ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, CHESHAM BOIS

PARISH CENTRE & RECTORY REDEVELOPMENT

Design & Access Statement

January 2020

Section 3 - 5

PAULSOUTHOUSE**ARCHITECTS**

The Studio High Street
Beckley Oxford OX3 9UU

Telephone:01865 686108
studio@paulsouthouse.co.uk

Contents

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3.0 Design & Access

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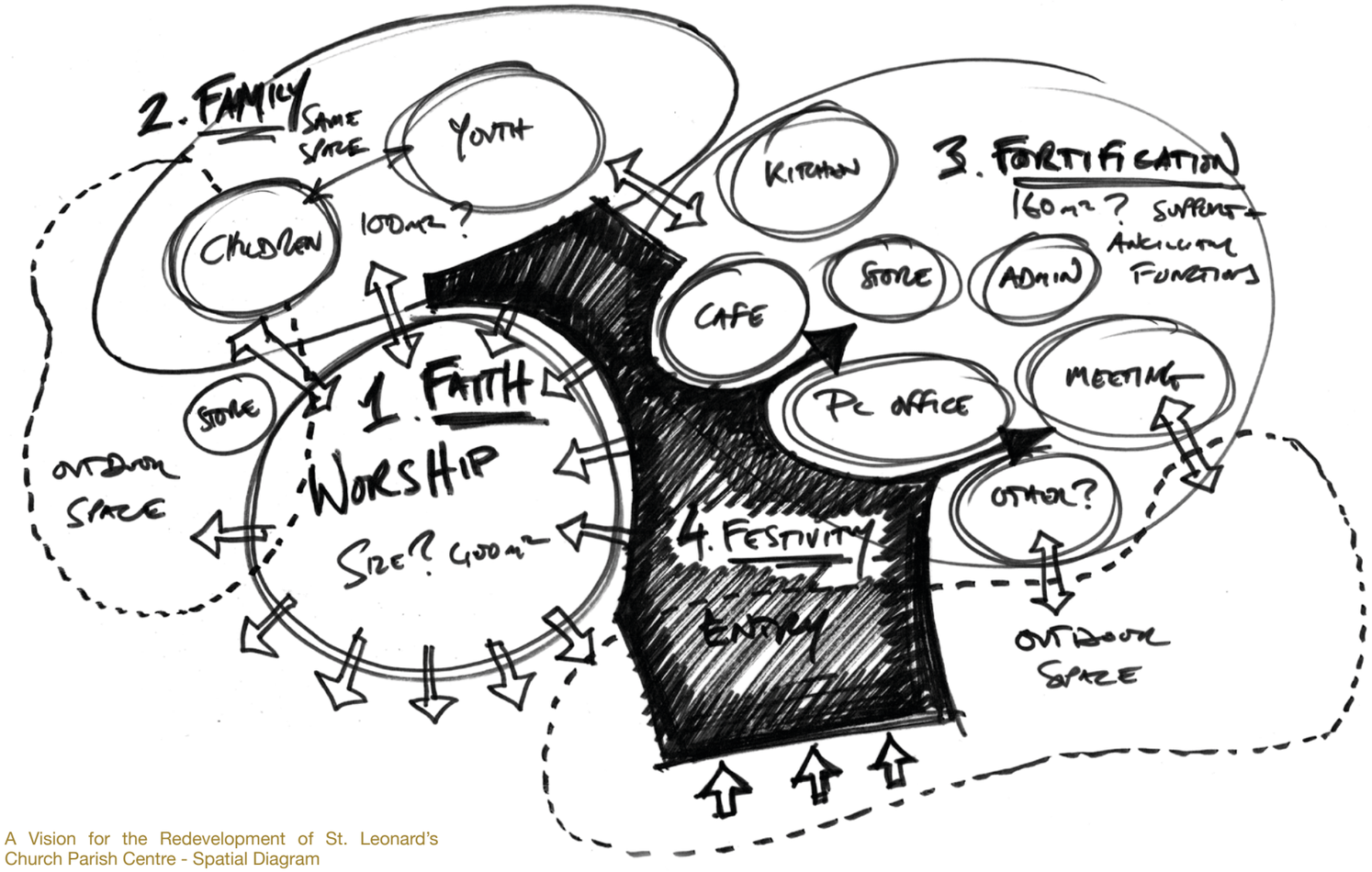

A Vision for the Redevelopment of St. Leonard's Church Parish Centre - Spatial Diagram

Creativity through model making - the architetcural design approach

Initial architectural approach to the site layout

3.0 Design & Access

3.1 The Proposal

The proposal is to deliver a larger replacement Parish Centre for St Leonard's Church and the Village Community as well as two new dwellings. This includes the replacement of the existing Rectory and addition of a single dwelling for the site staff accommodation. Maryland pre-school is also to be provided for with a dedicated premises within the proposal.

The New Parish Centre will provide St Leonard's Church with the necessary space and facilities to support the growing church and flexible spaces to serve the needs of the local community. The proposal aligns with the aims of the Chiltern District Council's sustainable community strategy which is part of the Local Authority Core Strategy and vision for development.

To compliment this, the St. Leonard's Church Vision is:

- To see the growth of the faith community in Chesham Bois in depth, breadth and numbers.
- To see the community blessed by the presence of St.leonard's.
- To see place for activity, which becomes a place for presence.
- To Provide high quality space and facilities to support the growing Church and serve the needs of the local community.
- To Replace existing Rectory.
- To Replace existing Parish Council offices.
- The new building to become the heart of the village community with an "all week" presence.
- Provide a safe space for adults and children.

The architectural approach and proposal is based on the '4 F's', Faith, Family, Fortification and Festivity. This applies to both the concept and physical layout of the proposal. The worship space embodies simplicity, identity and presence. It will define the idea of the beauty of nature and have an energy and purpose that radiates throughout the village, woodland and beyond. The proposal has a series of spaces with a variety of uses where the inside space feels like the outside, where one can breathe and grow physically and spiritually. The building will be a manifestation of the conversation between the spiritual and everyday. This sense of correlation and shared strength is to be embodied within the philosophy of the structure.

The essential elements of the project brief and spaces within the proposal are:

- Worship space for 'hosting the presence' 275 capacity.
- Provision of Youth Activity - Flexible hall space.
- Children's Ministry Spaces - link to outdoor space.
- Space to accommodate seniors' ministry and activities
- Flexible Meeting Rooms.
- Administration Office Space.
- Sense of Arrival - Front desk, meeting space with public presence & cafe.
- Storage.
- Provision for the Parish Council Office at ground floor.
- Kitchen - Suitable for large gatherings.
- New Rectory.
- Additional housing for staff.
- Dedicated Pre-school provision.
- Other community uses to be considered/ accommodated.

