

Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA)

Job Number: 2377

**Planning and Listed Building Consent, Gorphwysfa
Chapel, Skewen.**

Clients: Rhian Jones & Daniel Kilbride.



Gorphwysfa Chapel, Skewen

FINAL

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Brief History

Gorphwysfa Calvinistic Methodist Church (sometimes spelt Gorffwysfa) as an entity started in 1810 as a Welsh-language church with the establishment of the Sunday school Salem in Skewen that was connected to the cause at Bethlehem Green Chapel in Neath.

The building Gorphwysfa has had a couple of modifications in the years after its construction was finalised, one in 1903 and the last one in 1933 when the ventilation system that is still used was installed.

The chapel has been in use for services, baptisms, marriages from 1893 until its last service in October 2022, when it closed its doors for good.



While its exterior is built in a classical style chapel that consists of a gabled front with fluted pilasters with moulded capitals to the upper half, and below a moulded band they are rusticated and have marble foundation tablets above the bases.

The wider area of the front façade is the central one, it has 2 round-headed doorways with keystones and double panelled doors beneath over lights. Above the front doors there is a triple round-headed window with sill band lighting the gallery.

The pedimented gable has a moulded cornice. A roundel is inscribed with the date of the building, with the name inscribed around the border. The coped gable has prominent Greek Urn finials on moulded bases.

To the North (rear) of the chapel there is the large 2-storey Church Hall that was used primarily for Sunday School activities which extends east and west elevations.

The East elevation of the chapel has 2 tiers of 5 round-headed windows. On the lower tier there are 3 round-headed windows, while on the higher tier there are 2 sash windows under segmental heads and a single tripartite sash window.

The West elevation of the chapel is similar to the East elevation with one difference, instead of 2 stair lights there is 1 round-headed window.

The north elevation has 2 tiers of windows. The lower tier has 6 round-headed windows grouped 1-4-1 and the higher tier has 5 segmental-headed sash windows grouped 1-3-1.

Inside opposite the main doorways on the vestibule there are 3 round-headed lights with etched glass and coloured margin lights, to access the main chapel there are 2 flanking doors, while to access the gallery there are 2 round-headed arches with panelled soffits, 1 on each side of the vestibule.

The gallery is 4-sided raked with a lower behind the pulpit, where the organ is placed, is carried by cast iron columns decorated with foliage capitals. The cast iron gallery front has openwork panels of leaves and scrolls.

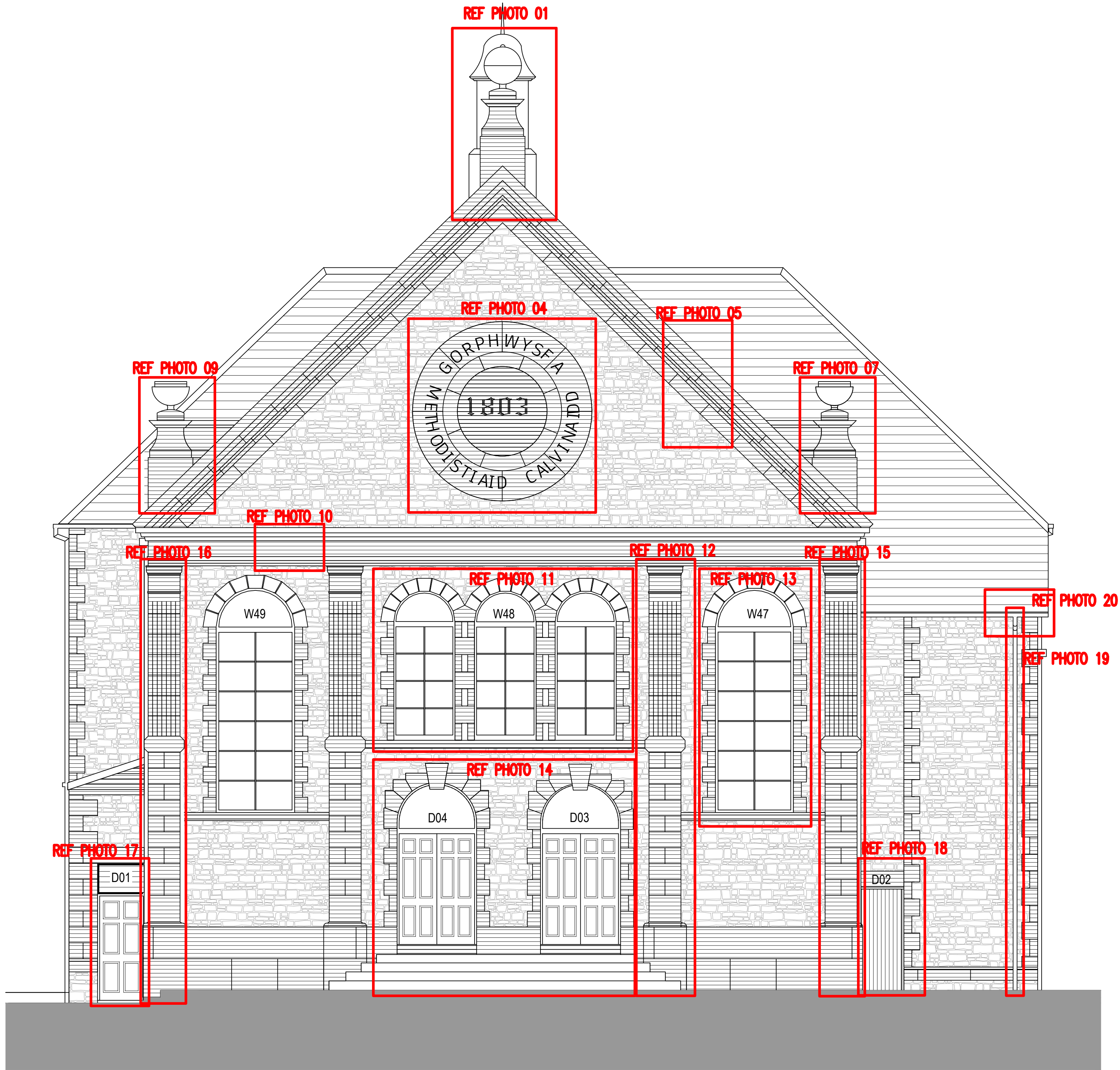
The set fawr is raised higher and is defined by a rail with cast iron columns sprouting foliage scrolls and a moulded hand rail, while the polygonal pulpit has round-arched panels and flanking stairs with turned balusters and fluted newels.

