

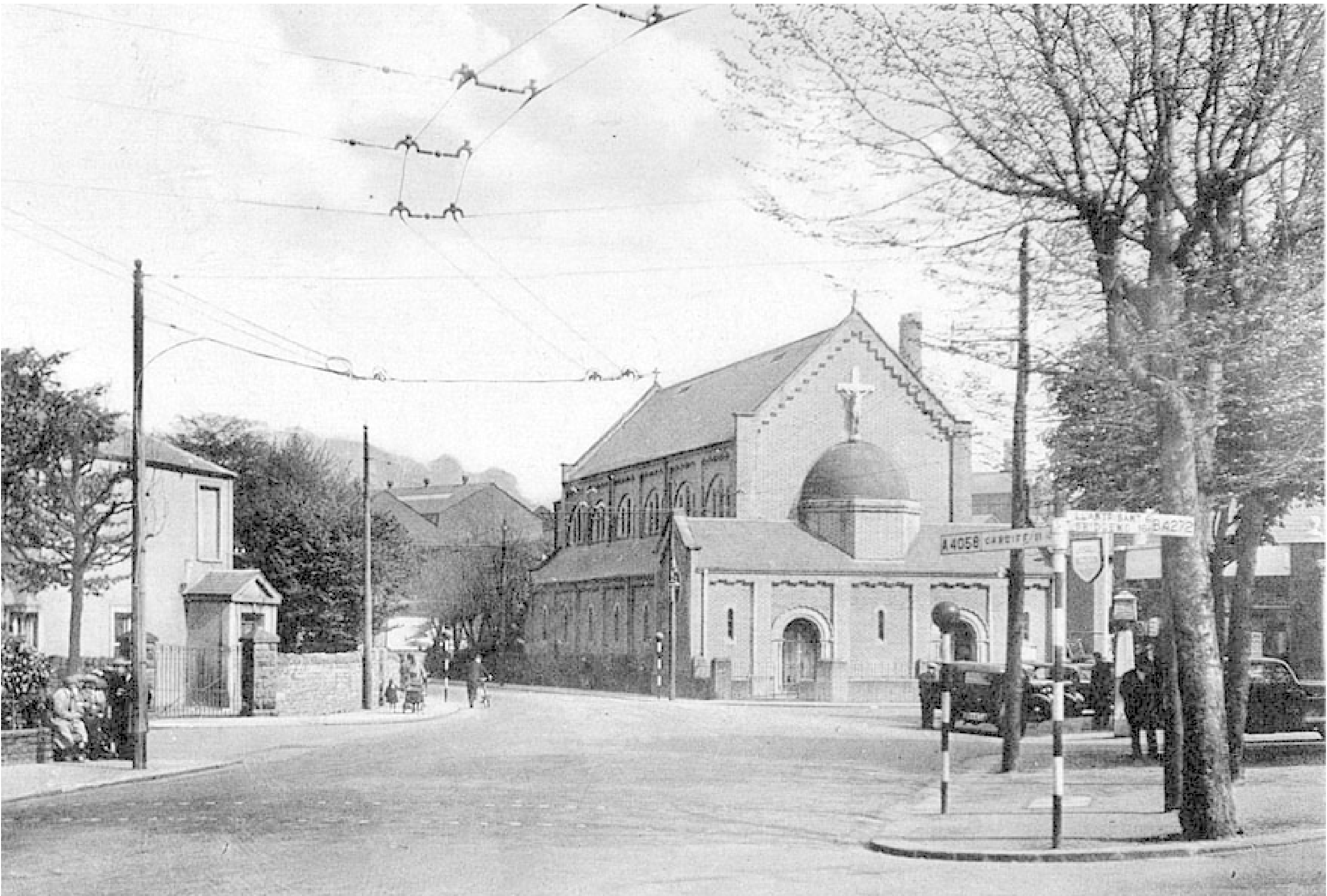
# THE HISTORY OF ST. DYFRIG'S

St. Dyfrig's Church, presbytery and community hall are Grade II listed buildings. The church was built in 1926 by F.R. Bates and Son of Newport and designed by Architect, Thomas Morgan & Partners of Pontypridd.

The original church building was on the corner of Bridge Street and Wood Road in Treforest and the church moved to its present site in 1927. The history of St. Dyfrig's goes back to 1853, with the arrival of the first groups of Irish and other immigrants in South Wales. The growth of St. Dyfrig's can be seen in the context of the place which the Catholic Church occupied from the 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, supporting the immigrant communities that came initially from Ireland and then from Italy, and as refugees from Nazi Germany, to play their part in developing industry and the local community.

In 2018 the National Lottery Heritage Fund Wales awarded the church an 'Our Heritage' grant. This funding together with parish fundraising enabled essential repairs to the roof and some internal repairs to be undertaken. Regarded as the 'Mother' Catholic church at the centre of the South Wales Valleys, renovation work ensures that St. Dyfrig's continues to be used for religious services and community events and secures its future as a church of historical interest and a community asset. The grant also allowed us to undertake a heritage project focused on the church and parish community. Renovation of the church building and the community project means that the heritage of St. Dyfrig's Church has been identified and recorded for future generations.

