



# EXTENSION

# WE ARE GROWING

*An active Church  
serving a vibrant Parish*



**MORE  
CHILDREN**  
*school rolls rising,  
50 + baptisms a year*

**MORE  
FAMILIES  
AT  
CHURCH**  
*sometimes standing  
in the aisles*

**MORE  
HOUSE  
BUILDING**  
*in and around  
Grappenhall*

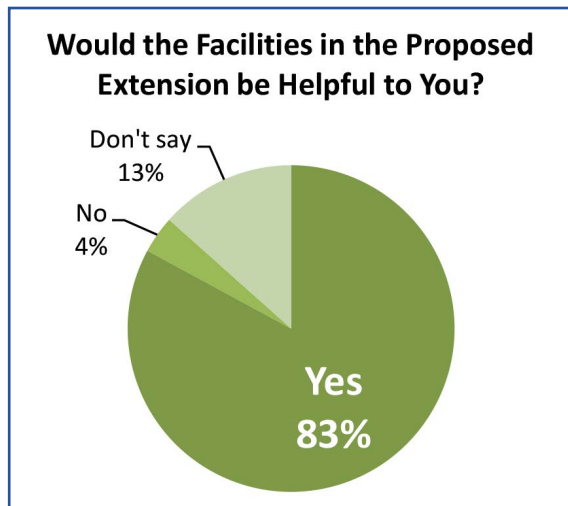
*Grappenhall people  
living longer*  
**LIFE  
LONG  
FELLOWSHIP**

**CONSULTATION 3**  
People of Grappenhall and its Surroundings

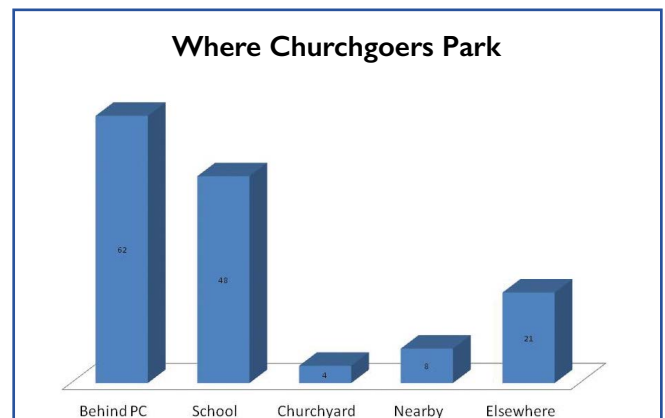
**NOVEMBER 2017**

# Survey Report – “We are Growing”

## Desire for the Project and Commitment to Help



Almost half (41%) walk to church, 26% pushing baby buggies. 11% use walking aids. St Wilfrid’s School allows parking for churchgoers at weekends and evenings. St Wilfrid’s Parish Centre (PC) carpark is used throughout the day. There is no on street parking (other than disabled) in the Conservation Area around the Church.

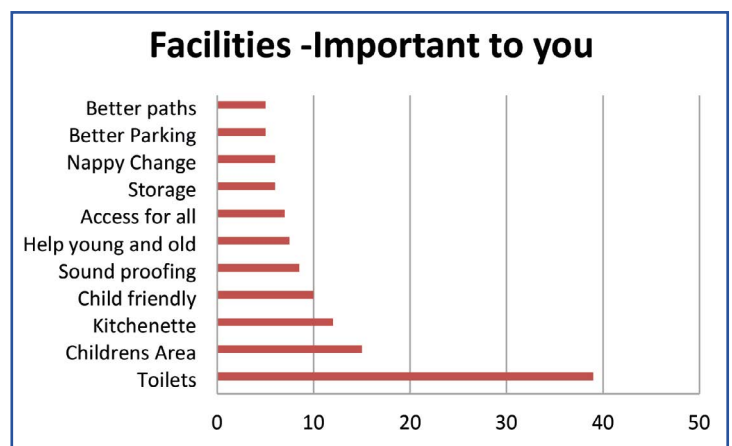


## Potential Users and Usage of the Extension

37 different organisations were listed as potential users of the new extension. Midweek Preschool Praise was listed by 22% of respondents. 55 replies suggested the extension would be useful to children/young people and 48 to use by adults.

By 10/4/2017 the views of 222 people were collated. A 2nd survey in 22/5/2017, with an additional 49 responses, showed **100% agreement that “The extension addresses important needs of the people of Grappenhall over the next 20-30 years”** It was said that the project could “help the church and community grow together. New housing developments are planned so the village needs a strong focal point for residents.”

