

Facilities Case Study: Granborough St John the Baptist

As with many churches, finding space for the provision of facilities at St John's, Granborough, was a challenge. The PCC opted to put in a ringing platform in the tower, to free up space on the ground floor. In 2009 the PCC wished to install a servery and disabled WC facilities in the church but it was felt that there was not sufficient room for both.

A galley kitchen comprising of cupboards, a sink, mixer tap and drainage board was installed along the north wall of the ground floor of the tower, with the advantages of retaining more space, plus the keeping access from the west door free. Solid oak floor and wall units were selected along with a stone worktop for longevity, and, importantly, the units were fitted to a frame of vertical wooden battens with a ventilation gap between the units, floor and the wall, so as to prevent damp penetrating the units.

While the servery needed to be inside the church for practical reasons, it was decided that the WC should be located in a small, architect-designed stand-alone building a few metres away north of the tower, affording level access for disabled/frail users. The building was constructed in stained timber and weatherboarding, with a tile floor, sheltered lobby (for carers of the disabled or people queuing to use) leading to a disabled WC, with a separate store on the end with its own door. In this case, the use of timber was an economical alternative to stone, and was preferable because it helps the building to be read as ancillary and subservient to the church, while the slate roof is hard-wearing and in keeping with many of the roofs in the village.