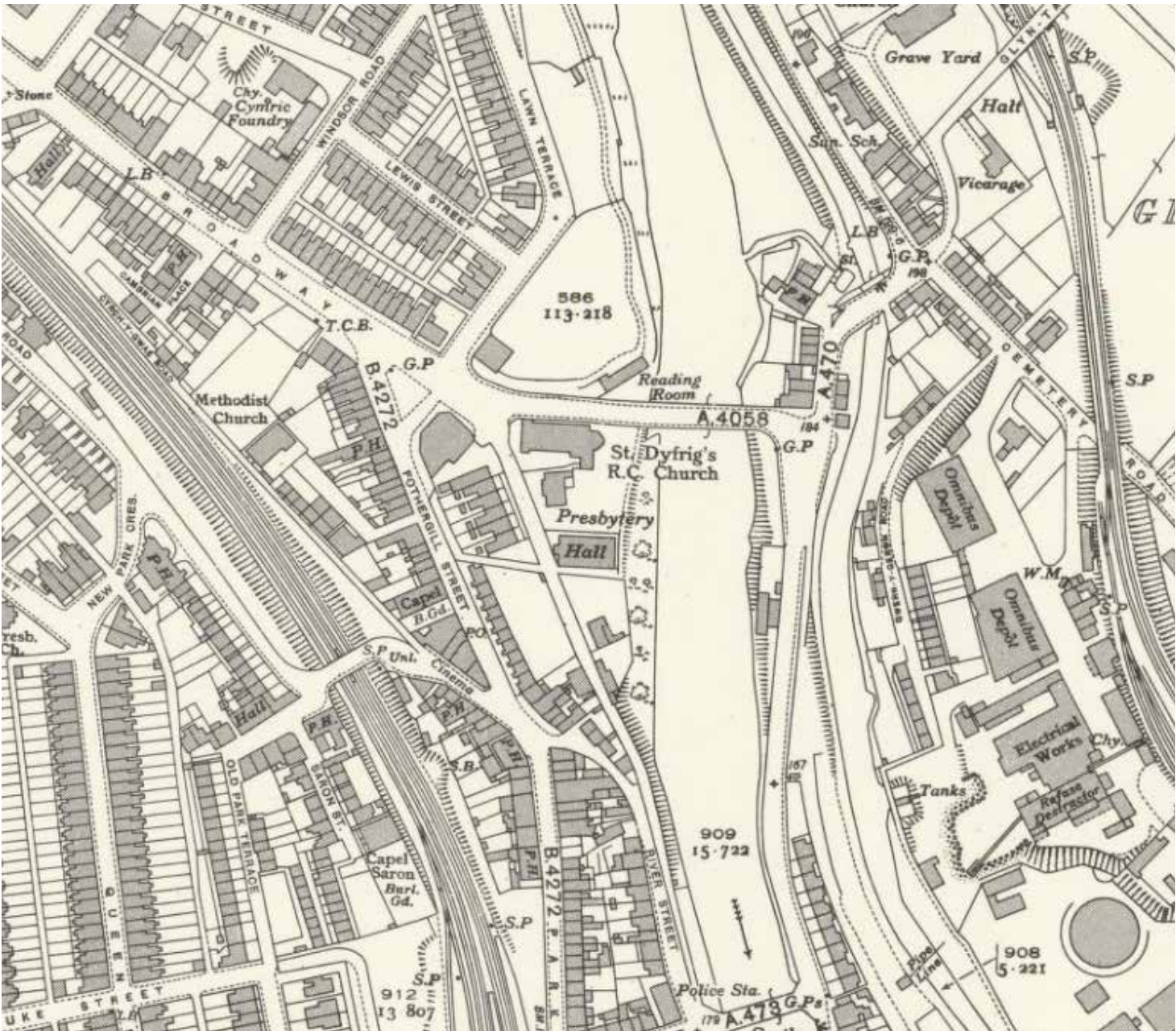
A further grant was awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020 towards a Resilience Study and St. Dyfrig's was selected as one of four church sites within the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The project is designed to conserve and regenerate four vulnerable church sites, which will be undertaken through participation with parishioners. This presentation forms part of the study to consult on the different options, addressing the future viability of this important historic church site.



