

An overview of the development of the west end of Blofield Church & Commentary on the Plans

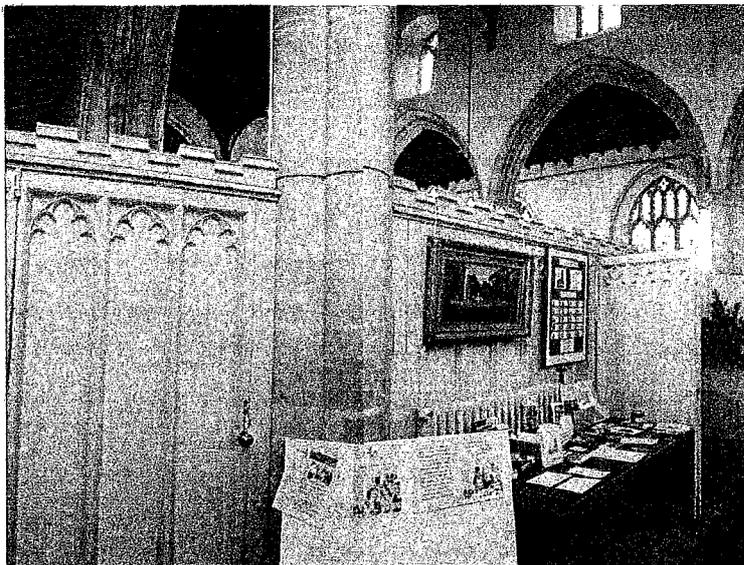
These notes hope to address some of the issues raised by the DAC following their meeting in December 2010



A visitor approaching Blofield Church sees first its grand tower, the nave and north transept. It is a good sized building, the largest in the Blofield Deanery and the largest between the City of Norwich and the port of Great Yarmouth.

1 Alterations to the Screen.

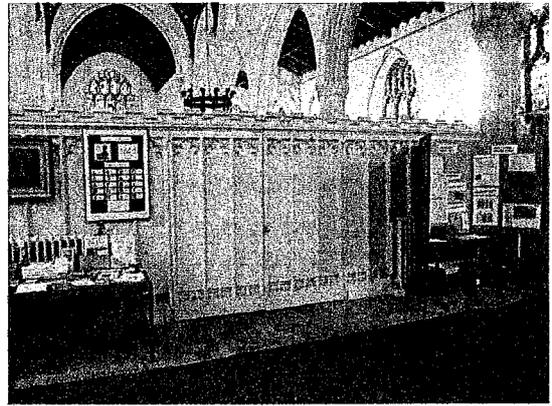
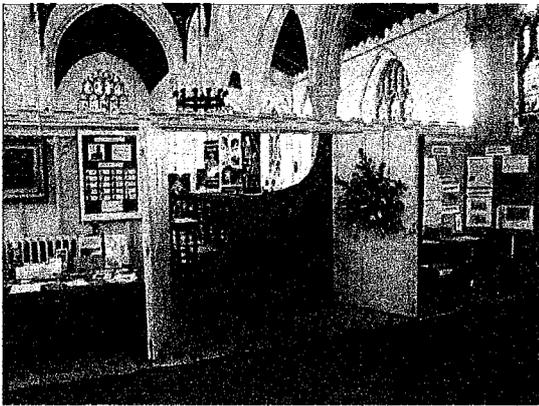
On entering the building from the north porch the visitor would expect a panoramic view of the interior, common to all large churches in Norfolk, with the eye being taken up with the grand vista of stained glass windows, pews, pulpit, altar and font. Blofield Church, however, is quite unusual with the view of the interior hidden behind a large wooden screen. A glance over the visitor's left shoulder gives a mere indication of what might lie beyond the screen.



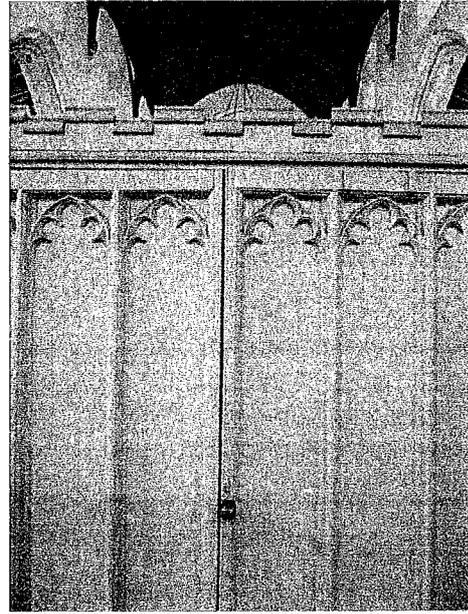
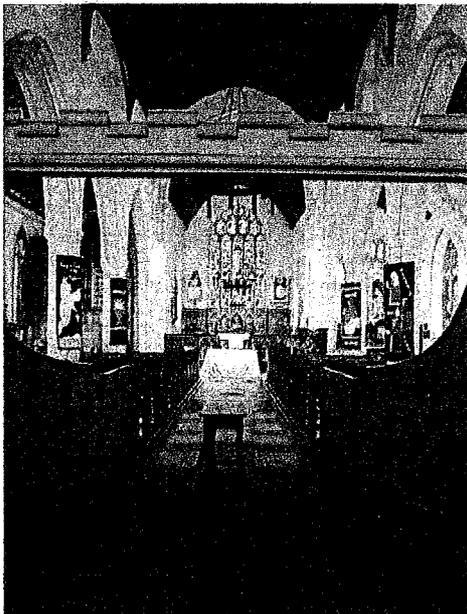
Entering further into the building the open doors at the head of the nave aisle give the first view of the grandeur and proportion of the building. Blofield Church appears larger inside than it does from the exterior.

The doors in the screen remain open at all times, for what are obvious reasons to us; if closed for Sunday worship it is impossible to see any late arrivals and for them to see in. We also keep Blofield Church open during the week with the open doors adding to the sense of welcome.

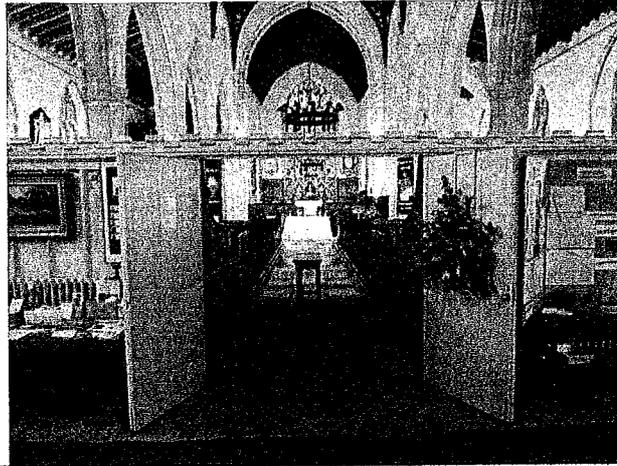
It is proposed to remove the doors and the 'battlemented' balustrade above the nave aisle entrance and replace them with glass doors that can be shut whilst keeping the view into the church. The 'battlemented' balustrade over the doors is modern being made during the incumbency of Revd Albert Baker (1978-94) and now carries the 'sound loop' wires (the battlements over the rest of the screen are original and part of the screen). The sound-loop system will need to be modified in the future as neither the chancel or west end are covered by the current sound system.



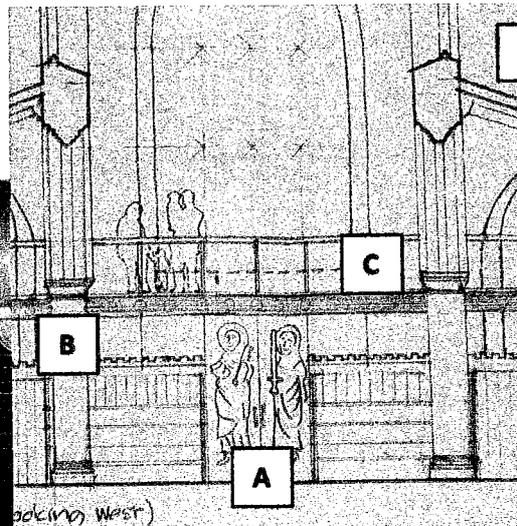
Closing the solid doors makes a negative impact on the building.



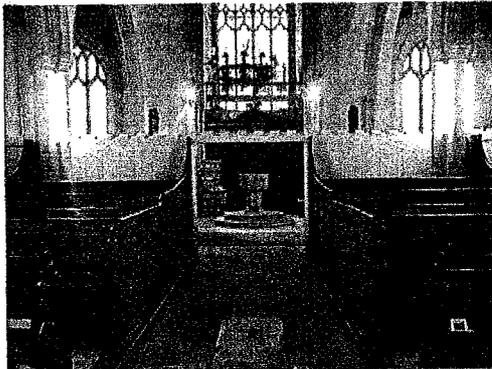
Replacing the wooden doors with glass doors at the head of the nave aisle will allow the 'welcome space' at the west end to connect with the rest of the nave even with the glass doors shut. The removal of the 'battlemented' balustrade will enable coffins to be carried through the doorway with ease (they have to be lowered at present). When the 'welcome space' is used for a Sunday crèche the closed glass doors will allow a visual connection enabling those in the crèche area to be aware of and be part of congregational worship.



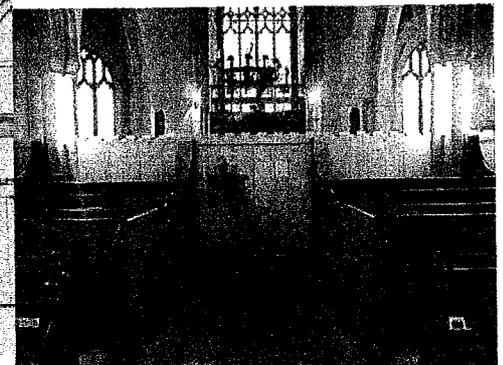
This is the view that will be seen from the 'welcome space'. The removal of the 'battlemented' balustrade will further improve the vista. Clear glass will bridge the gap between the top of the screen and the gallery above.



Plan – appendix page iii



Looking west with the doors open



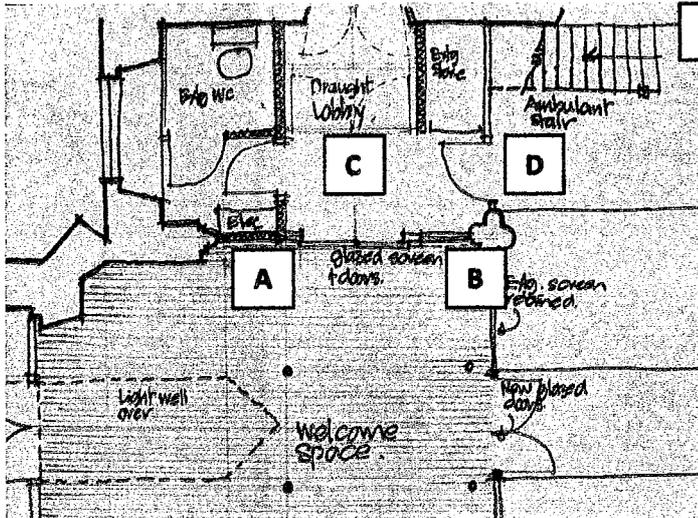
Looking west with the doors shut

Looking west.

