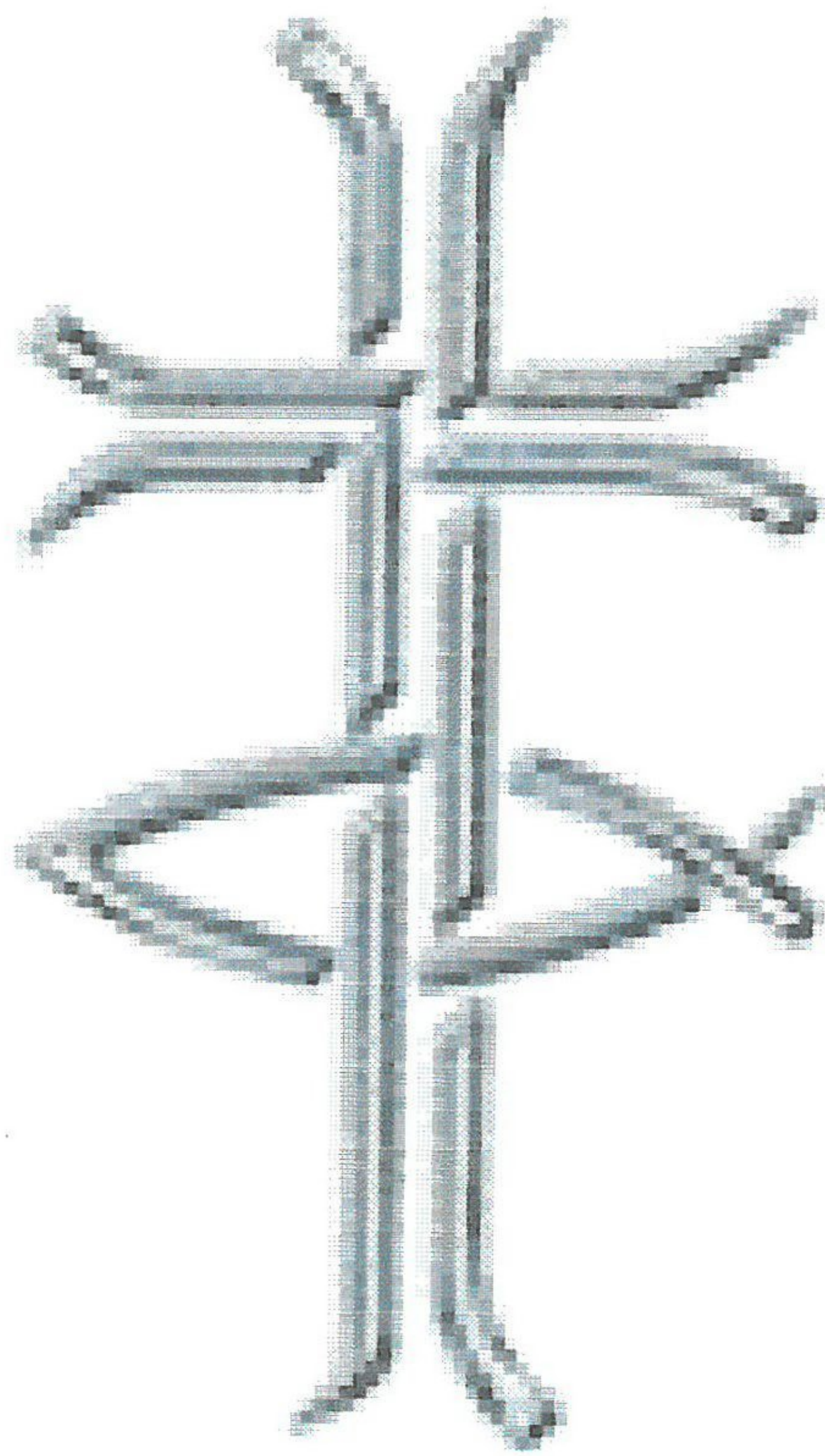


ST. JAMES'S
UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH

POTTERGATE, ALNWICK

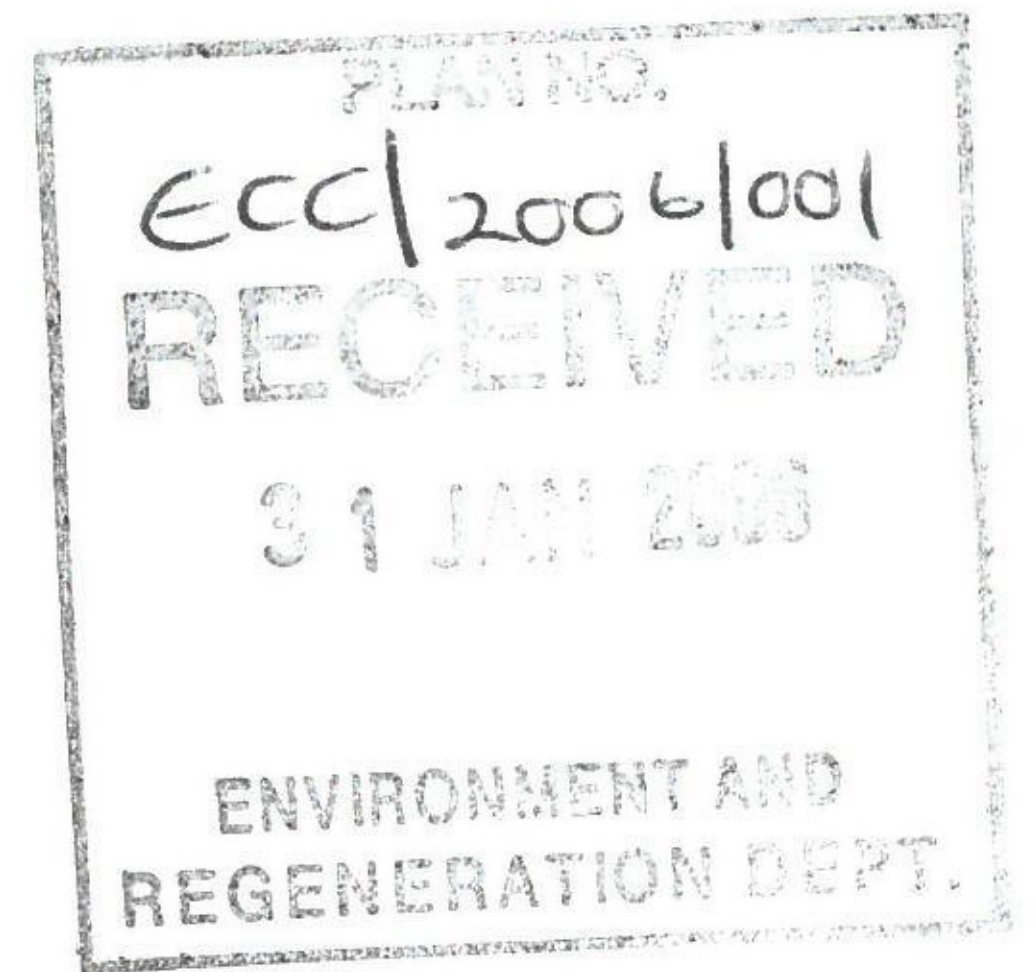
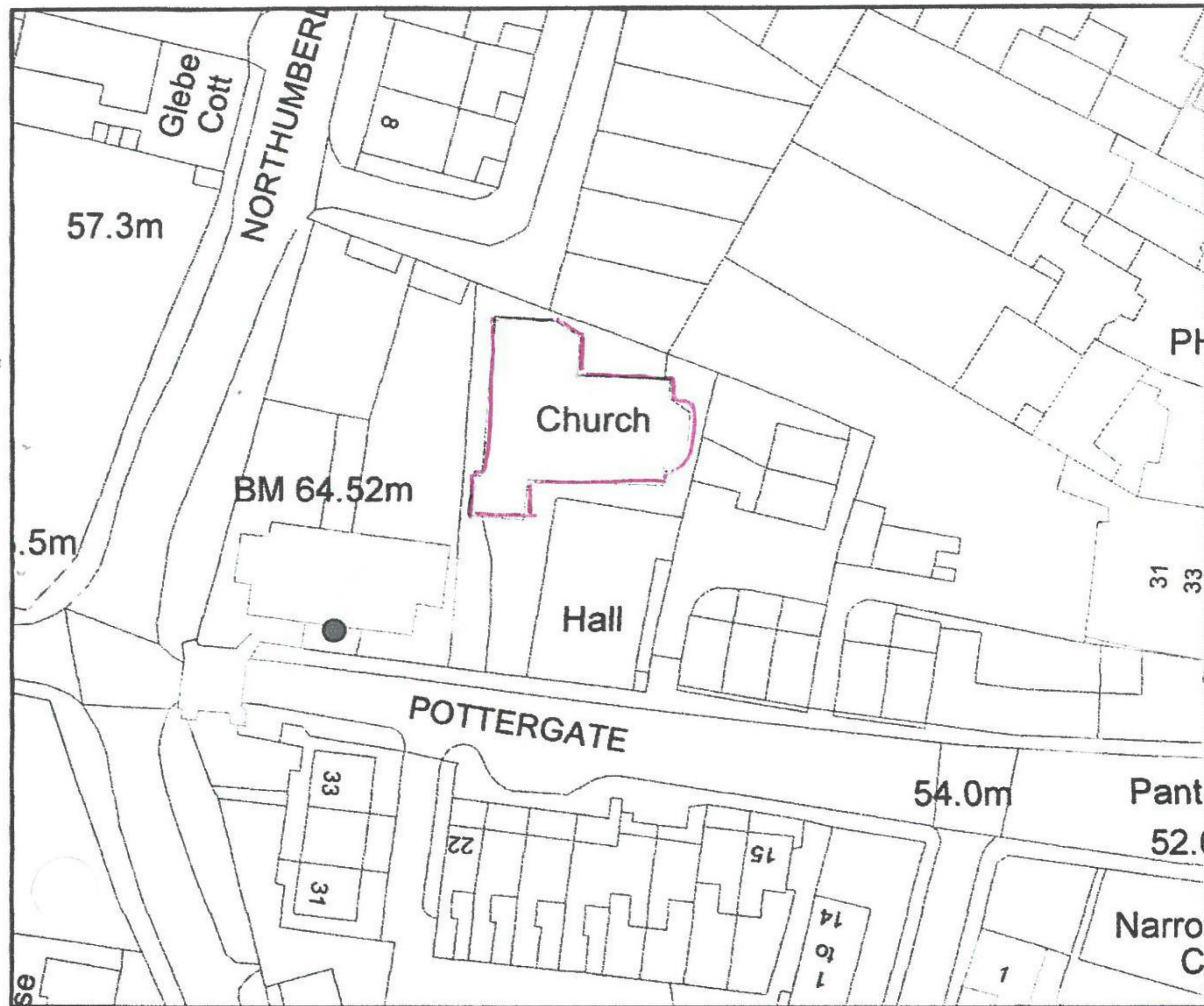