St. Dyfrig's Catholic Church, Broadway c.1930 - Source: Rhondda Cynon Taf Library Service



1921 map showing the site undeveloped - Source: Glamorgan Sheet XXVIII Revised 1914-1915



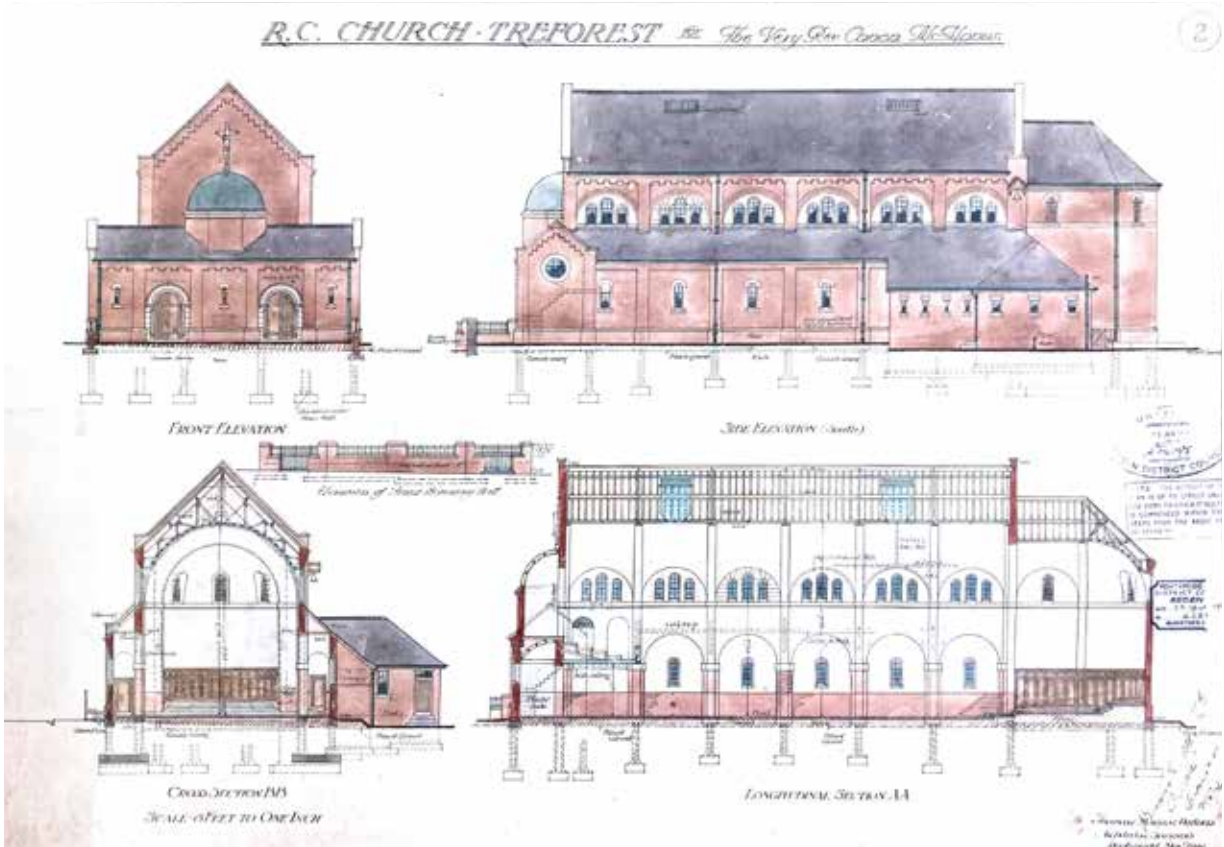
1921 map showing the church, presbytery and hall - Source: Glamorgan XXVIII.15 Revised 1943



Aerial photograph of Treforest in 1930. The church site can be seen in the centre of the image - Source: Britain from Above

A mission was established at Treforest from nearby .....1853 Newbridge.

A church dedicated to St. Dubritius opens on Wood .....1857 Road (Old Park Terrace), Treforest.



Planning drawings of the church from 1926 as approved by Pontypridd Urban District Council.

A site on the corner of Braodway is leased for the building of a new church, presbytery and parish hall. The freehold ..... 1921 of the site was later acquired.

The presbytery and church hall are completed. .... 1923

Archbishop Mostyn lays the foundation stone for the church on 4 November 1926 and the building is completed in 12 months, with the formal dedication and opening by the archbishop on 14 November 1927, the feast of Dupritius. .... 1927

The day chapel is added on the south side of the church. .... 1950s

The church undergoes Post-Vatican II reordering, with the removal of the original altar, altar rails, and font. A forward altar is installed, which was consecrated by ..... 1970s Archbishop Murphy of Cardiff on 6 November 1975.

Furnishings were added by parishioner and local artist, Penanne Crabbe, including Stations of the Cross and .....1999 the *corpus* of a crucifix installed in the sanctuary

A grant is awarded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Wales towards fabric repairs in the church and .....2018 community hall.



A photograph taken c.1930 showing the main elevation, with historic venting detail seen in the roof.



Penanne's 1999 wood carvings seen in the aisles and sanctuary.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Penanne's prototype of the sanctuary crucifix hangs in the presbytery. The cross is made from redundant pews taken from the church during alterations at the time.



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dittrich hudson vasetti architects



# EXISTING SITE PLAN





# VISION

## CHURCH

Improvements to the church might consider appropriate new lighting which will benefit the health and safety of its users, reduce energy use, visually enhance the internal character and provide lighting for liturgical use. Provision of toilet facilities in the narthex area will increase access for users and provide opportunities for hosting small music recital events.



