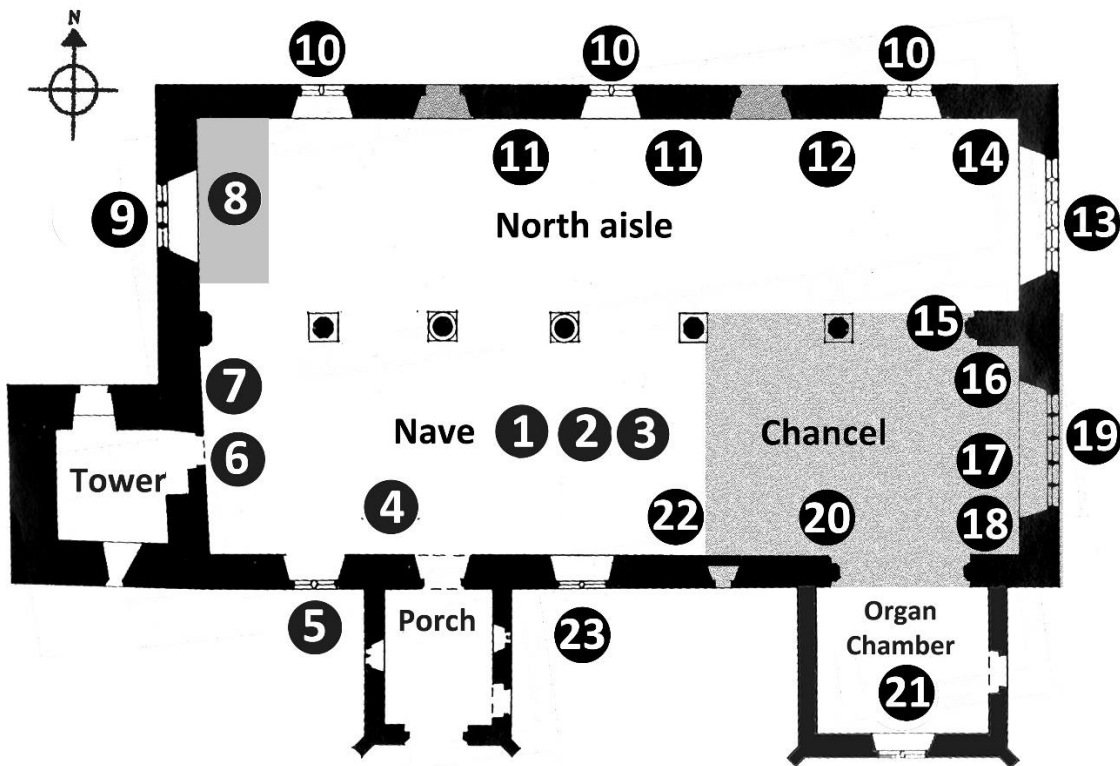
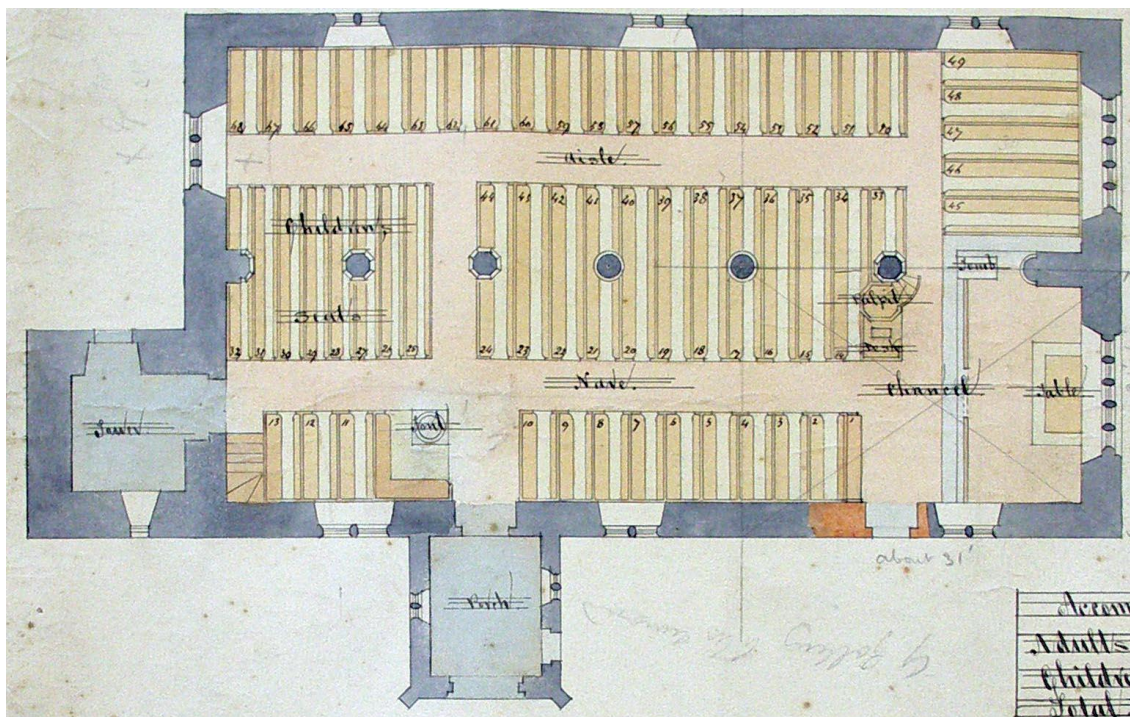