- A Glass doors to the ground floor 'welcome space'. Etched figures of St Andrew & St Peter adorn the doors.
- B Glazed panels between screen and gallery
- C Gallery level above.

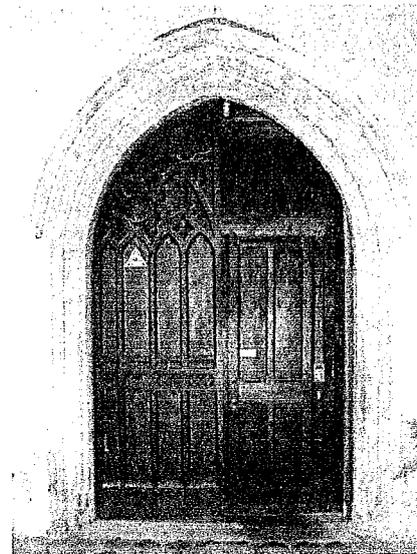
2 The New Lobby Area

The new lobby area is larger than the present dark box that visitors and worshippers have to walk through. It is deeper and has clear glass inner doors, making the entrance brighter and more welcoming. The existing ramp for disabled access will be retained.



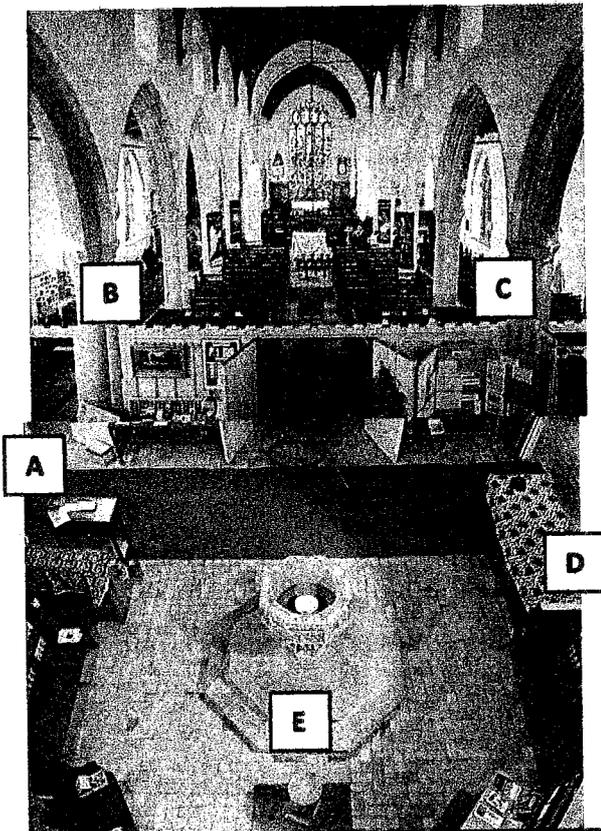
Plan – appendix page i

- A – B** Sliding doors to the 'welcome space' allowing it to be used as a separate room
- C** Draft lobby doors to keep heat in the building
- D** Entrance into the church when the 'welcome space' is in use.



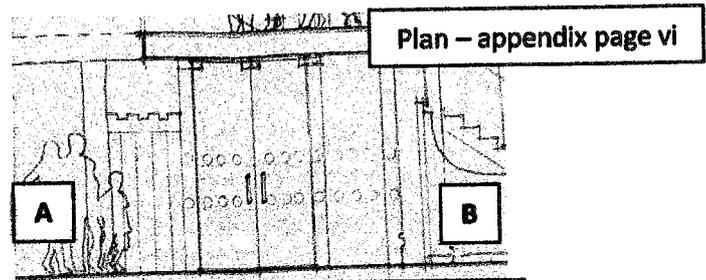
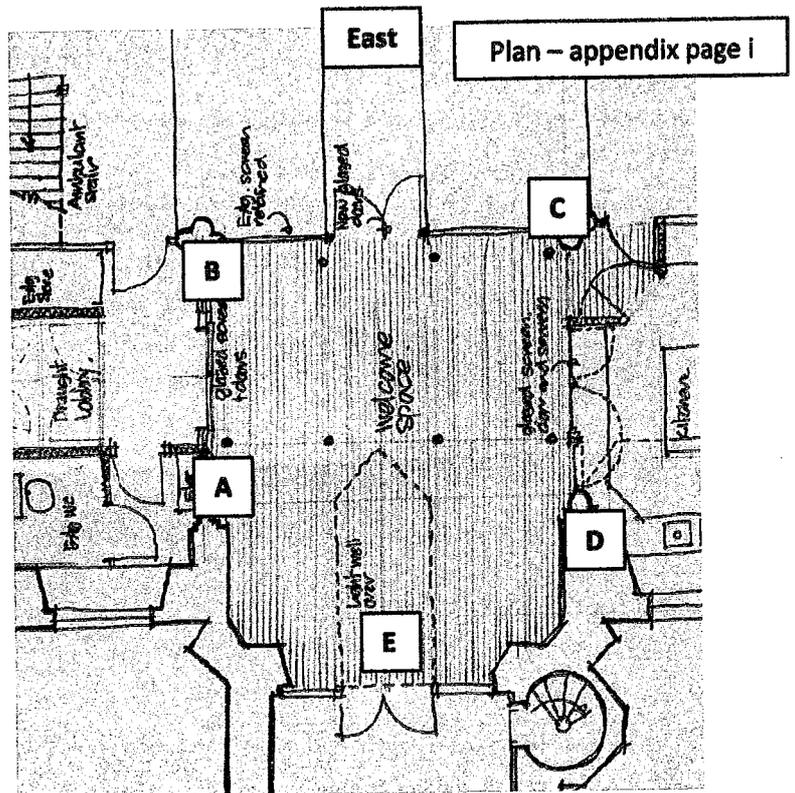
The first impression approaching the north door

3 The 'Welcome Space' – ground floor community area

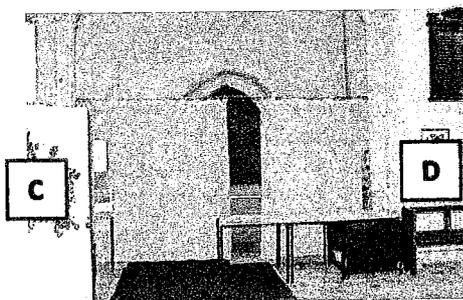


A view from the ringing chamber into the 'welcome space' giving an indication of the size and usefulness of the area.

The architect's plans of the ground floor can be seen on the right.



Looking north from the 'welcome space'



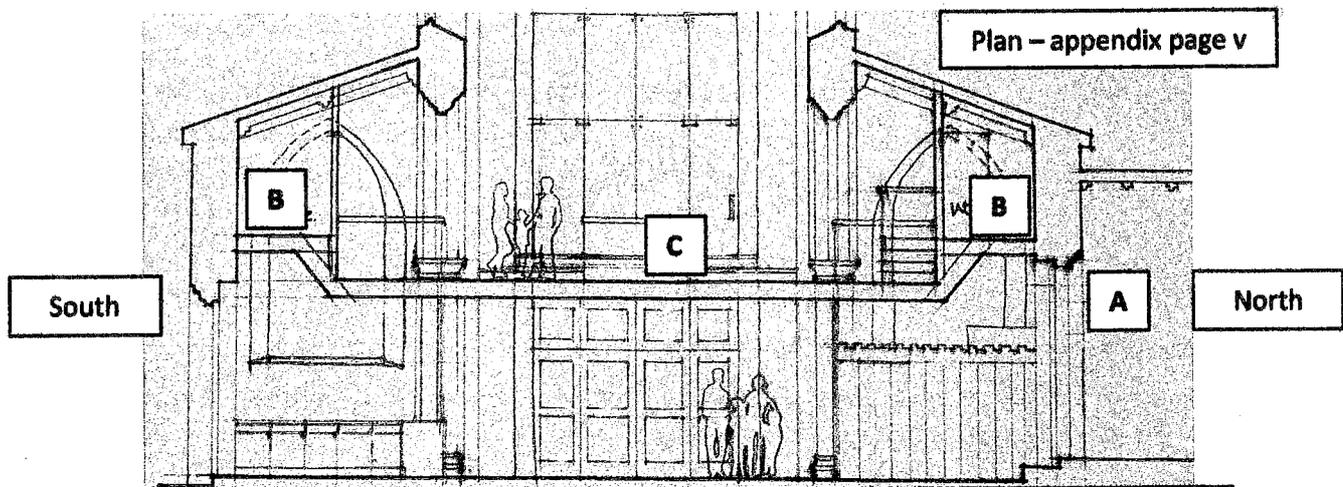
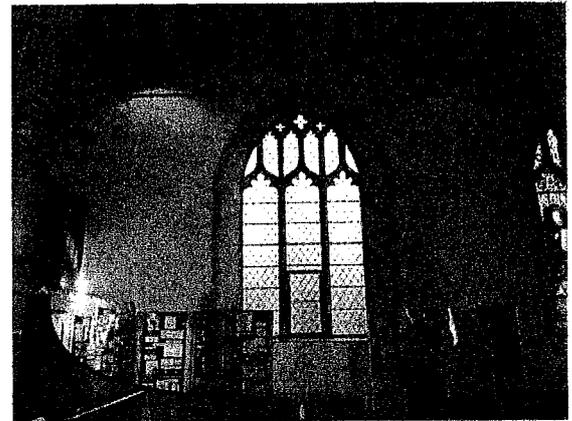
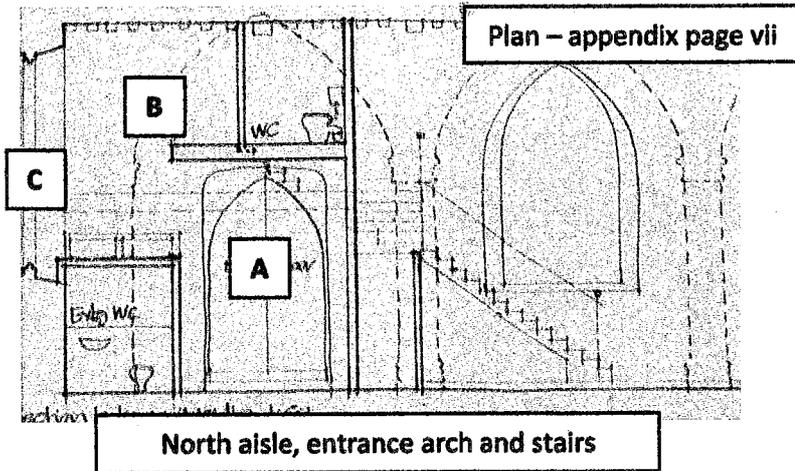
A new screen door and servery will replace the tables and curtains which separate the kitchen area from the 'welcome area'.