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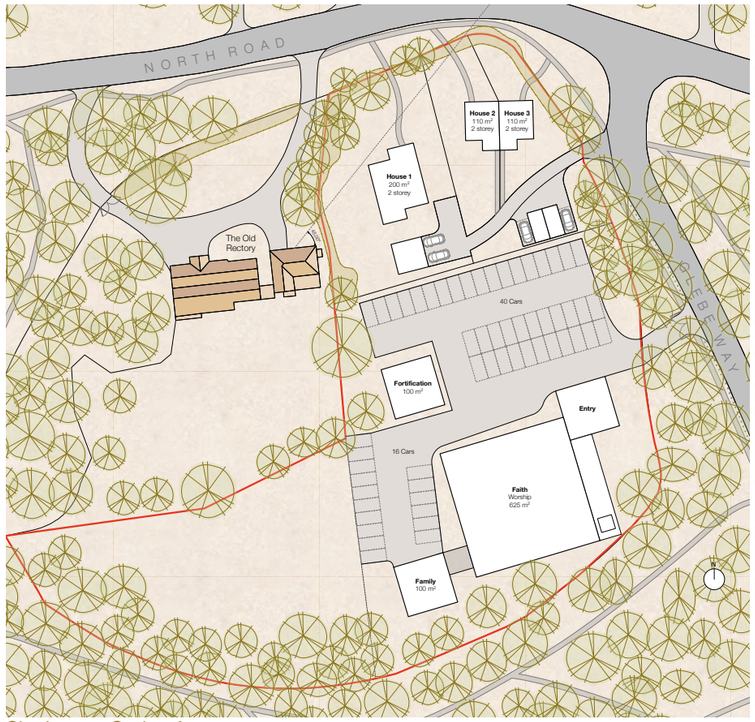


Site Layout Option A

Site Layout Option B

3.2 Site Layout Options

The initial focus for the design considered the siting and positioning of the various elements of the brief. At this stage, particular regard was given to the access arrangements and relationship of the different functions to the surroundings.

Option A - Based on the original architectural approach, the existing Rectory is replaced and repositioned adjacent to the 2 new houses. These form a natural extension to the line of dwellings along North Road. The new Parish Centre is located to the south to give it a close relationship to the woodland setting, away from Glebe Way. This option positions the New Parish Centre at a distance from the neighbouring Old Rectory.

Option B - The existing Rectory is retained and new Parish Centre located with its frontage and presence to Glebe Way. This option relies on building on land outside of the Church's ownership and is therefore not viable. It also has the potential to have a detrimental impact on the character of the Green and provides compromised access to the existing Rectory and new houses.

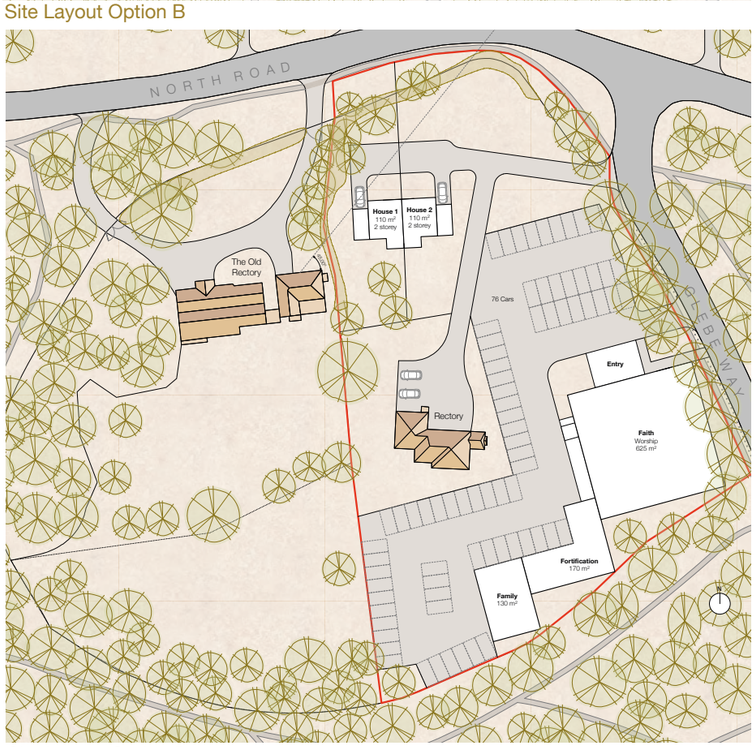
Option C - Similar in approach to option A, this layout develops and moves the main hall space within the new Parish Centre to the centre of the site.

Option D - Retaining the existing Rectory and positioning the new Parish Centre to the south is not possible when taking into account the tree constraints.

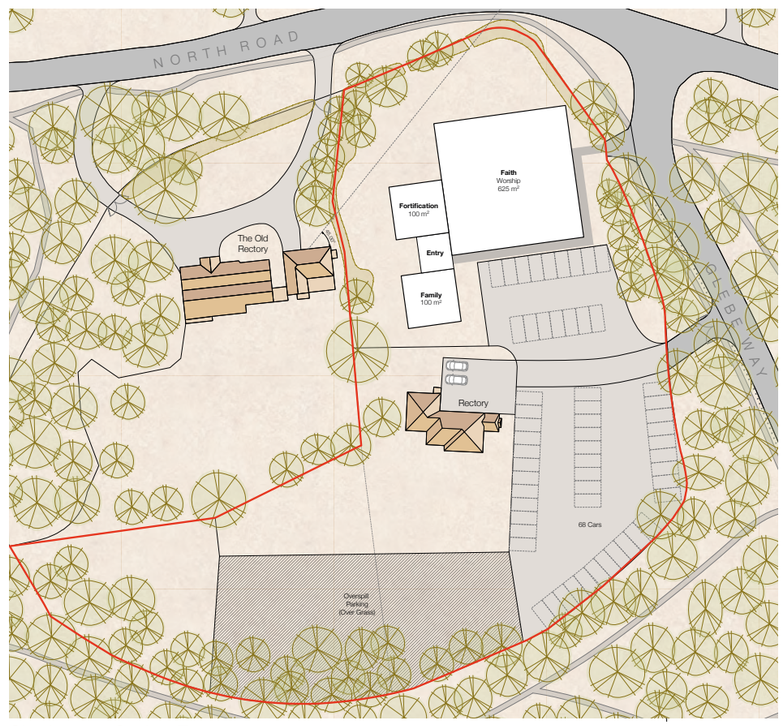
Option E - Explores the replacement of the existing Parish Centre in its current postion as well as the retention of the existing Rectory. This option has potential to adversely affect the conservation area due to the new Parish Centre siting. The increased mass and scale necessary to meet the briefing requirements creates a form out of keeping with its context.

Option C is the preferred site layout and used to develop the design.

Site Layout Option C



Site Layout Option D



Site Layout Option E

Form finding - Experiments with hessian in the woodland

3.3 Design Approach

The architectural concept for the new Parish Centre is based on the principle of creating shelter and sanctuary in the woodland setting. Dividing the project into areas under the headings of faith, family, fortification and festivity demonstrates how the spaces within the design function and relate to each other. Another important element that underpins the final design is the idea that the building is an inside space that feels like an outside space. Therefore all who use it can breath both physically and spiritually whilst embracing the principles of presence, identity, radiance and simplicity. On a broader level, the design for the new Parish Centre has three distinct functions for worship, healing and equipping.

The concept developed to consider the woodland and a suitable response to the trees as natural structures. This lead to the idea of a breathable drape creating a canopy that is in keeping with woodland attributes and characteristics using a light touch and responding naturally to the properties of the material and environment. Following research of woodland contexts, images that demonstrated structures that were in complete harmony with their context and not propped up or imposed upon the setting became inspirational to the design process.