## What is Important to You?



These facilities could make a major difference to people’s enjoyment of St Wilfrid’s. For example, one mother of 3 infants explained that provision of toilets and a quiet area all ‘under one roof’ would give her the flexibility to take her children to church without requiring the help of another adult. Another person described it as “tragic seeing wheelchair users struggling across the cobbles”.

Volunteers, who help maintain St Wilfrid’s, expressed strong enthusiasm for **facilities to help them help others**. For example Flower arrangers yearn for a water supply and workspace, choir and bellringers wanted all weather access to toilets.

## Design and Appearance

The overall design was described as ‘excellent’, ‘fab’, ‘unobtrusive’, ‘sympathetic but modern’ and ‘blends with existing stonework’.

# A Word from the Rector



Thank you for coming to St Wilfrid's to see for yourself the opportunity to make a significant difference to the welcome we can offer people at St Wilfrid's.

This is our third round of consultation about the extension. I have found it both fascinating and helpful to hear the feedback about this project which could benefit so many people.

Some evidence of the need for the extension is illustrated briefly on page 2 of this leaflet. Throughout the consultations the Chester Diocesan Advisory Council has been "supportive of the church in its process of developing the proposals". As Historic England has said "The church of St Wilfrid is a Grade 1 listed building of outstanding national interest". "Historic England has no objection to the proposed extension in principle". "the aesthetic design of the new extension poses a positive opportunity to add a layer of interest to the historic site".

Indeed as one of our oldest members pointed out at an earlier consultation exercise, 'It may be that we made-do in the past but that does not mean that people should do so in the future.' It's not just about people's expectations being higher (although they undoubtedly are) it's about St Wilfrid's Church community raising the bar of how we love and care for people of all generations both now and in the future.

It's become something of a standing joke that the toilet facilities at St Wilfrid's are in keeping with the age of the church – medieval! It's a joke that I make at every christening and wedding, and while I do joke about it, there is a serious point here.

I am aware of the difficulties our lack of toilets, hospitality facilities, disabled access and space for children causes so many people. **Families with young children, disabled people, those with medical conditions** – both age related and otherwise - members of our congregation who would welcome quiet contemplation during the sermon and prayers, people in need of physical as well as spiritual refreshment.

This project has reminded us that many people of all ages in Grappenhall are interested in their **heritage**. St Wilfrid's is full of interesting clues about how people lived and what they valued, over many centuries. We want to help people interpret what they can see around them, so they can put down roots, appreciate and cherish what their predecessors have created.

We continue to very actively seek additional feedback which will enable us to provide the evidence required by the Planning and Church Authorities and the Grant Awarders to win their backing and funding for this project, which could make such a difference to so many people. Please make sure you register your feedback with one of our stewards before you leave the building.

Of course, cost matters, but we need to know what is needed, before it can be costed.. It is clear already that the combination of the Church, with this extension, and the Parish Centre would enable St Wilfrid's serve the people of Grapenhall in a much more flexible, accessible and cost effective way.

