



St Mary Magdalene Turnastone

Visitor Accommodation Project
Update Spring 2021



Background

- Herefordshire Churches Tourism Group, working in partnership with the Diocese of Hereford and the Churches Conservation Trust, secured funding from the National Heritage Lottery Fund Inspiring Ideas programme in 2019.
- The purpose of the programme is to fund innovative ideas and test new approaches for places of worship to help them to be more financially resilient and sustainable.
- Our project, Virtuous Circles, proposes to install a low-energy and reversible holiday accommodation unit in the nave at St. Mary's, Turnastone.



St Mary's is a Grade II* Listed building dating back to the late 12th, early 13th Century.

Having fallen into a poor state of repair, it was restored in the late 19th century.

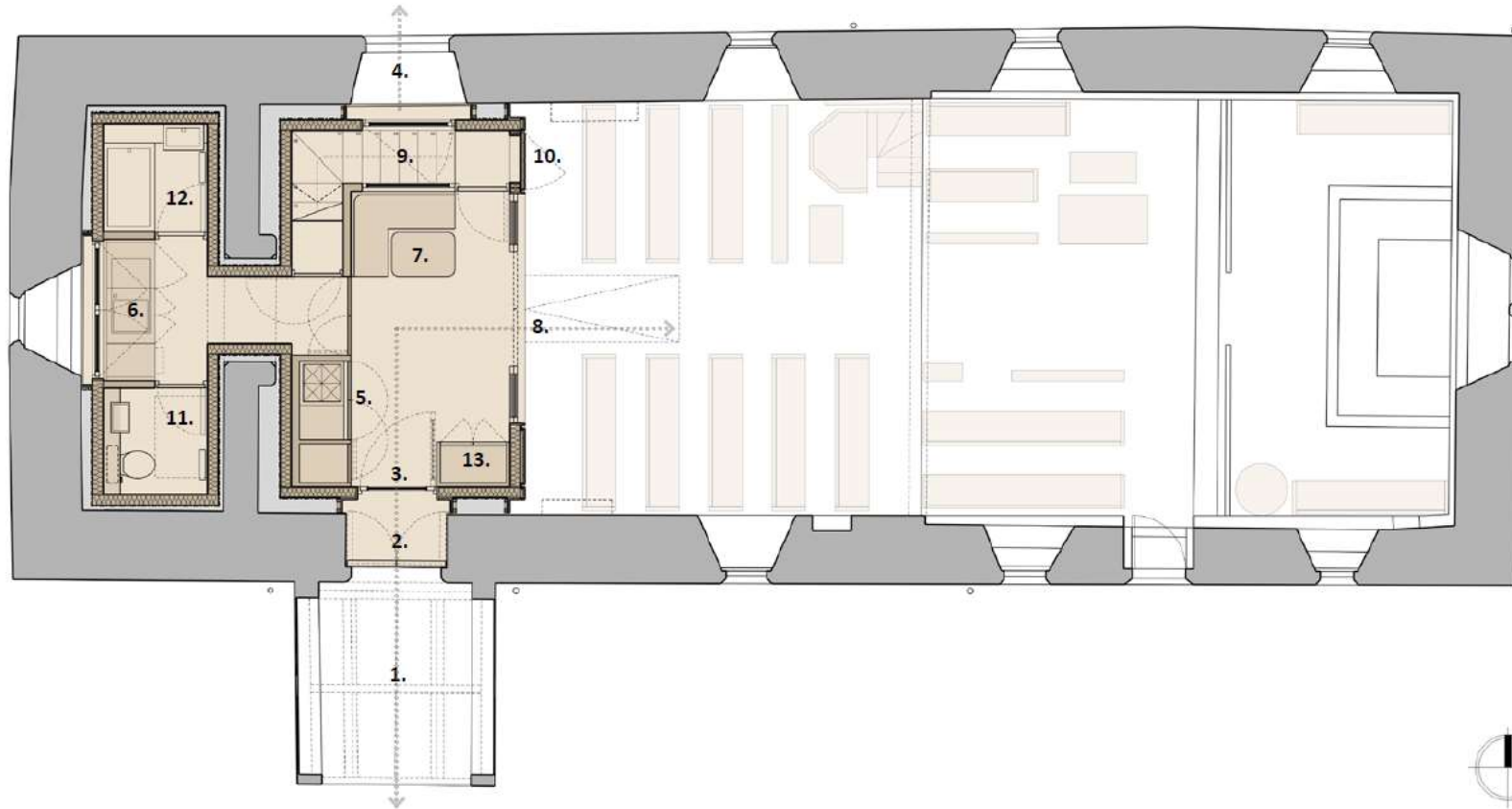
St Mary's is a beautiful but underused parish church, in the Golden Valley, Herefordshire, with only a handful of dwellings and mostly farm pasture land.

St Mary's is still open for regular, monthly worship.

