

PROJECT

- 01 Oxshott laid out for this year's Harvest Supper
- 02 Nave with traditional choir & aisle
- 03 Detail of pendant lights



PROJECT TEAM

Architects:
Thomas Ford & Partners

Quantity Surveyor:
Sawyer & Fisher

Structural Engineer:
The Morton Partnership Ltd

M & E Consultants:
Eng Design Ltd

Lighting Consultant:
Light Perceptions Ltd

Acoustic Consultant:
Sandy Brown Associates

Approved Building Inspector:
Assent Building Control Ltd

CDM Co-ordinator:
Goddard Consulting

Main Contractor:
Ash Contracting Ltd

Mechanical Subcontractor:
Edan Mechanical Services Ltd

Electrical Subcontractor:
RT Harris & Son

Audio Visual Supplier:
BH Sound Services Ltd.

Organ Supplier:
Church Organ World (Makins)

Furniture Supplier:
Irish Contract Seating

Timber Flooring:
Rainleaf

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH OXSHOTT

Centenary Vision: Thomas Ford & Partners' £250K re-ordering at St Andrew's Church in Oxshott, Surrey, completes the first stage of a larger building project

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, OXSHOTT

Celebrations for the centenary of the original construction of St Andrew's Church in Oxshott were the catalyst for 'Vision 2012' an ambitious strategy for renewal of all aspects of parish life. Following implementation of initiatives related to spiritual and social aspects of the church, tackling the poor quality of the building was identified as a priority. Caroe and Passmore Architects' eclectic Arts & Crafts style design, which was completed in 1912, replaced a temporary church built a few years earlier. A shortage of funds prevented construction of a proposed tower, three bays of the nave and the west front. Although not listed, the south side of the church is charming. Flint walls with Bath stone dressing and the timber roof construction lend character. In 1970 George Baines & Syborn added a new west front and a wing of ancillary accommodation to the north. Unfortunately, the massing of the new extension, together with the inferior quality of materials, diminished the building's identity as a church.

Thomas Ford & Partners were appointed as architects for the project in 2010. After an appraisal of the options for redevelopment, it



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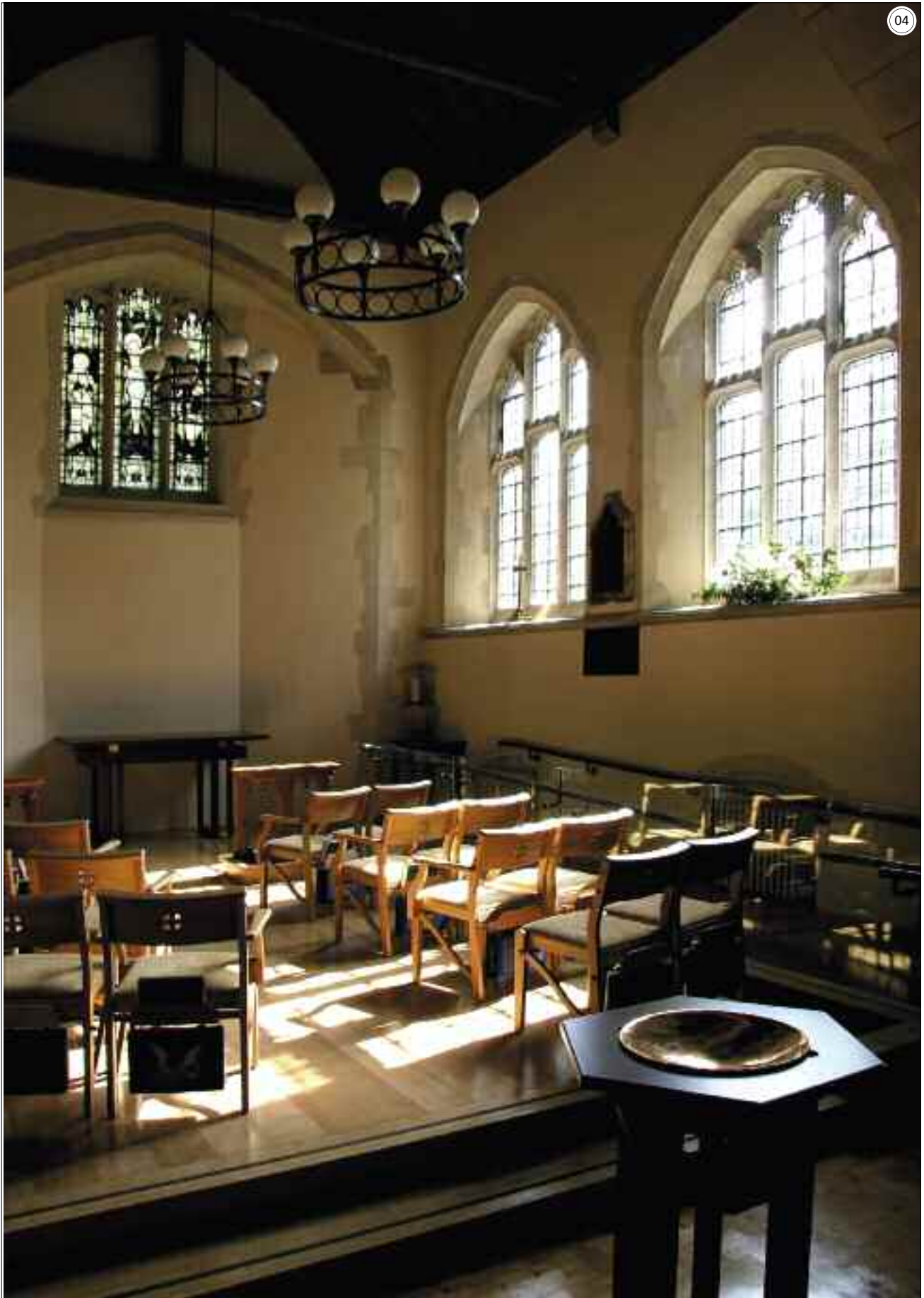
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PROJECT