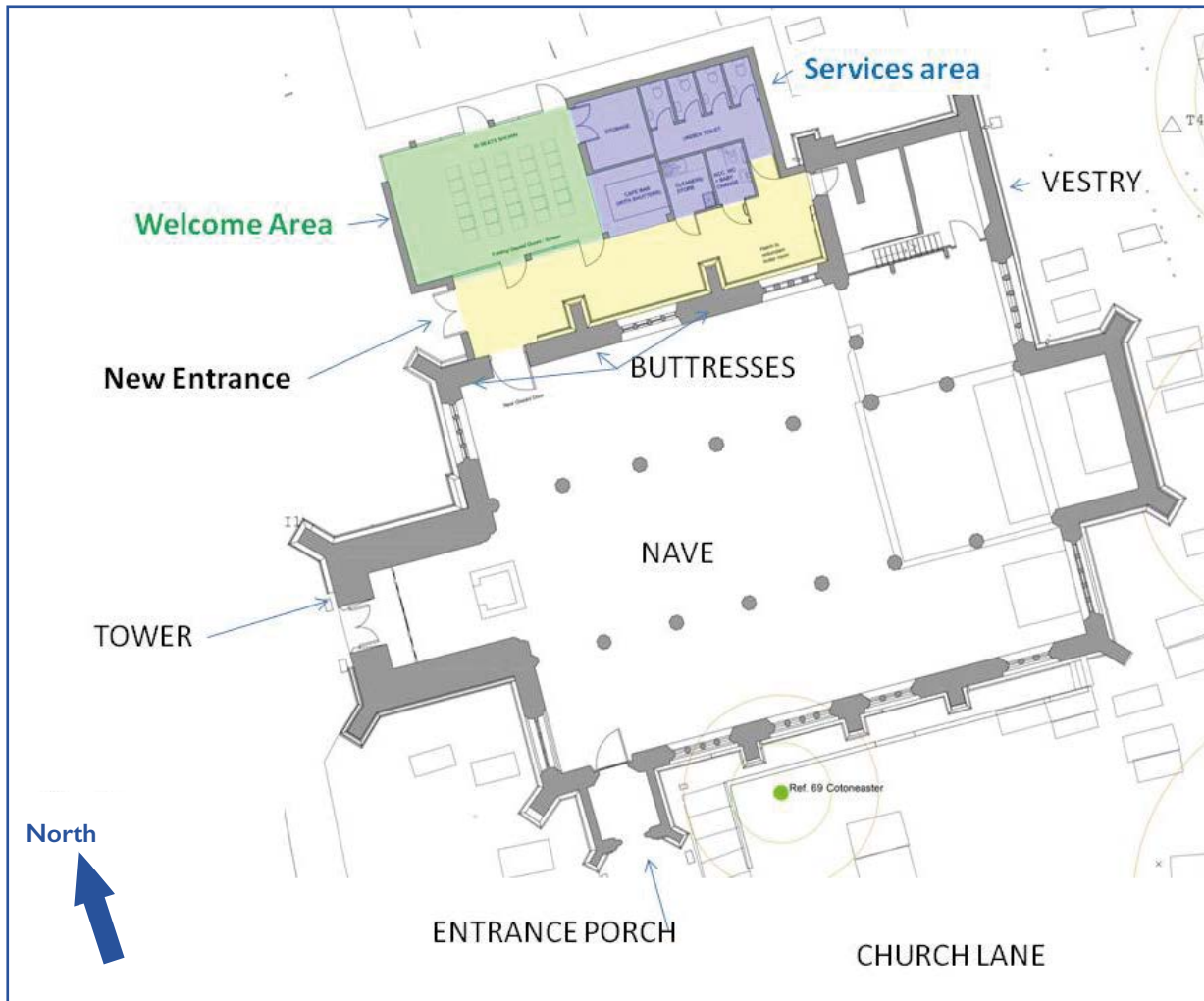
This is your church, and we believe that it has a future and an essential role to play in our community. We want to preserve the rich heritage with which we have been entrusted and at the same time make this a building that is accessible and welcoming for everyone.

Thank you for your interest and support,

*Rev'd Jane*

# Design of the Proposed Extension

The design and drawings have been produced by Architect, Mark Pearce, of Lloyd Evans Prichard. The present church building is shown, with the Tower to the west.



The proposed extension is between the vestry and the buttress on the northwest. None of the proposed extension can be seen from Church Lane, which runs to the south of the Church.

The small **Welcome/Meeting** area for about 30 people is shown in green, adjacent to the L shaped coffee/tea servery on the corner. The Welcome Area can be opened up for fellowship activities, such as enjoying a hot drink with other members of the congregation after services. We can also offer hospitality and welcome to families and friends coming to Christenings, Weddings and Funerals. This area can also be used as a meeting space, or a classroom with a projector to assist with learning. It is envisaged that displays will be created to give visitors information about the Church and Grappenhall village.

The **Services Area** includes a furniture storage area for chairs, tables and sitting mats; a serving area for tea/coffee – with an L shaped serving counter; and includes a bank of toilets which includes a wheelchair accessible and baby changing facility. A storage cubicle with a low level sink is provided to help volunteers who clean the church, arrange flowers and tend the churchyard.

The **covered walkway** between the Victorian vestry door and the existing historic north doorway of the church, will be both a circulation area and the processional route. The current external stairway to the underground boiler will become internal, under cover and protected from the weather.



## What would the extension look like?

The proposed extension to the left (north) of the church building, shows the current Vestry with its roof and chimney at the back of the drawing.