- A-B** glass partition & sliding doors to enclose 'welcome space' when used as a room
- B-C** existing screen with glass above to the base of the gallery. New glass doors in the centre.
- C-D** new kitchen servery and glass above to gallery
- E** light well above.

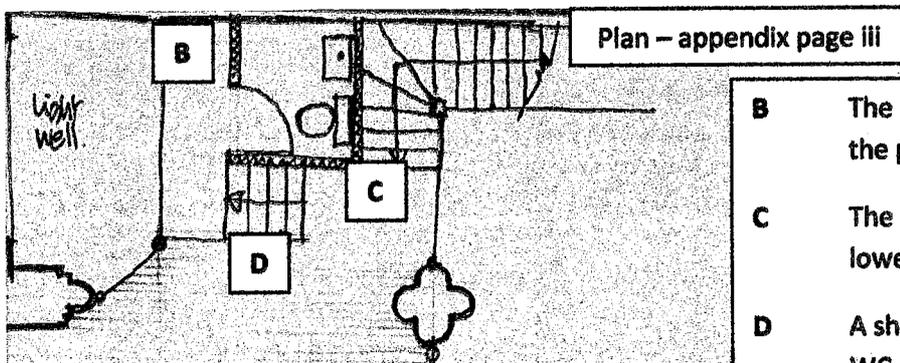
The use of glass is designed to allow maximum light into the 'welcome space' and to take the eye of the user beyond into the church.

4 Stair access

The stair access to the galley level is designed to avoid cutting across the window in the north aisle. The staircase is designed to accommodate a stair lift if one is required in the future. The existing WC at lower level complies with disability access legislation.



- A The tall arch to the north entrance requires the gallery to be set very high in the building
- B The height required to clear the top of the porch doors and stone arch
- C The gallery height is lowered to make it sit more comfortably above the screen.

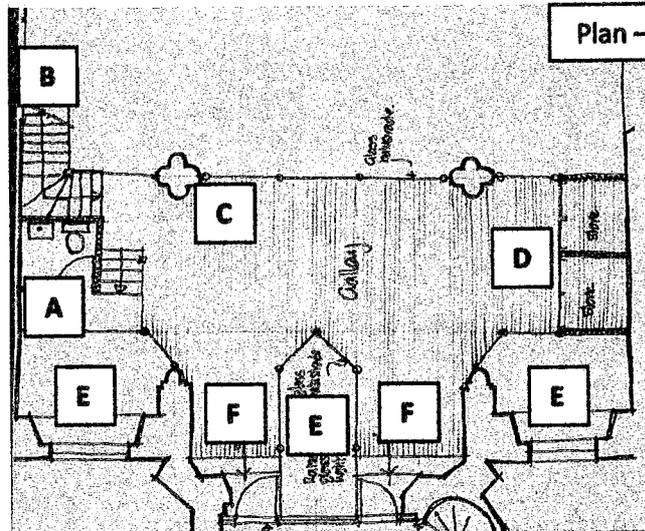


- B The higher level of the WC to accommodate the porch doors below.
- C The main flight of stairs comes out at the lower level of the gallery.
- D A short run of steps are required to reach the WC.

5 The Gallery – first floor level



Looking east from the new first floor gallery level. Photograph taken from point C on the plan below



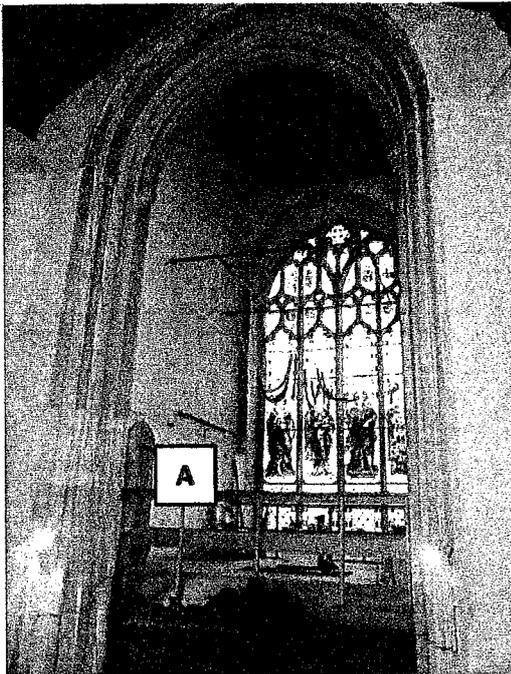
Plan – appendix page iii

The gallery will give an excellent view into the church, gives space for more seats in large services and will create an exhibition area. Storage space is included as is a second toilet.

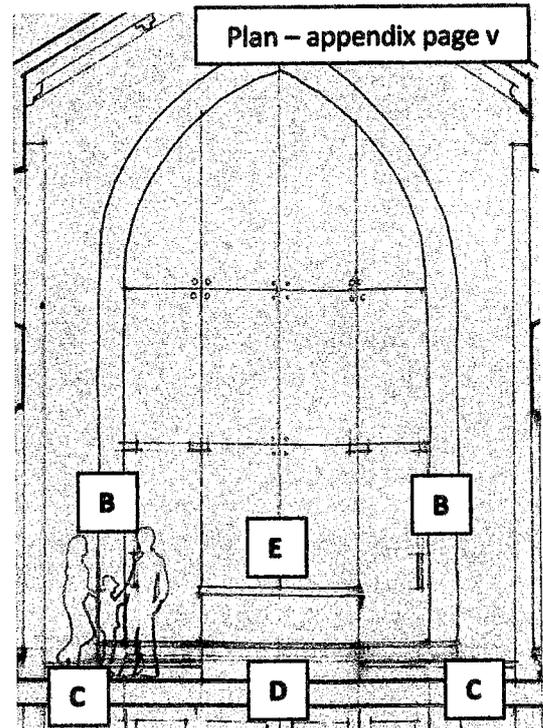
- A** upper level WC – see page
- B** staircase – see page
- C** Position from which photograph above was taken
- D** storage cupboards – see page
- E** light wells to lower areas
- F** A step up from gallery into the tower room [ringing chamber]. Glass doors in the tower arch give access from the gallery

6 Tower Room [ringing chamber]

A view into the tower room from the gallery height. The tower arch is to be glassed in to create a separate room, preventing drafts, and enabling musicians to practice in the nave while the ringers are performing.



Tower room at gallery height.

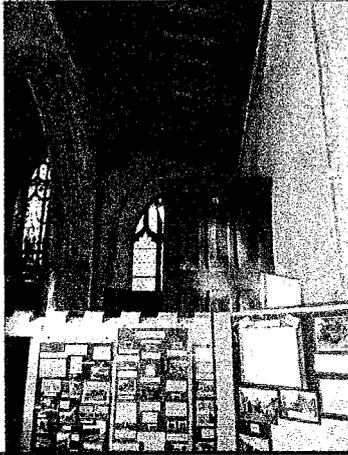


Proposed glazing with doors between tower room and gallery.

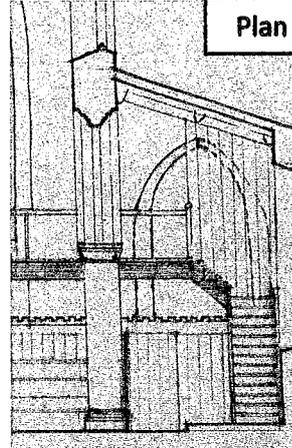
- A** At present the tower room is accessed by a spiral staircase within the tower walls.
- B** When the gallery is erected the tower room can also be accessed via two doors from the upper floor level. These will allow ringers ventilation on hot days and also for them to sit outside the tower room when not ringing.
- C** The tower room floor is one step higher than the gallery floor.
- D** The light well is raised and glazed, allowing maximum light below.
- E** A balustrade prevents people walking over the light well.

7 WC and storage areas – first floor gallery level

The illustrations below feature the north aisle area. The storage area above the south aisle is designed to look similar. The impact of the existing lobby is minimal on light levels in the church.

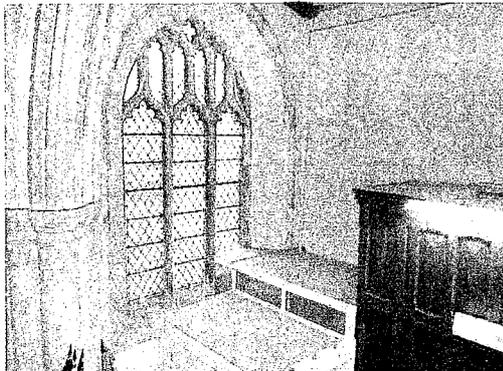


The window at the west end of the north aisle is partially obscured by the entrance lobby.

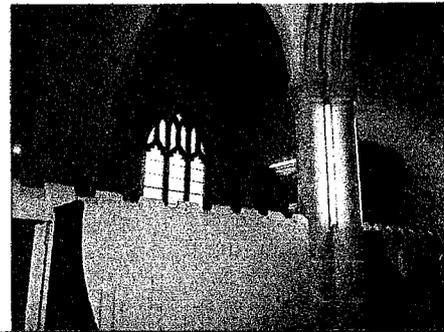


Plan – appendix page v

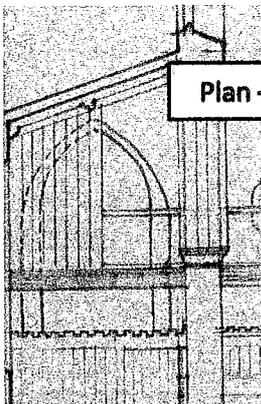
The new proposed upstairs WC allows exactly the same amount of light as the picture to the left.



Ceiling above existing disabled WC.

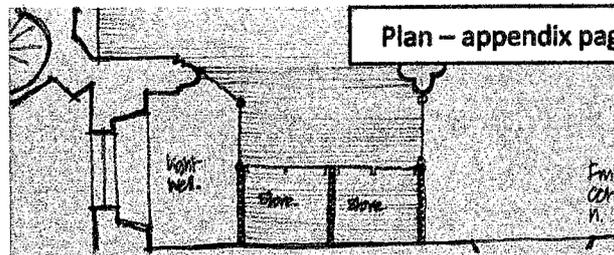


Another view of the north aisle west window showing the relationship of the entrance lobby. The proposed WC and storage cupboards (south aisle) will extend no further west than the existing entrance lobby.