RE-DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

~~IN~~FORMAL SUBMISSION

ST. JAMES'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, POTTERGATE (north side)

SCANNED



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ST. JAMES'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, POTTERGATE (north side) ALNWICK, ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND

NU 1813 NW

Date listed: 25 August 1977

Date of last amendment: 25 August 1977

Grade II

3/352

Dated 1894, designed by Hicks and Charlewood 1884-5.
Weak Gothick design of 5 bays with short polygonal apse.
Ashlar. Large 2 stage tower with corner turret to south-west.
Crudely cusped tracery - 3 light with pointed arches on ground floor, 4 light in rectangular frame on 1st floor. Slate roof with crested ridge.

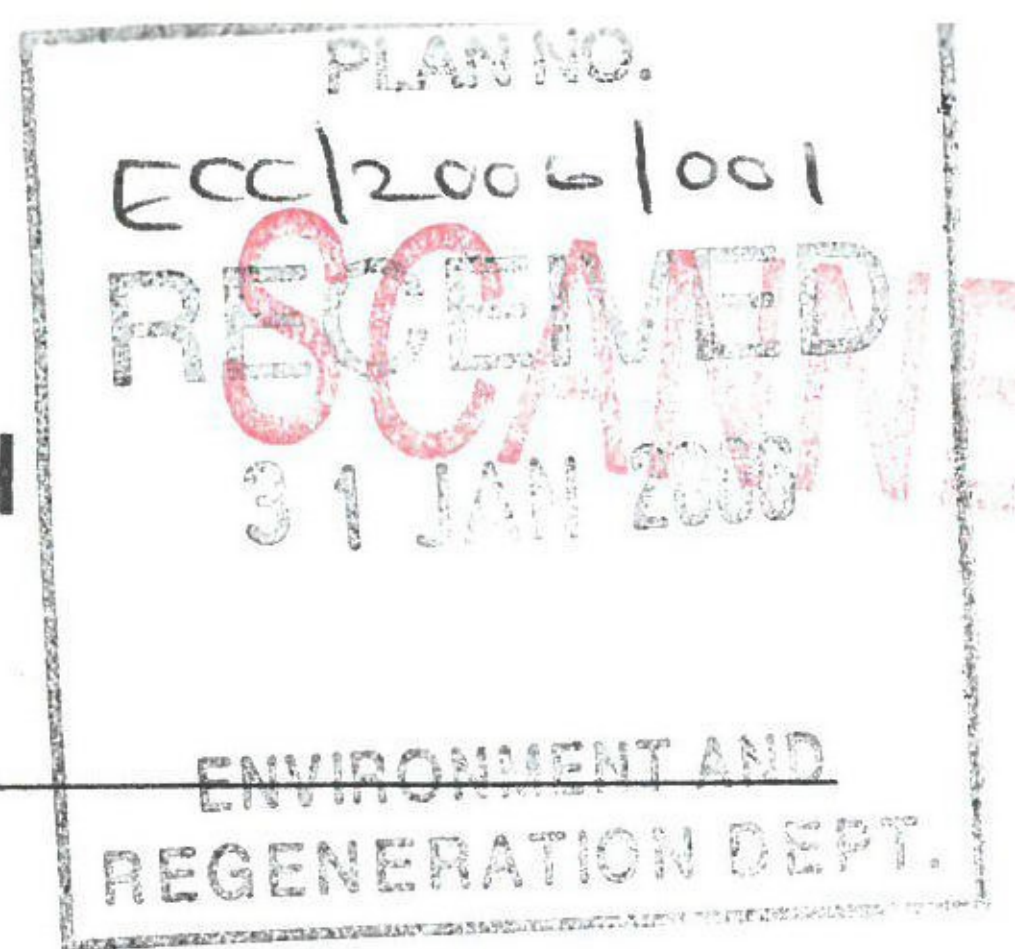


**Alnwick District Council
Environment & Regeneration**



SCALE 1:1,250

ST JAMES'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
ALNWICK, NORTHUMBERLAND



LBAC RESPONSE

1. A Statement of Justification

The present Church was completed in 1895, and is a typically Victorian Presbyterian building. Downstairs it has a central section of pews and 2 side aisles with rows of pews on either side. There is a raised Communion platform and an organ at the front. Behind the dais is an organ screen. Upstairs there are raked pews along the side walls and west wall. Total seating downstairs is around 250 with another 200 upstairs.

The present Halls consist of a large Upper Hall with a large well equipped kitchen and a Church office. Downstairs there is a smaller Hall and a Meeting Room and toilet facilities for men and women. In addition there is a Caretaker's flat with its own entrance.

The maintenance and upkeep of these 2 large buildings is becoming an increasing financial burden to the congregation. Entrance to both buildings is up at least one step and there are very limited disabled facilities (1 grab rail in the Ladies). Neither building conforms to the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) nor the Children's Act.

