

900
BARTS
— 1123 - 2023 —



GREAT
ST BARTHOLOMEW



CELEBRATING 900 YEARS:
ANCHORED IN ETERNITY

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT
900TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST, RESTORE AND REJOICE IN THE FUTURE

In March 2023, we embarked on a year long celebration of the 900th anniversary of the founding of the ancient Priory church of St Bartholomew the Great. During the year we have celebrated our roles as stewards of this extraordinary legacy, we have taken stock of the church's facilities and fabric and we have embarked on a fundraising campaign to improve the welcome we offer our many visitors, from our local community and around the world.

Located at the heart of living history and anchored in eternity, we nevertheless embrace the future, and our plans will transform our visitor's experience of St Bartholomew the Great, whether that visitor is a member of our congregation, a tourist, a local resident, a worker in the city of London, a school child, an academic, a film maker, a chorister, a bride or a groom. In short, everyone who has experienced the delight of spending time in this incredible church, concealed in plain sight at the epicentre of the most vibrant city on the planet.

Our plans encompass the desperately needed repair and restoration of our ancient fabric; the creation of new kitchen and bathroom facilities; a breakout space in the crypt with access to the garden for school parties and the further enhancement of our gardens, including a columbarium in a peaceful, private area behind the south transept. These plans offer the opportunity to build on our history and share our heritage with all who visit us, with our reputation as a vital link to London's past a key aspect of our appeal. Our vision will see a great improvement to our public and private spaces, transforming St Bartholomew the Great into a beating heart of fellowship, friendship and education, for all those who come through our doors.

I hope that you will want to join me in making the anniversary campaign the success it deserves to be, on behalf of everyone who visits this remarkable church.



The Reverend Marcus Walker, Rector

Cover photo depicts a silk ribbon, designed for St Barts by Damien Hirst to enable us to re-enact the cutting of ribbon to declare the opening of a Disputation – a debate around two angles of a proposition ('Is money the root of all evil?'), that originated in the mediaeval era, when the debate was based around theological ideas. This was revived after the Reformation, when it was utilised to train school boys on the tactics and merits of healthy debate. We plan to hold a Disputation every year as the inaugural event was such a success.



TRANSFORMING OUR FABRIC, FACILITIES AND ACCESS TO HERITAGE

In the heart of Smithfield, with its creative firms, bars, restaurants, meat market and hospital, is a church built by the son of William the Conqueror. This year, as we mark the 900th anniversary of the founding of St Bartholomew the Great, we reflect on the many attempts to destroy it over the centuries: partially torn down on the order of Henry VIII, we survived the Reformation, the Civil War and the Great Fire of 1666 and, in the 20th century, we emerged relatively unscathed from the Zeppelin raids of the first and the Blitz of the second world wars. The whole constitutes a remarkable chronology of change and palimpsest of styles.

Our 900th Anniversary campaign encompasses five discreet projects, that together will enable us to offer the warmest possible welcome to every visitor. By vastly improving currently under-utilised (and in one case, condemned) spaces, we will optimise what we already have, and in doing so offer the best value for our donors, who will witness nothing less than a transformation of our facilities in time for the launch of the Culture Mile in 2026.



DISPUTATION IN FULL SWING ON 30TH AUGUST

BATHROOM FACILITIES AND EXISTING KITCHEN

It is an understatement to say that our current facilities are not fit for purpose. But, rather than remove the leaking and unstable 1980s extension to the church, we propose to re-purpose it, ensuring with 21st century engineering skills that the various damp ingresses are permanently tanked away, the whole external structure is reinforced while the interior is opened up to create modern facilities that will properly serve the needs of all visitors to St Barts the Great including wheelchair users, and people of all physical abilities.

We will sensitively landscape the currently ugly and unloved north gardens on Cloth Fair and will create access to these from the lift side of the crypt. This will create a flow of travel around the interior and exterior of St Barts that will open up parts of the church that are currently out of bounds and will enable new groups to experience the heritage we have to offer, especially groups of school children and our disabled visitors.