Plan – appendix page v

The new proposed upstairs store cupboards are designed to match the structure of the WC in the north aisle

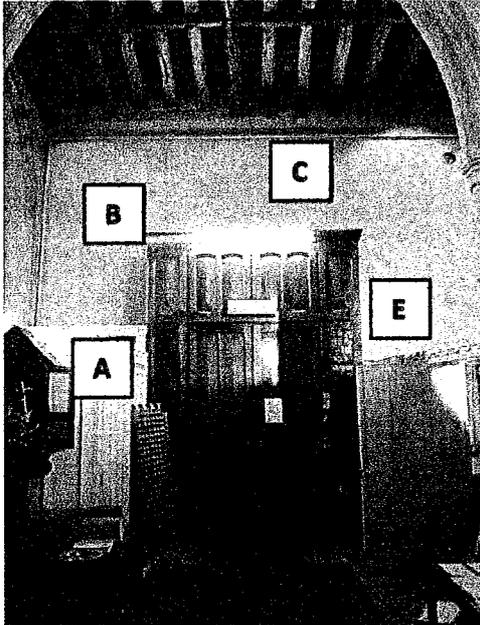


Plan – appendix page v

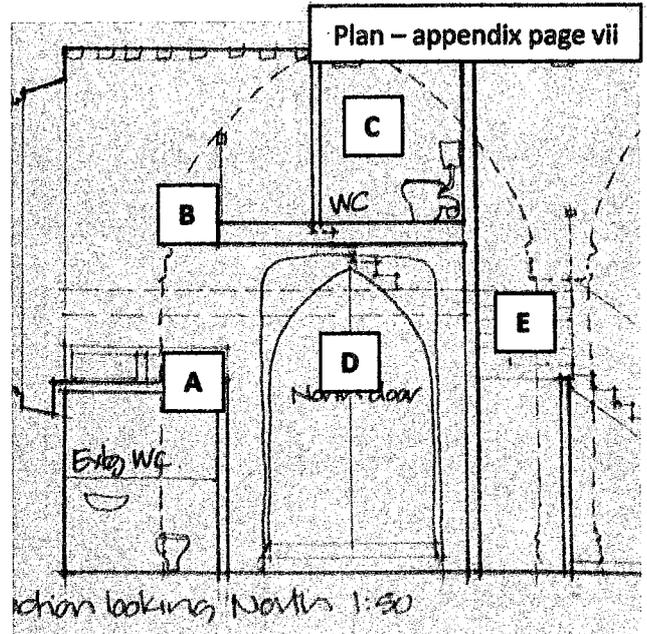
Location of store cupboards over the south aisle kitchen. The light well brings light into the kitchen and keeps the cupboards from impacting the south aisle west window.

8 The location of the upstairs WC

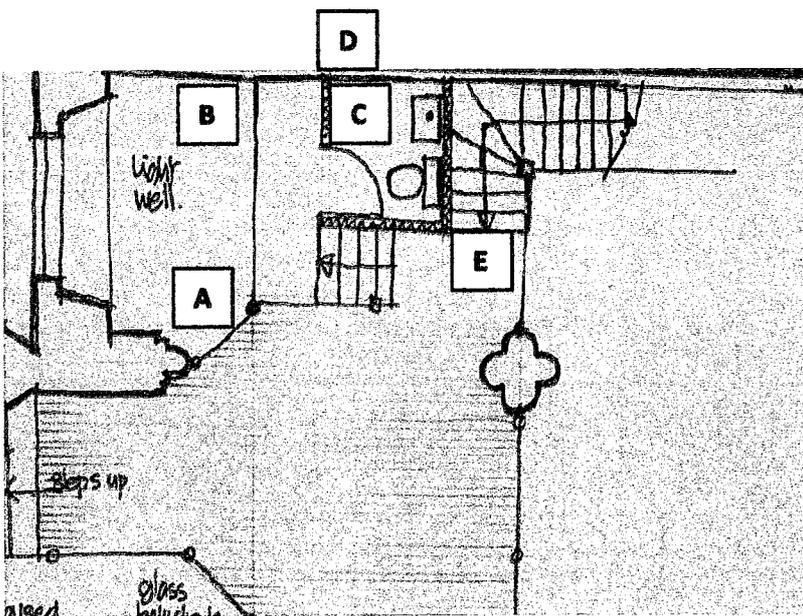
The existing entrance lobby will be replaced. The second toilet will be placed above the new entrance and be able to use the same water supply and sewage outlets at the existing WC



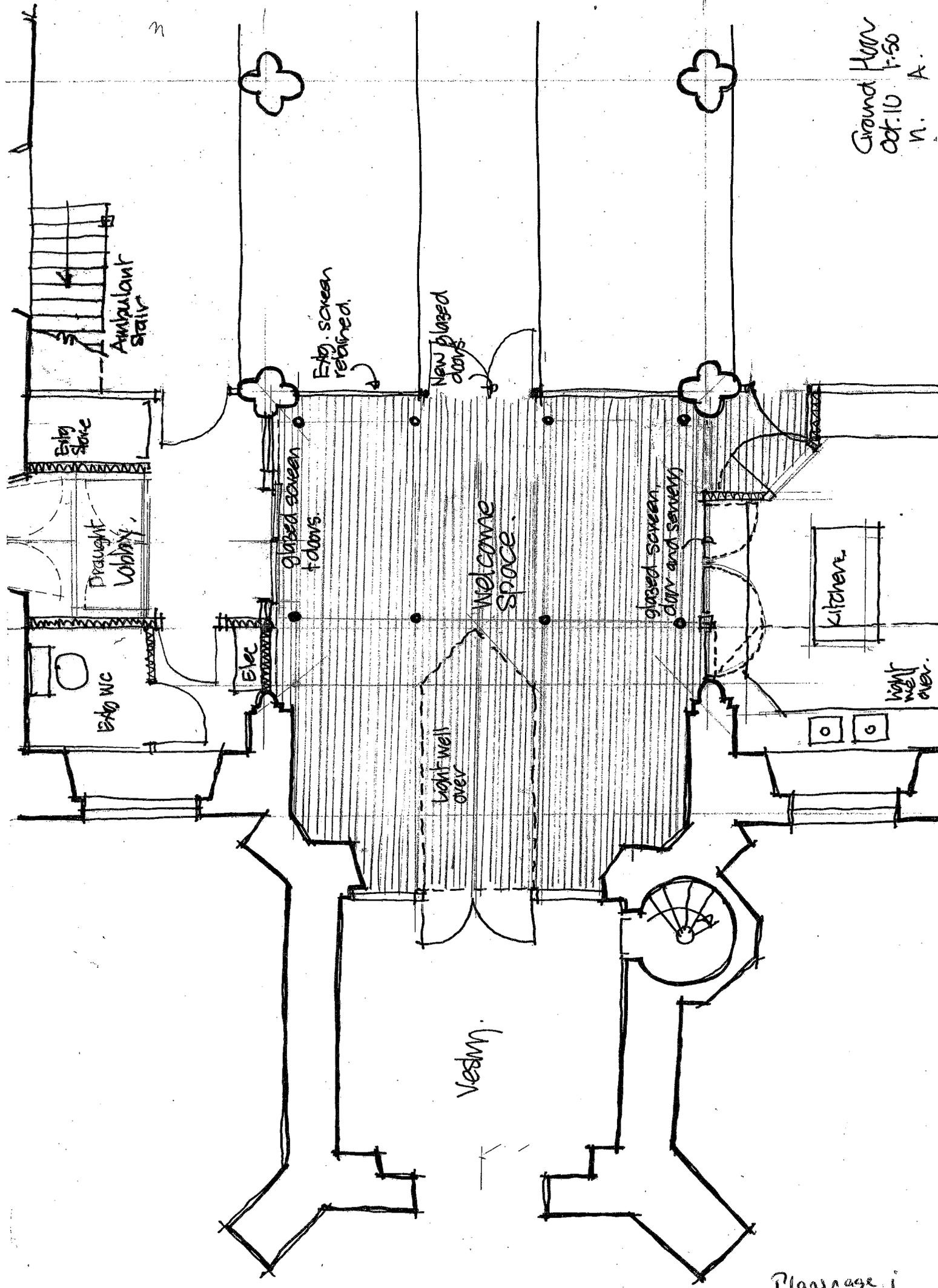
Present lobby entrance. WC to the left.



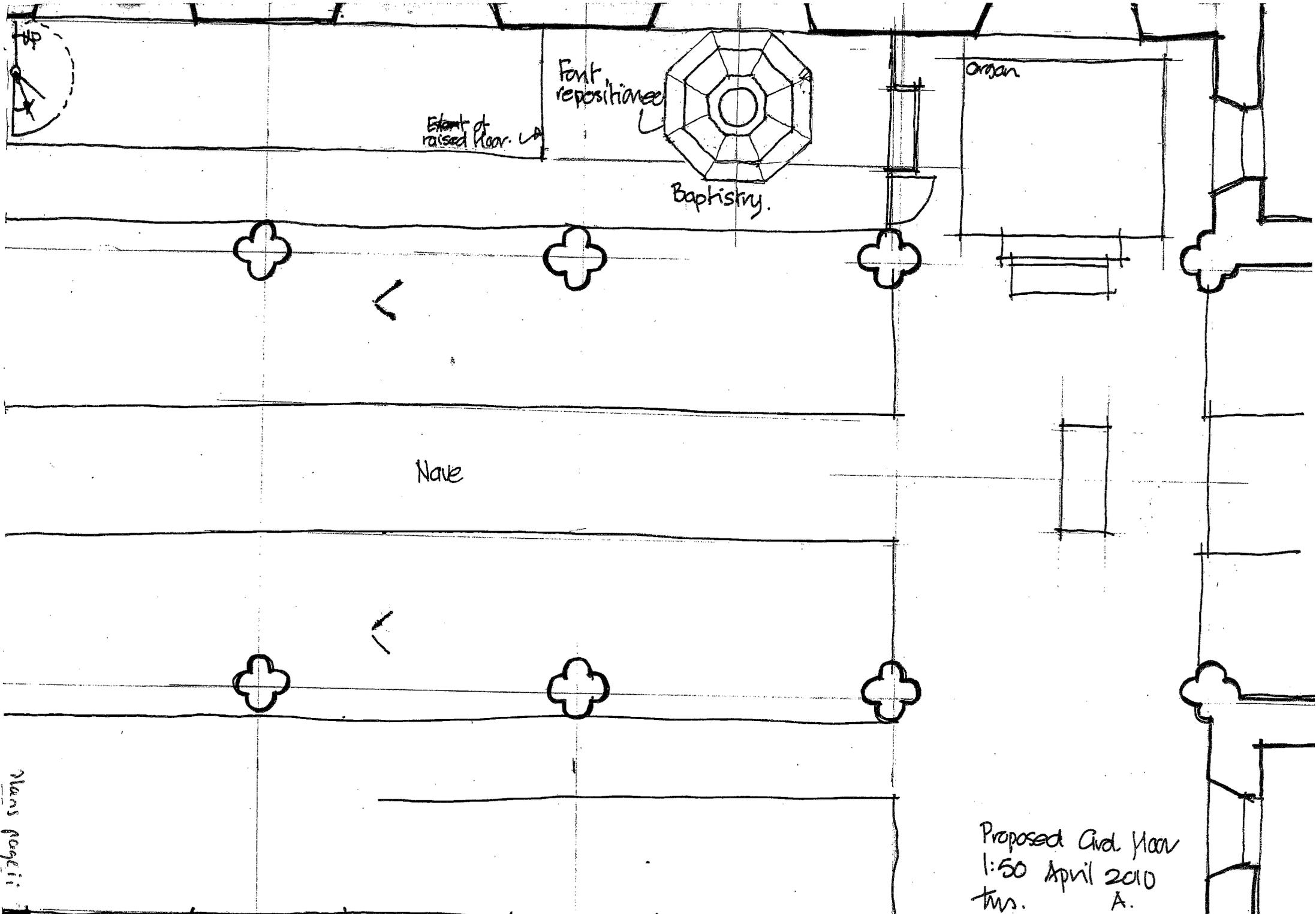
- A** Existing WC at lower level
- A-B** Light well into lobby area
- C** New first floor WC
- D** Existing north door
- E** Top of stairs from north aisle to gallery height.