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, OXSHOTT



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was decided to undertake the project in two phases: the re-ordering of the church interior, followed by the replacement of the west front and ancillary accommodation. By completing work to the church first the parish will be able to maintain a continuous presence on site, demonstrating its priorities and inspiring fundraising for the larger second phase. In many ways, the brief for the re-ordering scheme is

- 04 Lady Chapel with east orientation
- 05 Detail of ramp guarding

typical of that adopted by many churches: to replace pews with chairs to facilitate greater flexibility of use; to rationalise levels and improve access for those with impaired mobility; enhancement of audio visual, lighting and heating systems; redecoration of the interior.

The design of new oak seating and liturgical furniture was developed by Irish Contract Seating, based on an initial concept by Thomas Ford & Partners. Oak on the chairs is finished in clear lacquer, while the new lectern, mobile font and nave altar are stained, to match the existing high altar, reredos and pulpit. The font bowl is in polished bronze. Small pieces of oxidised bronze sheet integrated into the furniture provide animation as they catch the light. Castors discreetly located in the base of the nave altar allow it to be moved easily by one person without damaging the floor. The different patterns of chair share common features. They are all upholstered and stackable, with a carved cross motif on the back rest. Chairs for general use are built from solid oak. Some have arm rests to support those with reduced mobility. For overflow seating, lighter weight chairs with fine chrome >



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PROJECT



06 Nave with angled choir stalls and no central aisle

finish frames have oak seats and backs. Simple oak choir frontals used in conjunction with standard chairs can be configured in a number of layouts to suit different styles of liturgy and music. After careful consideration the pulpit was reduced in height and relocated, rather than removed.

A range of approaches to worship at St Andrew's meets the needs of the village congregation. Traditional music is provided by a new Makins digital organ mounted on a mobile plinth, which can be re-orientated around two socket locations: one in the north transept for general worship and one in the Lady Chapel for concerts and other occasions. A storage area and the redundant organ loft in the North Transept were stripped out to create extra space. When required this can be

used by musicians supporting worship. Band equipment and the AV rack are accommodated in a large new cupboard on the north side of this space. Prior to re-ordering, the east end of the worship space had been particularly inflexible, restricted by level changes and the fixed elements of the choir stalls, communion rails, stone font, digital organ and large pulpit. The finished project reflects the vision of the Building Committee, clarified through discussion with the DAC about how the east end, particularly the Lady Chapel, might be used. The general floor level of the Chancel and Lady Chapel has been raised by one step, simplifying levels and improving sightlines. A shallow ramp along the south wall of the Lady Chapel is enclosed by frameless glass guarding with a bronze handrail. The Lady Chapel can be used in a variety of ways: for intimate worship, with the possibility of north or east orientation; for additional seating, or to provide extra space for concert performances. Mobile communion rails, adapted from the original fixed rails, add to the flexibility of the layout.

The floor of the east end has been formed in quarter-cut European oak engineered board with a micro-bevel and Bonakemi 'Traffic' satin lacquered finish. Underfloor heating in this area will create optimum comfort conditions. The pine woodblock floor in the nave was repaired following removal of the pews and finished with Bonakemi. Whitewash obscuring the original interior finish of plain render with Bath stone dressings was successfully stripped off the stonework. A warm toned Keim mineral paint applied to render surfaces replaces the original stark white finish.

1950s pendant light fittings delivered inadequate illumination and almost no control over intensity or distribution. Bruce Kirk of Light Perceptions developed a lighting strategy based on a suite of different size pendants augmented by spotlights, which provide a sharper focus at the east end. Pendant fittings are constructed with a gun metal finish, highlighted with bronze brackets supporting spherical diffusers. All lights are controlled with a Lutron system, set to pre-determined scenes, which can be re-programmed as required. Audio visual systems were designed and installed by BH Systems. These include radio mics, speakers, a mixing desk, a wall mounted digital projector and automatic drop-down screen.

Ash Contracting did an excellent job as main contractor. Thomas Ford & Partners are now working with St Andrew's to develop proposals for the second phase of the project. ■

High quality wooden chairs with a long life can be arranged in rows like pews, at angles or in the round offering great flexibility for use of the church