Address: 127 Edge Lane Dewsbury WF12 0HB

About the application

Application number: 2025/90439	
What is the application for?:	Conversion of existing listed church to 2 dwellings, forming new residents car p
Address of the site or building:	Church of the Holy Innocents, Vicarage Road, Dewsbury, WF12 9PD
Postcode:	BD19 5LX

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

I am writing to formally object to the proposed planning application for the conversion of Thornhill Lees (Holy Innocents) Church into two residential apartments.

My family and I have deep-rooted, multi-generational connections to this church and its surrounding grounds. Several members of our family, spanning multiple generations, are buried in the churchyard—some in extremely close proximity to the building where the conversion is proposed. These are not just historical markers but cherished resting places, regularly visited and deeply respected by us and our wider family.

The church and its grounds are sacred, not only in a religious sense but also as a place of remembrance and peace. To undertake development on or near burial grounds—especially one so intimately tied to local families—is, in our view, deeply disrespectful. The proposed changes risk disturbing these graves, both physically and spiritually, and would permanently alter the sanctity of the site.

This is not merely a matter of planning policy or land use; it is about honouring the memory of those who came before us and preserving a place that holds immense cultural, emotional, and historical value to our family and the wider community.

We urge the planning authority to consider the unique sensitivities of this site and to reject the application in recognition of its sacred status and the irreversible harm this development would cause to its dignity.