Ground Floor
Oct. 10 7-50
N. A.



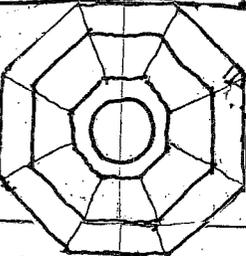
Vesim.



Plans page 11

Extent of raised floor. LA

Font repositioned

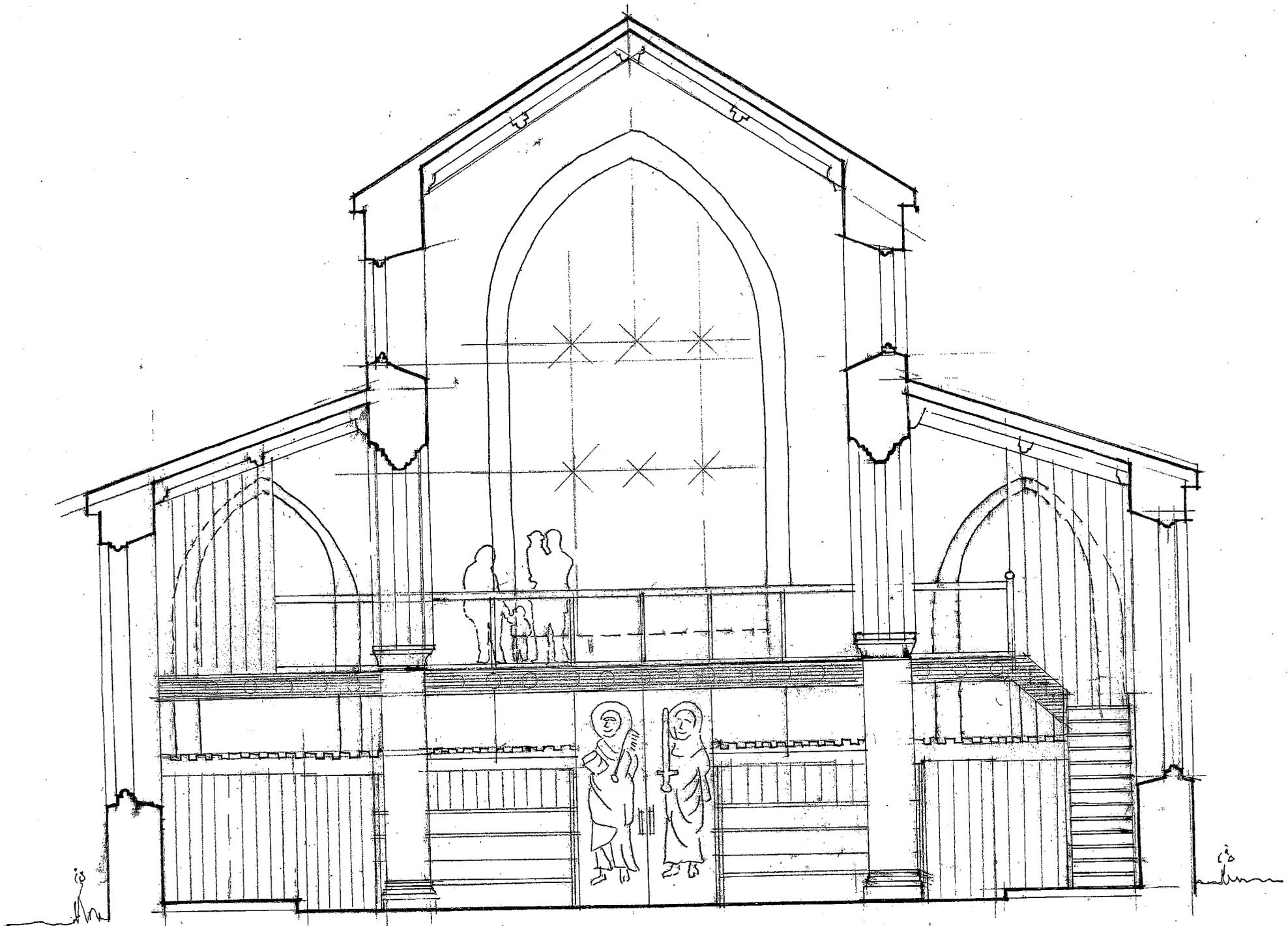


Baptistry.

organ

Nave

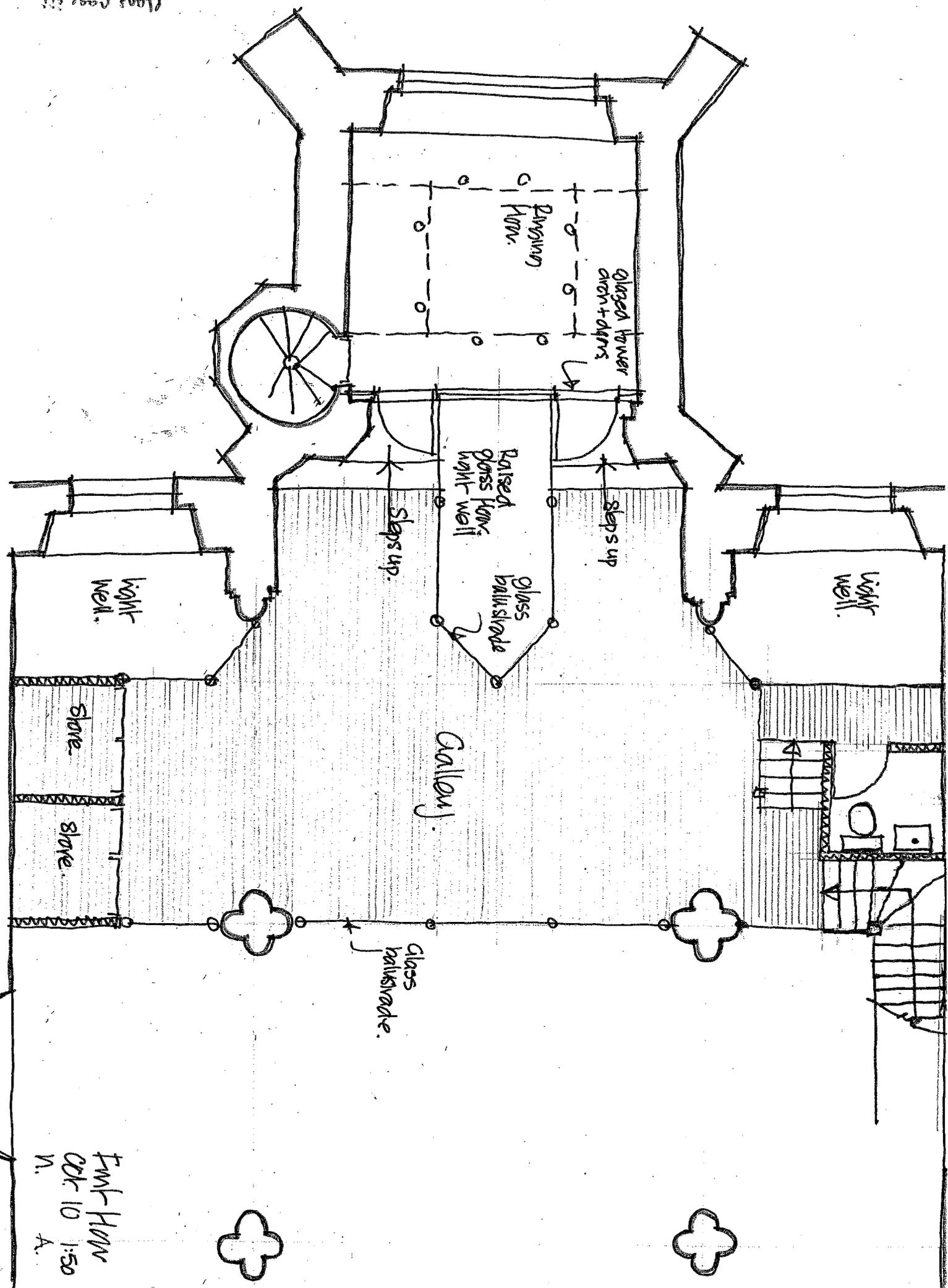
Proposed Awd. floor
1:50 April 2010
tms. A.