The main chapel has a panelled roof with heavy ribs and 3 central fret-cut stellar panels, and a more delicately moulded cornice, the windows have shafted arches.



Chapel Elevations with photo reference location





PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION
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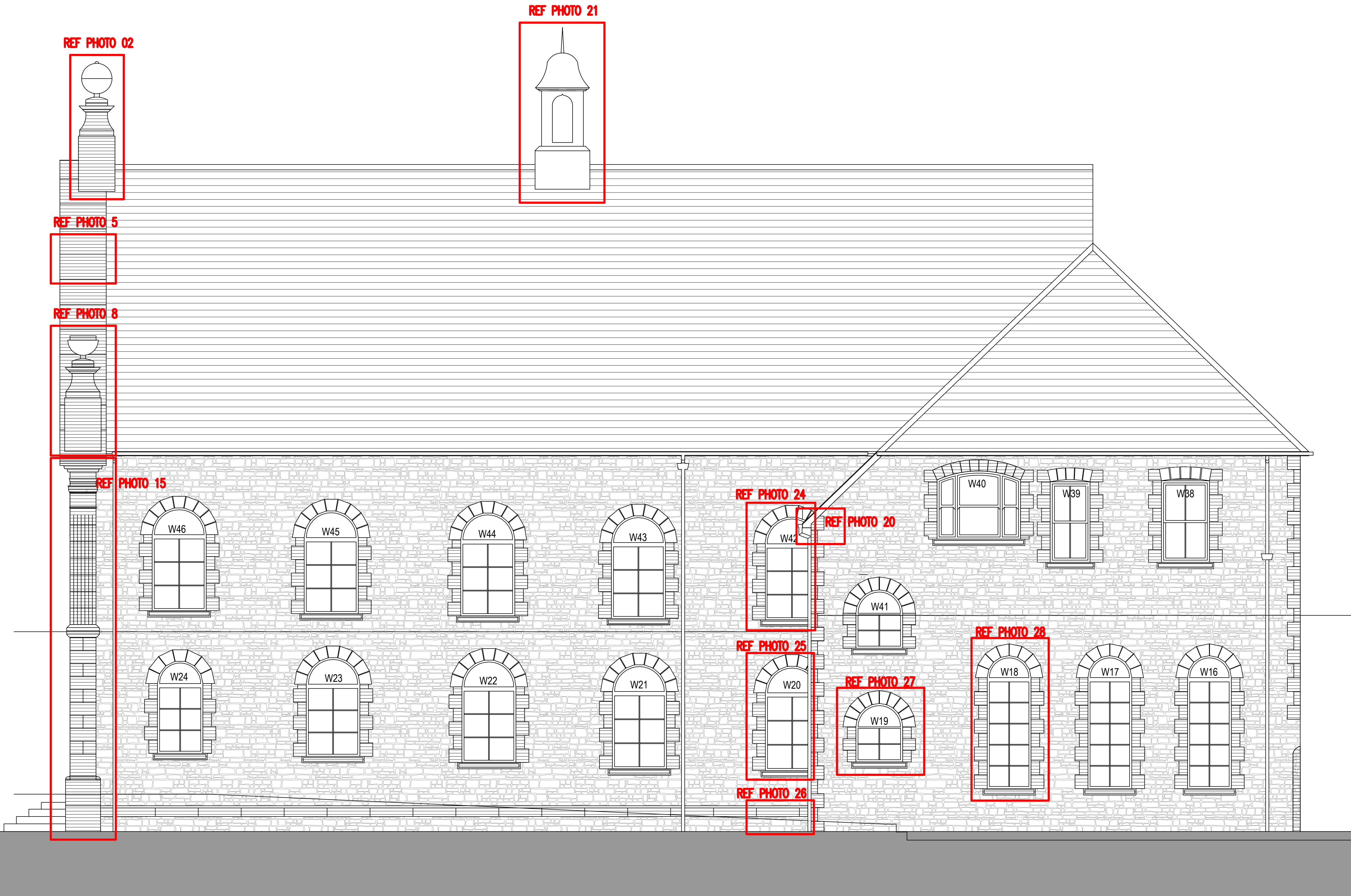
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Job title PLANNING AND LISTED BUILDING CONSENT, GORFFWYSFA CHAPEL, SKEWEN					
Drawing title PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION CADW SUBMISSION					
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PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION
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PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION CADW SUBMISSION