## PRESBYTERY

The grade II listed presbytery is large and is in need of refurbishment and investment. The proposal is to provide an additional church-related use for the building to generate new income opportunities. The building could house a multiple-occupancy arrangement, whether it be retired Catholic priests or Catholic students at the local university.



## GROUNDS

The surrounding grounds have the potential for improvement, including the reinstatement of a formal garden to the rear of the presbytery, enclosed safe areas and wildlife spaces. Additional tree planting could be used to enclose the grounds where it can be seen from the A470. Parking would be provided and the grounds redeveloped to reduce the impact of vehicles on site.



## ECOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENTS

St. Dyfrig's grounds afford many opportunities for the development to provide a net biodiversity gain. Replacement of the hard surfaces with soft-landscaping, dedicated non-mow areas and strategic planting could encourage and increase the local biodiversity already present, creating further interest.



## LOW CARBON ENERGY

The existing car park would be a good location for low carbon energy sources for the site. A buried ground source heat pump array as a horizontal collector could provide hot water for heating all buildings. A small transfer building would be required, but this would be not much larger than a grounds-keeper's shed.



## COMMUNITY HALL

The existing community hall provides a very useful source of income. It is in relatively good condition and requires some small investment to increase income opportunities. The proposal is to improve the facilities throughout, making the building more inviting and accessible to everyone.





# PRELIMINARY OPTIONS



## OPTION 1A: Refurbished Church, Presbytery and Community Hall

### Summary:

- Refurbishment of all buildings throughout with modernisation of facilities.
- Landscape enhancements to all external areas.
- All existing parking spaces to be retained.

### Advantages:

- Lighting and ventilation improvements to the church.
- Existing parking numbers are unaffected.
- Landscape improvements to the rear of the presbytery and to the south of the community hall. Introduction of grasscrete surfacing to visually improve the setting.
- Thermal improvements to the presbytery and community hall with full refurbishment of both buildings.
- Refurbishment of the WC facilities and provision of a new enlarged accessible WC in the community hall, and a new unisex WC in the church.
- Step lift access to the stage in the community hall.
- Enlargement of the kitchen facilities and bar area in the community hall.

### Disadvantages:

- The landscaping proposals do not provide enough of a balance between practical use and pleasure. More landscaping opportunities to be explored in all of the other options.
- The presbytery remains a large property to heat with several vacant rooms throughout.
- The external private amenity space to the presbytery remains low.
- Reduction in area of the existing community hall meeting room space.
- Refurbishment of the community hall annexe is costly and further benefits might be achieved by demolishing and reconstructing.



## OPTION 1B: Refurbished Church, Presbytery, New Parish Room, Refurbished Community Hall and Demolition of the Modern Annexe

### Summary:

- Refurbishment of all buildings throughout with modernisation of facilities.
- Creation of new ground floor parish room in the presbytery.
- Demolition of the existing community hall annexe.
- Landscape enhancements to all areas.