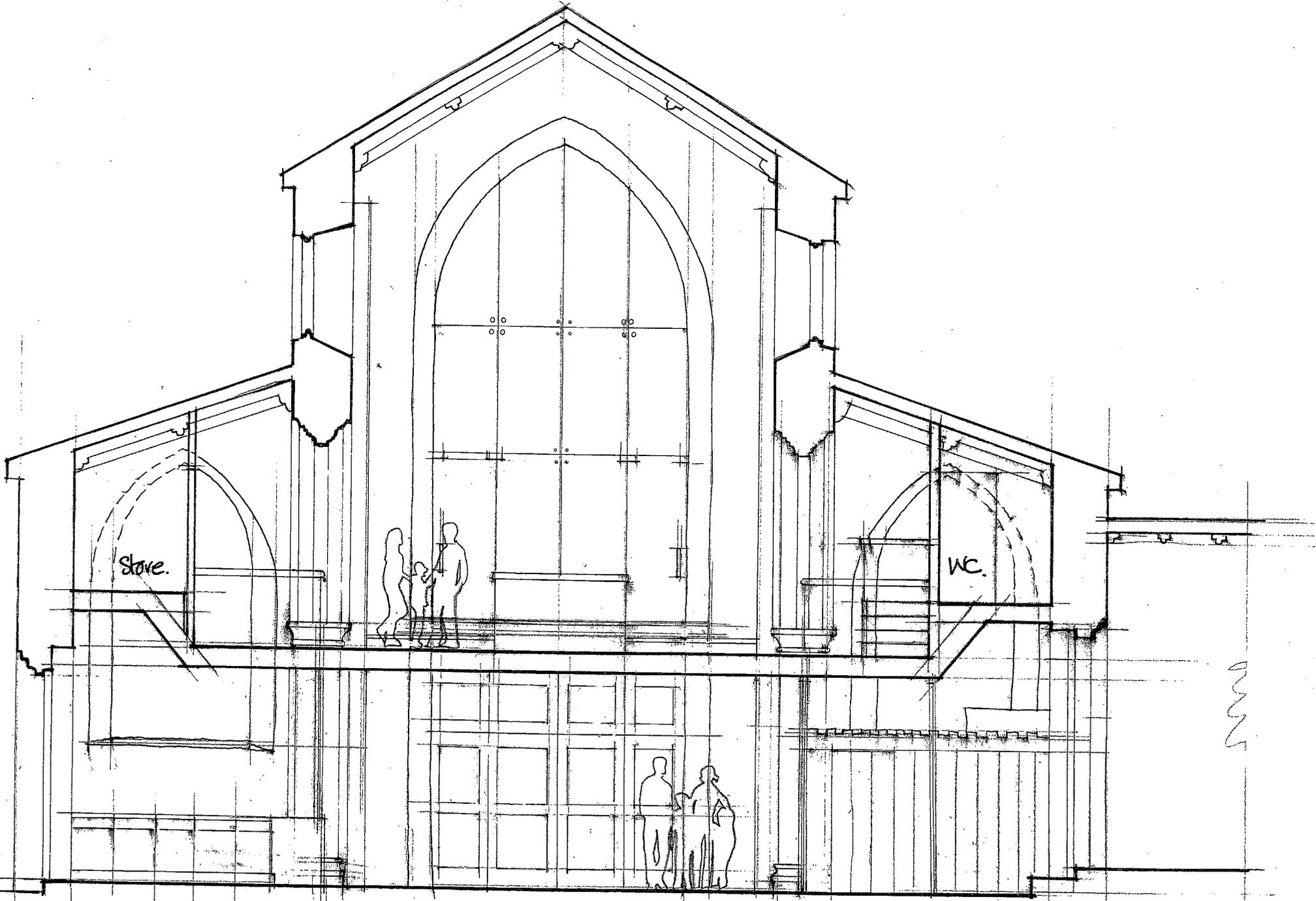
Plans page iv

Cross Section (looking West)
1:50

Dec 2010



Frank How
 Oct 10 1:50
 N. A.

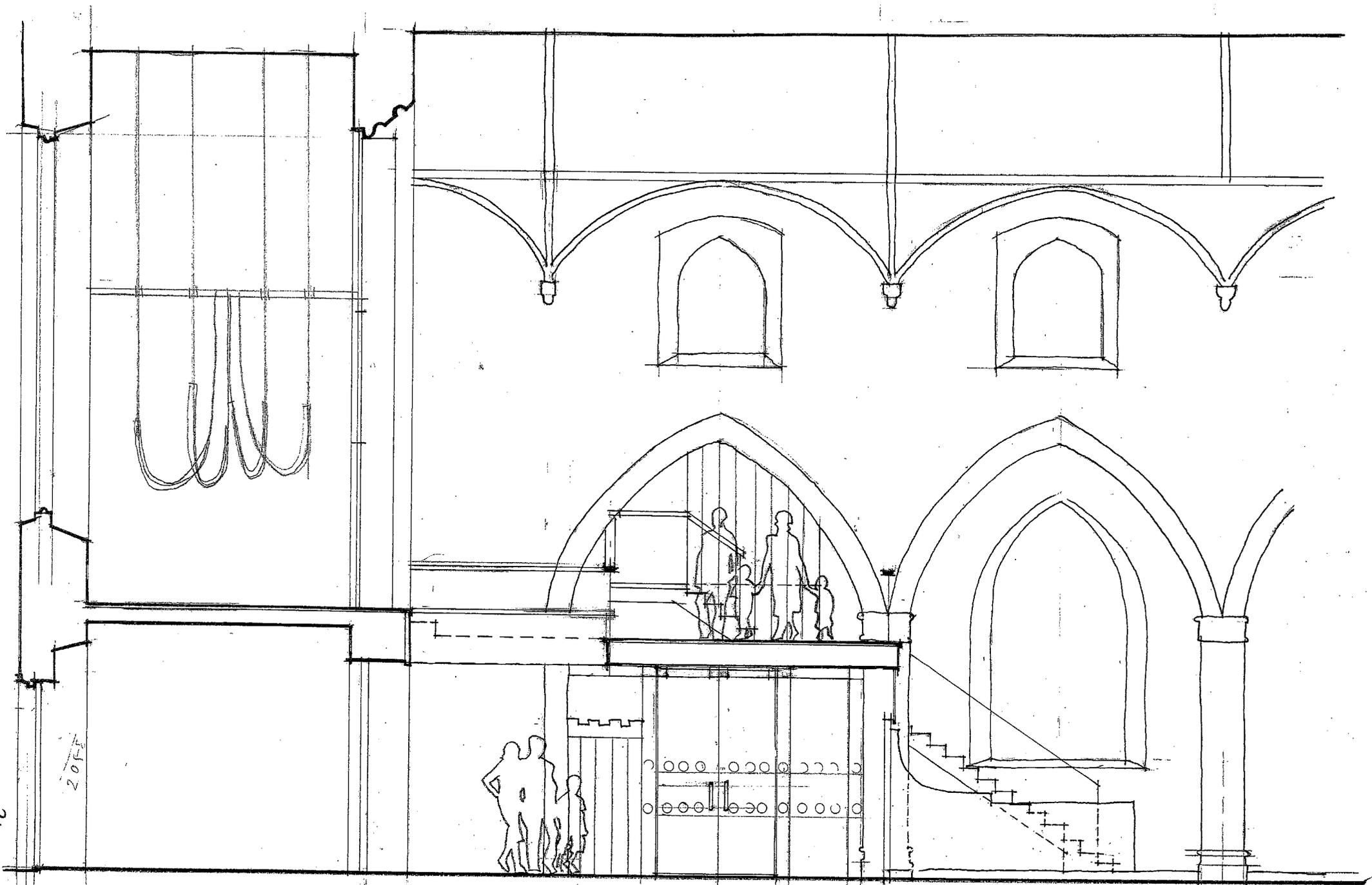


Cross Section
1:50

Dec 2010

Electrical



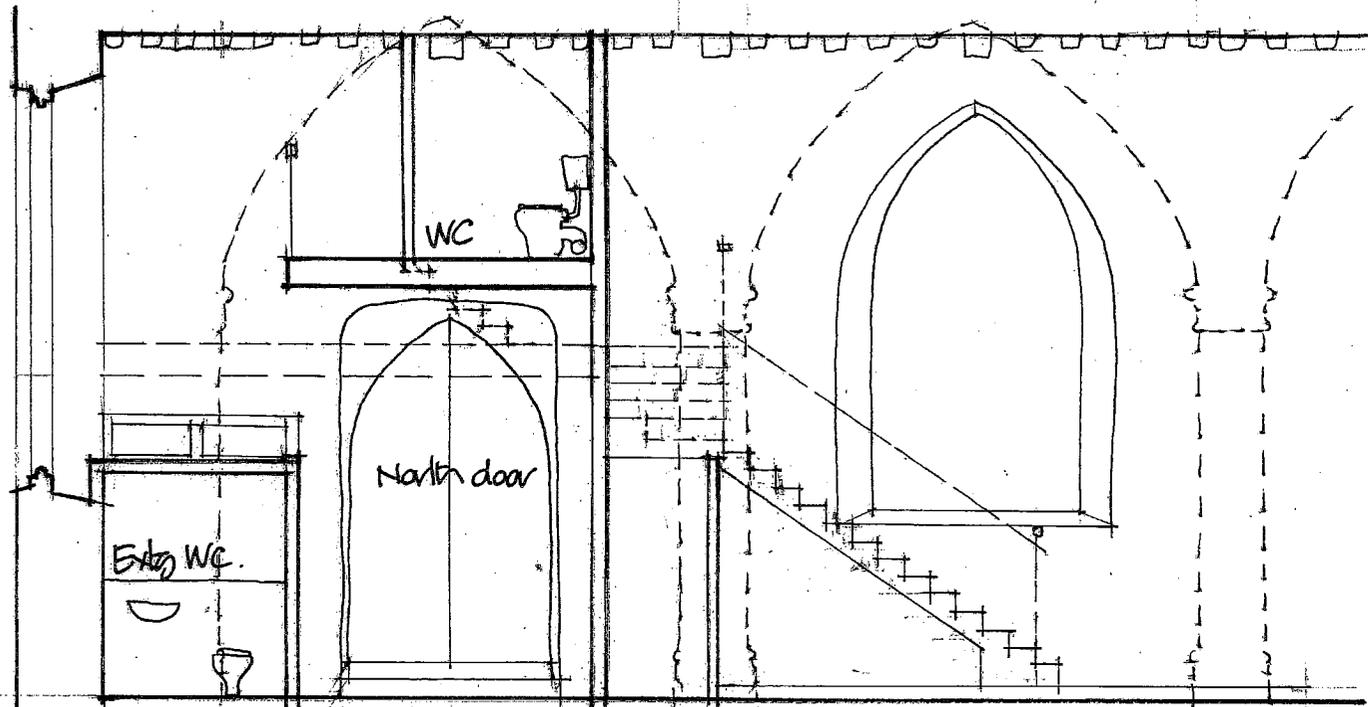


20'0"