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approved	JH	27.11.23

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PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION
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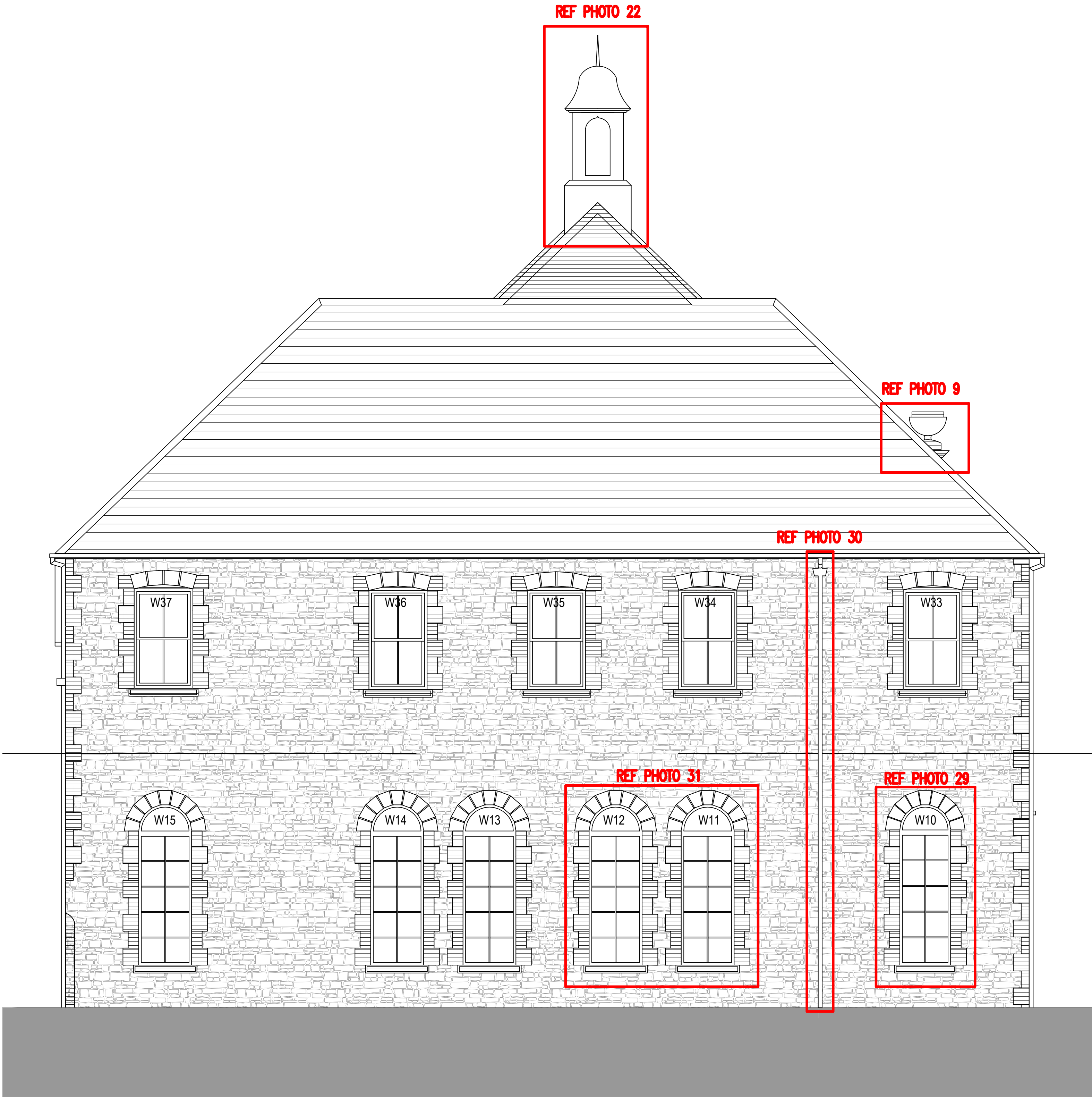
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PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
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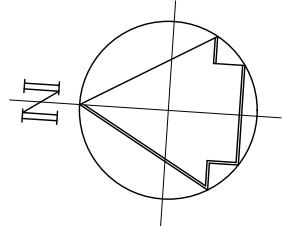
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Chapel Ground Floor Plan with photo reference locations





PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN
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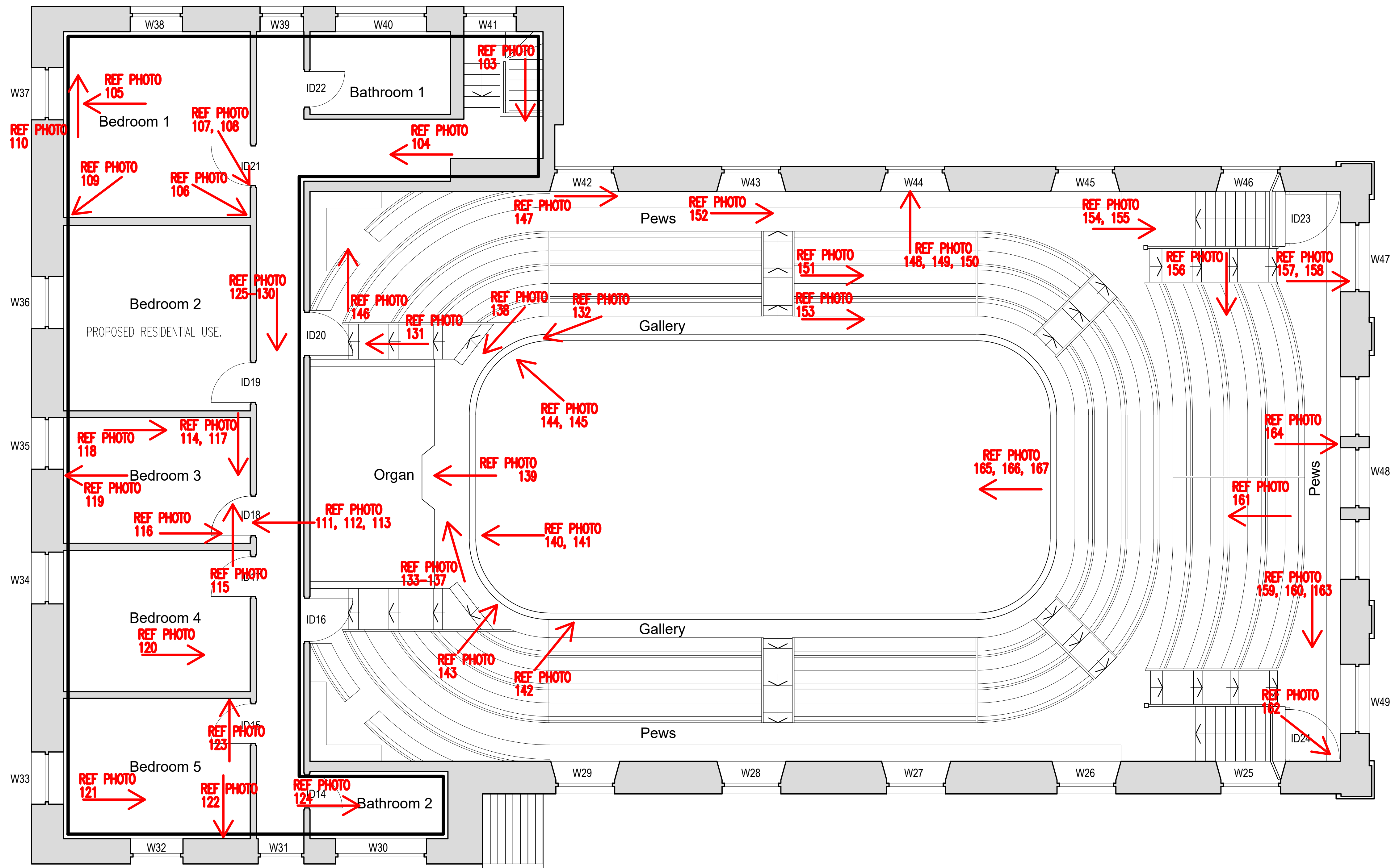
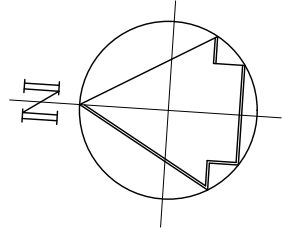
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Chapel First Floor Plan with photo reference locations





PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE 1:50 @ A1

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Photo Ref 01: Decorative Finial detail on the top centre of the main façade of the chapel with moulded cornice. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 02: Decorative Finial detail on the rear if the main façade of the chapel. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 03: Decorative Finial and Urn detail on the main façade of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 04: Detail in relief of the name of the chapel and the year it was built with moulded cornice. View from South elevation (note the spelling).