UNLOVED NORTH GARDEN ON CLOTH FAIR



RENOVATION TO THE CRYPT

Throughout our 900 years, St Barts the Great has been at the epicentre of major British events. This unique history makes us the ideal place to learn about this part of London and our social heritage. However, until now we have not had the space or facilities to enable us to welcome and accommodate parties of students, particularly school children, in a secure environment. Our 900th Anniversary plans include a break-out space for school children in our crypt, creating a warm and secure learning environment from a damp and dark basement, with direct access to our garden and access via the stairs and a lift.

As part of our educational package, we will curate a permanent exhibition based on the key documents and objects uncovered during the recent, but as yet incomplete, cataloguing of our archive. This will be located in the church's North Aisle, thus accessible to every one of our visitors.



IMAGES OF THE CRYPT



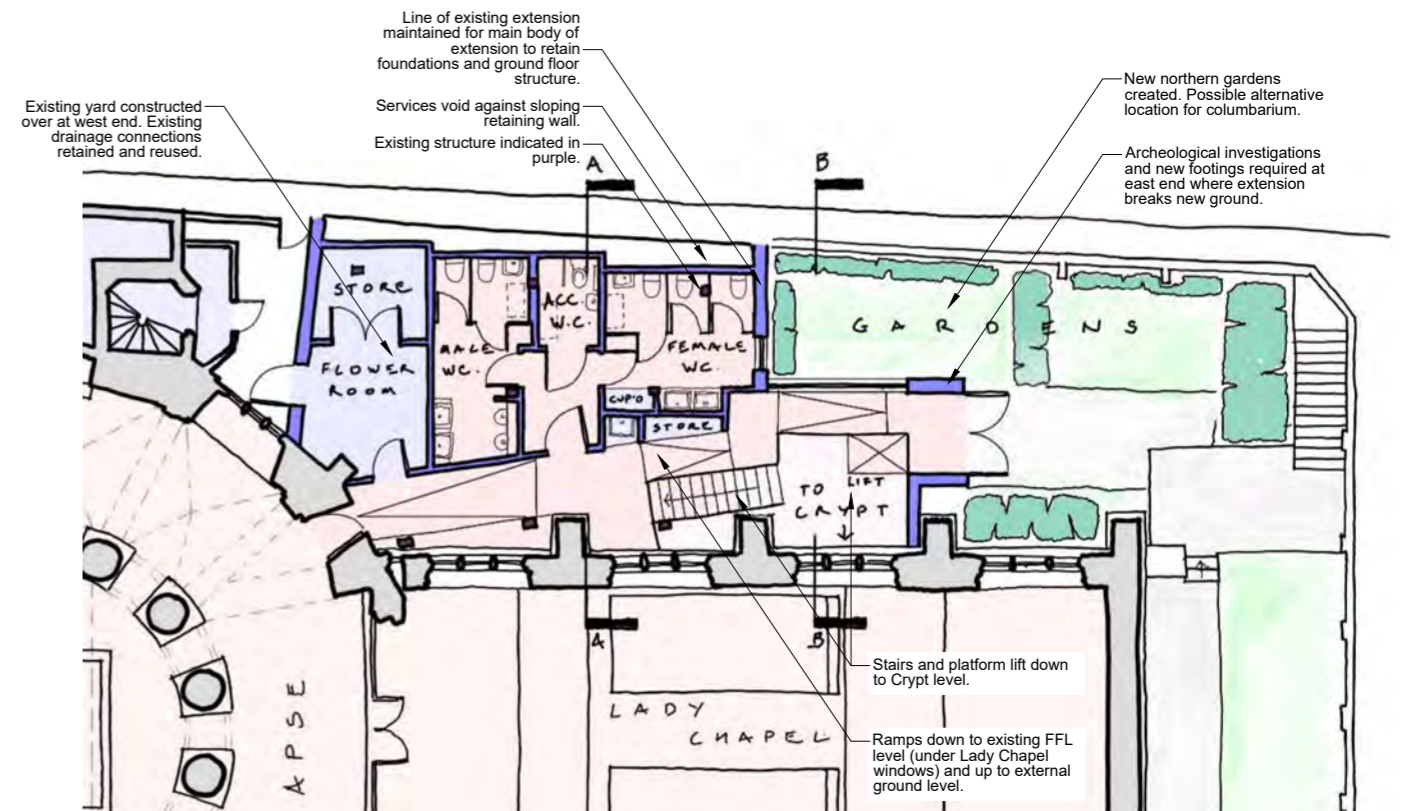
CONDEMNED KITCHEN WITH WATER INGRESS



STAIRS TO CRYPT



INTERIOR OF LADIES LAVATORY



NORTH GARDEN LANDSCAPE

NEW SACRISTY AND OFFICE

Improvements to the South Churchyard, which is currently a dark, damp, overgrown space, on multiple levels including a set of steep steps that take one up to a gate that is no longer viable. We will renovate, repair and render the existing walls to the churchyard, the cloister and the current Sacristy, to allow for architectural excavation and to build a new Sacristy and office/store within existing South Sacristy footprint, raising the floor level to allow seamless connection to South Aisle.



SITE OF PROPOSED NEW SACRISTY



DISUSED LIGHT FITTING IN CURRENT SACRISTY



DISUSED LIGHT SWITCH IN THE CRYPT



WATER INGRESS IN THE SACRISTY



MORE WATER INGRESS IN THE SACRISTY

Building on the good work of our amazing volunteers who have transformed the south garden from a rat-infested wilderness into a terraced haven, we will widen and level the paths to enable wheelchair access, install a ramp from the crypt and create rest areas for our visitors to relax and enjoy the solace of a green space.