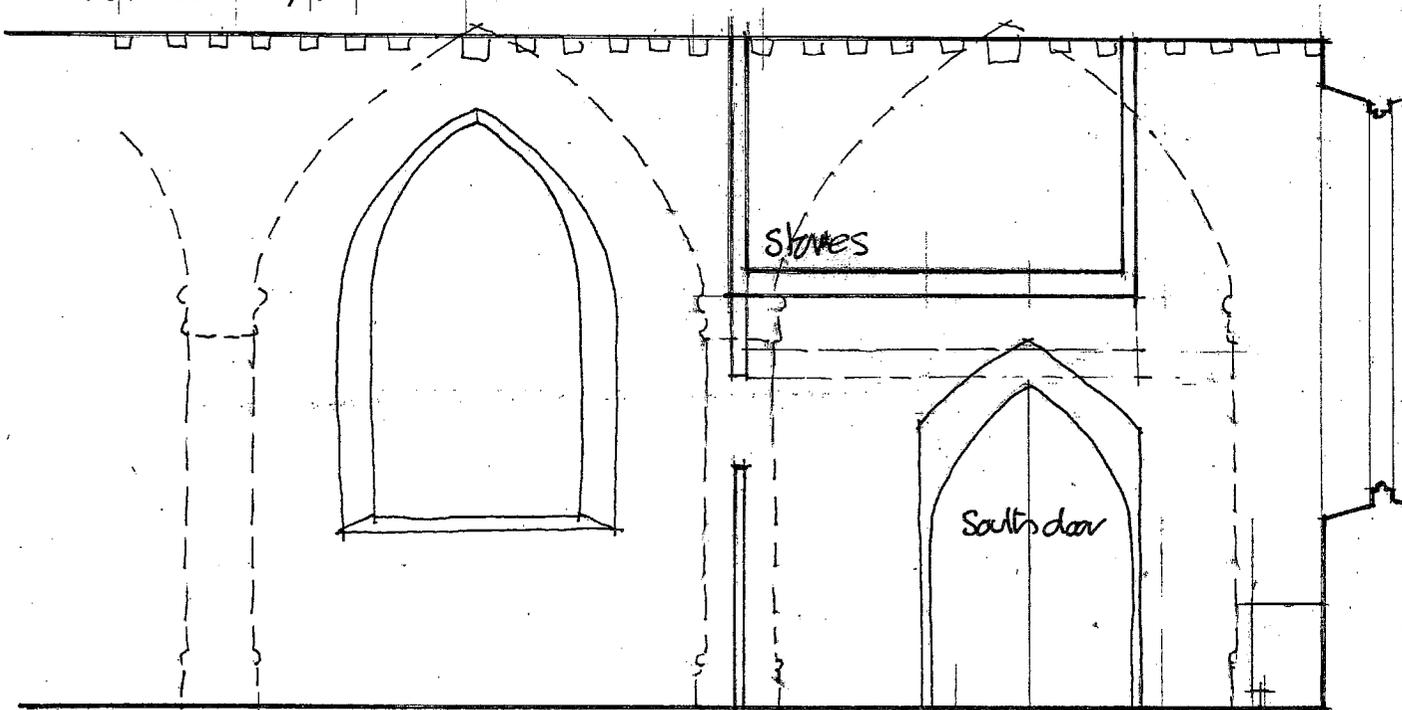
long section thro west end
1:50

Dec. 2010

21/11/10

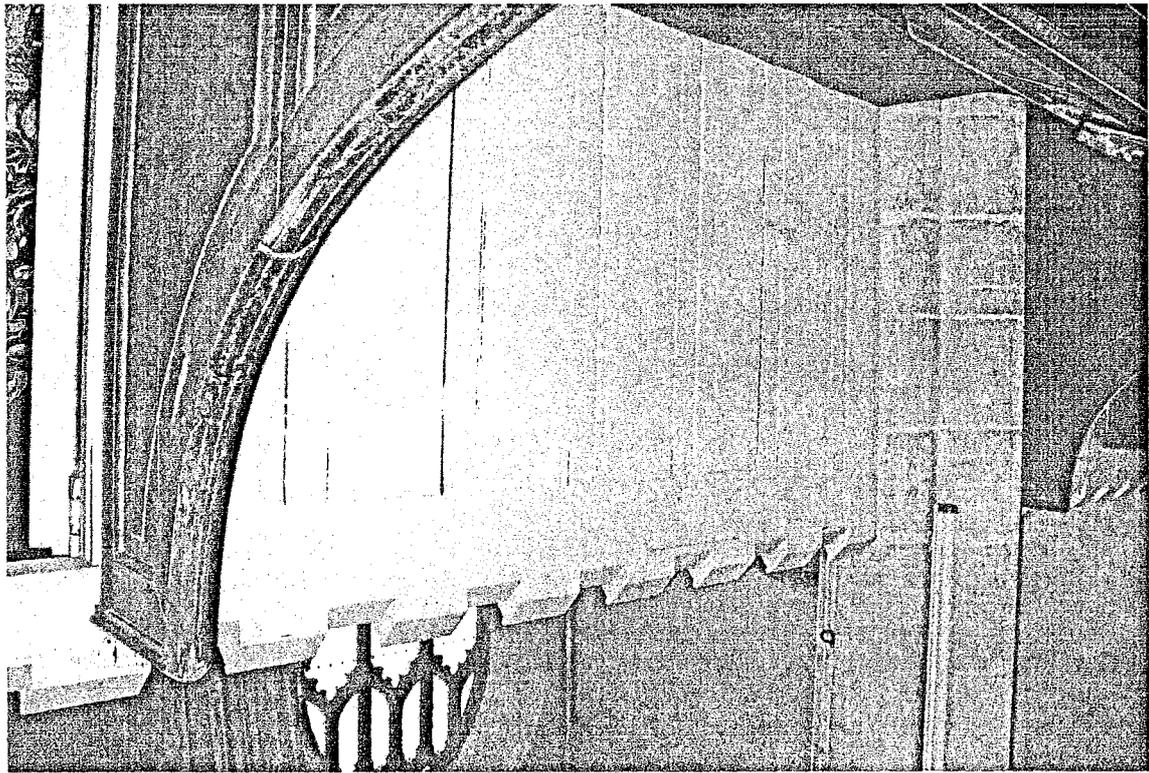


Section looking North 1:50

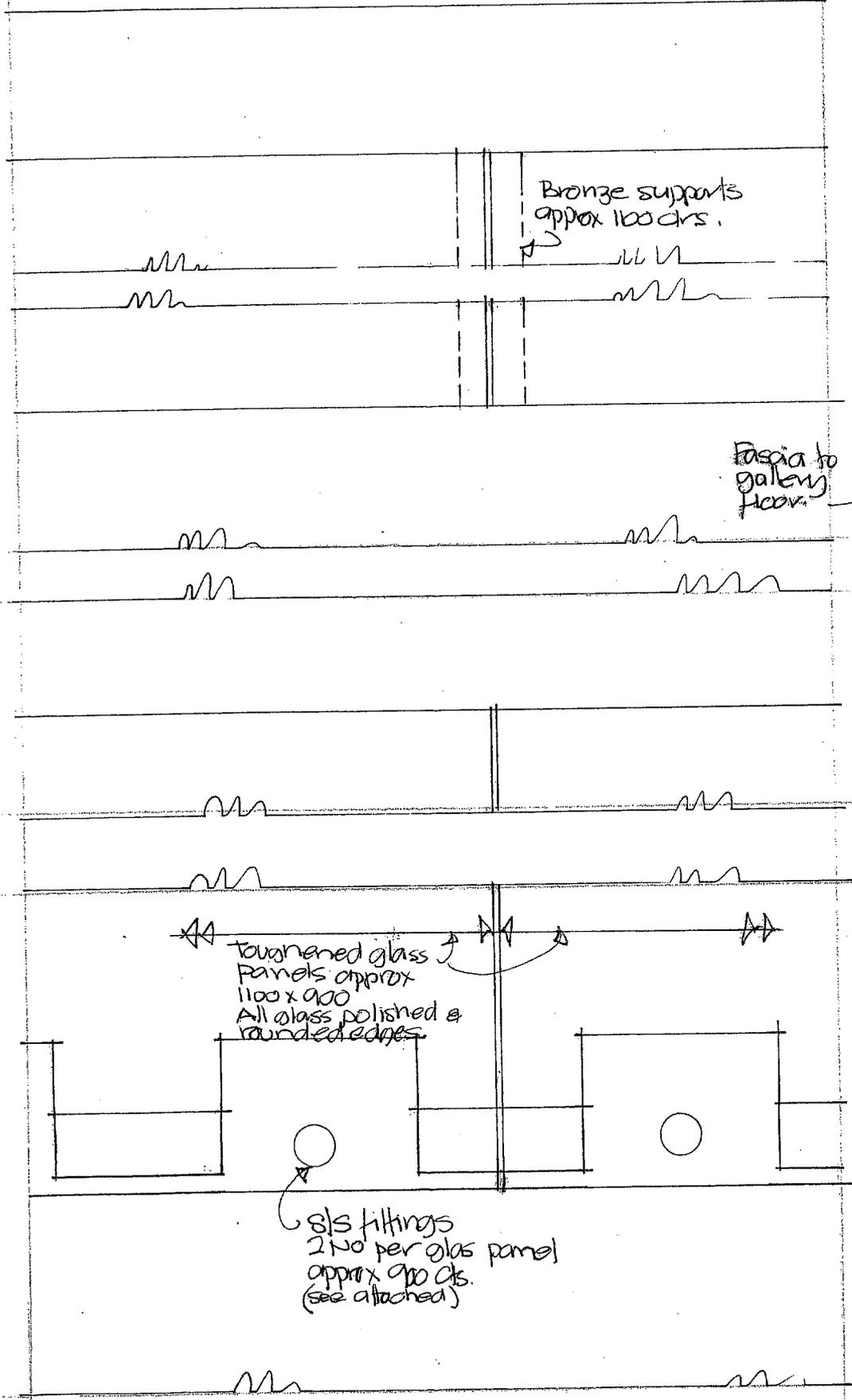


Section looking South 1:50

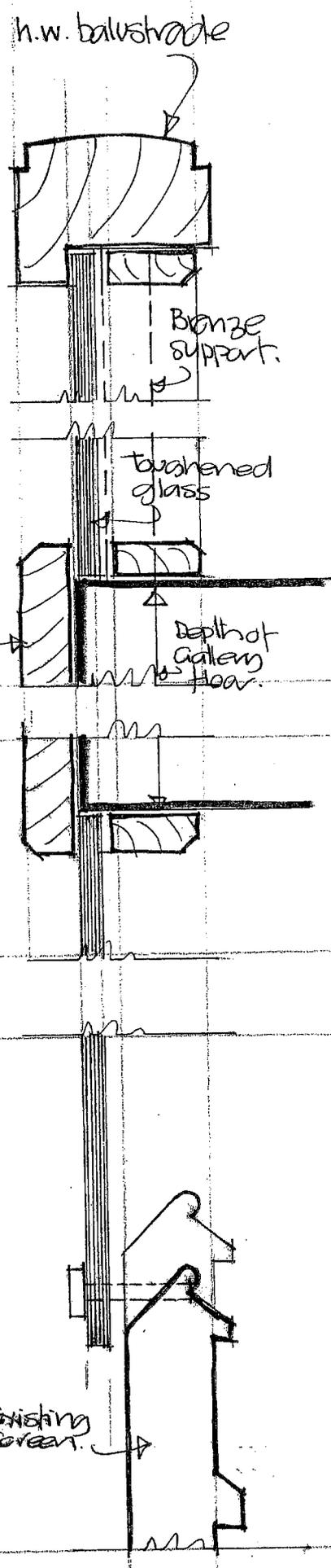
Plans page 10



Balustrade detail to gallery floor and panels to existing timber screen 1:5 scale.