A design workshop in a local wood allowed for experimentation with structure and form using trees and hessian (natural and permeable materials). Hessian was chosen because it is made using only plant fibres, is durable with breathable layers that let light through in a similar way to a natural leaf canopy. Another characteristic of hessian is that due to its flexibility it drapes beautifully, creating a free form balanced with the forces acting upon it.

Taking the experiments with hessian in the woodland, the next step was to find a way to represent these ideas in a tangible form. By implementing hyperbolic and parabolic structures this provided a possible solution to the free form though the use of straight elements. The viability of this approach was then successfully tested through further physical modeling processes and analysis.

Following collaboration with the Church, a further design session added several more layers of detail. Firstly, it was established that the new Centre should sit in a resting position in harmony with its surroundings. It was also reiterated that the faith element should permeate and radiate through all areas of the proposal. Therefore, the edge of the auditorium should incorporate a sense of transition and overlapping into the functional space. It also provided invaluable insight in adding pragmatism to the design with specific criteria and detail being considered to each space. Similarly a room schedule allowed us to begin planning how the various elements would fit onto the site in terms of massing and levels. The topographic survey has provided a precise mapping of the trees on site, which has also started to influence the design and layout.

The design approach to the new housing is one where the dwellings are to be considered to relate to their context, the pattern of development and existing houses within the Village. An arts and crafts style is employed for the houses and use of flint to complete the triangle around the village green. The other buildings using flint are Anne's Corner and the Old School House. The new Rectory design is also informed by the Diocese of Oxford design guide for new parsonage houses. This sets out the minimum spatial requirements for the new rectory and optimal internal arranagements allowing for both Church and family life in this new home.

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Developed Design Scale Model

3.4 The Proposal in its Setting

With reference to the submitted drawings, refer to the issue sheet Appendix E, the proposal makes best use of the site, the existing trees and landscape features of the woodland setting. Key considerations include the character of Chesham Bois village in terms of the pattern of development, the conservation area and listed building adjacent.

The scale and form of the proposal is a primary consideration of the design as is the choice of materials in designing a building that is sensitive to its context. The objective of the design is to effectively blend the proposed buildings within their surroundings to enhance the immediate setting whilst respecting the environment and character of the area. For the new Parish Centre, a timber structure is conceived to support a free form roof that appears as a draped canopy responding to its context and the trees and spaces created within. For the new homes, these take on the traditional aesthetic of well considered and proportioned buildings which relate well to the corner position where Glebe Way meets North Road adjacent to the Village Green.

3.5 Scale, Mass and Form

The woodland and historic context of the project requires a sensitive approach and a light touch for the design proposal. Key to this is the scale, mass and form of the development which has been given consideration and has guided the design process from the outset.

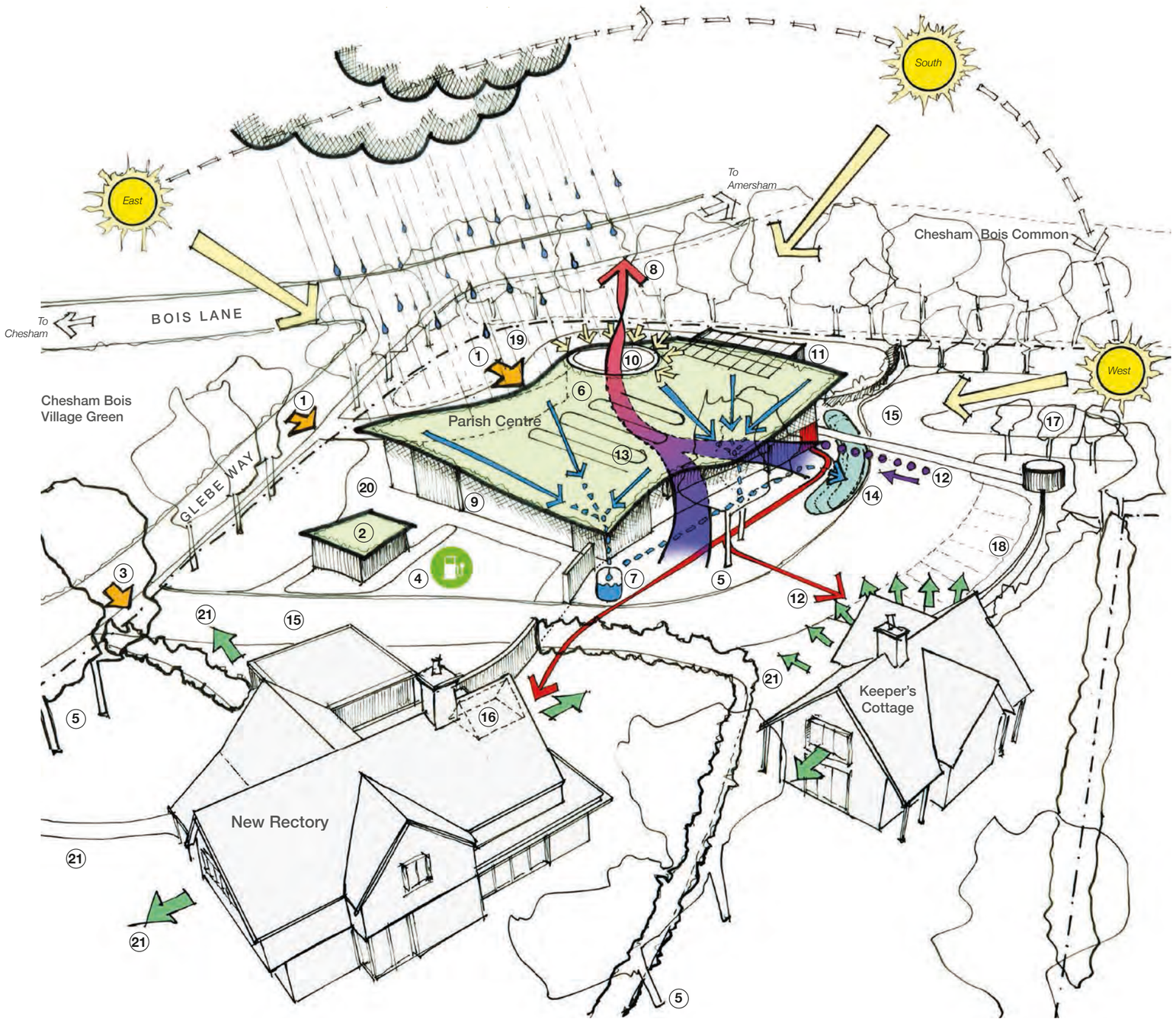
The new Parish Centre proposal presents a 1.5 to 2.5 storey building mass positioned to the south of the site. This rises to a normal residential house ridge height to the centre to create the main hall and largest volume within the building. The proposed footprint is approximately 800sq.m, which is slightly more than twice the size of the existing Parish Centre. It is for this reason that a non-traditional and one-off building form is proposed. The form responds to its setting whilst minimising its overall scale and mass. Its potential impact on its surroundings is therefore minor as demonstrated by the design drawings.

The new Rectory and staff dwelling have been designed as two single detached dwellings. This includes a detached double garage to the new Rectory. The houses are to form a natural complement of the existing houses along North Road and pattern of development. The new Rectory is designed to address North Road and its prominant corner position. The principle facade and building is angled to address the corner and provide oblique views of the new dwelling from the North Road.

