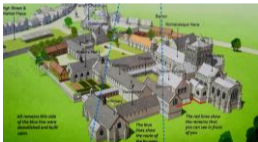


The Origin of St John the Baptist Church

St Johns Church was built by Keynsham Abbey for the townsfolk around 1270, originally with an east tower over the lady chapel.



Conjectural sketch of the church with its north-east tower: pre-1632 (when the tower collapsed).



Keynsham Abbey with
St Johns Church in the distance

Major changes to the building

- Building of the chancel (1270)
- Construction of the south aisle (1348)
- Construction of the north aisle (much later)
- Lady chapel added with a tower and spire over it
- Walls painted with pictures and/or patterns
- Rood screen erected across the chancel (1460)
- Other lady chapels erected, some later removed
- Great thunderstorm which destroyed the tower (1632)
- New weathervane atop a new west tower (1655)
- Church in disrepair after changes in religion (C16th)
- Addition of monuments to the Bridges family
- West end gallery installed with organ, later moved
- 1860 major restoration - change of pews, pulpit moved, new font installed, gas lighting, new roof for chancel
- Major renovation in 1950s, 1970s
- Major renovation 1990s (£6219)

A time of change?



Our church has, "...survived wars, plagues, natural disasters and periods of human neglect"¹. It has also been modified by the congregation over the centuries to better suit their needs, and the needs of the wider community.



Each rescue from neglect, modification or beautification, can be seen to reflect the life and devotion of that generation. How will we influence the legacy of our amazing medieval building?

¹ Elizabeth White, St John the Baptist, Keynsham, p7

Design Brief

Considerations have included provision of:

- a reduced Carbon Footprint
- a more open and flexible space for every type of worship
- an open and user-friendly resource for all of Keynsham
- WCs and a kitchenette/ servery
- increased storage
- an improved South porch for use as a main entrance - currently used by the 11am congregation
- redeveloped grounds in consultation with Bath & NES Council.





Rationale

Two plans developed by the architects following discussion with the BTF group are put forward for particular consideration. The group believes that we should:

- dream big
- choose and develop an overall plan which will allow us to prioritise the project into different, more achievable phases
- build for the future - in particular wider community use and good income potential
- create a large flexible space with no loss of seating consider plan 4B, and also plan 7C (which builds on 4B) and which includes more development on the upper floor.

Plan 4B



Things to note include:

- new glazed draught lobby to west door to allow the solid external doors to be left open during services
- inner glazed bifold doors at ground level to create a welcome space and link between the meeting room and kitchen
- wc, disabled wc and kitchen in the north aisle
- new meeting room in south aisle created with bifold doors, which could be separately heated
- draught lobby to south entrance created with 2 pairs of glass doors
- maximum seating approx. 407 using stackable chairs

Plan 7C



This version includes an upper story above a layout similar to plan 4B.

Things to note include:

- A different layout of furniture in the welcome space could include additional seating as shown in this version. It could also be laid out in a cafe style with tables and chairs
- it would allow for larger congregations, or audiences for concerts
- Note that the separate ground floor room in the south aisle has been reduced in size in this version.
- Maximum seating approx. 482

Storage



Removal of some or all of the pews would allow much more flexibility of layout in services and concerts. Chairs would need to be purchased which are comfortable and which can be stacked quickly and easily. There is space allotted in these plans for the tidy storage of spare chairs necessary in some layouts.