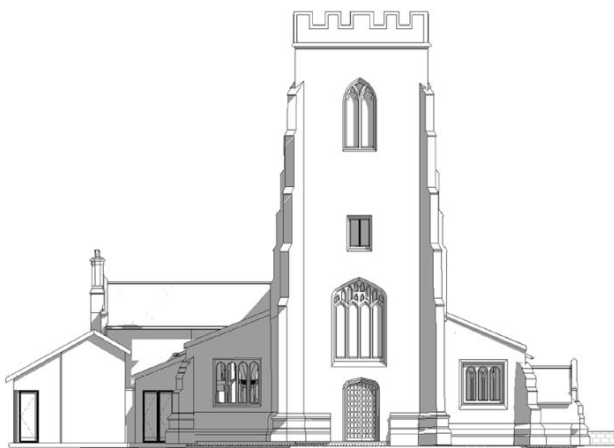
The extension is between the vestry and the buttress on the northwest. All of the current church stonework and windows are retained, unchanged. *The proposed extension cannot be seen from Church Lane, to the south of the Church.*

From the west you can see the new accessibly wide doorway from the internal walkway onto the exterior paths. Access to the extension and into the Church is free of steps.

The meeting/welcome area is full height, providing an **open, light and airy** location for children and adults. An external fire exit is provided from the services area, to enable people in the vestry, the east of the church and services area to quickly exit the building.

The whole extension is insulated, heated and illuminated to modern, **energy efficient standards**. Water conservation measures will be built into the design. **Good quality materials** will be chosen, both to respect the integrity of the church building, and to minimise future maintenance costs.

Going along the pathway past the tower and along the new pathway towards the parking place, the new double door from the exterior into the extension can be seen. The large oak framed windows ensure that the **'Welcome Area'** in the extension is well lit. The services area to the left will include storage areas, toilets and in the roof space, heating and plumbing equipment. The current vestry steps will lead directly onto the corridor which goes to the current north door of the church.



West Elevation

The current north facing stained glass windows and the north wall of the church will be cleaned and illuminated, to provide an attractive internal wall to main walkway from the Vestry through to the north doorway and the external path. *The interior of the present church building is preserved and protected.* Viewed from the north, the existing clerestory windows can be seen above the extension roof, which is angled to match the existing slope of the existing slate roof.



North Elevation

# Churchyard

A detailed, measured survey has been completed of the whole Churchyard, showing that some of the present trees are in excellent condition, some are in poor condition, some are self set and growing in a haphazard manner and some appear to be dead. An informal, and often muddy, car park has developed at the end of the Church track, near the Scout HQ.



Over the years the pathway through the churchyard has become very uneven, partly because of the influence of tree roots. The plan is to improve the pedestrian pathway through the churchyard so that it is level, and water will drain off it. This can be done using techniques that will only affect a thin top layer of soil. The pathway will lead via a ramp or a short set of stairs to a properly surfaced car park at the end of the Church Track. A retaining wall will be built to manage the difference in levels between the churchyard and the Track. Access will be maintained to the Scout HQ and to the School field.

The Church Track itself will also be surfaced, through to Church Lane. The entrance gate will be retained and it will be single track with a marked **'no parking'** passing bay. Drainage will be improved to reduce the risk of **'run-off'** into adjacent properties. Some tree removal will be required to facilitate this, but the trees are mostly self set sycamores of poor

arboreal quality. A screen of trees will be maintained along the boundary with the school.

Two out of the 18 proposed parking areas will be marked for use by people requiring wheelchair access. A cycle parking area will be established within Church grounds, near the pedestrian footpath and the boundary wall with the Parr Arms. The parking will be signed for use by people attending St Wilfrid's Church. The tree survey will provide an excellent basis for planning the future development of the trees within the churchyard.

The action of tree roots has made the current footpath very uneven and it is important that we establish a safe, level and well drained pathway, from the parking place to the church door, particularly for people pushing buggies or who have walking difficulties.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What evidence is there of a demand for these facilities?

Church attendances are growing. At some services people stand in the aisles and a church extension would enable more people to participate in comfort. To the question “Do you think the extension addresses important needs of the people of Grappenhall and St Wilfrid’s Church over the next 20-30 years” 100% of respondents said **YES**.



There are plans for hundreds, maybe thousands, of new homes around Grappenhall. St Wilfrid’s church wishes to be ready to serve the spiritual and social needs of existing and new parishioners of all ages.

Both the Church and the Parish Centre are used by the Grappenhall community for recreational and educational purposes, and provision of the proposed extension will extend these opportunities. Some organisations want to use the church for concerts but do not do so, because of the lack of toilets and hospitality facilities. The survey identified 37 community organisations who could be users of the new extension.