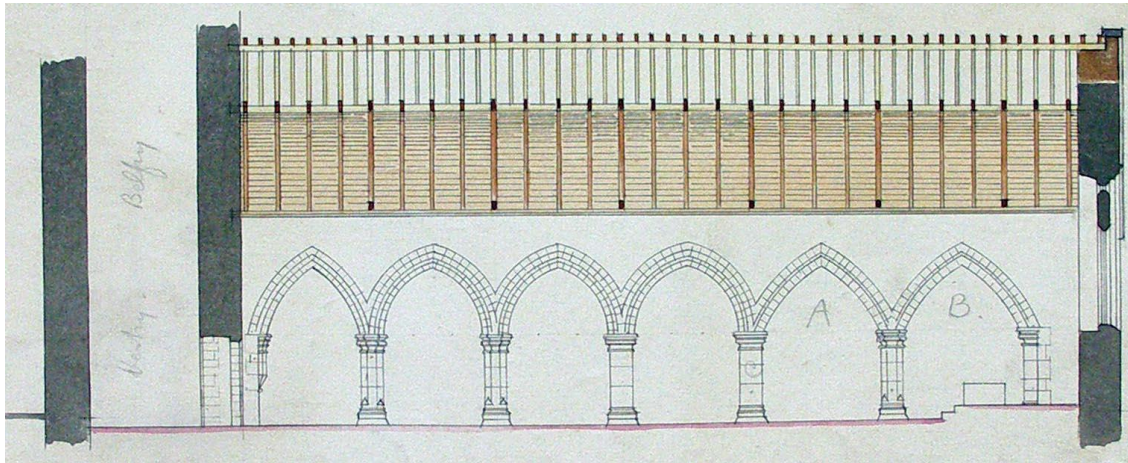
1. THE CHURCH PLAN

In 1927 the surveyors for the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in England (RCHME) drew up a plan of the church and this has been used for the church heritage trail, as the general layout has not changed since.