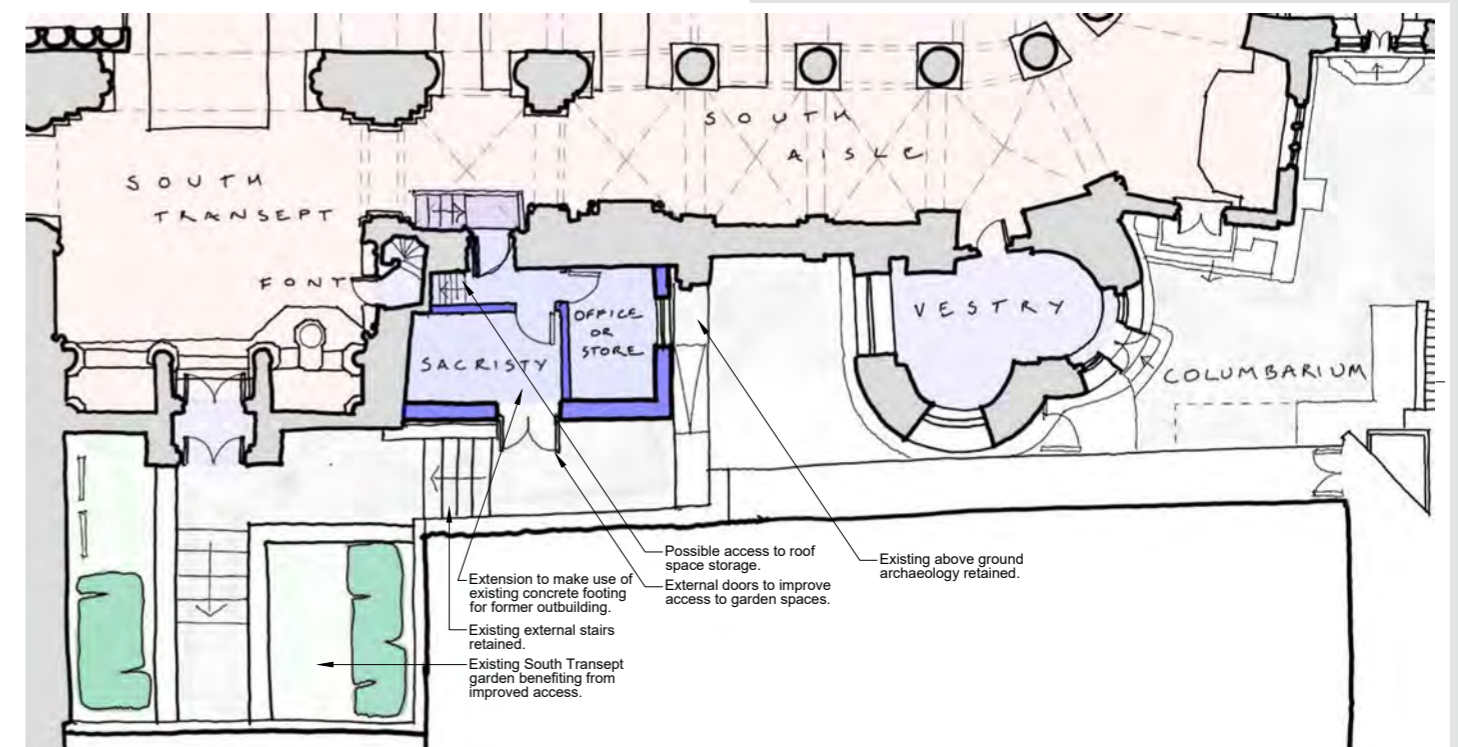
PROPOSED SITE FOR COLUMBARIUM

COLUMBARIUM

We currently do not have a dedicated space for the interment of ashes, although plans are well advanced to rectify this. The columbarium will be located be a place of quiet contemplation outside the South Vestry and accessible via the Lady Chapel, the Crypt or by walking around the garden. Crucially, this is effectively an area of verdant peacefulness and calm, which is in short supply in a city rich in concrete but poor in greenery.



SOUTH GARDENS



THE POD KITCHEN

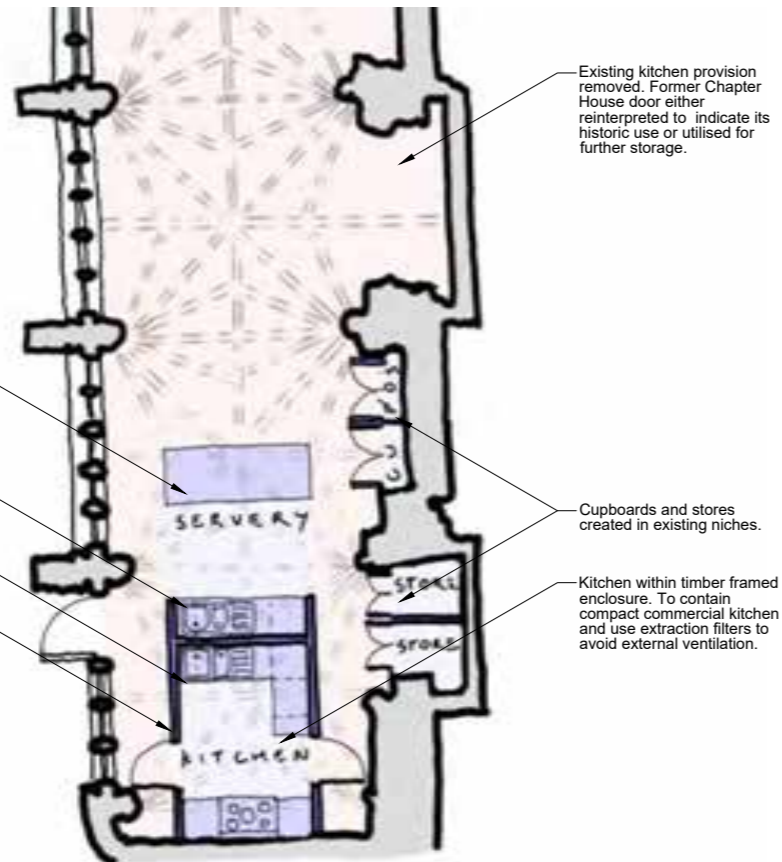
Our current kitchen facilities have been condemned as unsafe and have therefore not been used for 2 years. Our solution is simple and super flexible: we propose a 'pod' kitchen at the far end of the Cloister, as this is our main reception area for many of our functions. In addition to serving the guests at our events, the kitchen will enable us to serve teas and coffees to our drop in visitors during the day and its location next to an external door to the quad gives us the capacity to use it as a hub for feeding homeless hungry London residents at night.



