

# **DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**

St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Hebburn

The Grade II listed St Andrew's Church sits within a residential area with a large open green to the front and a hard landscaped parking area within an enclosed compound to the rear of the site.

This design and access statement accompanies a planning and listed building consent application for the refurbishment of the existing St Andrews Church ceiling.

## **Use:**

The buildings were formerly owned by South Tyneside MBC and had a light industrial B2 Use Class.

Recently Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent was granted for the change of use of St Andrew's Church to form a Buddhist Temple (Use Class D1) for Dhammakaya Meditation Centre of Newcastle (DMCN).

The existing interior of the church will be returned to its' original use and adapted to be more in keeping aesthetically with the intended Buddhist Temple styling.

## **Amount/ Layout/ Scale**

This application proposes the refurbishment of the original lath and plaster church ceiling; the existing suspended ceiling will be stripped out, exposing the vaulted timber and plaster ceiling.

The method will be as follows:

1. Before the works are undertaken, a structural assessment of the roof as existing will be undertaken.
2. Refurbishment will then be undertaken in a method based upon the findings of this assessment.

The church roof is semi-circular, timber arched and panelled. The scale of the refurbished ceiling will remain as the existing, original roof which is currently hidden behind the suspended ceiling.

## **Appearance:**

Originally, the ceiling was a vivid azure blue in colour and studded with golden stars representing the sky with four carved angels sited at the intersections of the roof looking down upon the congregation. The new roof will therefore be azure blue with stars, emulating this original feature.

## **Access:**

The current stepped access to the Church will remain. A level assisted access into the Church is provided at the side of the building, off the rear car parking area. This access will be suitably signed, for use within operational hours of the Church.