Part elevation



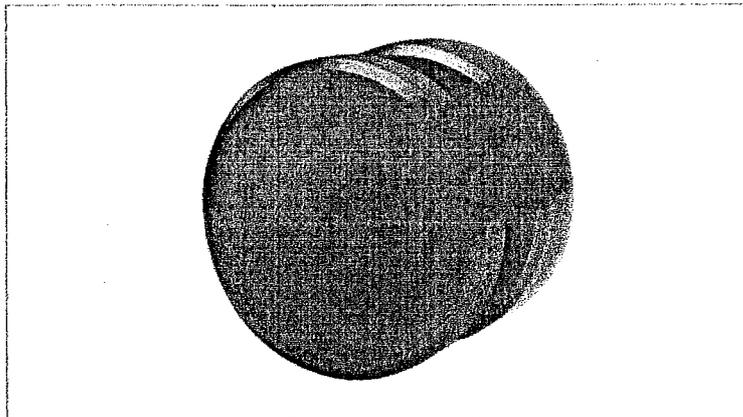
Part Section

Jan 11
Hansase ix

Dia. 48mm x 11.5mm offset. Glass Balustrade Fittings

- » Hinges
- » Brackets
- » Door hardware
- » Ties Bars
- » Patch Fittings
- » Spider Fittings
- » Glazing Channels
- » Glass Seals
- » Balustrade Fittings
- » Glass Panels
- » Accessories

Location » Home Page » Balustrade Fittings » Dia. 48mm x 11.5mm offset. Glass Balustrade Fittings

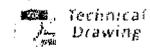


SH/ATB/GF03

Grade 316, Machined Stainless Steel,
Dia. 48mm x 11.5mm
Structural/Frameless Glass Balustrade
Fittings. Suitable for 10-15mm Glass
Thickness.

£24.95 ex VAT

1



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Extended Product Specifications for SH/ATB/GF03

Product Description

Stainless Steel Circular Glass Fittings. Supplied with necessary glazing washers. The balustrade fitting is ideal for structural glass balustrade/frameless glass balustrade applications and can also be utilised within posted designs. This Structural Glass Balustrade Fitting has been designed to be suitable for both steel and timber interfaces. This Balustrade Fitting is also designed with no visible fixings to the outside cap (single perimeter torque hole only).

Product Dimensions

Dia. 48mm x 11.5mm offset depth x 9.5mm cap depth.

Glass Specification

Suitable for 10 to 15mm Glass Thickness. (Glass Preparation Required)

Material Specification

These Fittings are supplied in Grade 316 machined Stainless Steel

Environment Compatibility

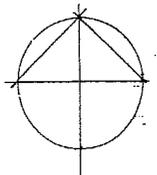
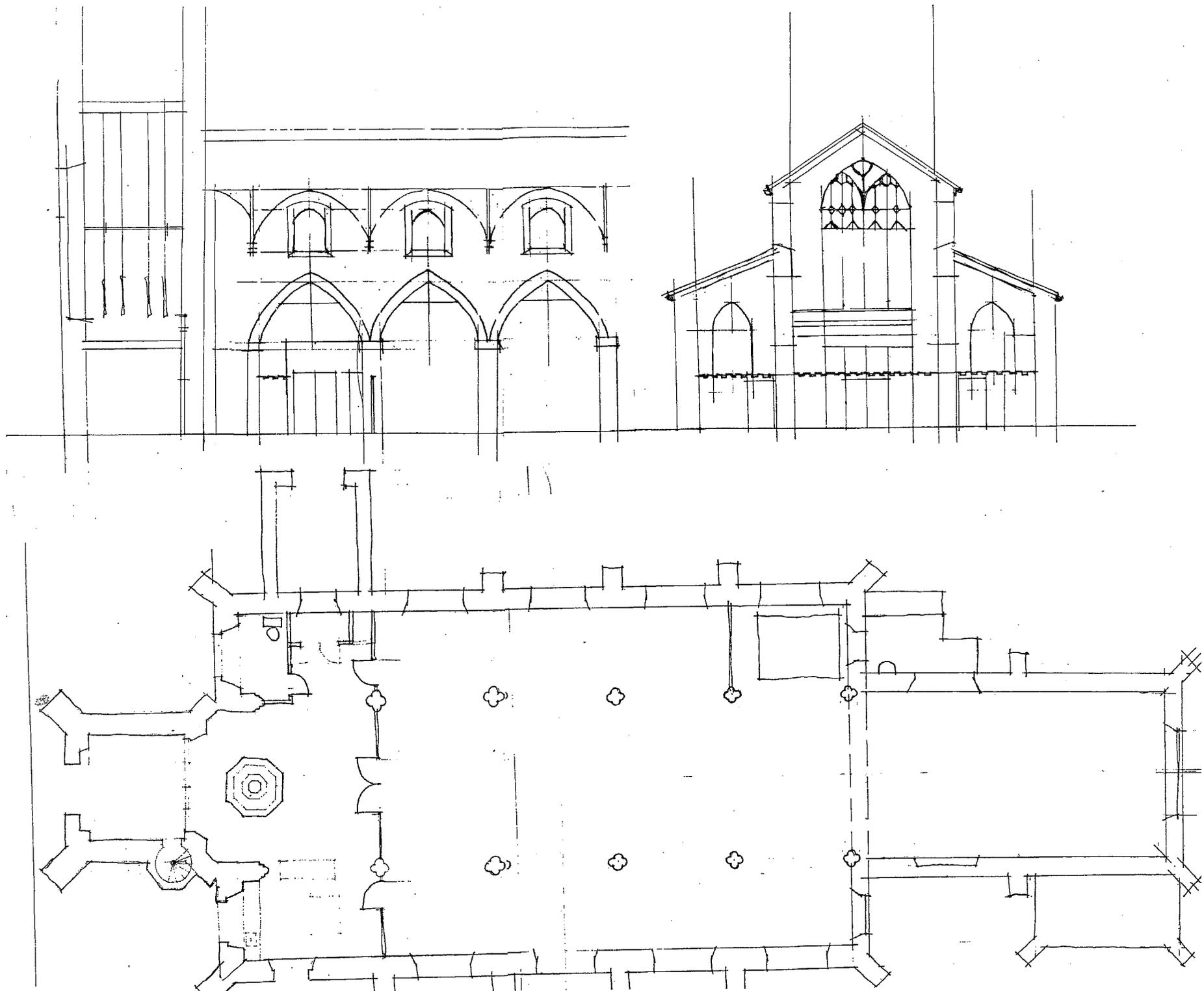
Suitable for Indoor and Outdoor Use

Design Compatibility

Suitable for most glass fitting applications, Including structural glass balustrade and posted glass balustrade.

Other Considerations

N/A



St Andrew & St Peter
Blofield

1:100 scale
Jan 2010

T W Norton
Architect
80 Mill Road
Blofield Heath
NR13 4QS
01603 713101

21/01/2010

The questionnaire

A questionnaire was given out at all services during December especially services where there were visitors who were not part of the normal congregation. We had an overwhelming positive response.

	Support	No support	Not concerned	No answer
Improving the heating	85%	1%	6%	8%
Moving the font	74%	13%	10%	3%
Improving the lighting	81%	3%	10%	6%
Redecoration	88%	3%	9%	0%
To create a glass partition for the Tower arch	91%	3%	1%	5%
To create a welcome space for church and community events	88%	1%	7%	4%
To create a new gallery level for church and community events	82%	4%	10%	4%

Questionnaires can be left in the box at the back of the church by the plans or handed to the Rector or Steward after services.

Please use the box below for any comments / offers of help

Blofield Church

Community Building Project

Blofield Church has exciting plans to improve its facilities and to make them more available for the community throughout the week.

As part of our fundraising we want to inform people of our plans and to gather opinions.

Full details are on display at the back of the church. In the spring we are planning an Open Day so all can see what is proposed.

The list below shows the scope of the project. It would be helpful if you could tick the appropriate boxes (pens are available in the pews).

1 New Heating System c£70,000

We plan to replace the existing inefficient heating system with a new gas fired 'wet system' which will keep the church at a background temperature of 11°C when not in use and 18°C when occupied (our average temperature last winter was 8.5°C after hours of oil burning).

Support No support Not concerned

2 Re-site the font c£5,000

We plan to move the font from the back of the church to a place in the north aisle bay in front of the organ. The proposed position is marked on the floor and has the font cover standing on a table.

This new position allows the font to be seen by all in the worship area. At present it is hidden by the screen.

The font is also a tripping hazard where it is positioned at present

Support No support Not concerned

3 We plan to fill the tower arch with glass.

This will create an upper room for Sunday School use
It will help keep the heat in the building
It allows musicians to rehearse without disturbing the bellringers

Support No support Not concerned

4 We plan to build a gallery over the welcome space at the back of the church.

This will give a sizable room that can be used on Sundays as a crèche space
It will provide a room that community groups can use. There are a number of ideas from the community displayed at the back of the church.
It allows Church groups to gather without using the Rectory
It can be heated independently

Support No support Not concerned

5 The gallery level

This can provide additional seating for large gatherings
We will be able to display items of local history and can be used by the wider community
It will have a second toilet
The stairs to the gallery will have a stair lift incorporated

Support No support Not concerned

6 A new lighting scheme

The existing scheme was installed in 1964. It is not flexible and does not do the building justice.

Support No support Not concerned

7 A coat of paint.

The church was painted about 20 years ago and is starting to look tired.

Support No support Not concerned

The plans are provisional and have yet to receive the necessary permissions from the Diocese of Norwich, English Heritage and other interest groups. Your comments will help us in the presentation of the scheme.

Once plans are agreed we will have all the elements priced by a Quantity Surveyor and a 3-D graphic produced. We will then begin fundraising.

Thank you for taking time to complete this questionnaire.

It would be helpful if you could complete the following:

Male Female

Age: between 0 - 10

10 - 18

19-29

30-45

45-60

60+

How many miles away you live from Blofield Church?

Less than 1 mile between 1 & 3 miles more than 3 miles