We would like to be able to provide modern and appropriate facilities for both the Church organizations and the many community groups who use the premises. We believe that by converting the Church for use by both worship and community groups we could provide appropriate accommodation within the present 19th Century building. In working with Nomad Housing Group we would also be able to provide some much needed affordable housing within the town.

- i. Church Entrance At present this is up one step. Nomad would level the slight slope leading down to the Church entrance to make it level for access. Once inside the rest of the downstairs accommodation would all be on the same level. This would comprise of the present corridor along the west wall of the Church, the 2 present doors leading into the new Hall area, kitchen and toilets, and the present vestry which would become a meeting room. *(see photo)*
- ii. Church Door At present this is a pine door which was only planned as a temporary door when the new church was built. We would like to replace this with clear glass. Not only would this result in more light to the vestibule area, but more importantly be more welcoming, especially as the building is set back from the road. We also want to install a controlled access system to the building using modern technology so as to comply with the Children's Act. *(see photo)*
- iii. New Hall area This would be the total width of the present downstairs part of the Church. The pews, Communion platform, pulpit and organ (and screen) would go. The organ and screen have only been in St James's since the 1950s when Clayport Church closed. We would like to put in a suspended ceiling across this whole area. We believe it would help with the insulation and soundproofing and also make redecoration easier in the future. As this will be a relatively low ceiling, we envisage it having recessed low

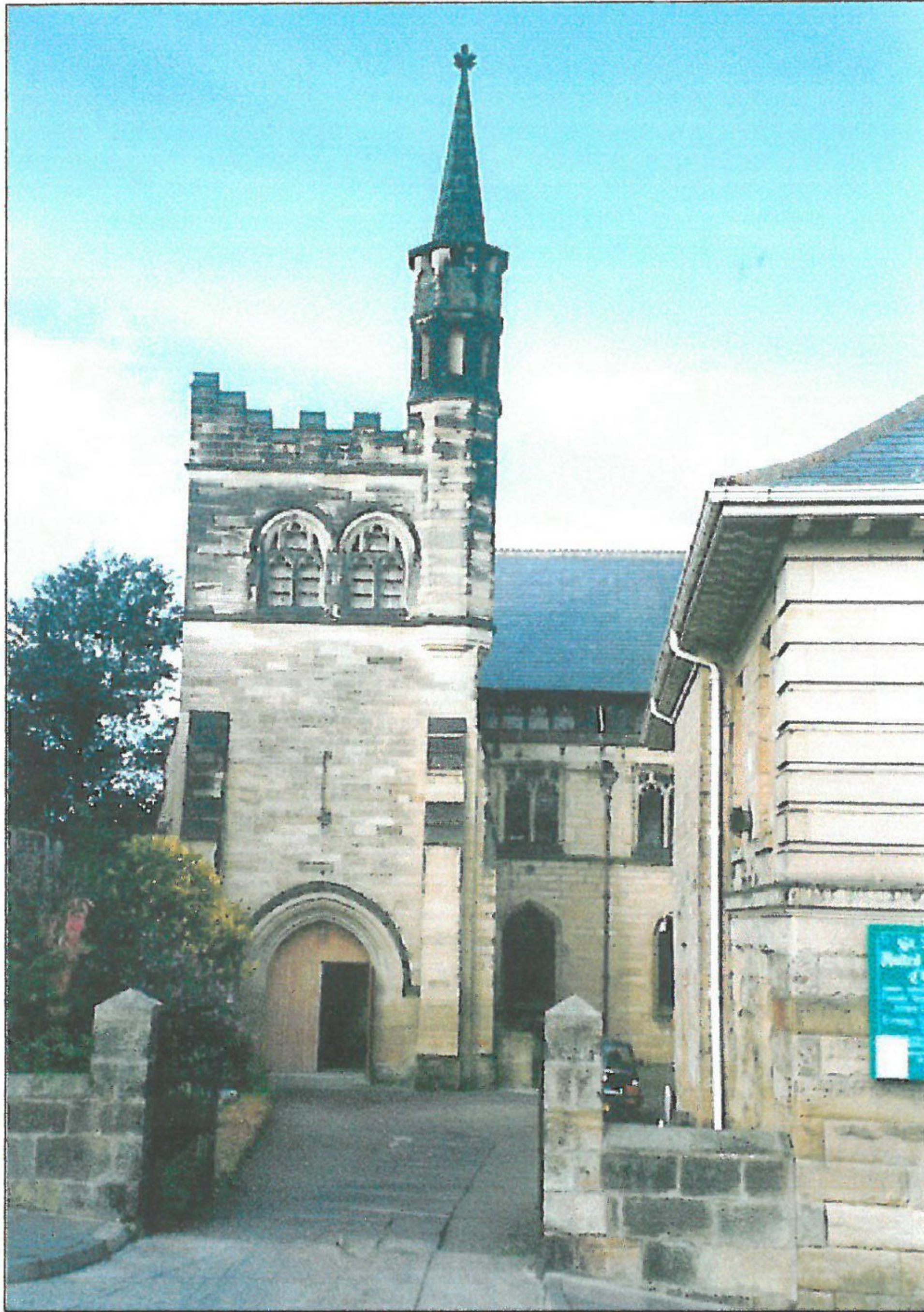
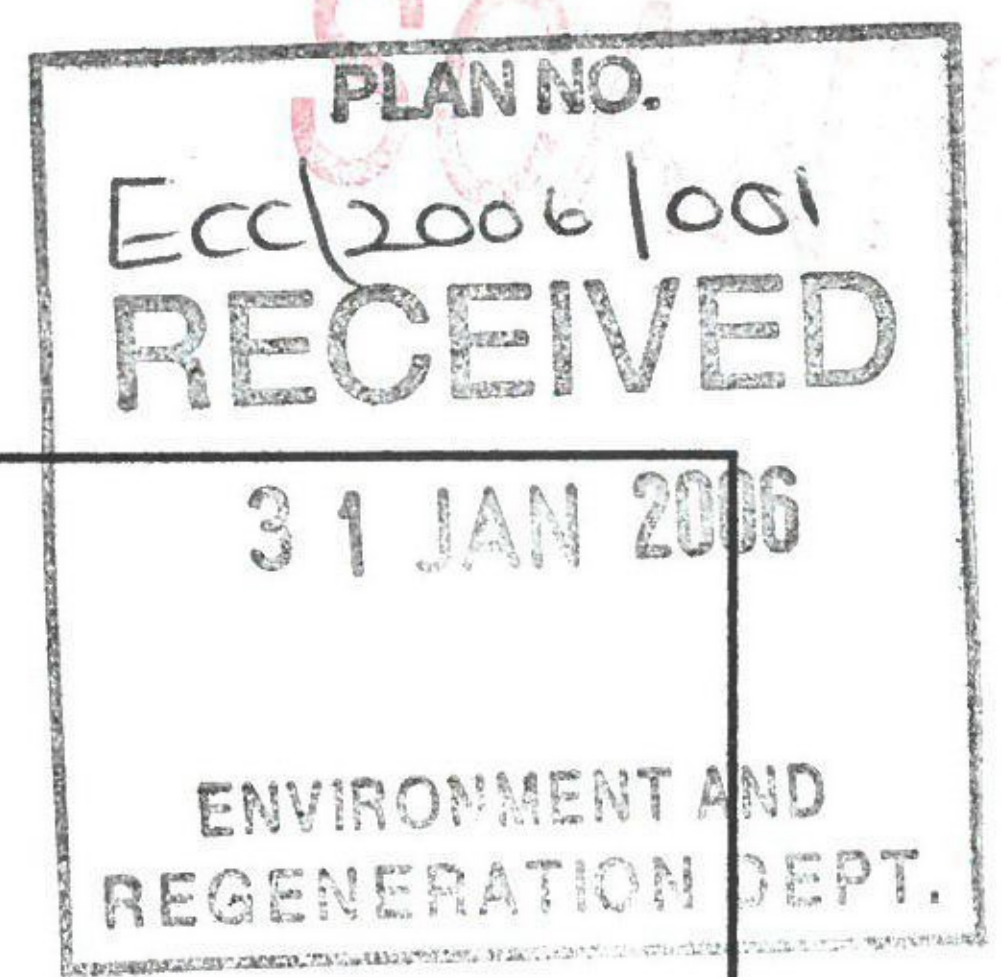
energy lighting, as suspended lights could create the illusion of making it appear even lower as well as being a possible hazard.
(see photos)

