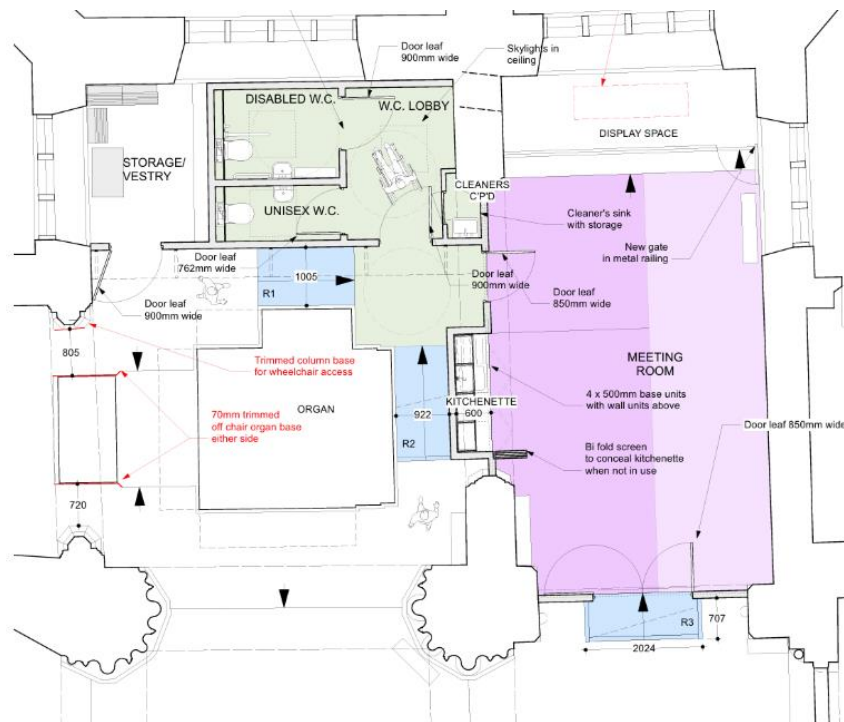


St Nicholas Church Building Project



- Toilets
- Creating the Cowper Room in the north transept with kitchenette and independent heating.
- Levelling the floor
- Conserving the Plantagenet ceiling
- Creating storage

From the Team Rector, the Revd Canon Paul Cubitt

Our Building Project has its origins in a Vision Day in 2018. An interregnum and COVID delayed things but also shaped the vision. The church became a place for funeral and pastoral meetings when visiting in homes was forbidden – we could easily keep the required social distances in the church and keep surfaces clean. An open church and an open plan church also reduced privacy for some pastoral conversations. Creating a room was an addition to the plans for toilets and other re-orderings.

We decided to prioritise toilets, including disabled and baby-changing facilities, as a symbolic "first fruit" —a small but profound step toward completing the larger vision. The project isn't just about physical renovations but about enhancing the church's role as a welcoming and functional space for everyone. We also recognise it will take longer to raise funds for the full project.

The Cowper Room will honour the legacy of William Cowper while providing a versatile and comforting space for both pastoral and community use. The emphasis on "wellness and mindfulness" aligns wonderfully with Cowper's struggles and the human needs of today. Its adaptability—from serving as a class and pastoral room to a green room—will serve our community well. It will have a kitchenette and independent heating.