### Advantages:

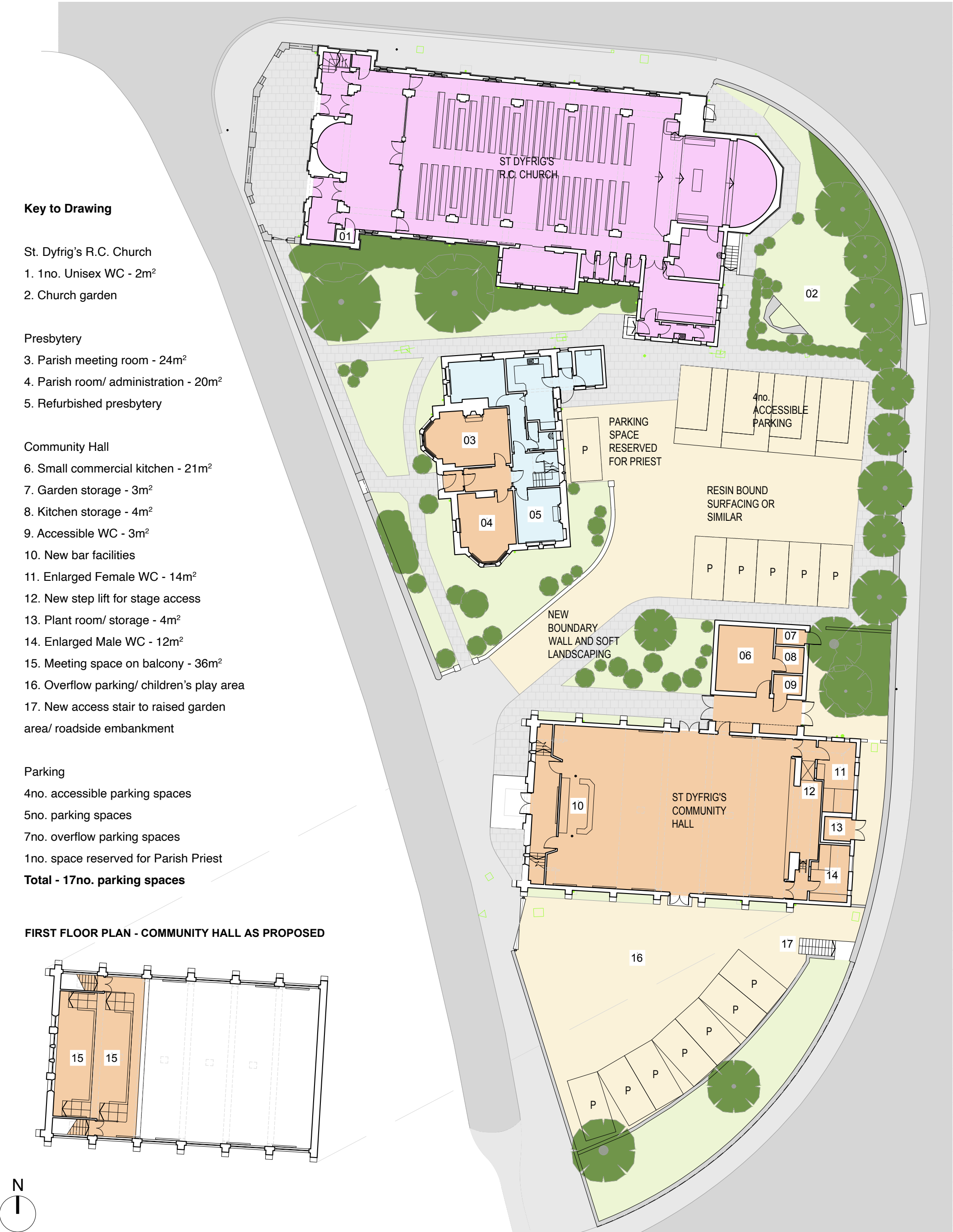
- Lighting and ventilation improvements to the church.
- Increased landscaping improvements than option 1a with the creation of a new enclosed church garden and private garden space for the priest.
- Thermal improvements to the presbytery and community hall with the full refurbishment of both buildings.
- Demolition of the community hall annexe will provide conservation benefit where the historic north elevation is fully restored.
- Refurbishment of the WC facilities and provision of a new enlarged accessible WC in the community hall, and a new unisex WC in the church.
- Step lift access to the stage in the community hall and other improved facilities including additional meeting space on the balcony.

### Disadvantages:

- Changes required to the presbytery at ground floor to accommodate an accessible meeting room facility and WC. The creation of a new rear entrance in the external wall will result in some harm to the significance of the Grade II listed presbytery.
- Existing parking numbers are further reduced where landscaping is improved to the rear of the presbytery.
- The landscaping improvements will result in increased maintenance for the Church.
- The presbytery remains a large property to heat with several vacant rooms throughout, but less than option 1a.
- Loss of a kitchen space and meeting room where the community hall annexe is to be demolished.



# PRELIMINARY OPTIONS



## OPTION 2: Refurbished Church, Presbytery and Community Hall with Reduced and Improved Annexe

### Summary:

- Refurbishment of all buildings throughout with modernisation of facilities.
- Creation of new ground floor parish rooms in the presbytery.
- Smaller annexe extension to the community hall.
- Significant landscape improvements to all areas.

### Advantages:

- Lighting and ventilation improvements to the church.
- Increased landscaping improvements than previous options with the creation of a new enclosed church garden and private garden space for the priest. Creation of electric vehicle (EV) parking on site and access to the roadside embankment.
- Thermal improvements to the presbytery and community hall and full refurbishment of both buildings. New parish room space to be provided in the presbytery to reduce the proposed footprint area of a replacement extension to the community hall.
- A smaller community hall annexe will provide some conservation benefit where the historic north elevation is partially restored but can be seen from inside the extension.
- Refurbishment of the WC facilities in the community hall and provision of a new unisex WC in the church.
- Step lift access to the stage in the community hall and other improved facilities including additional meeting space on the balcony, enlarged kitchen space and storage.

### Disadvantages:

- A new extension to the community hall will be costly; however, some of the existing floor slab might be reused or extended.
- Fewer parking spaces due to the development of the external areas.
- The presbytery remains a large property to heat with several vacant rooms throughout, but less than in previous options.
- Internal lift access in the presbytery is not feasible where there would be significant harm to the Grade II Listed Building.