- iv. Vestry We would like to put in a suspended ceiling. This room has a very high ceiling resulting in considerable heat loss. If this was done it would also make it easier to re-decorate in the future as the ceiling would be lower.
(see photos)
 - v. Kitchen, toilets and storage These would be under the present ceiling at the back of the church, but would extend out forwards to provide enough space. In keeping these within a rectangle at the back of the present worship area, they would be relatively unintrusive.
 - vi. Lift This would be 2m long in order to take a coffin. It would be accessed from just inside the corridor.
 - vii. Stairs These would go up from the present vestibule but not to the present height. Instead they would finish at the level of the new floor. The present doorway would be closed off and another put in closer to the west wall in order to provide space for the lift.
- Gathering area and new vestry This would all be on the same level as the top of the lift and the floor of the new worship area. The vestry would also serve as a small meeting room and office.
- ix. New worship area Chairs would be used in the new area, and a moveable dais area created. The present raked pews would remain. However we would like to remove the balustrade around them. This would open up this area and provide seating around the edge of this area as in an amphitheatre. We would then have a multi-functional area for worship, performing arts as well as group meetings. By keeping the present gallery pews, the worship area would be similar to what we have at present, but up one level. It would also be lighter as the present ceiling below the gallery cuts out some light. A new opening would be made in the east wall to provide a fire exit.
(see photos)
 - x. Glass screen between gathering area and worship area We would like to be able to put in a glass screen with a doorway so as to be able to increase the versatility of use of space in this area.
 - xi. Windows The present windows contain panes of pale coloured glass, with the exception of 5. Iona Glass of Warkworth has said that there is nothing notable about any of these windows.
 - a) The large west window and 2 small east windows are more decorative, and no change is anticipated.
 - b) Along the north wall is the Macnair Westall window to the son of a former minister. This is not in a good state of repair and we would like to remove it. It is the wrong size to fit in the windows upstairs, and would seem inappropriate in a Hall. If it was replaced by matching coloured glass it would also allow more light in the Hall.
 - c) The Dorcas window along the south wall is of a different size to all the other windows in the Church. With the new plans it would be in the storage area and therefore not appreciated by anyone. We would like to replace it with coloured glass panes like the present windows, and put the Dorcas window in a light box on the wall above the stairs.
(see photos)

- xii. Memorials At present all war memorials (3) and those to past ministers (3) are downstairs.
- a) 1914 –1918 memorials: We would like to move these upstairs (one from the Clayport Church in the Vestry and our own at the back of the Church) to either side of the west window. There is also an individual one at the foot of the stairs which should go with these.
 - b) Previous ministers: All 3 date from the 19th century, 2 on the east wall and one at the foot of the stairs (from Clayport Church). Their present position would not be in keeping with the new hall area and we would like to remove these and offer them to the local Alnwick museum. All 3 ministers moved away from the area after their ministry.
(see photos)

We believe that by carrying out these alterations to the inside of the Church we would have a more 'user-friendly' building suitable for the needs of the 21st century. The space created would be appropriate for a wide range of user groups which would enable us to generate sufficient income to properly maintain this listed building in a conservation area.

Externally the only changes would be a level entrance and the removal of 2 windows to be replaced by glass panes to match the rest. Internally we believe that these alterations would not detract from the 18th character and integrity of this building, but add to the ongoing life and witness of St James's with its three hundred year old history.



ST JAMES'S
UNITED
REFORMED
CHURCH
Alnwick,
Northumberland

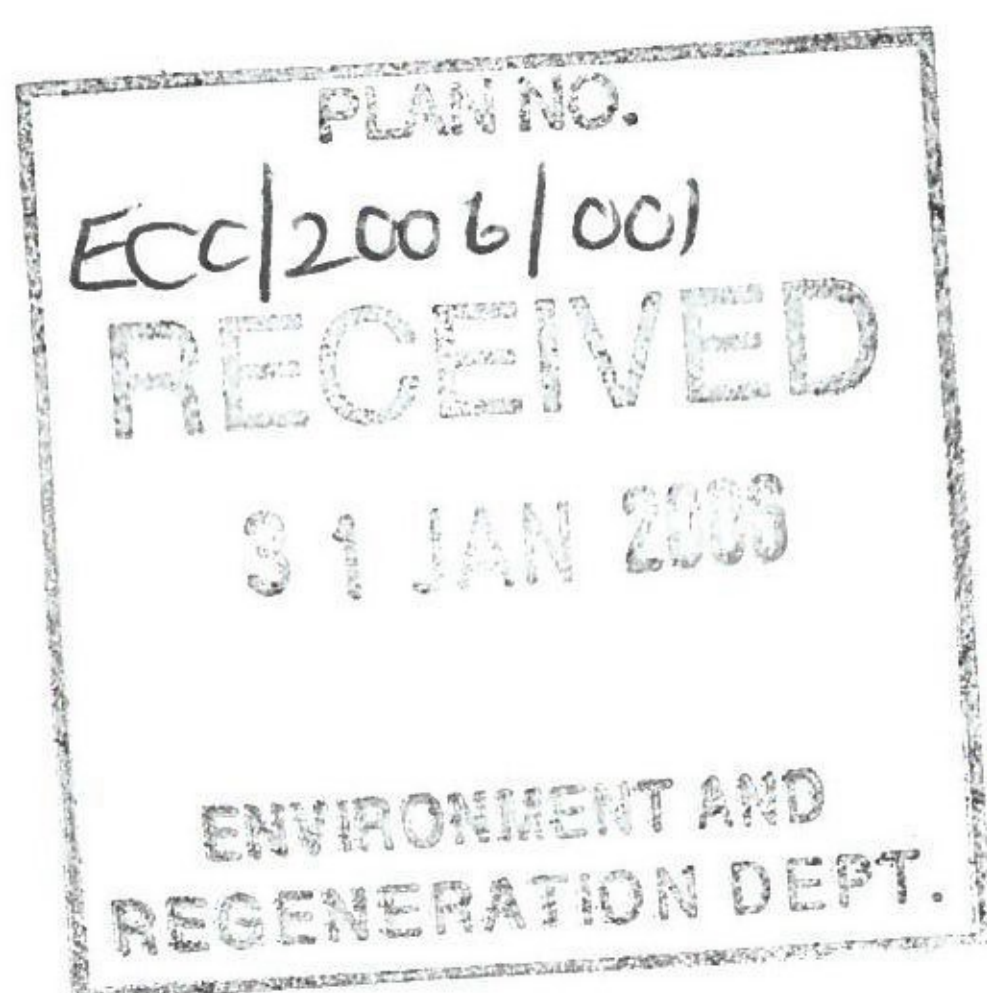
(ii) Church Door

To replace this pine door with a glass one including a controlled access system.



(iv) Vestry

To put in a suspended ceiling to reduce heat loss.