Progress to Date

- The funding awarded in 2019 has enabled the project partners to work with Vowchurch and Turnastone PCC to appoint project management support and a professional design team.
- Connolly Wellingham Architects were appointed early in 2019 and have been working on a number of design iterations, to ensure what is proposed is in keeping with the important heritage at St Mary's and meets the aspirations of the PCC and congregation.
- Sam Hine, from Communities Can, was appointed as Project Manager in November 2019 and is helping to develop a project that will be achievable and viable and ultimately result in a successful, sustainable initiative for Turnastone and one that can be replicated elsewhere.

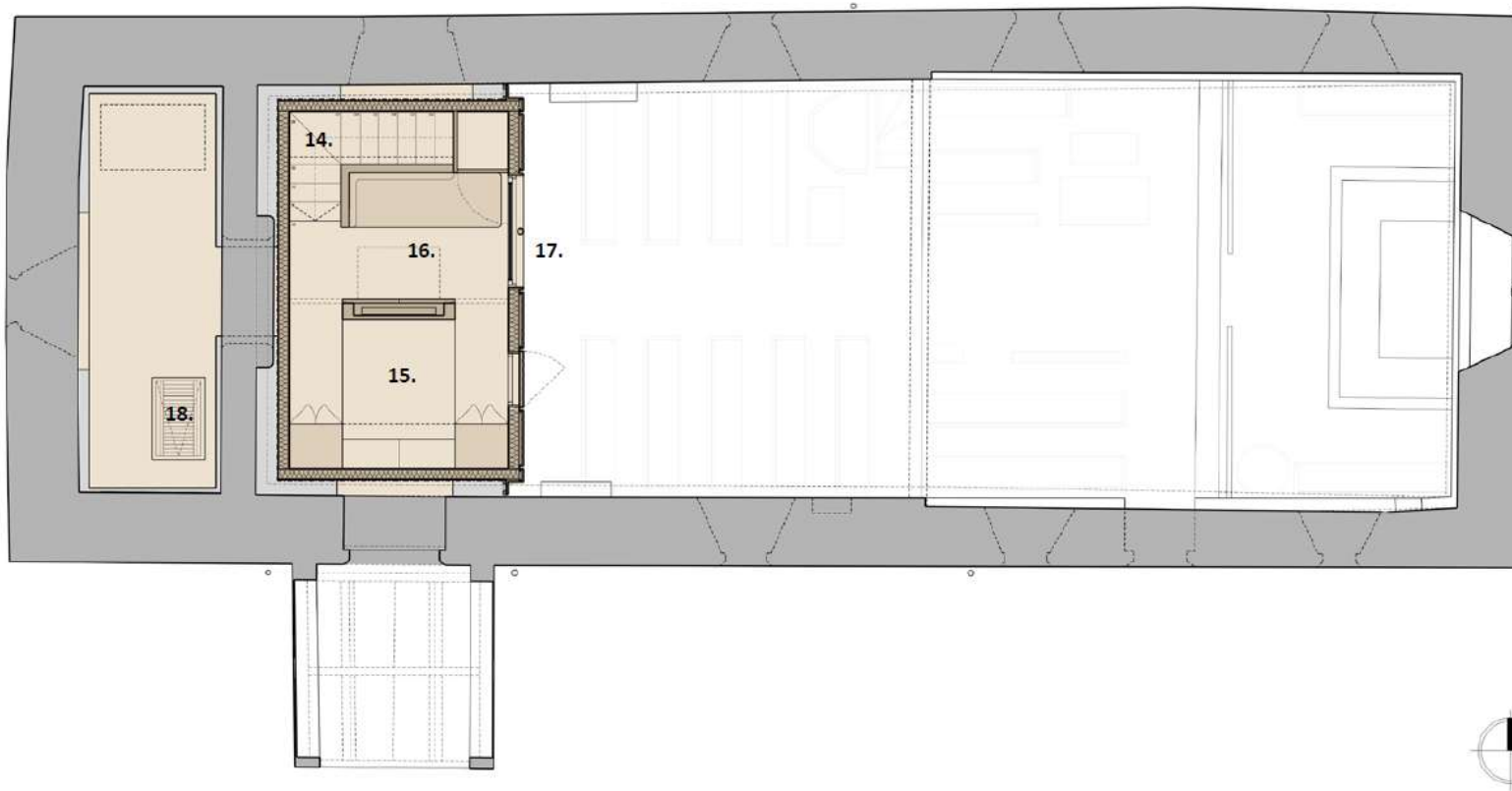
Latest Plans



1. Entrance through south Porch
2. New door arrangement
3. Glazed door into accommodation
4. View retained through north window
- 5 and 6. Kitchen units
7. Dining area
8. Glazed sliding doors into Nave
9. Stairs to sleeping area
10. Secondary means of escape
11. Toilet
12. Shower