Ensuite bathroom facilities for the Catholic student accommodation



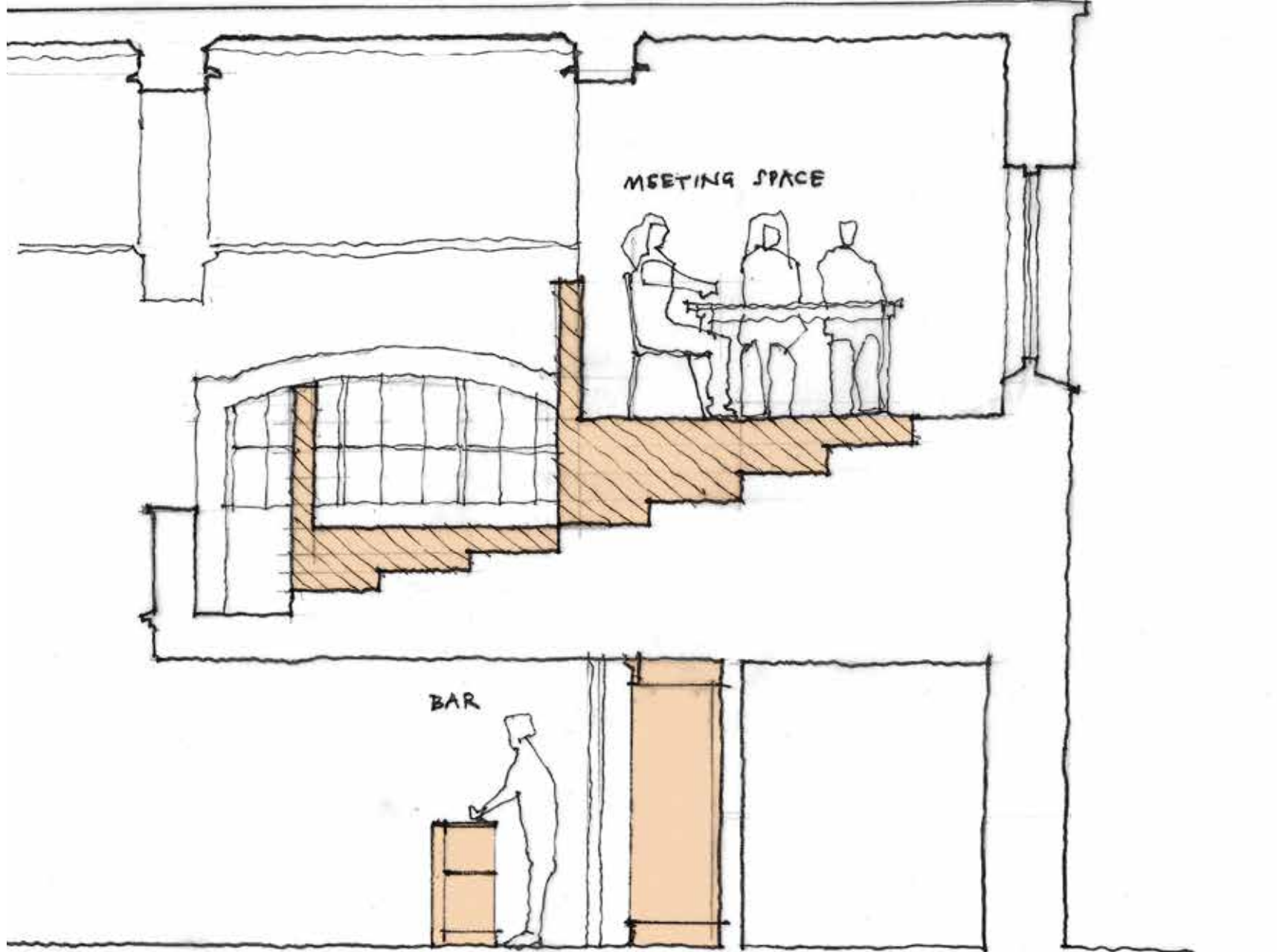
Small commercial kitchen facilities to be provided in the community hall