(iii) New Hall Area

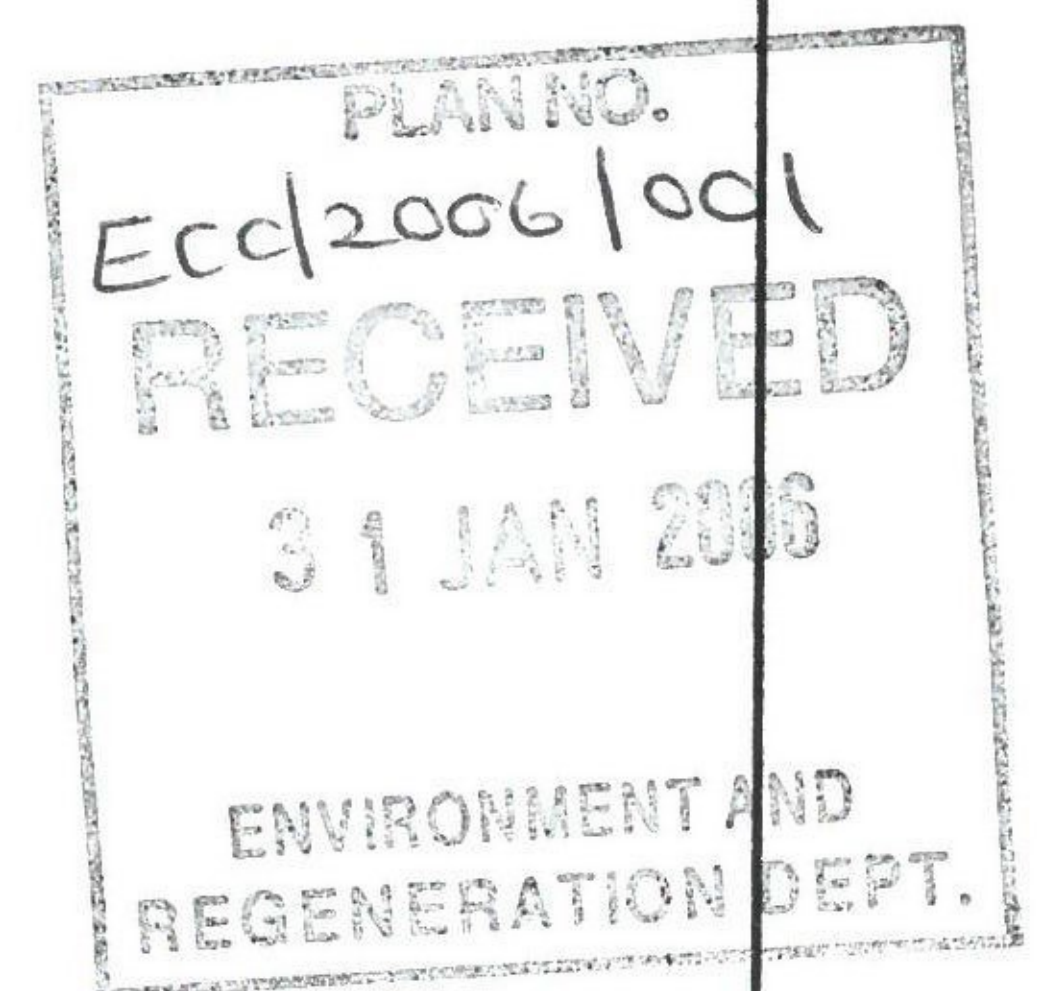
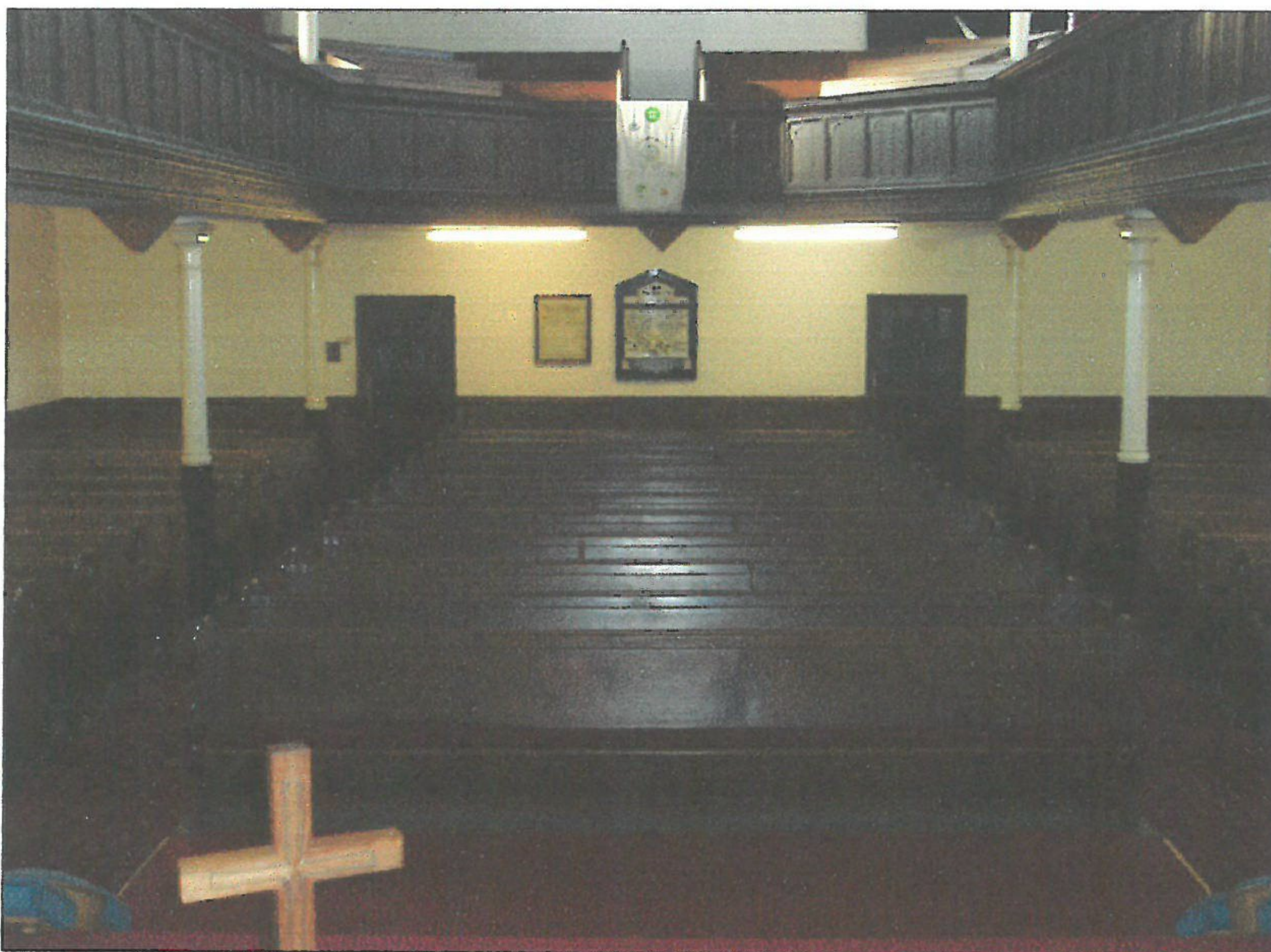
Remove pews and put in new floor at level of bottom of balcony.
Put in a new suspended ceiling.

Kitchen, toilet and storage area to come out as far as 2nd set of pillars,
full width of present area.

Access to kitchen and toilets by right hand door.