Photo Ref 05: Detail of the joint between the roof and front façade of the chapel showing the moulded cornice. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 06: Detail of the joint between the roof and front façade of the chapel (Urn). View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 07: Decorative detail (Urn) on the top lateral of the main façade of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 08: Decorative detail (Urn) on the top lateral of the main façade of the chapel. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 09: Decorative detail (Urn) on the top lateral of the main façade of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 10: Decorative Cornice and Pilaster detail on the top of the main façade of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 11: Trio of round headed windows on the front façade. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 12: Front fluted pilaster detail. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 13: Detail of side window of main facade. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 14: Detail of the main painted panelled doors with arched fanlights of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 15: Lateral fluted pilaster detail. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 16: Lateral pilaster detail. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 17: Detail of the left-side door of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 18: Detail of the right-side door of the chapel. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 19: Detail of the lower part of the drain pipe. View from South elevation.



Photo Ref 20: Detail of the top part of the drain pipe and roof. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 21: Detail of the central cupola of the chapel's ventilation system. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 22: Detail of the central cupola of the chapel's ventilation system. View from North elevation.



Photo Ref 23: Detail of the central cupola of the chapel's ventilation system. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 24: Detail of one of the first-floor round headed side windows of the chapel. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 25: Detail of one of the ground-floor round headed side windows of the chapel. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 26: Detail of the interior door arch of the basement. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 27: Detail of the round headed staircase window. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 28: Detail of one of the ground-floor round headed side windows of the chapel. View from East elevation.



Photo Ref 29: Detail of the upper arch of one of the round headed windows at the back of the chapel. View from North elevation.



Photo Ref 30: Detail of the clip that connects the drain pipe to the wall. View from the North elevation.



Photo Ref 31: Detail of the semi dressed rustic window sill of one of the windows at the back of the chapel. View from North elevation.



Photo Ref 32: Double grille detail of the ventilation system. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 33: Detail of one of the ground-floor round headed side windows of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 34: Single grille detail of the ventilation system. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 35: Detail of one of the round headed ground-floor side windows of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 36: Detail of the ventilation pipe from the organ of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 37: Detail of one of the first-floor arched side windows of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 38: Detail of one of the first-floor arched side windows of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 39: Detail of the joint between the roof and lateral façade of the chapel. View from West elevation.



Photo Ref 40: Access first floor stairs, these are located on both sides of the main entrance lobby.
Front view from the lobby.



Photo Ref 41: Arch with painted moulded decoration, this arch is located at the entrance to the stairs leading to the first floor of the chapel. Front view from the Lobby.



Photo Ref 42: Arch with moulded decoration, this arch is located at the entrance to the stairs leading to the first floor of the chapel. Side view from the lobby.



Photo Ref 43: Decorative cubical copper coloured transparent glass lamp with moulded ceiling rose to a painted pattern, located in the main entrance lobby.



Photo Ref 44: Triplet of semi-circular arch windows composed of decorative stained-glass located on the wall that separates the Lobby from the Chapel. Front view from the main entrance.



Photo Ref 45: Close-up view of one of the triplet of semi-circular arch windows.



Photo Ref 46: Internal view of one of the side windows of the front facade. View from the access stairs to the first floor upwards.

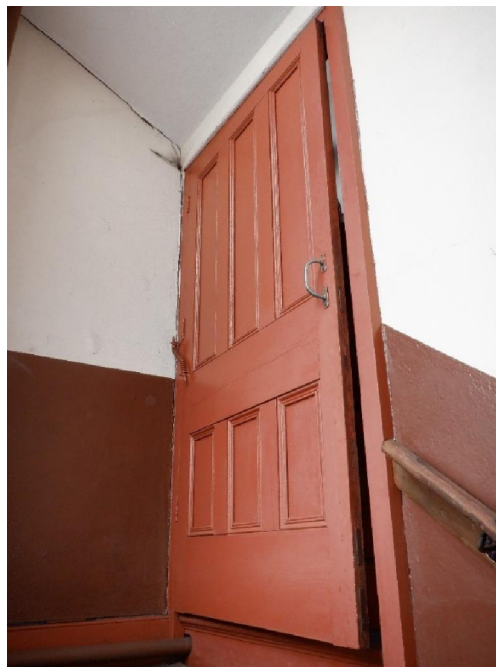


Photo Ref 47: Access door to the first floor of the chapel from the lobby.



Photo Ref 48: Overall view of the pews to the right-side aisle. View from the altar.