3.6 Flexibility

The Parish Centre is designed to enable St Leonard's Church to serve the Chesham Bois community. Whilst many functions have been identified in the initial brief it is expected that the needs of the church and community will evolve over time and as such the new Parish Centre will accommodate that potential for change.

The design incorporates flexibility so that as much space as possible within the Parish Centre is multi-functional. It can then therefore be utilised to accommodate small or large group activities with ease. Consultation and briefing with user groups has helped develop the design and have provided additional information about how the spaces need to function (eg. block out light for digital displays, minimise sound transfer and ingress and ensuring for the pre-school and safe guarding requirements).



Environmental Concept and Approach
Refer to Drawing PA-18 for more details

3.7 Sustainability

From the conception of the project there has been a strong emphasis and commitment to sustainability and making the buildings as energy efficient as possible. This is particularly significant in terms of the context of the site and the necessity of maintaining an ecological balance and ensuring the longevity of the buildings. Hence, BSEC building services consultants have provided support and advice whilst working on a schedule of building services that is underpinned by this philosophy.

The proposed approach to energy use is to install an air source heat pump with integrated photovoltaic panels to the roof which will generate electricity and offset that used by the heating system.

A passive natural ventilation system is proposed for the hall spaces although this may have limitations during hot weather. There is however potential to use the proposed air source heat pump for cooling the incoming air.

3.8 Access & Landscaping

There are two existing access points to the site on Glebe Way that have served the existing Parish Centre and Rectory without issue. There are no significant highway safety issues recorded on Glebe Way that relate to these existing vehicular access points. Therefore, the existing access and egress for the car park will remain, whilst the existing access to the current Rectory is no longer needed with the new site layout.

The existing Parish Centre access is to be reused and improved for the new Parish Centre and two houses. The existing Rectory vehicle access is to become the main pedestrian and cycle access point, therefore the vehicular crossover in this location can be stopped up. This will improve highway safety on Glebe Way as only one vehicular access point is proposed.

The main entrance to the new Parish Centre is reinforced to be by foot or cycle with the building and entry point facing Glebe Way. Covered cycle storage is provided for 36 bikes in a combined electrical sub-station and refuse/ recycling store structure. Arriving by car is secondary with the parking area located to the rear of the new Parish Centre. Entering the vehicle access, there is dedicated parking for the new Rectory and Keeper's Cottage including double garage. Beyond this parking is arranged as a dedicated and primary parking area for up to 23 cars. A further woodland secondary parking and pre-school drop off area is designed to provide parking for up to 49 cars. In addition, the open landscaped area beyond this is designed to provide additional pakring within a reinforced grass area. There is therefore sufficient parking for up to 90 cars as well as drop-off and servicing/ delivery vehicle turning loop.

The main hall is designed to accommodate 275 people (225 on ground floor and 50 on the balcony). Based on surveys the Church has carried out over the last year, St. Leonard's Church expect a weekly congregation at their 10:30 family service of between 120 and 150, and regular 'all together' servcies often attract in excess of 200.

3.9 Environmental Approach

The environmental approach for the New Parish Centre encompasses several elements that will deliver a sustainable development and safeguard an enhanced facility for the church and local community. This takes a holistic approach that informs the design, its response to the setting, the use of materials, the energy philosophy and building services systems, ecology and

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The Green Roof - Examples and Sedum Covering through the Year

Free Form Roof

Sedum Roof

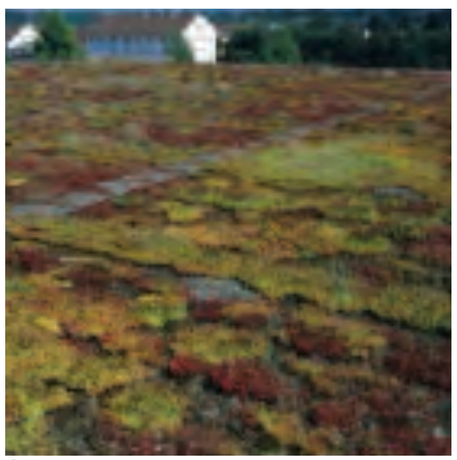
Eave Overhang Detail

January

May

June

August



October

November

biodiversity enhancements as well as access to and use of the building. This informs a sensitive, well planned, forward thinking and considered proposal within the surrounding woodland and village, ensuring the development will stand the test of time and be in harmony with its environment.

Design, Materials and Construction

The design of the building responds to the woodland setting and the trees as natural structures. It proposes the idea of a breathable drape, creating a canopy that is fitting for the woodland characteristic by using a light touch and organic form that responds naturally to the properties of environment.

The building is designed to complement the beauty of nature and for this to be expressed in the material palette that references the elements of earth, water, metal and wood.

A green roof covering is proposed because it is natural and will reduce the impact of the Parish Centre on the site by replacing some of the vegetation disturbed by the building's footprint. It suits the concept of a free form roof because it is a flexible material that can be contoured to suit the design. The aesthetic of the green roof will blend the building into the woodland setting and have the following characteristics:

- It will change seasonally in terms of colour and texture and be low maintenance and give the roof membrane a life expectancy of 50+ years.
- The green roof sedum covering will act as protection to the roof membrane and structure.
- It is cost-effective and more appropriate to its setting than sheet metal and other options.
- It is breathable and responds to its environment, as a living entity with its own ecosystem adding an element of biodiversity to the building fabric.
- A green roof will reduce the need for water management on site by reducing the rain water run off.
- It will further enhance the thermal properties of roof, increasing thermal mass and reducing overheating.
- An extensive sedum green roof is a light weight solution (30mm thick) with a minimal 'light touch'.
- A green roof will improve the air quality by filtering pollutants and CO^2
- It will bring educational opportunities as it demonstrates sustainability.
- The green roof will require an irrigation system during dry spells (water will be harvested for this).

Construction will involve using as much high quality locally sourced materials and labour as possible to ensure the building provides local distinction and is built to last. The design and construction sequencing will also consider the existing uses within the Parish Centre to ensure these can continue during construction before transitioning to the New Parish Centre.

Ecology and Biodiversity

The trees and natural habitat require careful stewardship. Where trees are low quality or value, these are to be removed and replaced as part of the landscape design. Where trees are an asset and contribute to the wider character of the area, these are to be retained, protected and incorporated into the design.

Ecology surveys have been carried out to ensure the proposal will not adversely affect any protected species. The proposal is partly created on the existing footprint of buildings and hard standing, which reduces the likelihood of the development having a negative impact on the nearby locally designated wildlife sites. The proposal allows for biodiversity enhancements and management so that flora and fauna can flourish.

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Internal and External Material Palette - Proposed Natural Materials

Energy Use, Performance and Efficiency
There is a strong commitment to energy efficiency and performance of energy related systems during use. Energy used will be balanced by that created on-site through renewable technologies. Heating and cooling strategies will be coordinated with the design and use of materials to ensure energy use is optimised. Passive systems will be prioritised overactive and those which require a high energy demand. Rainwater will be harvested for reuse within the design for both its symbolic and natural properties.

3.10 Materials

The new Parish Centre will express and compliment the beauty of nature through the use of materials both inside and outside of the building. It will both point to heaven and host heaven within its frame. At its centre, an aperture within the flowing roof works to let in a halo of light. Thus, the roof element is key as it provides a focal point as visitors look up and see beyond the building and experience a sense of being uplifted. The circular timber frame that rises up to support this aperture reinforces this sense of elevation.