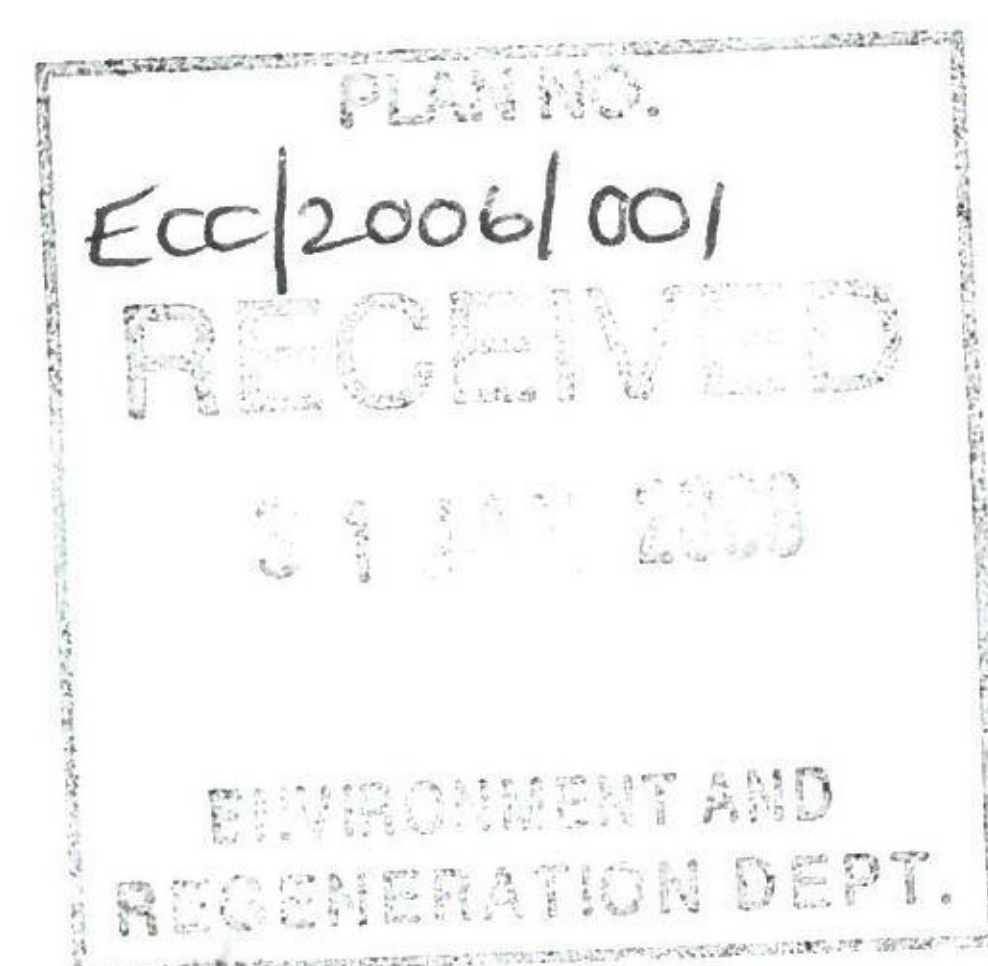
Access to hall and storage by left hand door.

1914-1918 Memorial on back wall to be moved to upstairs on west wall.



(ix) New Worship Area

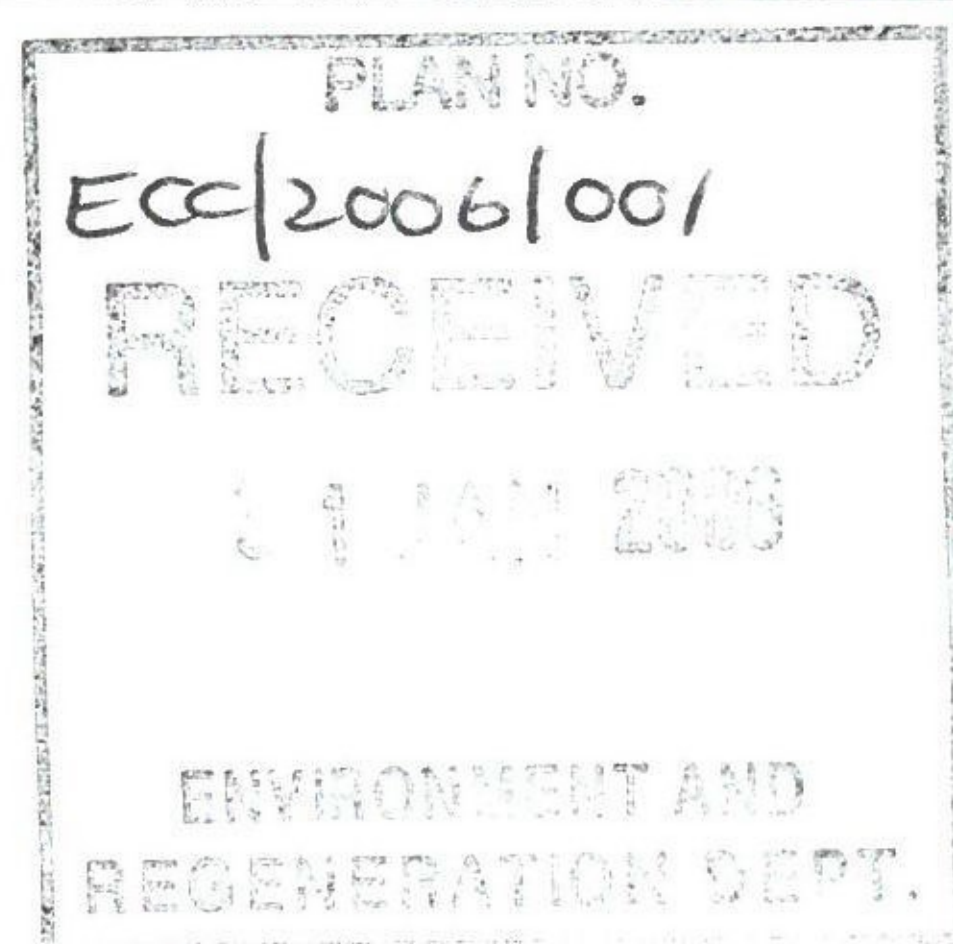
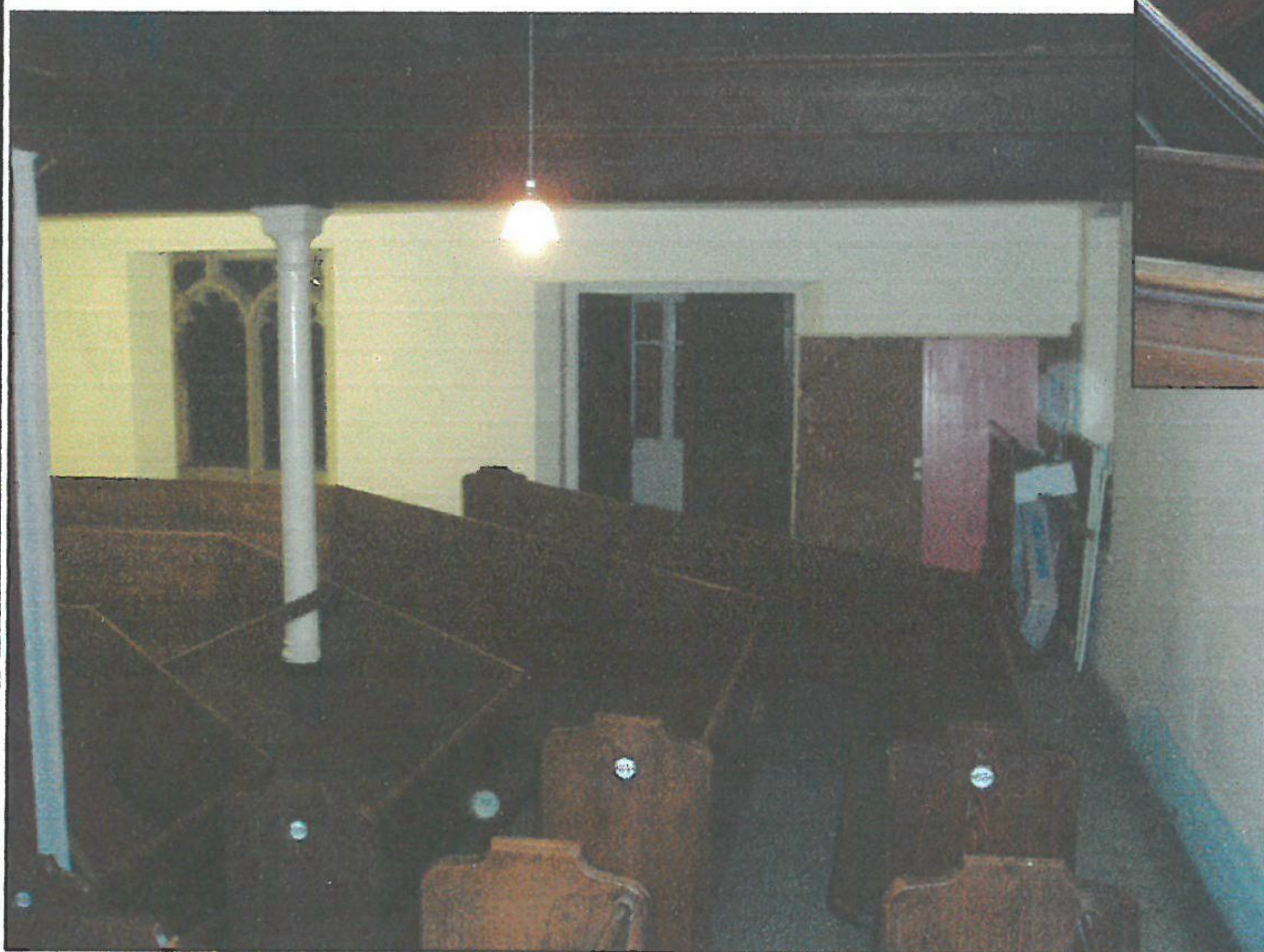
To put in a floor across the space,
and to remove the balustrade around the balcony.
To remove the pews at the back in order to create a gathering area on the
same level as the centre area.



viii Gathering area and new vestry

Remove the back pews and lower the floor level to match the centre area.