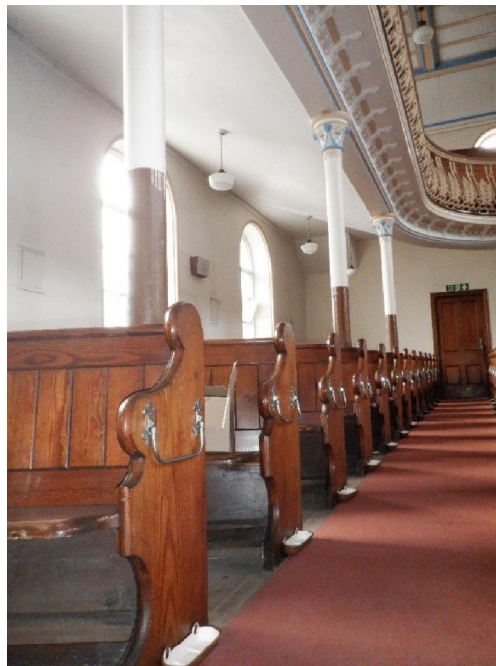


Photo Ref 49: Overall view of the right-side Aisle pews. View from the altar.

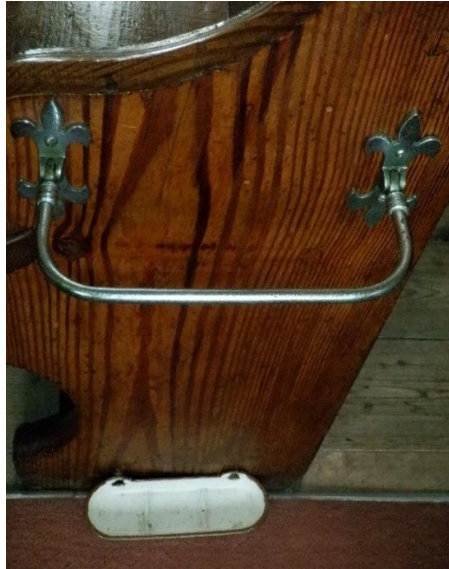


Photo Ref 50: Close-up view of one of the pew ends, details of a two-part metal umbrella stand.

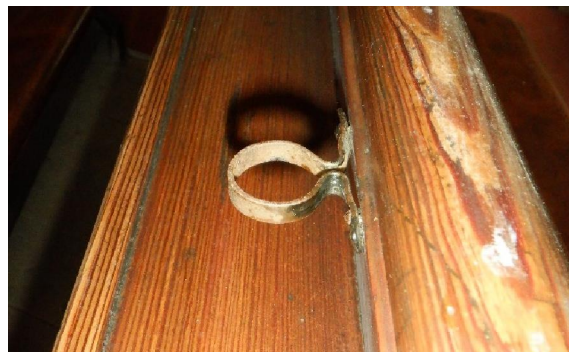


Photo Ref 51: Detail glass holder for wine drunk during the holy communion ceremonies. On each pew there are several of these items.

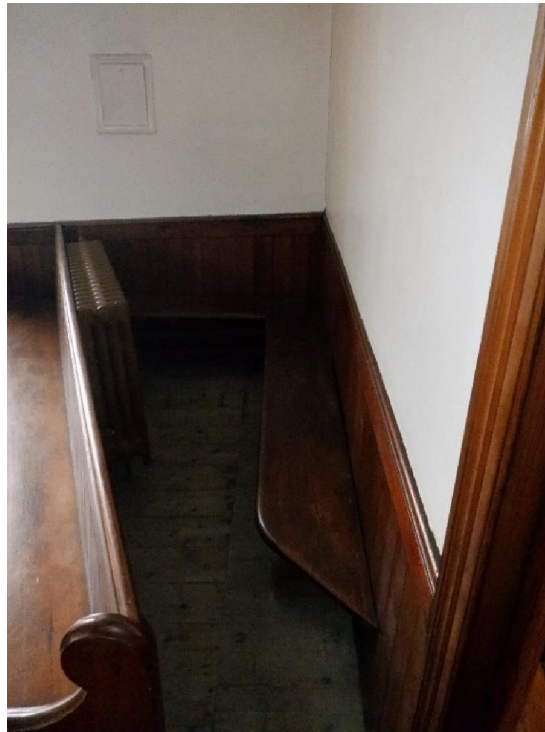


Photo Ref 52: L-shaped bench in front of the radiator located at the rear of the aisle. View from the hallway.



Photo Ref 53: Bottom hung metal ventilation shutter installed on the inside of the chapel with direct connection to the external.



Photo Ref 54: Open metal ventilation shutter.



Photo Ref 55: Internal view of a ground floor, bottom hung window with stay. All ground floor windows have the same detail.



Photo Ref 56: Internal view of window opening, all ground floor windows have the same detail.