Copper
Copper is an essential element. Humans need it to transfer energy in cells. It is a natural material that is known for its longevity. It is extremely durable and can expect to last for up to three times longer than other less robust options (up to 80-100 years). It is also low maintenance and actually improves with age as its patina develops.

Bronze
Bronze is an alloy primarily made of copper. It is high in strength and excellent at blocking resistance. It is a good material for windows and represent a traditional alternative to wood and other metals. Bronze windows are also beautiful and maximise incoming light.

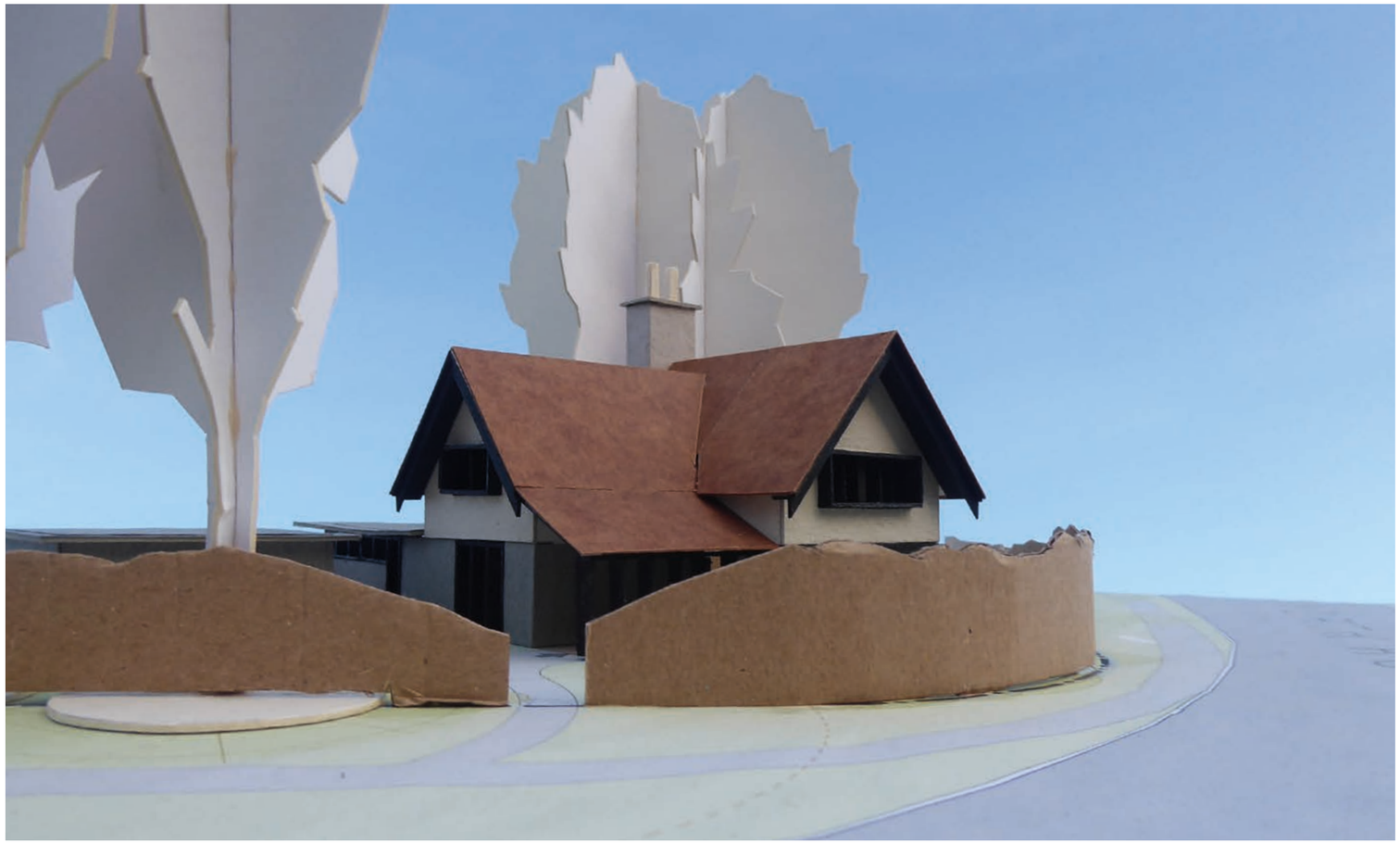
Brass
Brass is a copper alloy that is usually blended with zinc. It is an ideal material to use in the ornamentation of the building due to its strength, ductility, hardiness and machinability.

Brass also has excellent acoustic properties and is often used for making musical instruments. Music is a key component of worship and festivity and as such brass works well for this purpose.

Timber
The use of wood is fundamental to the proposal and will form the frame from which the building is underpinned. The timber will be expressed fully so that it's warmth and beauty can be enjoyed by all.

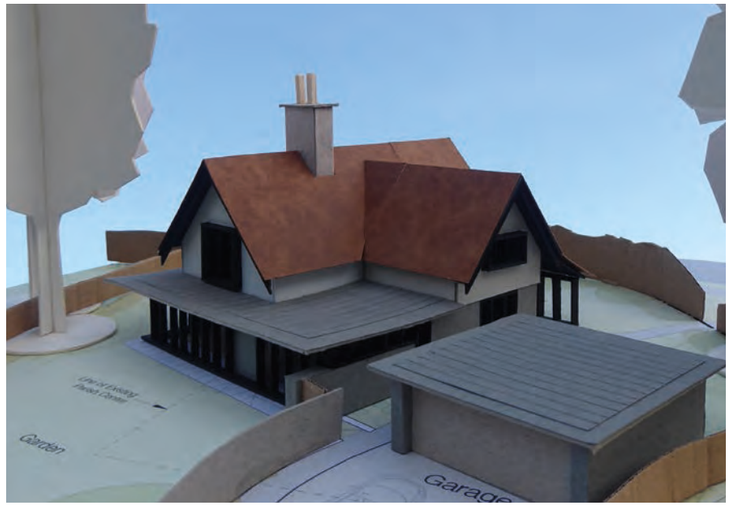
Brick
Chesham Bois lies over a soil of stiff clay and subsoil of chalk. The production of bricks is an industry local to Chesham with works at Bovingdon and Bellingdon. Bricks are proposed for the facades to the pair of houses and for use as a flooring material.

Flint
Flint is found in chalk and forms the bedrock of the woodland. It is a vernacular building material local to Chesham Bois and Amersham, being extremely hard and impervious. The most notable buildings, such as the church and school house, use flint in the external facades. It is therefore proposed to use flint in the construction of the new Rectory.