Remove balustrade around balcony to provide amphitheatre of pews.



The lift to come up by the existing door, with a new entrance to the right.

A new Vestry to be on the far side back corner.



xi Windows

(b) Macnair Westall memorial window.

We would like to remove this and replace with clear coloured glass to match the other downstairs windows.

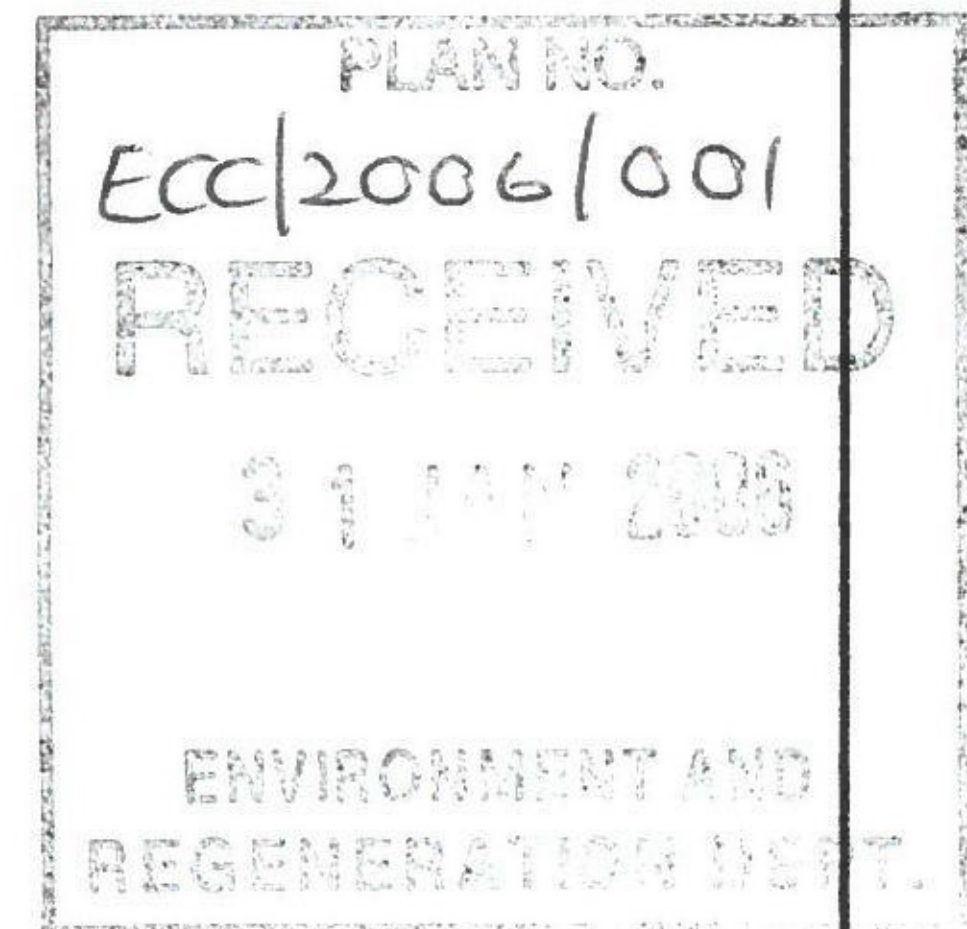
(The date on the window is 1888 which pre-dates this church building, and it presumably moved from the former church to the present one.)



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(xi) Windows
(c) Dorcas Window