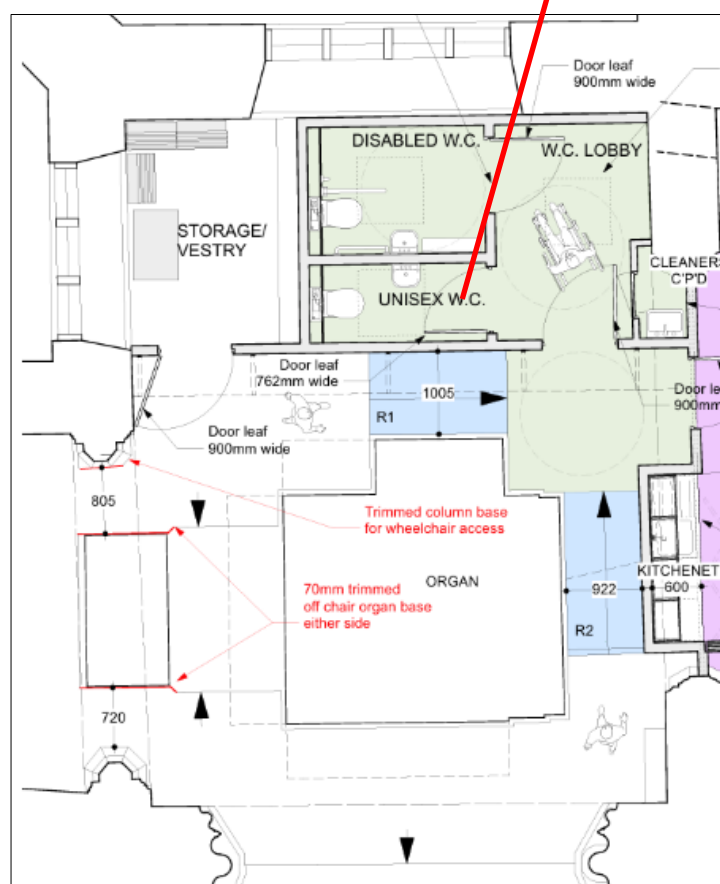
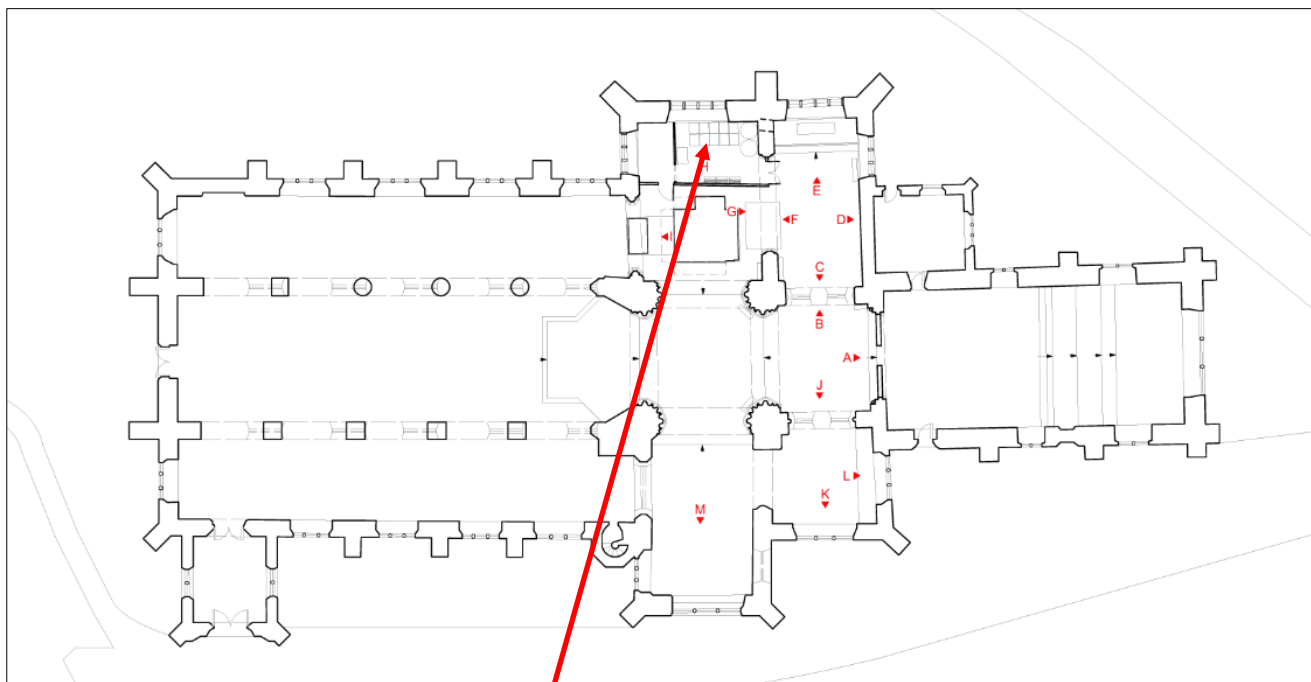
The conservation of the painted ceiling will unlock more of the historical significance of our church building and heritage. The redecorating of the walls, cleaning the monuments and bespoke lighting will enhance the room.

