



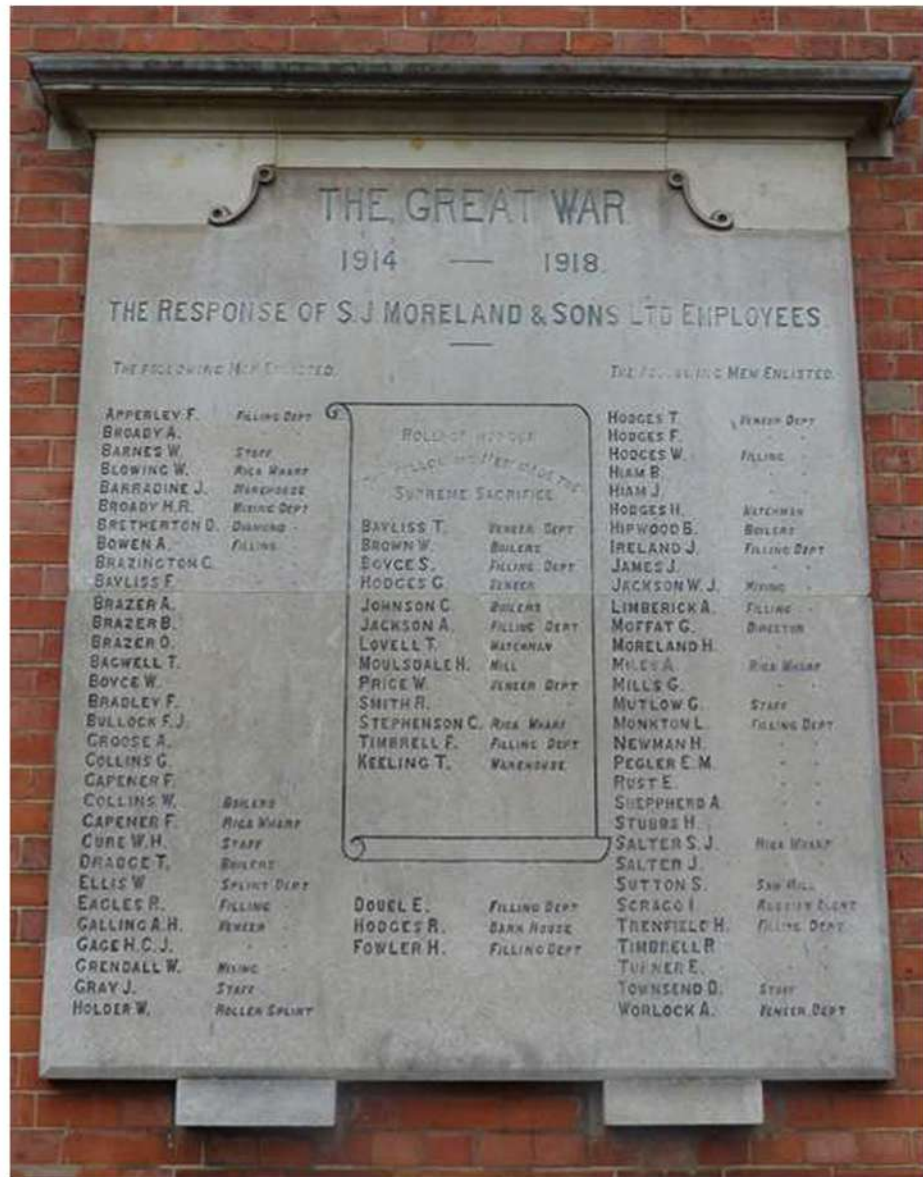
EXISTING/HISTORY/HERITAGE

- St Stephen's Church, initially known as St Luke the Less
- First consecrated in 1900, built to serve a growing community and to supplement the existing St Luke's church at High Orchard
- Designed by Walter Planck, a national architect in the late Gothic/Perpendicular style.
- Intended to fully occupy the plot and maximise internal space within the church, with no provision for burial space.
- Due to the grid pattern streets, the plot is orientated NW to SE, not the traditional East-West orientation
- Paid for by way of subscription, with construction planned in three phases.
- The church was finally completed between 1928-30, but not to the original plan.
- Revised plans by H A Dancey included the loss of the proposed tower and the west end set back from Bristol Road
- Considered to result in a poor architectural compromise which is now easily lost in the general streetscape of industrial units, shops and housing.
- On completion in 1930 the Church was re-dedicated to St Stephen.
- Many of the internal furnishings were renewed in the 1930s, with further significant fittings by Stephen Dykes-Bower added in the early 1940s
- Significant interior alterations in 1985 by means of a 'reordering, when the side aisles were partitioned and glazed to provide flexible meeting rooms, toilet and kitchen facilities.
- Serious flooding in 2007, resulting in the replacement of the 1930's chairs with contemporary examples.
- Active worship from its initial consecration in 1900, to its rededication in 1930, and then for a further 80 years until, in 2010, the adjacent parishes of St Paul's Gloucester and St Stephen's Gloucester were amalgamated, and St Stephen's was closed for worship.