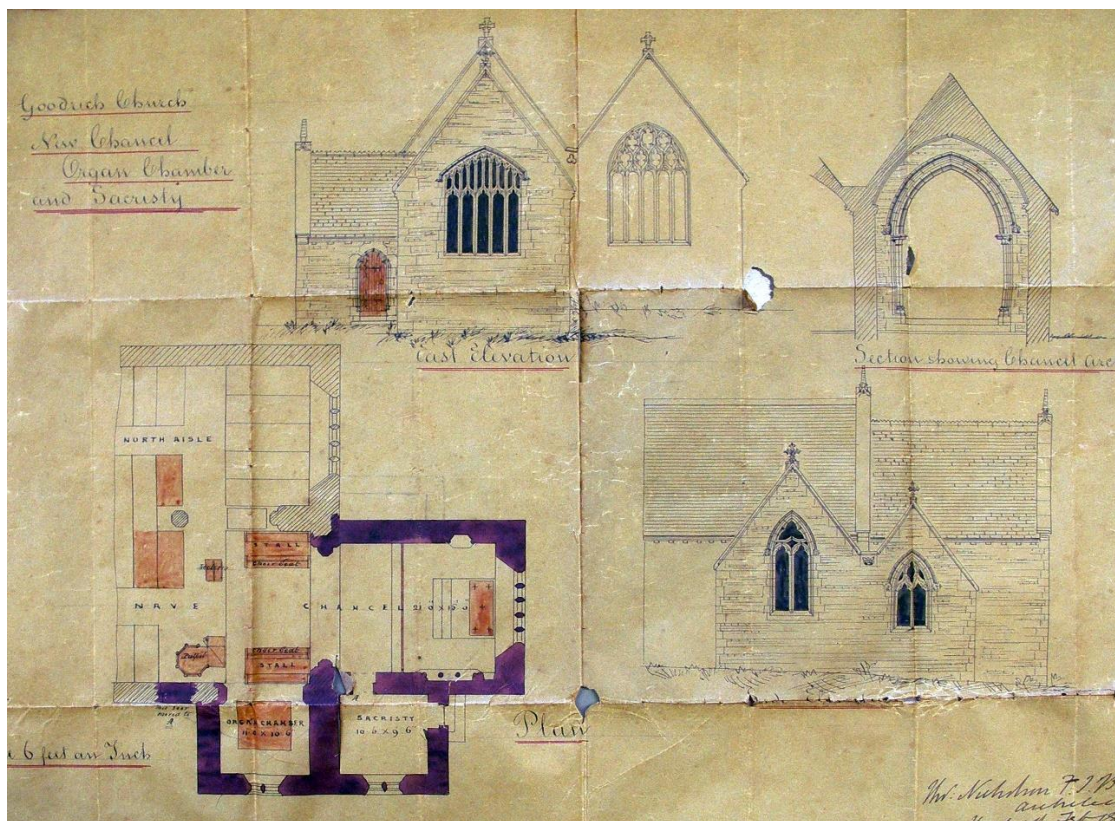


Earlier, in 1870, the architect J. P. Seddon drew up the plan below, prior to the renovation of the church by his architectural practice. When you enter the church by the porch on the south, you will see that not much has altered since. In 1870 there were two galleries, not shown in the plan, one for members of the congregation on the south, probably accessed by the stairs next to the tower door, and one for the organ on the west. One of these, if not both, had been erected in 1775, but only the organ gallery was planned to remain in the 1870s renovation, if, indeed, it did.





Seddon drew a longitudinal section of the church which shows the different styles of the columns and arches which separate the north aisle from the main body of the church. The two right-hand arches define the extent of the chancel. Two of the columns are much plainer and older in style. In total, the Seddon 1870 renovations cost £410 (provided by Gardyner's Charity) plus £2035 donated by the vicar Henry Charles Morgan, about £100,000 today. Morgan recorded his gift in a panel on the wall to the left of the altar.



In 1875 Rev. Morgan died, to be succeeded by Prebendary Douglas Seaton, a rather high-flying churchman. Maybe Seaton disliked the lack of a proper chancel; in 1876 the Hereford diocesan architect, Thomas Nicholson, drew up a plan for major alterations (above). This included extending the chancel to the east and making two extensions to the south, one for an organ and one for a sacristy. This was probably too costly and only the organ chamber was built.

At St Giles there is no clear definition between the nave (the congregation who sit or stood there were responsible for that part of the building) and the chancel (where the vicar

and choir were located and the vicar's responsibility). Before 1215 curtains were sometimes drawn between the chancel and the nave during parts of the services, but after this date a screen was usually erected between the two, sometimes with a representation of the Crucifixion or *Rood* on top of it. St Giles's chancel stretches from the altar to the second column from the right in the photo below, according to a drawing made in 1929. It's not clear whether a screen was built after 1215 in this location and what happened when the arcade was opened up to the side chapel in the 14th century.

The central part of the arcade with round columns dates from the early 13th century. The part of the arcade nearest the altar was opened up in the 14th century to communicate with a chapel at the eastern end of what is now the north aisle, which is the same length as the nave and chancel combined. It's not known to whom the chapel was dedicated, or even if the eastern window of the north aisle was part of the chapel.