The project is costly, in part due to the additional requirements of working within a grade 1 listed building and the conservation of the painted ceiling. The project is also the right thing to do. Toilets, pastoral and meeting space improve what we can offer our community.

You will find in his leaflet ways of supporting us financially. Please keep in touch.

Paul

Phase 1 Toilets



Phase 1 will be the installation of two toilets in the church; one accessible cubicle with baby changing facilities and a second toilet for general use. These will be available to the whole community and for visitors to events in the church including school children, concert goers, wedding and christening parties and members of the congregation.

How to financially support the project

To donate with Cash, or Cheque payable to ‘The PCC of St Nicholas Church Dereham’;

Place in an envelope marked Building Project and hand in at a Church Service or deliver to;

The Parish Office, Church House, Church Street, Dereham NR19 1DN

To Gift Aid your donation please complete:

Title _____ First name _____

Surname _____

Address

Postcode _____

Date: _____

By BACS

‘The PCC of St Nicholas Church Dereham’

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account: 67239131

Please reference donations with ‘Building Project’

By GoFundMe – St Nicholas Dereham Building Project

<https://gofund.me/e1e8963c>



To hear more about the project please give email address

Sponsor Paul:

**A sponsored walk and canoe
in aid of St Nicholas' Church Dereham
Building Project**

**The Revd Canon Paul Cubitt & his son Ed will
follow the journeys of St Withburga**

Monday 21st April – Thursday 24th April



From Holkham to Dereham (**30 mile walk**)

then

from Dereham to Brandon (**23 mile walk via STANTA**)

