

THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

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Campaigning for Victorian and Edwardian architecture and other arts

Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO
President Lord (Asa) Briggs
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David Garrard
Historic Churches Adviser
Direct line 020 8747 5893
david@victoriansociety.org.uk

Janet D Jury
Reynolds Jury Architecture
25 Market Place
Aylsham
Norfolk NR11 6EL

Your reference: 7016/JJ
Our reference: 2008C/05/006

23 May 2008

Dear Ms Jury

St Laurence's Church, Brundall, Norfolk (Grade II*, medieval, extended 1898 and 1962-3) – proposed extension

Thank you for your letter and enclosures of 29 April 2008, notifying the Victorian Society of proposals concerning the above church. These were discussed by our Southern Buildings Committee at its May meeting, and I now write to convey the Committee's response.

St Laurence's is a modest two-celled medieval church, extended to the north in 1898 and to the west in the 1960s. The current proposals would retain the arcade of the Victorian north aisle, but would replace the aisle itself with a very large new worship area, with the old church acting as a narthex chapel.

Although this would involve the loss of substantial 19th-century fabric, we feel that the principal issues here concern the impact of this very large extension on the original medieval building. The 1898 aisle is a sensitive addition to the church but is not of outstanding significance in its own right; more important than the loss of this element is, we feel, the danger of overwhelming the small medieval church in new development. On this issue, however, we must defer to the views of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

Yours sincerely


David Garrard
Historic Churches Adviser

Cc. Catherine Cullis, SPAB
David Eve, English Heritage
Jean Gosling, Norwich DAC
Gareth Hughes, Broadland DC