The New Rectory viewed on the corner of North Road and Glebe Way

The New Rectory - North Road elevation



The New Rectory - Rear facade and elements

3.11 The New Rectory and Cottage

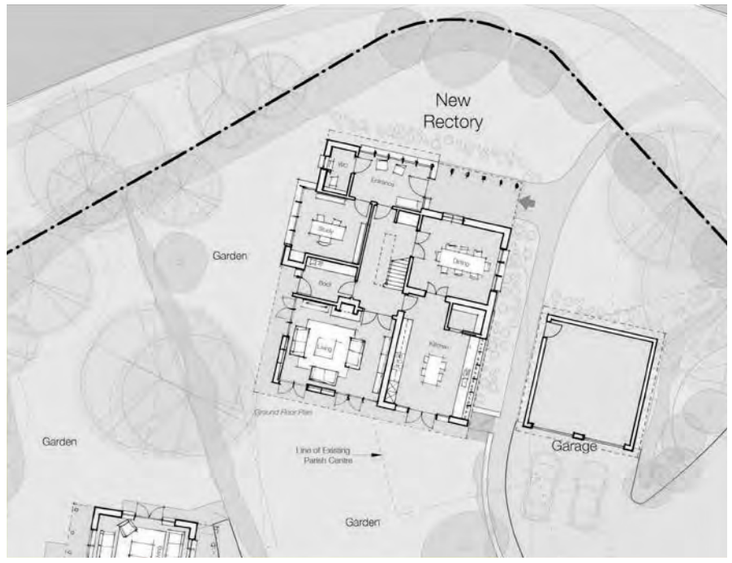
"Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful." *William Morris*

The initial concept for the residential component of the development was underpinned and referenced by the Arts and Craft movement which can be seen in the local architectural vernacular of Chesham Bois. Therefore the key principles for the final design are honesty and functionality, natural forms in pattern and the importance of creative, manual work.

The importance of the Arts and Craft aesthetic was highlighted during the pre-application process where it was noted that this influence should be pursued in the final design because it is both appropriate to the setting and adds energy a sense of heritage an whilst being respectful to the energy of the proposal.

The final design draws upon the initial concept and pre-application advice by demonstrating a high standard of composition whilst referencing the Arts and Crafts style. Therefore, the roof has been brought down over the entrance to effectively ground the building. The generous sloping roof form overhangs at the eaves and merges with deep barge boards in black timber. The expressed timber of local precedents surround the windows rather than breaking up the render. The upper storey is rough cast render that sits over a flint plinth and the chimney is centrally mounted on the main ridge line. Therefore the design represents a modern interpretation of traditional Arts and Crafts features. It also fits into its immediate setting as well as relating to the wider context of Chesham Bois and its history.

A physical model at a scale of 1:100 was constructed to develop the design and building aesthetic. The limited palette of materials creates a cohesive traditional design form with strong horizontal and vertical black timber elements which form the contemporary approach to the arts and crafts style. The dark timber projecting window surrounds are a key feature of this and will be fabricated by a locally.



The New Rectory Ground Floor and Site Plan

4.0 Supporting Studies

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Final Site Plan Layout Concept

4.0 Supporting Studies

The proposal is supported by a team of specialist consultants that have gathered site information to identify the site opportunities and constraints as well as advising in the development of the design and technical aspects. The three layers of this comprise of, site information (topographical, utilities, arboricultural and ecological); the planning design team (planning, architecture, landscape, heritage and highways consultant); and a technical design team (structural/ civil engineer and building services encompassing energy efficient design). The project is committed to biodiversity and environmental enhancements.

4.1 Topographical and Utilities Survey

A full topographical and utilities survey (db3678) has been conducted by Design Base Ltd. This has formed the basis for the design and layout of the project.

4.2 Preliminary Ecology Assessment

Ecology by design have surveyed the site and surrounds to conduct a Preliminary Ecological Survey in order to identify ecological data that could potentially pose a constraint to the design.

It was advised that several biodiversity enhancements should be put in place for hedgehogs, bats and birds. In addition, a hibernation study of bats and badgers was conducted as well as a survey of Greater Crested Newts.

The findings for which state that “It is very unlikely that any of the non-statutory protected sites will be affected by the development due to the development being largely created on an existing footprint of buildings and hard standing and its small size which further reduces the likelihood of the development having a negative effect on nearby protected sites.” This is further evidenced by the additional ecological surveys.

The existing Rectory loft was found to be a possible roost for bats, therefore the new Rectory is designed with a dedicated replacement bat roosting space.

4.3 Arboricultural Report

Sylva Consultancy attended site to conduct an arboricultural survey in accordance with British Standard 5837 2012. This included trees beyond the site boundary which could be affected by the developmet. The subsequent report advises on tree constraints in order to enable an imaginative approach to the design.

The survey includes a tree quality assessment and root protection survey based on the topographical survey. The report also incorporates an assessment of the Parish Council Woodland Management Plan.

The approach to tree felling and retention on the site was consolidated by a site visit conducted with the Local Authority Tree Officer. Consequently, important trees remain unaffected by the proposal, whilst the opportunity is to be taken to improve some of the low value trees.

4.4 Heritage Assessment

Cotswold Archeology have conducted a Heritage Assessment for the St Leonard’s site and surrounding area. The report found that “The site is judged to have the capacity to accommodate change without harm to the character

Final Proposed Site Plan

and appearance of the Chesham Bois Conservation Area and the special architectural or historic interest of the adjacent Grade II Listed The Old Rectory and the Grade II Listed Stable block to the east of The Old Rectory."

It adds that…

"while some change would be apparent in views into and out of the Site, it is not judged that the proposed development would result in harm to the character and appearance of the Chesham Bois Conservation Area."

4.5 Transport Statement

The transport statement accompanies the proposal and sets out the travel and access arrangements for the project.

- Based on the surveys at the current facility (the Beacon School) it has been demonstrated that 1 car is required per 3 people attending service. The average Sunday attendance is 120-150 (including children) with the average number of cars being parked as 37 for this number of attendees.
- For an 'all together service' of 200 attendees, which has a frequency of 6-8 times per year up to 66 car parking spaces will be required.
- 72 spaces are provided to the primary and secondary parking areas. The rector and staff will no longer need to drive and park as they are on-site with their own parking allocation.
- Around 15-20 additional parking spaces are able provided to the overflow area for larger events. There is also an initial Travel Plan included in the Vision and Use document produced by St.Leonard's and accompanying this application.
- A drop off area is allocated (cars, deliveries etc).
- A turning loop is provided within the site for delivery vehicles.
- The turning loop provides turning for a fire appliance.
- The covered refuse store is located adjacent to the vehicle access.
- 2 car parking spaces are provided to the single smaller dwelling.
- Up to 4 car parking spaces (2 within the double garage) are provided to the new rectory.
- 36 covered cycle spaces (18 stands) are provided within a covered cycle store structure adajcent to the main pedestrian and vehicle access points.

