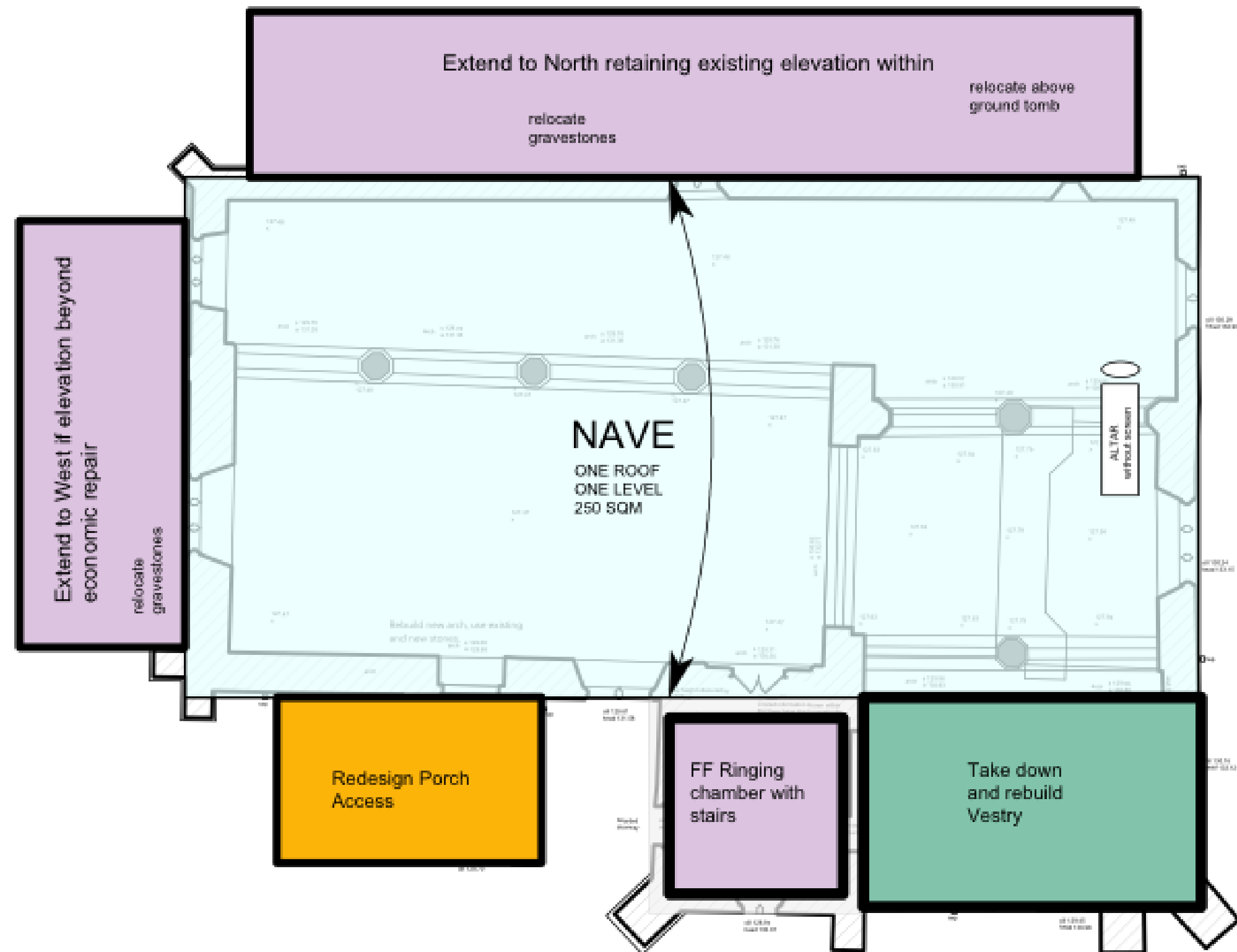


How to fulfill the Brief



What are our needs for the future?

Rebuilding with a newly designed church layout gives us both a practical and symbolic opportunity to build the congregation and involve the wider village. The bell ringers, music and other group leaders want to bring church community back to St Peter's. Whilst the old church, which was beautiful and had served the community for centuries, is greatly missed, the renewal of the building will help us address many issues. The key one is, of course, providing a place of worship and somewhere to bring the church community together, but the old church building had a number of limitations which we can address with the new build.

What we are addressing in the design for the new church are the requirements for the church, and wider community, into the future, the desire to rebuild the previous groups and organisations and to generate a thriving community and church life. The new building will need to provide the facilities for small and large groups to meet, to facilitate the requirements of music groups and bell ringers, to have modern toilet and baby changing facilities, to have space for large services, for weddings and funerals, to be warm, well ventilated and inviting, to have the provision for coffee and refreshments and generally to be a welcoming place for all of the community to come together.

The New St Peter's should be a flexible, special space, that is back at the very heart of the village.

How do we justify our proposals?

In the period following the fire we have looked long and hard at what could and what should be done with St Peter's. For historical reasons the church community was far from united, the financial situation was unclear and there was no clear path to take. We focused on the clean-up and in gathering opinion and input from the community. Due to the delicate situation, this couldn't be done in an open, formal, manner but a lot of offers of help came in and a lot of input as to what should be done.

By early 2015 we had firmed up our financial position and by the time of the APCM we had plans for what could be done and ideas as to the main directions that could be taken. At the first PCC meeting, with all of the new members, we debated the possibilities. The key decision came down to the choice of leaving St Peter's as a ruin and a reminder of the past or to put all of our efforts into building something for the community and the future. The PCC agreed that the funding was available and that it was our duty to restore the heart of the village, not to let the history of St Peter's end in 2014.

We consulted with the leaders of the former Sunday school, drama groups and bell ringers and they all had input on what they wanted from a renewed church.

We also talked with the Head and Deputy Head of the school about the nature of what we planned. The village Church of England primary school has very close connections with the church and has used it for services, plays, presentations, ceremonies and many other events. The church was ill designed for such events and the rebuild gives us the chance to update, not just a space for worship, but for wider community use, especially the school.

Ropley C of E Primary School associations with the church began with the school's foundation by, amongst others, the Reverend Samuel Maddock in 1826. The current school site itself, which is less than 100m from the church, was instigated by the Reverend Samuel Maddock, in memory of his son Robert North Maddock, after it outgrew its old site.

Ropley C of E Primary school has in excess of 150 pupils who, up until the church fire last year, attended the church for special events such as Founder's Day and for services around Easter and Christmas. Configured as St Peter's was, it was difficult to get pupils and parents into the church and even more difficult to give full visibility. This space restriction forced the school into using the Village Hall for a number of events involving parents and the community when they would have been better served within the church.

Extract of Statement of needs - St Peters Ropley PPC

St Peters Church – Ropley

16.06.16

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE IN THE NEW CHURCH?

SPACE	YOUR THOUGHTS
Worship Space:	
Altar Fixed or Flexible	
Pulpit	
Multiple Use	
Chair Store	
Level Access (Wheelchair)	
Bell Tower & Bells	
Meeting Room	
Function Room	
Vestry	
Office	
Choir:	
Fixed or Flexible	
Organ Type	
Main Door Size	
Draft Lobby	
Toilets Inc Accessibility	
Heating:	
Yes/No & Type	
Energy Consumption	
Green Energy	
War Memorial	
Other Thoughts	

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