

Entrance Lobby Extension at St Peter's Catholic Church, Hinckley.

Context

St Peter's Catholic Church, Hinckley is situated within a site also containing the Presbytery and the Mary Forryan Community Centre. All three buildings are served by wrap-around carparking to the north and west, and a grass field to the south, with graveyard in the southwest corner. Towards the main vehicular entrance sits a War Memorial with 'Grade II Listed' status. To the north and west of the site is Leicester Road / Spa Lane (B590), to the west is Hinckley Fire station and to the south is residential development.

The site is not in a Conservation Area, nor a Flood Risk zone and excepting the war memorial, the three main buildings aren't listed.

Perceived Need

The existing lobby is used as a reception area for typical Church events, as well as being used for fundraising purposes at various times throughout the year. The lobby in question is fairly small in size and is proving to be insufficient for such events. The Church would therefore like to extend and open up through to the existing building to create a larger, grander entrance lobby, which can better serve the church as a reception area and become usable space in itself for various Church events,

Design Component

The design brief was to extend out towards the carpark with the width being dictated by the existing entrance lobby on the left and the full height glazed window on the right, with the intention of removing this to create a route through to the right of the circular staircase.

The roof has been set, at its maximum height, to avoid the existing high-level 'Lancet-style' windows and slopes down at an 8° pitch towards the new entrance doors to provide sufficient internal head height at the lowest point. Due to the shallow pitch, a standing-seam composite roof material has been chosen for the roof covering.

Externally, the extension comprises facing brickwork to match the existing building, with decorative blue brick soldier course detailing to replicate the existing soldier course border around the existing main entrance. Full height Lancet-style windows have been selected to match the existing high-level church windows, the style proportions of which are replicated on the new aluminium double-glazed entrance doors.

Access Component

The existing Church already contains level access and an accessible WC within the entrance lobby. The proposed extension retains both elements with a wider access ramp up to the main entrance doors providing level thresholds to both sets of double doors. To accommodate the extra width of the ramped approach, one of the three existing disabled carparking spaces has been lost, but one of the existing standard carparking spaces will be converted to a disabled space to replace this. There's level access to the principal entrance of the building from the site boundary via the main carpark and this will remain unchanged.