4.6 Flood Risk Assessment & Preliminary Drainage Design

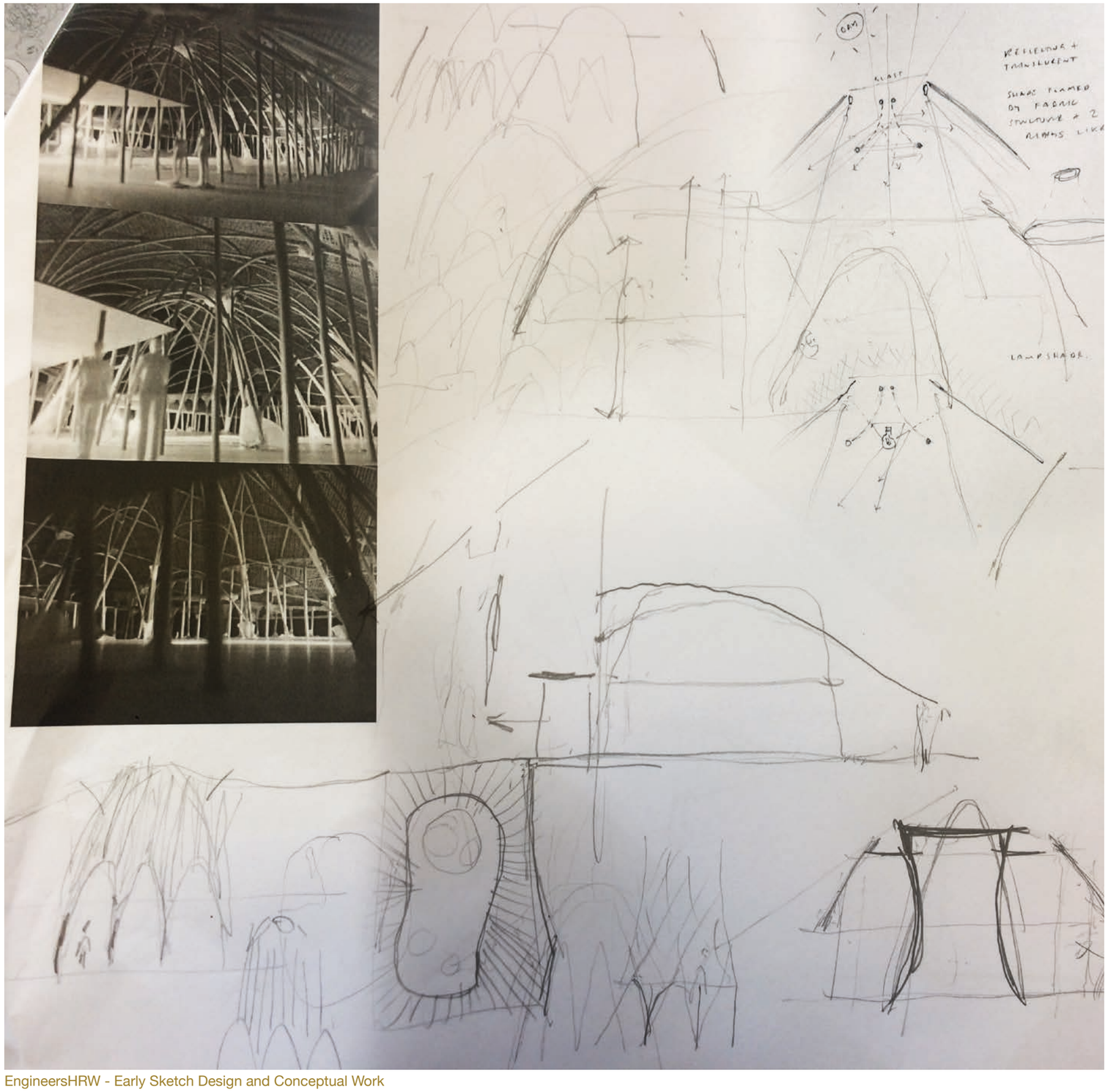
The project structural and civil engineers eHRW have prepared a flood risk assessment and foul/ surface water drainage design. The site and proposal has been demonstrated not to be at risk from flooding and following the recommendations regarding surface water drainage and new hard surface areas, the proposal will not cause flooding elsewhere. The drainage design has been fully coordinated with the building and landscape proposals as well as being informed by on-site porosity testing.

4.7 Proposed Energy Statement

The project Building Services consultant has prepared an energy statement and design philosophy with regard to energy use. This is fully coordinated with the proposed design.

4.8 Noise Impact Assessment

A noise impact assessment has been carried out to understand the existing site conditions and ensure the proposal does not adversely affect the neighbouring properties. It is demonstrated that the new Parish Centre will not cause any detrimental harm in terms of noise pollution.



EngineersHRW - Early Sketch Design and Conceptual Work

4.9 Structural Design

The structural engineering design is very much a part of the architectural design and vice versa, we have collaborated to produce an elegant, efficient, sustainable structure. Timber has been used extensively and, in many areas, visually exposed to contribute to the feel of the space. EngineersHRW have a solid track record of designing award winning timber buildings including the Savill Gridshell.

Superstructure

The superstructure structure of the building has been developed in timber. The building's low rise, moderate spans and overall geometries makes the choice of timber sensible.

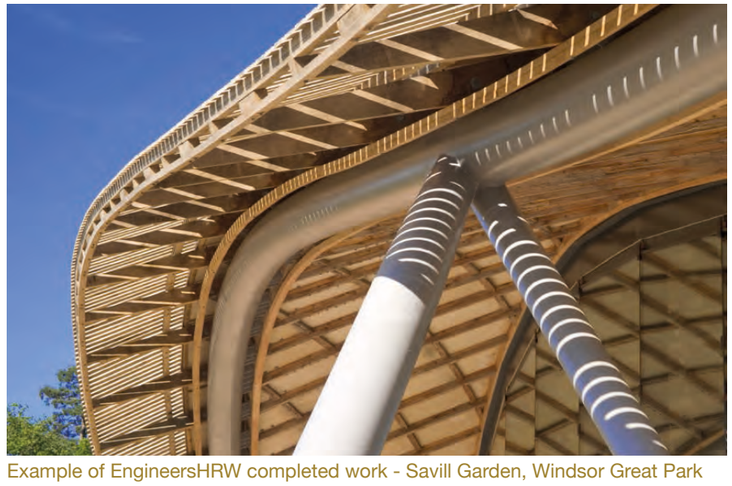
Specifying (sustainably sourced) timber for construction purposes (especially within the long-life elements such as the superstructure) plays a positive role from a climate perspective.

Planting trees plays a significant part of every strategy to deal with the climate emergency and harvesting trees when matured is an important part of the process of managing forests. Using timber in construction invigorates the timber industry. The use of timber as structural elements is positive as it sequesters or 'locks in' carbon. Further carbon reductions can be made by sourcing timber nationally rather than internationally and we would seek to specify UK timber where possible.

We have developed roof structural strategies in sympathy with the building geometries and have worked to develop approaches that where possible use straight timbers, likely glulam with curved glulams at the edges of the roof. For floors again, short spans are considered at the moment, which would allow for sawn sections rather than glulam, although in some areas glulams are lilkely to be required (curved beam edged for instance. Where possible stud walls are used as loadbearing vertical structure.

Substructure

Given the cohesive nature of the soils and proximity of trees, a piled foundations solution has been adopted, with suspended slab -essentially a thin raft- supporting the timber superstructure. Location of piles and method of pile and slab construction would be adopted to limit impact on tree routes.



Example of EngineersHRW completed work - Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park


NORTH ROAD
New Rectory
Residency
Garage
Garden
Primary Parking
23 Cars
New Parish Centre
Pre-School
Pre-School
Garden
Garden
Area
Secondary Parking
35 Cars
The Green
GLEBE WAY
Existing Access
Footpath to Green
Line of Existing Picnic Fence
Line of Existing Fence
Line of Existing Hedge
Covered Walkway
Hedge
Hedge
Hedge

Adams Habermehl Landscape Architects - Landscape Consultation Proposals

Design Proposals

The landscape scheme has evolved from early sketch stages through a process of refinement rather than major change and in response to consultation responses from the church community, the public consultation process and technical scheme development.