Lighting improvements at St Gregory's R.C. Church, Cheltenham: Before and after



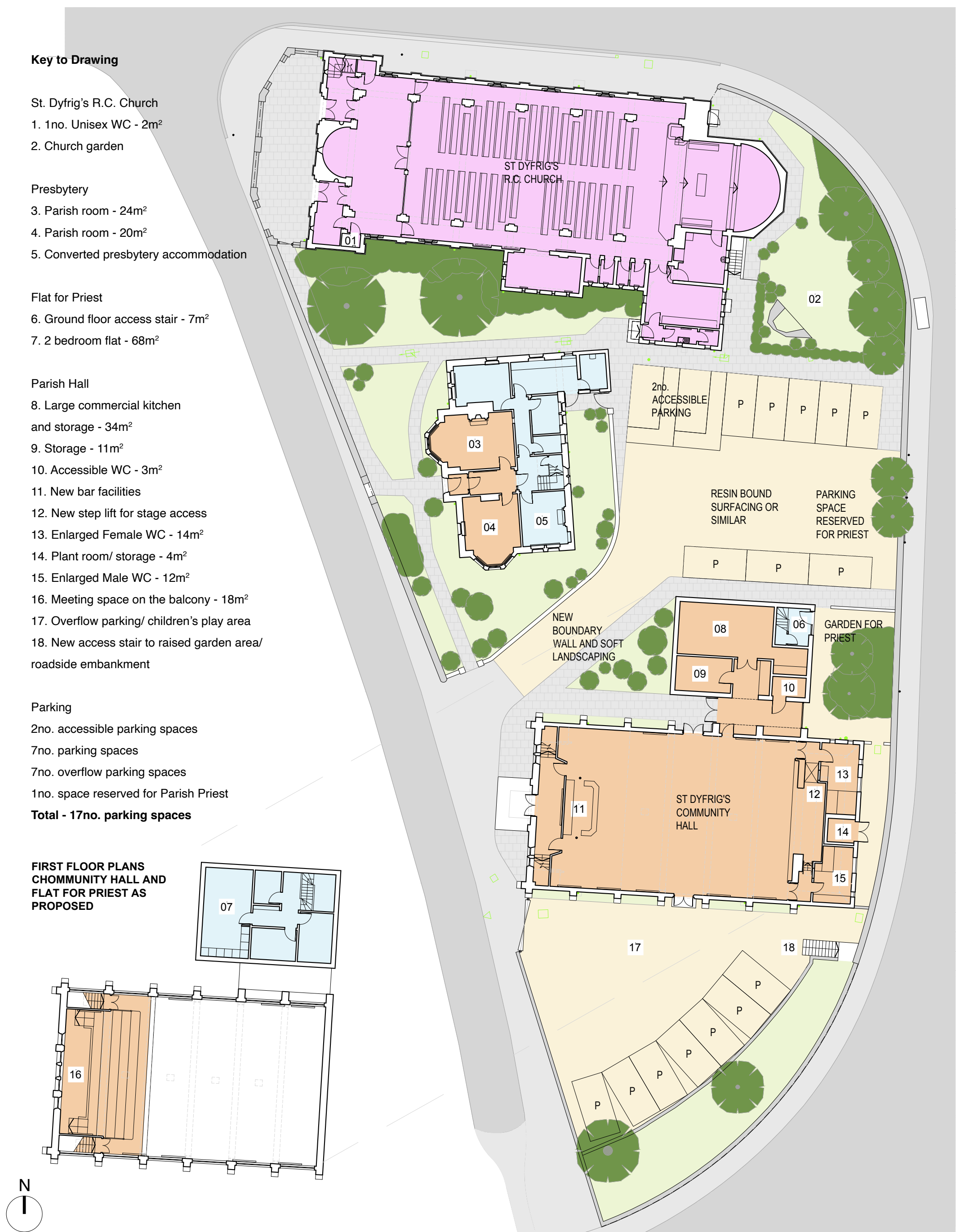
Proposed lift building to the rear of the Presbytery as option 3b, referencing the existing banded stone and projecting bay window details



Section showing how the rear part of the church hall might be altered to provide additional meeting space on the balcony and a bar area below



# PRELIMINARY OPTIONS



## OPTION 3A: Refurbished Church, Presbytery Converted for Catholic Student Accommodation Use, Refurbished Community Hall and New Extension with Flat for Priest Above