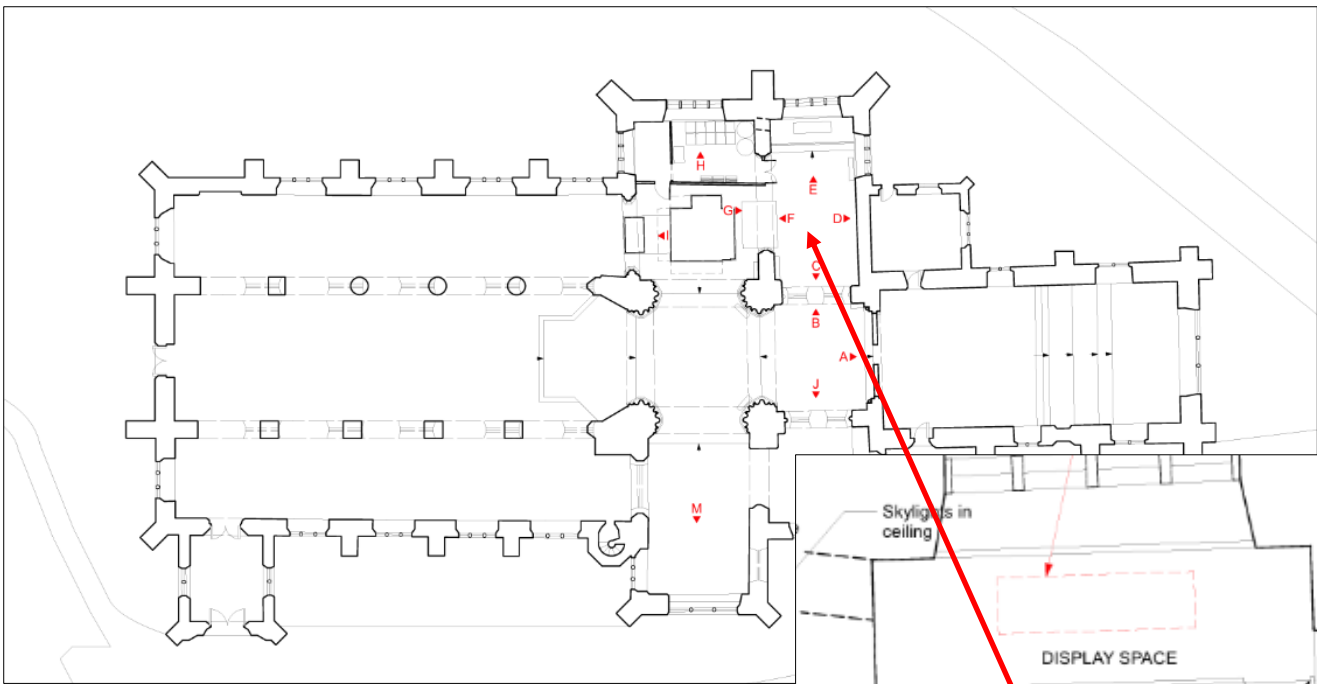
finally

from Brandon to Ely (**23 mile canoe**)

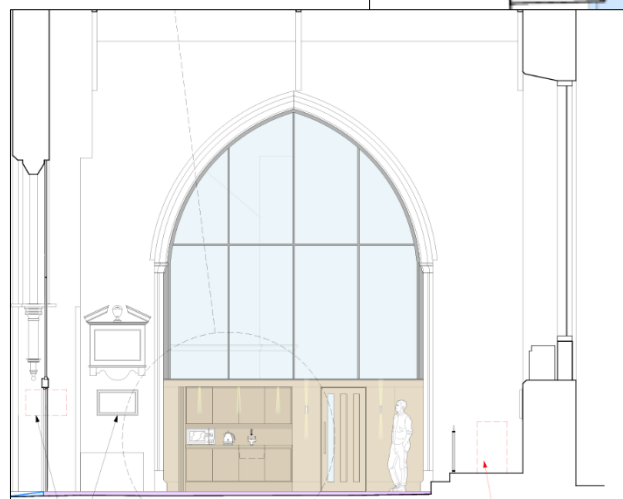