CURRENT CONDEMNED KITCHEN



PLAN FOR THE POD KITCHEN



REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE FOR GREAT ST BARTS

The newly revised plans have five discrete components, that are all interlinked and are designed to run concomitantly. Together they represent vastly improved facilities for our many visitors and offer a flow of travel around the interior and exterior of St Barts that presents a significantly improved visitor experience, especially for our disabled visitors.

1. CREATION OF THE POD KITCHEN	£300,000
2. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITIES, INC LIFT TO CRYPT AND AN EXHIBITION TELLING THE STORY OF ST BARTS AND THE LOCAL AREA	£1,212,000
3. RENOVATION TO CRYPT & PROVISION OF BREAK OUT SPACE FOR CHILDREN	£700,000
4. RENOVATION OF SOUTH GARDENS, BUILD NEW SACRISTY & OFFICE ON EXISTING FOOTPRINT, PROVIDE ACCESS RAMP TO SOUTH GARDENS	£727,000
5. CREATION OF A COLUMBARIUM IN PEACEFUL LOCATION	£465,000
PROJECT TOTAL (ROUNDED UP TO ALLOW FOR CONTINGENCY)	*£3.5M

*Prices correct as of December 2023



HOW TO SUPPORT

Scan this QR code to support the St Bart's 900th Anniversary Appeal, by making a single or regular gift online. If you are a UK taxpayer, please consider using the Gift Aid form, so that we can increase your donation by 25% when we claim this from the government.

GIFT CARD

AN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST, RESTORE, AND REJOICE IN THE FUTURE

PERSONAL DETAILS

Title Forename(s) Surname

Address

Postcode Telephone number Email address

Please tick if you wish to remain anonymous. If not ticked, names may be listed both in publications and online.

PLEDGE DECLARATION

I/we are pleased to support the Great St Bartholomew's 900th Campaign by making my/our gift of:

Total amount £ Signature Date

I request that my gift is directed toward: Facilities Kitchen Education Exhibition Area of Greatest Need

METHOD OF PAYMENT

Frequency: Monthly Quarterly Biannually Annually One-off

Online bank transfer Amount £ _____ (Great St Bartholomew – Sort Code 40-07-24 – Account number 71302787)

Standing Order Please debit £ _____ on 1st 15th day of the month. (Please complete the Standing Order section below)

Cheque Amount £ _____ (Please make cheques payable to Great St Bartholomew)

Other For credit card payments, legacies or other types of gift such as shares or land, please contact our Church Manager on 020 7600 0440 or email church.manager@greatstbarts.com

I have given online using the QR code above Amount £ _____

Standing Order Form

I will set up the standing order online (Great St Bartholomew – Sort Code 40-07-24 – Account number 71302787)

I would like you to post this to my bank (please complete the details below)

Name and full postal address of your Bank/Building Society:

To The Manager Bank/Building Society

Address

Postcode

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Bank/Building Society account number Branch Sort Code

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Instructions to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay Great St Bartholomew Standing Order from the account detailed in this instruction. I understand that this instruction may remain with Great St Bartholomew and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Start date: End date:

Signature(s)

Date

GIFT AID By using Gift Aid you can increase the value of your gift.



Please treat all gifts of money that I make today and in the future to Great St Bartholomew as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify Great St Bartholomew if you want to cancel this declaration, have changed your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax. (Charity number 1163024)

Signature Date