### Summary:

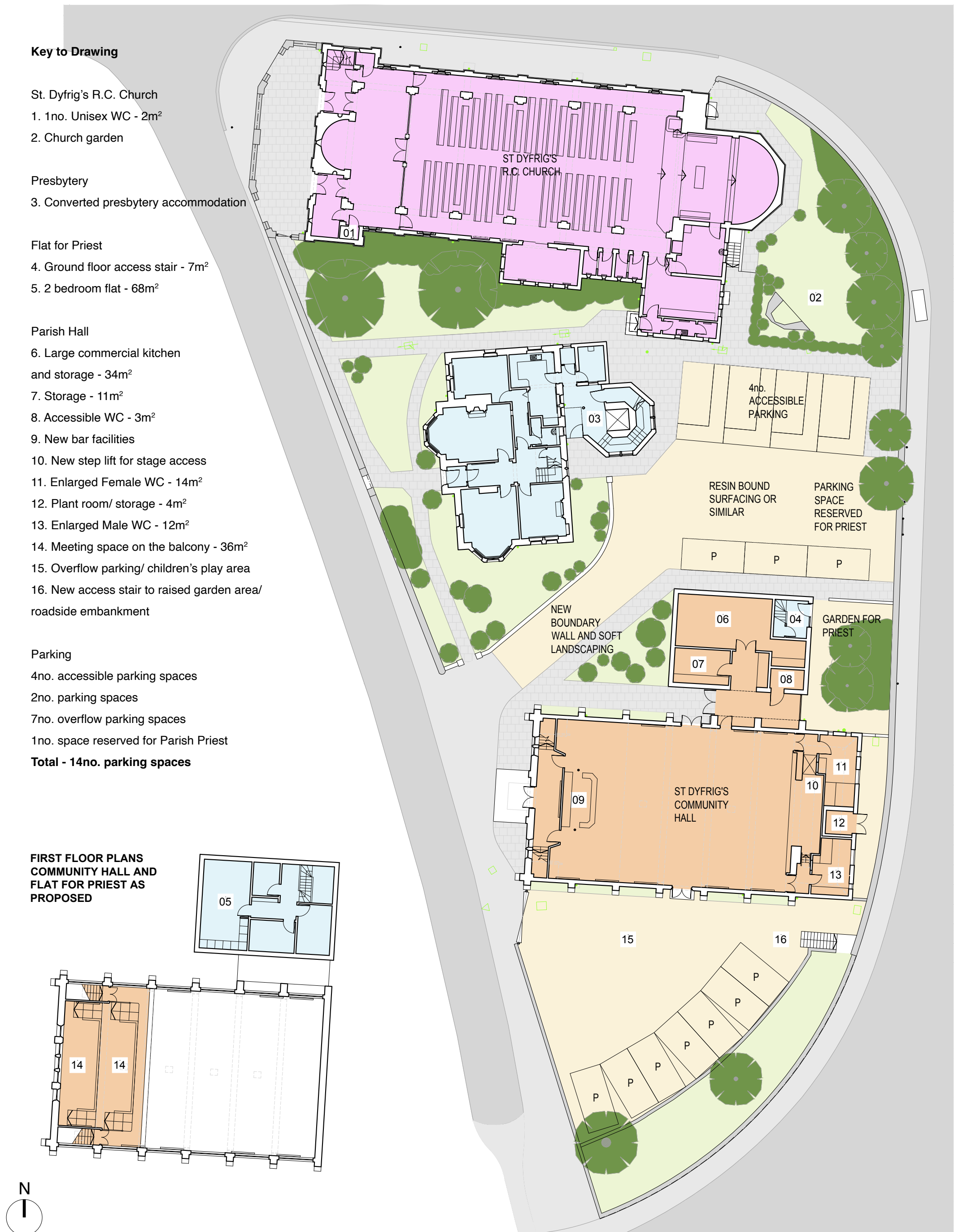
- Lighting and ventilation improvements to the church.
- Presbytery converted to provide accommodation for Catholic students with 5no. ensuite bedrooms, 1no. guest bedroom and 2no. parish room spaces at ground floor.
- Enlarged annexe extension to the community hall with 2no. bedroom flat accommodation at first floor level for the Parish Priest.
- Significant landscape improvements to all areas.

### Advantages:

- Increased landscaping improvements with the creation of a new enclosed church garden and private garden space for the priest. Creation of electric vehicle (EV) parking on site and access to the roadside embankment.
- Thermal improvements to the presbytery and community hall with full refurbishment of both buildings. New parish rooms to be provided in the presbytery to reduce the size of the new community hall extension.
- Better use of the large presbytery building with increased income generating opportunities.
- Refurbishment of the WC facilities in the community hall and a new unisex WC in the church. Step lift access to the stage in the church hall and other improved facilities including additional meeting space on the balcony, enlarged kitchen space and storage.

### Disadvantages:

- The conversion of the presbytery will result in new accommodation being required for the parish priest.
- Fewer parking spaces available where the landscaping is improved to the rear of the presbytery. Landscaping improvements will result in increased maintenance for the Church.
- Internal lift access in the presbytery not feasible where there would be significant harm to the Grade II Listed Building.
- A larger community hall extension will result in greater impact to the significance of the Grade II listed church site and buildings. Special consideration will need to be given to the appearance of its design.



## OPTION 3B: Refurbished Church, Presbytery Converted for Retired Priest Use, Refurbished Community Hall and New Extension with Flat for Priest Above

### Summary:

- Lighting and ventilation improvements to the church.
- Presbytery converted to provide accommodation for retired priests with 5no. ensuite bedrooms and 1no. guest bedroom.
- Enlarged annexe extension to the community hall with 2no. bedroom flat accommodation at first floor level for the Parish Priest.
- Significant landscape improvements to all areas.

### Advantages:

- Increased landscaping improvements with the creation of a new enclosed church garden and private garden space for the priest. Creation of electric vehicle (EV) parking on site and access to the roadside embankment.
- Thermal improvements to the presbytery and community hall with full refurbishment of both buildings.
- Better use of the large presbytery building with new lift access provided to facilitate occupants with mobility issues.
- Refurbishment of the WC facilities in the community hall and a new unisex WC in the church. Step lift access to the stage in the church hall and other improved facilities including additional meeting space on the balcony, enlarged kitchen space and storage.

### Disadvantages:

- The conversion of the presbytery will result in new accommodation being required for the parish priest.
- Fewer parking spaces available where the landscaping is improved to the rear of the presbytery. Landscaping improvements will result in increased maintenance for the Church.
- Internal lift access in the presbytery is not feasible where it would result in significant harm to the Grade II Listed Building.
- A larger community hall extension and lift building will result in greater impact to the significance of the Grade II listed church site and buildings. Special consideration will need to be given to the appearance of its design.