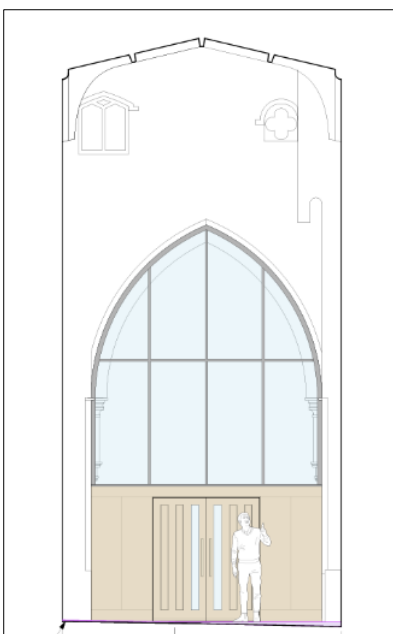
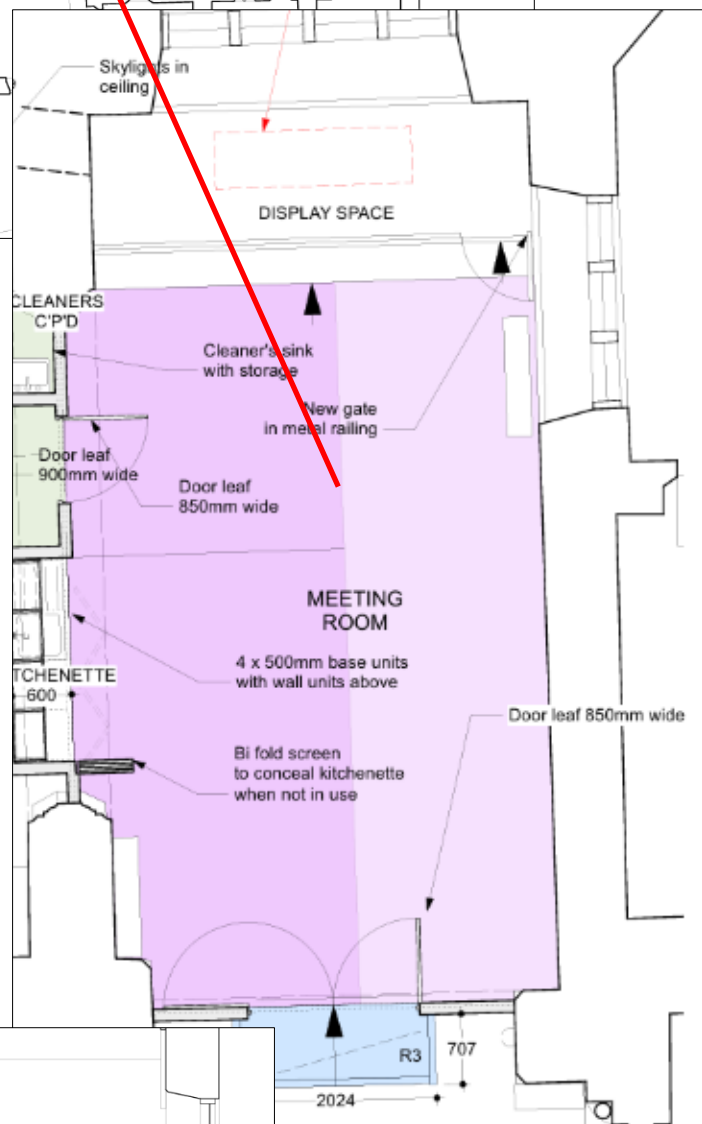
Go Fund Me – Building Project



