight adjustments, for the next meeting of the DAC.

Hugh Richmond thanked the representatives of the parish for the presentation of their proposals and the members of the DAC sub-committee for their reactions and comments. He then explained that the purpose of the visit was to provide the members of the sub-committee with a proper understanding of the works and their effect on the church so that the case could be accurately reported to the full committee of the DAC. He also explained that the decision whether or not to recommend the proposals to the Chancellor rested with the full committee of the DAC and could only be judged on the information contained in the application for a faculty submitted by the parish and its agents. He said that the Committee looks forward to receiving Ruth Blackman's new drawings in due course.

**Jean Gosling
April 2010**