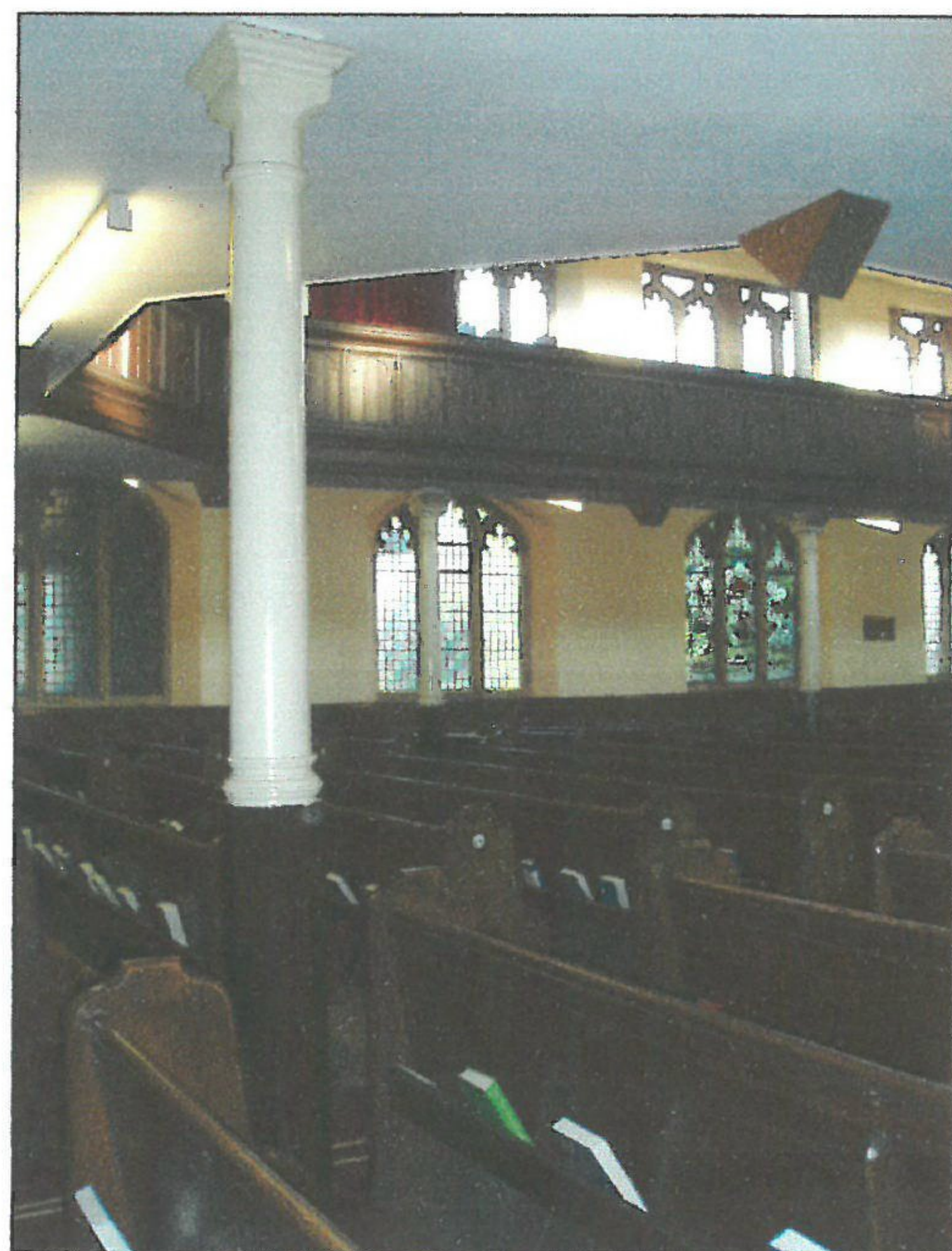
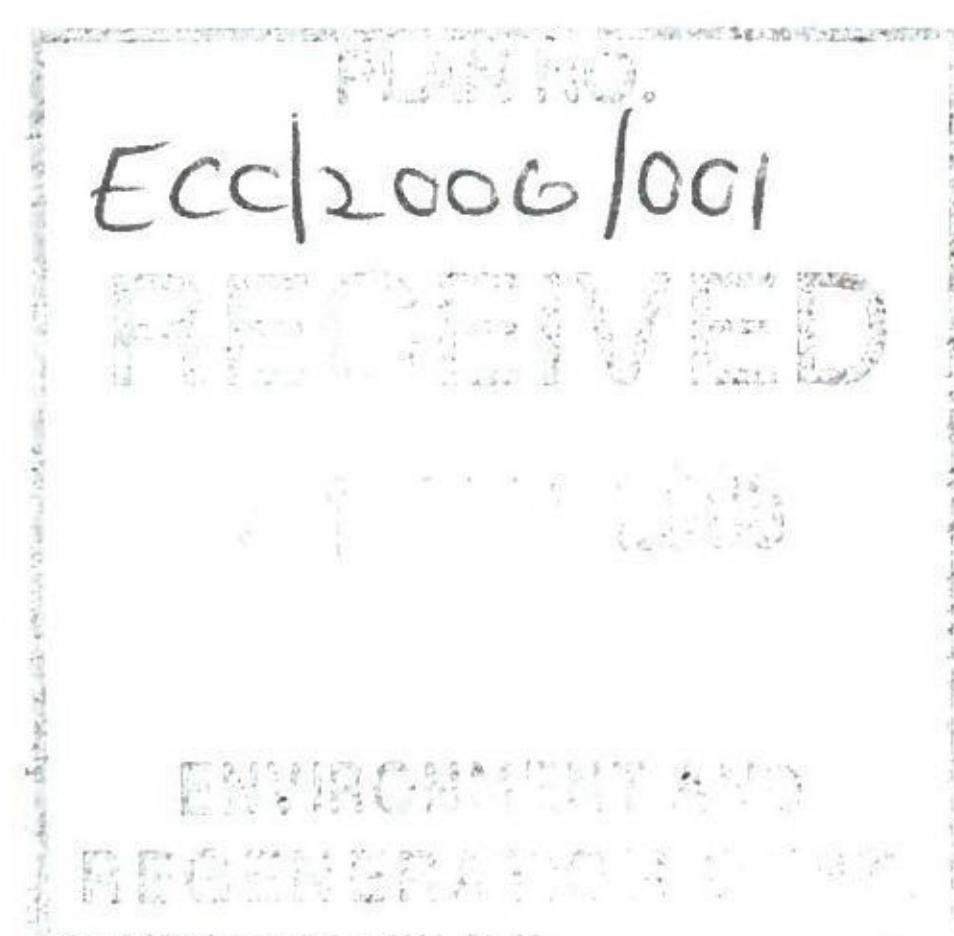
This is the first window on the right of the door, at ground level.
Remove and place in a light box on the wall above the stairs.



Wall on stairs for
Dorcas light box.

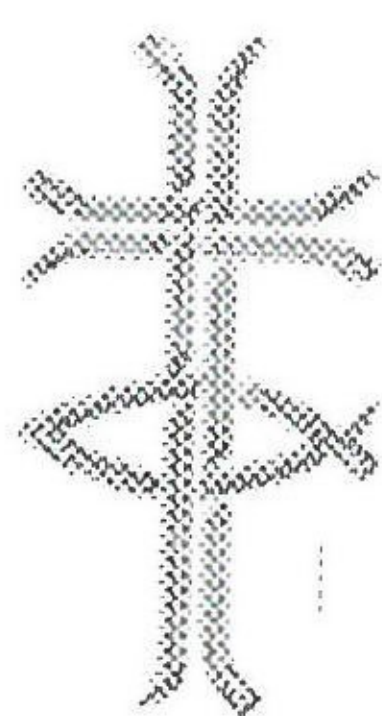
(xi) Windows
(b & c) Replacements

Replace both memorial windows with panes of coloured glass to match the remaining downstairs windows.

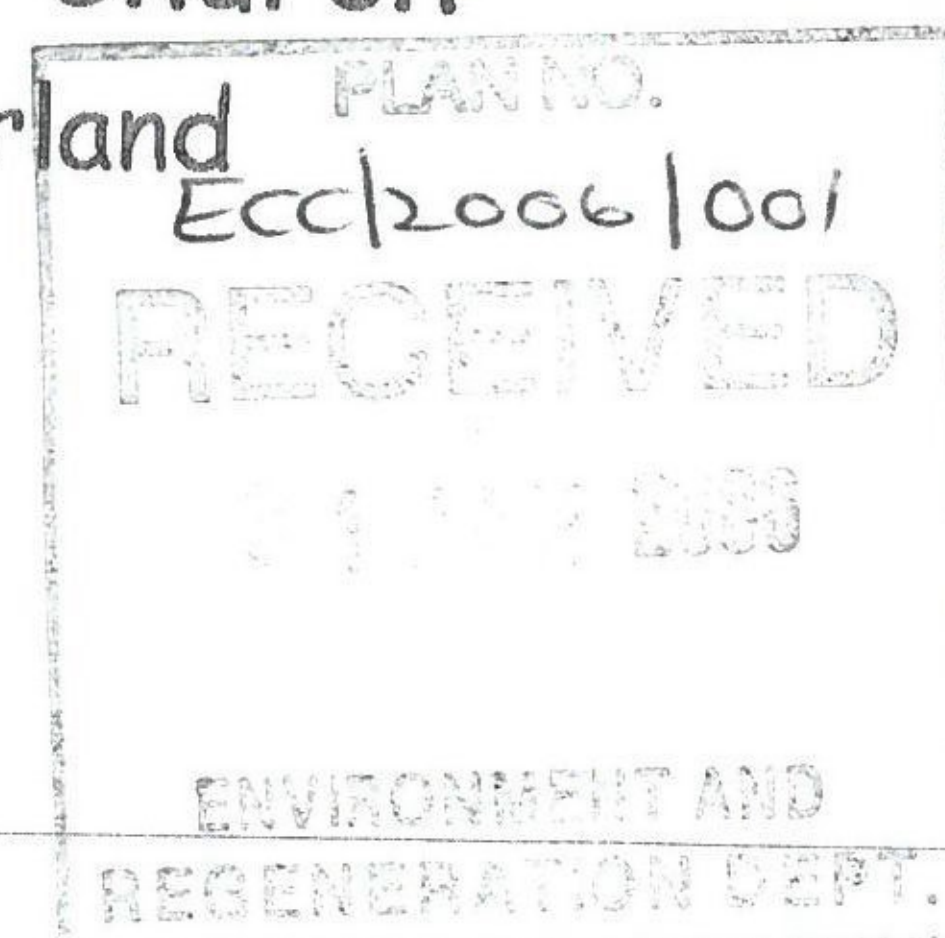


(b) Previous ministers





St. James's United Reformed Church
Pottergate, Alnwick, Northumberland



SPECIAL CHURCH MEETING : 4 DECEMBER 2005

A special Church Meeting was held immediately after the Morning Service on 4 December 2005 to approve the following Resolution in connection with the development of the Church building. The proposal came from the Business Committee and had been agreed by the Elders' meeting for the Church Meeting's approval.

St James's Business Committee proposes that St James's Church accepts the proposed building plans put forward by Nomad for the conversion of the Church.

This was seconded by Maureen Fortune and carried unanimously.

