

## **HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT**

### **Background and Surroundings**

The application relates to works involved at:

Elim Pentecostal Church  
Daisy Hill  
Dewsbury  
West Yorkshire  
WF13 1LY  
United Kingdom

Elim Pentecostal Church, formerly Central Methodist Church, is a Grade II listed building situated on Daisy Hill in Dewsbury. The west elevation faces Wellington Street and the south elevation faces Daisy Hill. The north elevation faces the adjacent property, the Registrars' office, and the east elevation faces the former Magistrate's Court.

The building was constructed in 1839 as the Central Methodist Church. The south elevation consists of rusticated ashlar to the ground floor atop a rock faced plinth. Hammer dressed stone covers the side elevations. The south elevation is 2 storeys high with string course and a 5-bay façade. The upper floor is framed in wide flat Tuscan pilasters. The elevation is topped with a frieze, moulded eaves cornice and blocking course, the centre of which is raised and has the word WESLEYAN in raised capitals. There are five round arched 1st floor windows with marginal glazing along with three similar outer ground floor windows with apron. The central ground floor window consists of stained glass and has a memorial apron to 1st World War. There are two symmetrically placed double, panelled doors with semi-circular fanlights and a small flight of stone steps leading to each. A central tablet reads 'CENTENARY CHAPEL'. The west elevation consists of a 6-bay façade with 1st floor windows as before, and square headed ground floor windows all with marginal glazing. To the left, a further 2 bays of lower eaves height with a hipped roof.

The building was purchased by Elim Pentecostal Church in December 2009. Initially, the building could seat up to 1100. The elliptical gallery supported by slender cast iron columns is now used as a storage area. The centre of the galleried area has been in-filled and the ceiling has been lowered to this level. The gallery still contains the original pews, however, the ground floor 19<sup>th</sup> Century box pews have all been removed to provide a more flexible seating arrangement. The original organ has also been removed.

### **Context**

The toilets to the ground floor have received minor repair works over the past few years and, as such, most of the elements within the area are currently in good condition. The timber skirting boards currently within the gents and ladies toilets show evidence of rot. In spite of repeated repairs, these boards still show significant signs of damage.

Over the past few years, the congregation at Elim Church, Dewsbury has grown in number and as such, the present toilet facilities can no longer support the increased number of building users overall. As such, the current toilet design and layout must be reconsidered in order to account for this increase.

The first floor is mainly hired out for use by those who have retired during the week. Over the weekend, this area is used as the crèche and young children's space. The existing first floor toilet, added prior to Elim's purchase of the building, consists of a cantilevered room of timber frame construction mounted on steel brackets with concrete cladding panels accessed via the kitchen. The toilet itself is suffering from severe rot to the structural timbers and is no longer safe to use.

## **Proposals**

The WC facilities available within the church will be remodelled to allow for the creation of additional cubicles to the ground floor as well as the inclusion of an accessible toilet with baby changing facilities to both the ground and first floors.

The current caretaker's store to the ground floor is to be redesigned to house the proposed Gents WC leaving more room for the extension of the Ladies WC. The proposed Disabled WC utilises the door opening of the current Gents WC thus minimising the impact on the proposed extension to the Ladies WC.

The current store will be reduced in size in order to create room for the proposed caretaker store.

To the first floor, the area between the door, the main exterior wall and the chimney breast within the kitchen, currently used for shelving, shall be separated from the kitchen by stud walling. This will situate the proposed toilet as close to the location of the existing toilet whilst minimising undue traffic through the kitchen as well as utilising the existing plumbing and pipework.

Both disabled toilets shall include wall mounted baby changing tables as well.

## **Design Considerations and Assessment**

The church has seen an increase in attendance, and as such, updating the ground floor layout to increase the number of available facilities is essential in order to minimise the queues that form outside the toilets during the breaks.

Replacing the first floor toilet is essential as this minimises the distance to the nearest toilet, especially for the users of the rooms to the first floor who are mostly retired and have difficulty traversing stairs.

Wherever possible, the proposals have utilised the existing door openings in order to minimise the overall impact on the existing overall layout.

## **Heritage Impact**

Most of the original ground floor layout has been retained within the proposal, especially to the corridor areas. Existing elements of historic significance such as the safe within the caretaker store shall be retained on site. The floor to the caretaker store consists of York stone pavings which are in reasonable condition. As this area is to be a toilet, the proposed vinyl flooring shall be laid over the existing flooring in order to retain the historic materials.

In order to simplify maintenance, the carpet within the existing store shall also be replaced with vinyl.

To the first floor area, the existing cantilevered toilet shall be demolished as it is unsafe and has more of a detrimental effect on the heritage and aesthetic of the building overall.

All flooring to toilet areas shall be replaced with blue sheet vinyl flooring utilising the existing timber skirting boards where practicable. Where damaged, skirting boards shall be replaced on a like for like basis to match existing.

Wall and ceiling finishes shall be retained as much as reasonably practicable within the design. The only notable change to these elements is the wall paint colour from pastel green to white within the existing toilet areas.

## **Access**

Access through the building will not be affected by these proposals.

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**Photo 1  
Gents WC**



**Photo 2  
Ladies WC**



**Photo 3  
First Floor WC (External)**



**Photo 4  
First Floor WC (Internal)**