The images to the left show the landscape consultation proposals and the refinement to the application scheme, with intended materials and planting types. The design for the parish centre reflects the wider woodland setting and promotes environmentally positive design responses:

- The Parish Centre, pre-school and external stores are proposed as green roof buildings, helping them to blend with their woodland setting.
- Woodland parking areas are framed and divided with understorey planting of hazel coppice and native woodland ground flora, with climax species 'standard' trees providing woodland character. Roadway and parking areas have an informal, permeable gravel paved finish.
- The south-western open space is managed as meadow and wildflower grassland.
- There is an amenity transition and garden spaces around buildings, with level paved, ornamental native planting.
- There are timber forms and a 'natural play' theme to the play area and playable spaces. Café courtyard, breakout / congregation spaces include seating clusters and provide sociable space for community and church activity.
- Strong habitat measures utilise drainage swales and native planting for ecological gain as well as amenity. Ecology and biodiversity enhancements are as per the 'ecology by design, preliminary ecological appraisal' report and will include a wide variety of native plants of local provenance including blackthorn, spindle, hazel and hawthorn; new buildings should include a habitat box for bats; a sparrow terrace and swift nest box should be erected on each new building, and a variety of different types of bird boxes (five boxes) should be erected within the woodland; two hedgehog houses should be situated within the boundary woodland.
- Low-key site security with chestnut pale or woven hurdle fence framed by loose holly hedge planting. The reinforced hedge follows an historic ditch and bank boundary and reflects established woodland understorey character.
- Minimal low-level and low-key lighting provides a navigation guide for pedestrians. Light effects can be further diminished by use of PIR activated lights, limited to periods of building use.
- The proposed landscape design for the Rectory and staff house responds to an 'Arts and Crafts' building character Existing hedge-lines are retained and managed, and new hedgerows planted to provide strong and well-defined landscape boundaries to the new dwellings and street-scene.
- New formal tree planting contributes to gardens and the wider street-scene. Tree species choice to include ornamental character as a transition from the woodland backdrop.
- Well defined path routes, flint faced walling, amenity planting and permeable paving provide the immediate setting to the new dwellings and site entrance area. Low-level and low-key lighting is provided for pedestrian access.

Final Landscape Design Proposal

EXISTING SITE TREES RETAINED

PROPOSED TREE PLANTING

COPPICE HAZEL UNDERSTOREY PLANTING

EXISTING HEDGE RETAINED, MANAGED AND GAPPED UP TO MAINTAIN DENSE BOUNDARY FEATURE

PROPOSED HEDGE PLANTING

SHRUB PLANTING

GRASS AREAS

WILDFLOWER GRASS AREAS

SWALE PLANTED WITH MARGINAL AQUATIC / DAMP GROUND NATIVE FLORA

SITE BOUNDARY

FENCE TO PROVIDE REINFORCEMENT TO CENTRE LINE OF HEDGE. APPROX 1.2M TALL, HAZEL HURDLE, CHESTNUT PALE OR STOCK NETTING ACCORDING TO LOCATION

FRW — FLINT FACED BOUNDARY WALL, 1.8M. ALSO PROVIDES FRONTAGE FOR SLIDING GATE TO CAR PARK AREA

PROPOSED FLINT FACED GABION WALL DEFINING EDGE OF CAR PARKING SPACES

RBG — RESIN BOUND GRAVEL AMENITY PAVING

BP — BRICK PAVING TO CAFE TERRACE, HOUSE AND PRAYER ROOM ENTRANCE PATHS

FP — FLAG PAVING TO HOUSE PRIVATE PATIO / TERRACE AREAS

GP BMP — INFORMAL PATHS: GRAVEL PATH / BARK MULCH PATH

GC — GRAVEL PAVED PERMEABLE CIRCULATION AREAS

GPP — GRAVEL PAVED PERMEABLE CAR PARKING AREAS SPACES - GRAVEL MATRIX FINISH

PERMEABLE BLOCK VEHICULAR PAVING AS ENTRANCE COURT AND DOMESTIC PARKING

PMA — SITE ENTRANCE BELMOUTH AS MACADAM / ASPHALT FINISH

B TP — TIMBER PERGOLA AND DECK/ BRIDGE ACROSS SWALE

SEATING : CAFE AND INFORMAL BENCH SEATING POSITIONED TO PROMOTE SOCIAL GROUP ARRANGEMENTS

INFORMAL TIMBER PLAY AND SEATING ELEMENTS TO PROMOTE NATURAL PLAY AND SHARED SOCIAL SPACES

LS — LOW-KEY BOLLARD LIGHTING AND SITE SIGNAGE

BUILDINGS WITH SEDUM ROOF

Final Landscape Design Proposal - Refer to Adams Habermehl Drawing for more details

5.0 Summary

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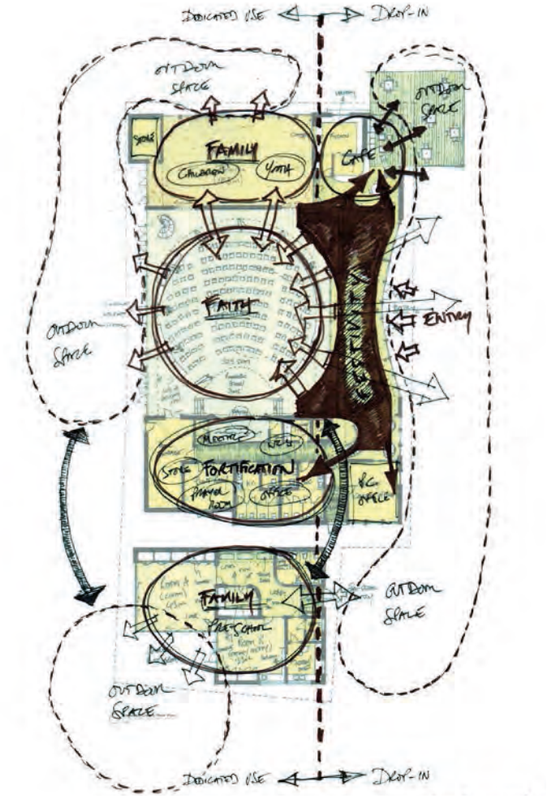
5.0 Summary

The new Parish Centre development is founded on the principle of worship, healing, equipping and community. Thus, it is a multi-functional building that reflects flexibility in the design in order to accommodate the diversity of the brief. The main hall provides a worship space (faith) as the central focus and forming the heart of the building. The flexible hall, youth activity spaces, children's and seniors' ministry and pre-school (family) allow St. Leonard's Church to serve both church and the community. The administrative office spaces, flexible meeting rooms and kitchen (fortification) effectively support and will coordinate the daily running of the centre. The welcome, meeting and lounge space, and all other external spaces are created as a place to gather (festivity). The design of the Parish Centre is inspired by the collective vision of St.Leonard's Church. The Church members, community, design team and Local Planning Authority have been fundamental in the design process.

The result of which is a well considered, functional and beautiful design that represents the original concept of a light touch within its setting that will serve the community for many generations to come.

More information can be accessed on the St. Leonard's Church Website, this includes the Church's vision, outlining the values and principles for the development: https://www.stleonardscb.org.uk/parishcentreredevelopment.

The new Parish Centre and Rectory within its setting, viewed from the new woodland car park



The original spatial diagram applied to the final building plan