Phase 2 The Creation of the Cowper Room



Phase 2 will see the creation of a meeting space, 'The Cowper Room', in the north transept with kitchenette and independent heating. The very rare 1470 Plantagenet ceiling in the north transept must be restored as part of the project. Glass screens will enclose the room and let the light in.

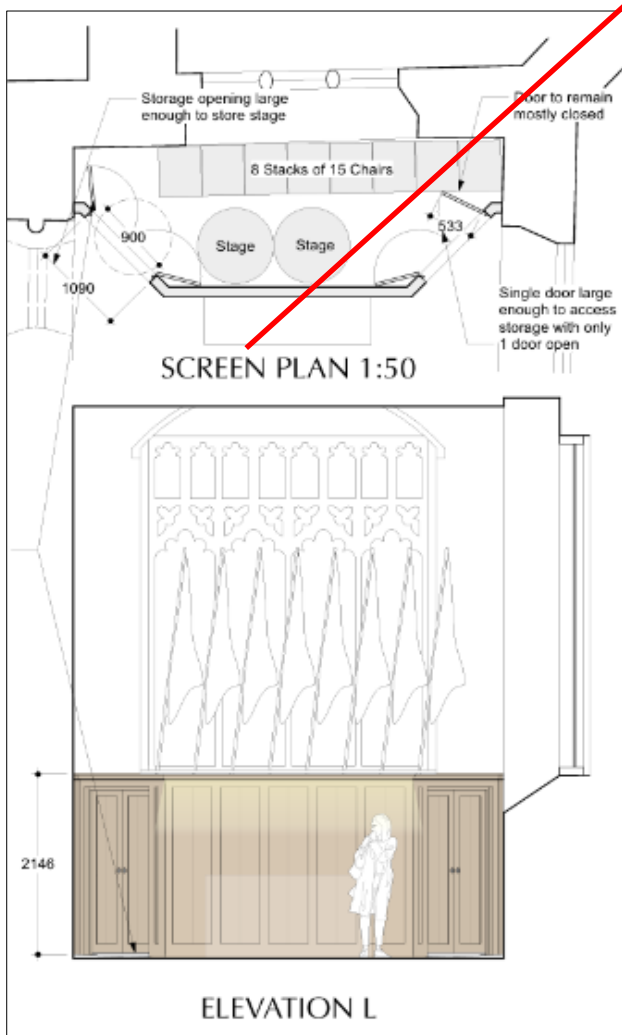
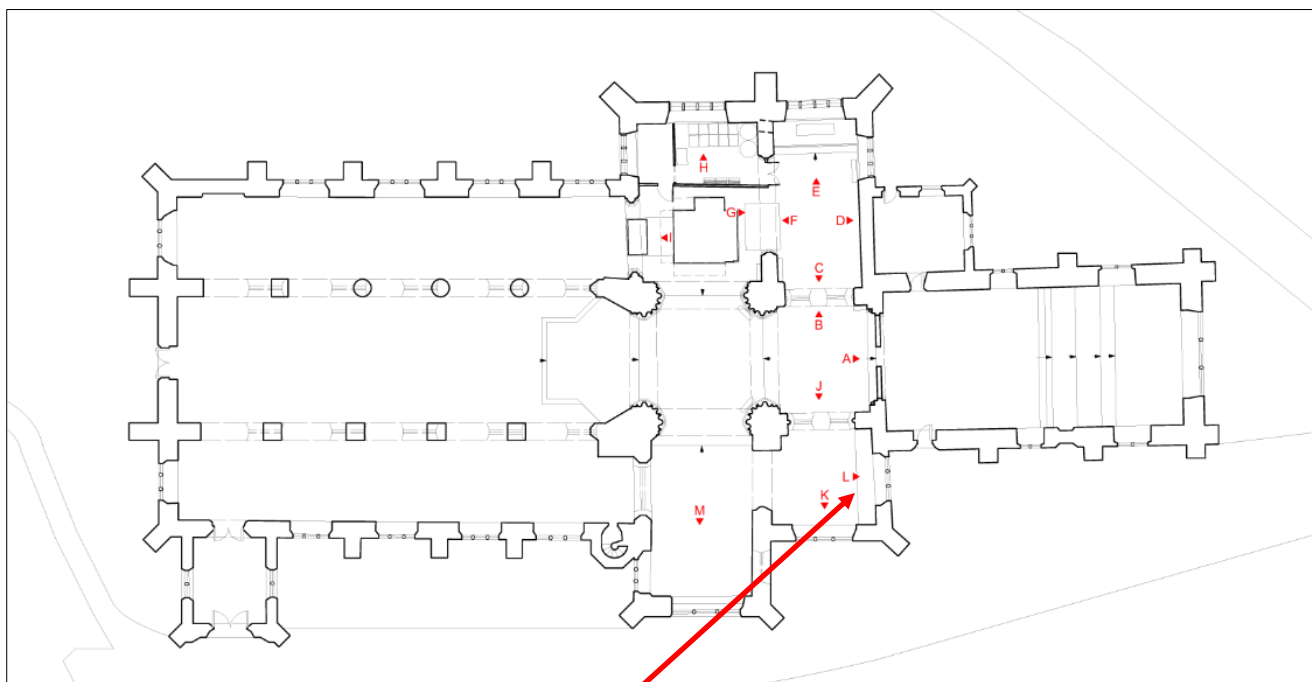


Phase 2 Conservation of the Plantagenet Ceiling

The conservation of a rare and possibly unique ceiling with the images of a double-headed eagle is a condition of the Faculty. An initial survey has discovered areas of decay and unstable paint. Data loggers will be installed shortly to monitor the environment at ceiling height. There are old repairs to the ceiling which have incorporated panels from an even older screen. There is much history to be discovered.



Phase 2 Storage Space in the south aisle



The space behind the organ currently stores extra seating and staging. With toilets moving into that space, we are creating additional storage where the temporary kitchen is sited. This will make the staging and chairs easier to access and improve the vista down the south aisle. The floor will be repaired.