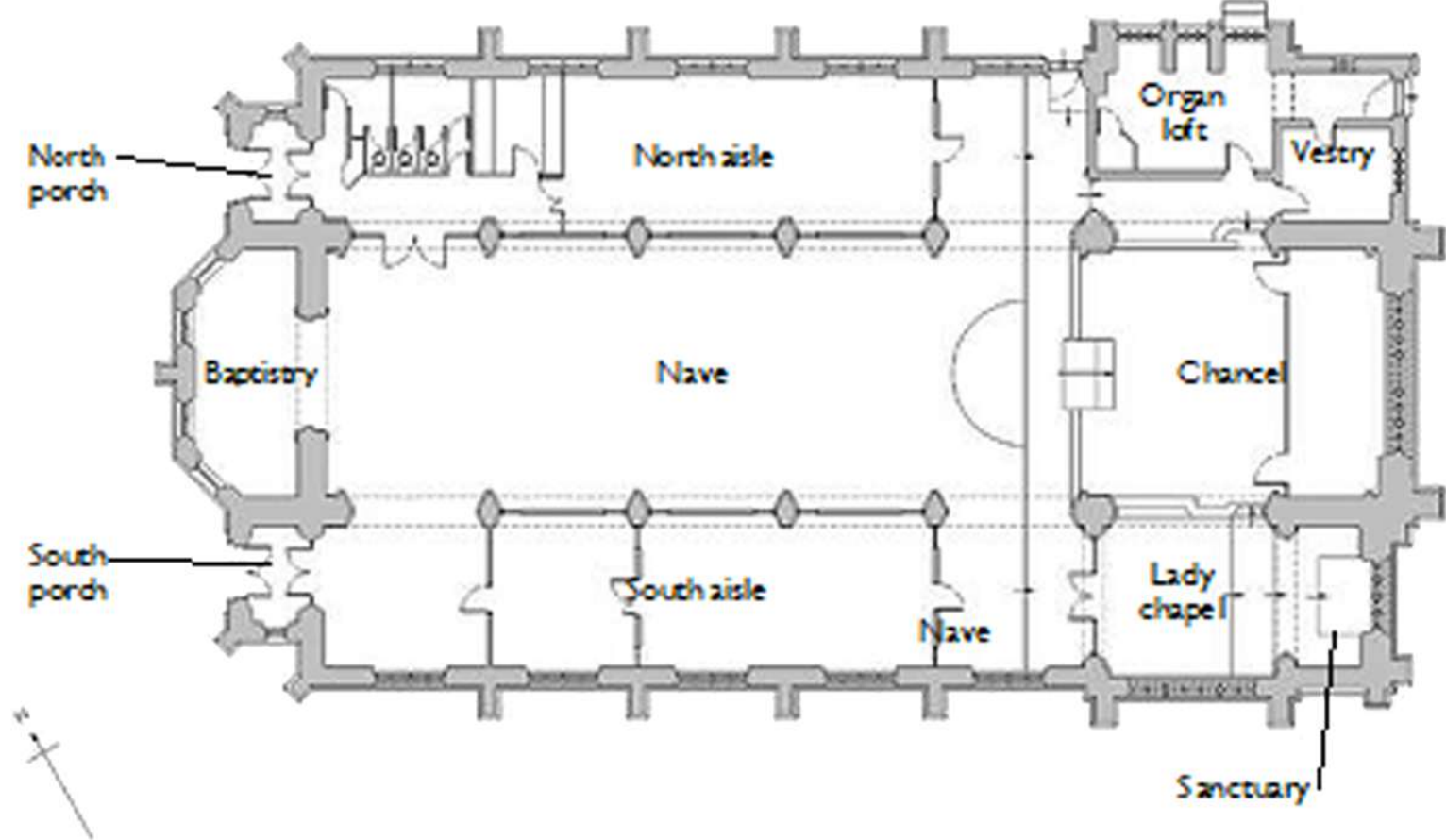
CHURCH ELEVATION



SITE INSPECTION PICTURES



CHURCH PLAN



- A building inspection was undertaken in 2017 as part of the optioneering process for the site, and identified:
- walls appear relatively stable, but exterior surface condition is poor in many places, notably at high- and low-level risking excessive water absorption and decay to the interior and exterior
 - defective gutters and rainwater goods
 - fungal and/or beetle decay in the timber roof structures
 - bricks and limestone dressings subject to excessive decay following extreme conditions (including air pollution)
 - lime mortar damage
 - theft (including lead theft) and vandalism is a significant problem and continued threat

In conclusion the building is in need of significant & extensive maintenance and repair, with the works required exacerbated by the 2007 floods a contributory factor in the building's current poor condition.

The cost of repair works to bring the building into a viable use are considered unviable.

The church is not listed and was subject to an unsuccessful designation review carried out by English Heritage (now Historic England) in 2009.

SITE INSPECTION PICTURES