Ground Floor Proposed Layout

Latest Plans



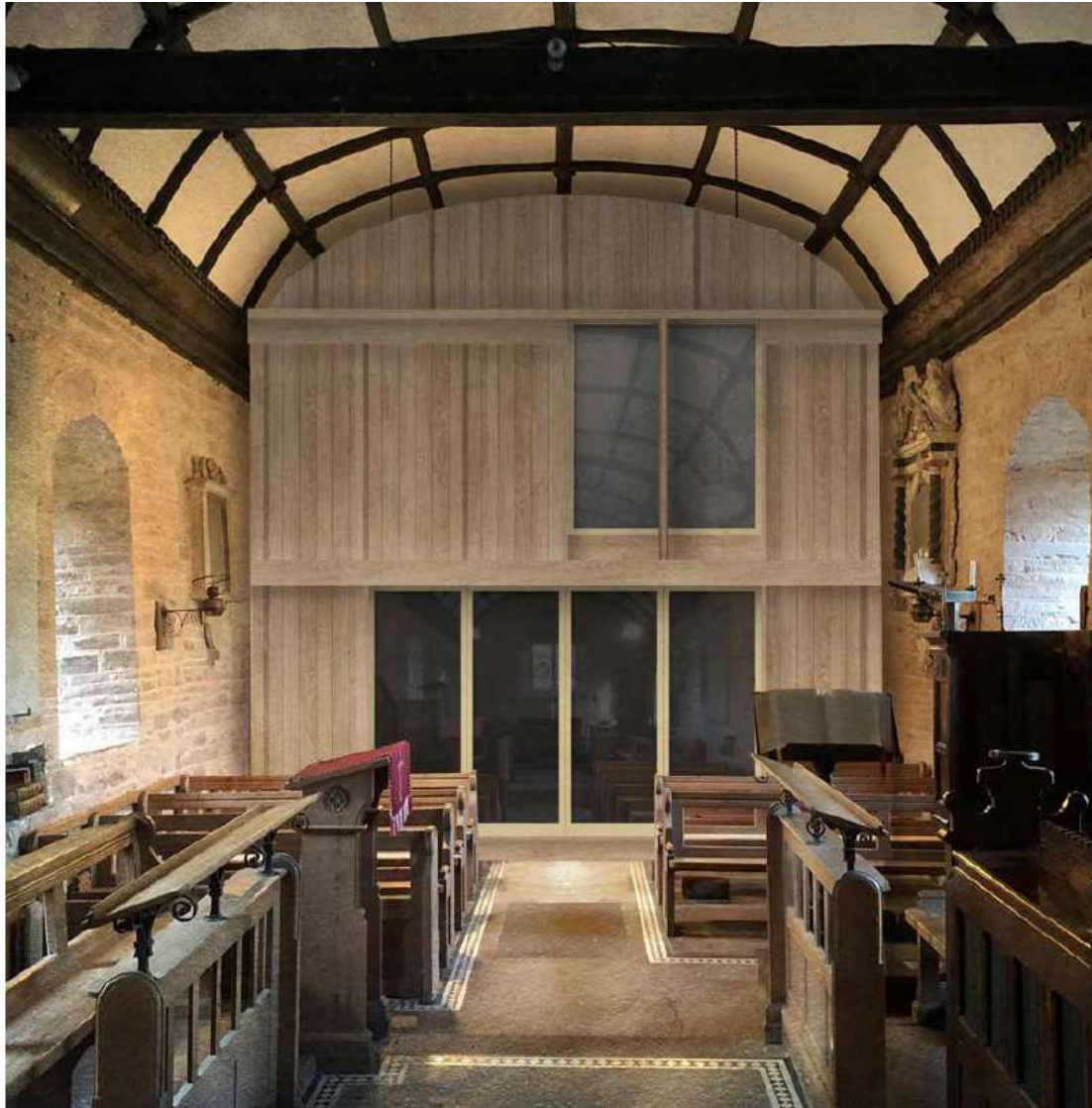
- 14. Stairs to sleeping area
- 15. Sleeping area
- 16. Snug space to include TV
- 17. Full height glazed panel overlooking Nave and Chancel
- 18. Service hatch

Upper Floor Proposed Layout

Latest Plans



Cross section looking north - helps give a sense of scale and how the structure will sit within the building.



Schematics to demonstrate the look and feel of the space for visitors and the congregation.

Progress to date

- At a special meeting of the Vowchurch and Turnastone PCC (Parochial Church Council) in July 2020 it was resolved that the project should proceed to detailed design, securing the necessary permissions and applying for capital funding to undertake the work.
- The Faculty application and planning application have now been submitted, March 2021.
- The Churches Conservation Trust is guiding and supporting the project, bringing their experience of Champing where visitors are already enjoying staying overnight in churches across the country.
- The Churches Conservation Trust will be taking on the bookings and management of the accommodation in the future, working in partnership with the PCC.

Would you like to get involved?

- The Steering Group for the project is hoping local people will get more involved as the project develops.
- Anyone with an interest in finding out more, helping to develop the business plan, promoting the project, even taking on some of the local roles and responsibilities is invited to get in touch with Project Manager, Sam Hine, turnastone@visitherefordshirechurches.co.uk
07974 772840
- To keep up to date visit our new Facebook page @Virtuous Circles Turnastone or http://www.wyedoreparishes.org.uk/Turnastone_files/AccomUnit.htm