**Will it be possible for people with an interest in history, to look round the church when services are not in progress?**  
**YES.**

## How can the extension benefit Grappenhall people on weekdays, in addition to its contribution on Sundays?

- Visitors such as walkers, cyclists, school parents and people who like visiting churches, can be welcomed
- Improved access for people with disabilities
- Efficiently heated extension can host small groups
- School parties from a wider range of schools can be welcomed, to learn about their heritage
- Flower arrangers, Bell ringers, God’s Gardeners, Choir and Church Cleaners all would like to access a water supply, toilets, and storage to help them make the Church welcoming for others.
- Improved parking – Would be very popular in the village

## What impact would this extension have on usage of the Parish Centre?

Usage of the Parish Centre is expected to increase. With the extension being available for occasional meetings of Church groups, the Parish could commit to accepting regular weekly bookings of the Parish

Centre for other local groups. The Parish Centre will continue to be the right place for family parties, dancing, fitness activities and many larger church social events and fund raising events.

## How will the project affect the churchyard, would you expect to plant more trees?

A smoothly surfaced footpath will encourage people coming from a parking area at the foot of the churchyard to use a designated path, and not take shortcuts, potentially disturbing memorials and flowers.

A tree survey in early 2017 mapped the whole churchyard. The original churchyard was to the south of the church by Church Lane. Gradually over the 19th and 20th centuries, land to the north was added. Church records of funerals and graves go back over six centuries. The tree survey and grave plans can be brought together to create long term plans for managing the location and health of the trees, with thoughtful planting of trees to enhance the churchyard.



## Is the Project expecting to apply for grant funding and are grants available for this type of project?

Yes, the Project has been working with Diocesan advisors on funding for Church extensions. We have also had advice from 4 local Cheshire churches who obtained very significant grants for recent building projects.

## What would be the impact on the continuing costs of day to day operation of St Wilfrids?

It should significantly reduce the cost of heating the Church and the Parish Centre. The new building will be insulated to modern standards, to provide a draft proof “blanket” along the currently cold north wall and windows of the Church. The whole Parish Centre would not need to be heated for small meetings.

## What efforts will be made to reduce the carbon footprint of the church?

The extension will be insulated to current standards and can be heated separately from the main church building. This means that it can be heated efficiently for meetings of small groups. Low energy LED lighting will be used in the extension and for highlighting the stonework and windows of the north wall.



## What do you think would happen to St Wilfrid's if the extension is not built?

Toilets, a meeting room and a kitchen are all currently available in the building across the road. However, that provision is not in the right place. The increased emphasis on the importance of safeguarding for both children and vulnerable adults creates a need for a manageable and accessible space within the confines of the church building to properly serve these groups. The evidence is that some people with mobility issues no longer attend St Wilfrid's church because of the possibility of falling on the cobbles. Members of the congregation have, and would continue to vote with their feet.

An historic building, such as a church, can be self sustaining only if people wish to use it. It is particularly important to engage with young people and their families so that visiting the church becomes part of childhood – their heritage, which they will then wish to protect for their children. If the next generation does not use and value St Wilfrid's, it will

become neglected and irrelevant. Our lack of suitable facilities means we can progress so far but not further.

## Why do you think that NOW is the time to make this change?

Matters came to a head when attendance at Children's Services in the Parish Centre dwindled to the point when it was no longer viable. How could we progress our vision of increasing participation by families and children if parents felt they could not allow their children to attend Children's Services? And, with hundreds of new homes being built around Grappenhall, how could St Wilfrid's extend a welcome to all those families, moving to within a few minutes walk of the church? Change is coming to Grappenhall, and NOW is the time for St Wilfrid's to become part of that change.



## Any contribution that you wish to make would be most welcome.

**Cheques** may be made out to: **St Wilfrid's Extension Project** and sent to St Wilfrid's Extension Project, St Wilfrid's Church Office, Grappenhall WA4 3EP, or dropped into the Parish Centre postbox.

**Bank Transfers** should be addressed to **Bank details** (Sort: 01-09-17; Account No: 97914460) and annotated with your name.

**Thank You**



If you are a UK taxpayer you can add 25% to the value of your donation by completing the Gift Aid declaration:

**I wish to claim Gift Aid** (please delete as required)

**YES**

**NO**

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration and in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title	
Full Name	
Address	
Postcode	

## Further information about Gift Aid is provided in the leaflet - Giving at St Wilfrid's

If you wish to have more information about the project or making a donation please contact:

**Treasurer: Charles Jesudason T:01925 754 186 E:charles@jesudason.co.uk**

The Treasurer, St Wilfrid's Church, Church Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, WA4 3EP

### 1. Please notify the Church/PCC if you:

- Want to cancel this declaration or change your name or home address
- No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax, currently 20%, which allows charities to reclaim 25p for every £1 donated.

### 2. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and if you...

- Want to receive the additional tax relief due to you
- Include all your Gift Aid donations on your self assessment tax form and ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.