Photo Ref 57: Ceiling of the right aisle of the chapel with lights. View towards the altar. The ceiling to the left aisle of the Chapel is the same layout.



Photo Ref 58: Close-up view of the aisle lamps.

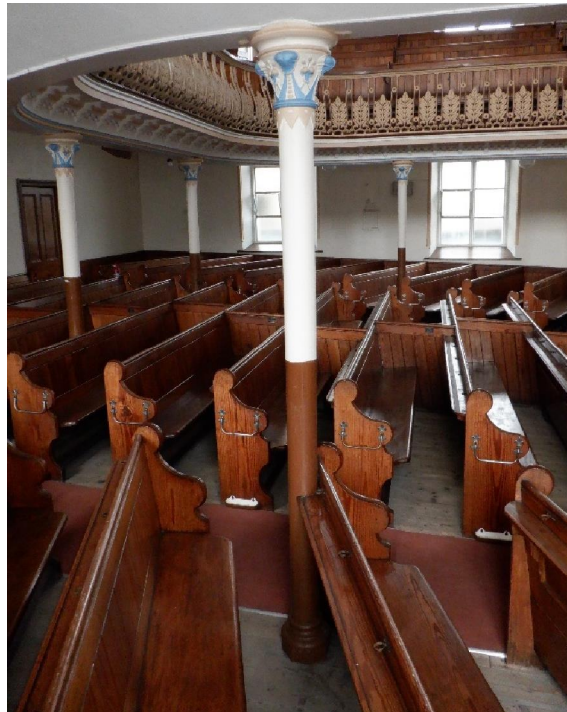


Photo Ref 59: Ground floor decorated cast iron columns. These columns are decorated in a Modern Corinthian style. View from the right aisle towards the centre of the Chapel.



Photo Ref 60: Upper part of the column seen from the nave.



Photo Ref 61: Close-up view of the upper part of the column.



Photo Ref 62: Overview of the ground floor of the chapel. View from the lobby entrance to the altar.



Photo Ref 63: Overview of the ground floor of the chapel. View from the altar facing the lobby.

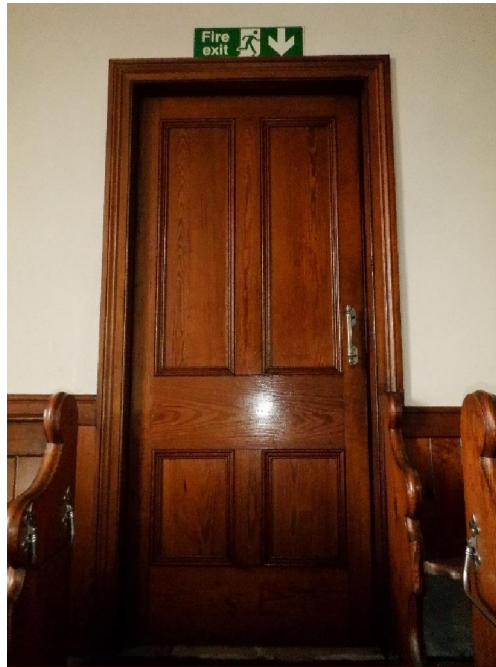


Photo Ref 64: Panelled door (RHS) connecting the lobby with the Chapel. View from the Chapel.



Photo Ref 65: Small aluminium plate located on both sides on the centre of the nave pews.



Photo Ref 66: View of the central pew showing where the aluminium plate is installed.



Photo Ref 67: Close-up view of the front part of the pew.



Photo Ref 68: Close-up view of the lower part of the pew.



Photo Ref 69: Overall view of the altar of the Chapel. View from the left aisle towards the altar.



Photo Ref 70: Close-up view of the predella (altar platform) along with the heating pipe.



Photo Ref 71: Internal view of the predella along the access steps and the table of the altar. View from the left aisle towards the altar.

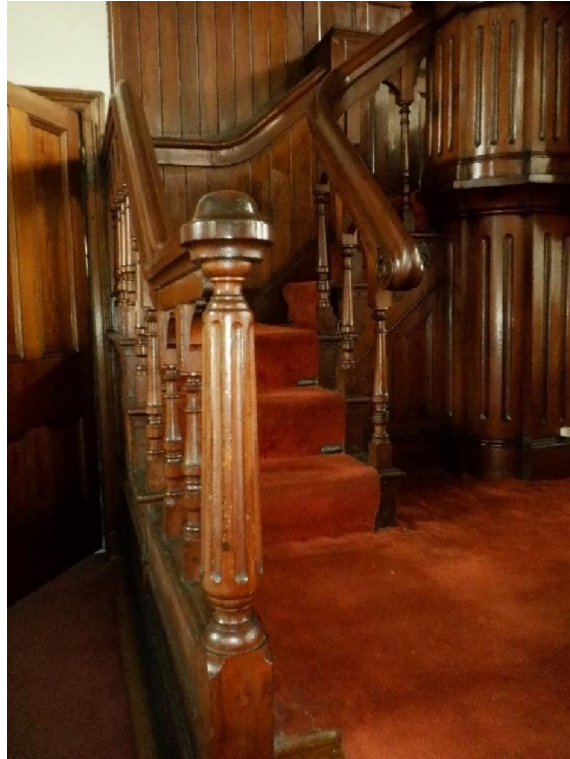


Photo Ref 72: Overall view of the staircase to access the pulpit platform.



Photo Ref 73: Close-up view of the newel post to access the predella.



Photo Ref 74: Close-up view of the newel post to access the pulpit platform.

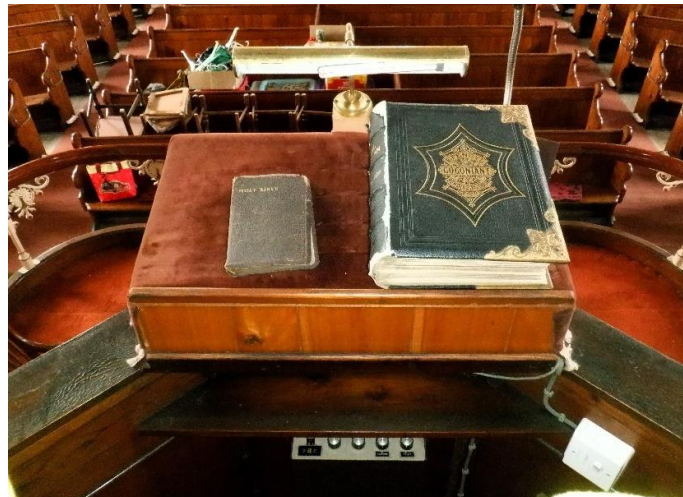


Photo Ref 75: Interior view of the pulpit platform.



Photo Ref 76: Detail of the interior balustrade of the staircase leading to the pulpit platform from the Altar. View from the pulpit.



Photo Ref 77: Detail of the pulpit platform rail, front area. View from the altar.



Photo Ref 78: Detail of the pulpit platform rail, right side area. View from the altar.



Photo Ref 79: Detail of the pulpit platform rail, right side area and part of the baluster. View from the altar.



Photo Ref 80: Detail of the Gothic style mini column that supports the pulpit platform. View from the altar.



Photo Ref 81: Detail of the Gothic style mini column that supports the pulpit platform. Side view from the Altar.

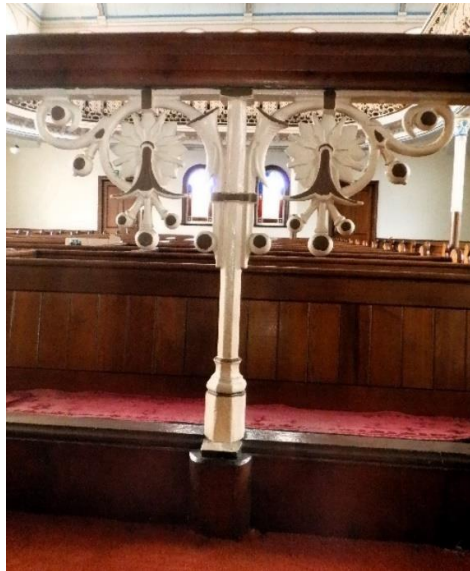


Photo Ref 82: Interior detail of one of the Altar balustrades. View from the altar.



Photo Ref 83: View to the hall access door, along one of the many radiators of the chapel.

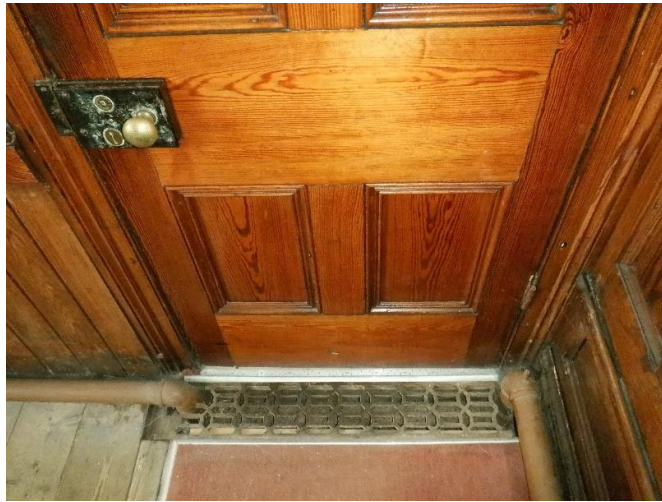


Photo Ref 84: Detail of the grille at the bottom of the access door to the hall where the heating pipes go down to the basement where the machinery is installed. View from the hallway towards the Hall.



Photo Ref 85: Close-up view of the grille detail.