

NYMNP

20/05/2019

From: Neil Duffield
Sent: 20 May 2019 11:26
To: Hilary Saunders
Subject: NYM/2018/0653/FL Church Langdale End E11161-nymnp details 20-05-19

Morning Hilary,

Sorry for the delay in providing the further detail required in addition to the archaeology details sent 12th April.

Our client has produced a letter (attached) which helps with background about the Church use. It is quite specific in terms of Rooms/Space required and uses.

I have set out items in order to match your letter:-

- The Church will provide service space for congregation of up to 100 people.
- The congregation require space during the service for Prostrating themselves.
- The additional congregation arrive on 3 buses. This occurs now (photo attached) but the existing facilities are far from adequate as previously explained. In terms of traffic the expectation is for the current levels to remain. They will use the existing Car park.
- Function Room, It's primary Use is for as part of the Service. Our client letter explains that the congregation Fast for 9hrs, pray and then eat all as part of the Service.
- Other use of the function room will be ad-hoc and relatively minor. The Monastery offer such assets to the Local Community who will use it but not in large numbers.
- Septic Tank; a large **Treatment Plant** was installed as part of the recent extension to the monastery, this will accept the additional waste water.
- Our client is aware and understand an Arboricultural method statement will be required as a condition of approval.

I hope the above helps with the consideration of the application.

Kind regards
Neil

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BHD Partnership, Airy Hill Manor, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO21 1QB

NYMNPA

20/05/2019

Dear ...

The Coptic church, is one that is built on traditions that date back to the time of the apostles and therefore it is of great importance for us to preserve the traditions, rites and rituals of this ancient church. There are at least three services held in the church everyday including the Holy Eucharist each morning (9am-11:30am), Vesper praises in the evening (6pm-7pm) and midnight praises (11pm-1am) so as you can see the church is at use throughout the day as communal prayer is a key part in the life of a Coptic Christian especially for monks like us. For these reasons I have put together a few points explaining why we need a big church:

1. The church is split into three main sections, first and foremost, a large area is needed to serve as a sanctuary with an altar on which the priest prays the Holy Liturgy with 2-4 deacons by his side and space so they can walk around and bow down before the altar in accordance to tradition. There also needs to be enough space for a stand to hang the censers of incense and a place for the priest to wash his hands.
2. The second section is where the deacons sit and that is divided from the sanctuary by an iconostasis and a large space is needed for the deacons to stand (half of them on the righthand side and half of them on the left-hand side) as well as a free space in the middle so they're not standing directly in front of the altar.
3. With the deacons there needs to be two gospel stands where the readers can read from the scriptures to the rest of the congregation with two deacons holding candles (one on each side).
4. The third section of the church is the largest section needed to accommodate the rest of the congregation. There needs to be space for disabled people on wheelchairs as our Bishop needs a wheelchair and struggles to move around in compact areas.

5. The church also needs to be well ventilated as incense is burned and as a result the smoke could be irritating for sufferers of asthma as well as for one of the monks who suffers from Tracheostomy.
6. A sound proof room at the back of the church is also needed for mothers to take crying children so they do not disrupt prayer. As well as a baptism room with a baptismal font large enough so that adults can be fully immersed and baptised according to the orthodox tradition as the one we have now is only big enough to baptise small children.
7. At certain times throughout the service, the congregation needs space to be able to prostrate/bow down on the ground as well as benches for them to sit during long hours of service as the space in the current church is too limited to hold more than twelve chairs.
8. A store room is also needed to store altar-ware, candles, censors, coal, icons, wine and clothes of the clergy as right now we use our own rooms to store all of these things.
9. The final point I would like to outline is that according to tradition, a person coming to receive communion would have to fast 9 hours before thus a large dining room is needed for those who have attended mass to go and break their fast.
10. A special room for confession which is one of seven sacraments in our Coptic church and according to our tradition it should be in the church.
11. During some occasions such as Holy Week and the water services, we all pray the services outside the alter and outside the deacon area in the congregation part. Depending on the occasion we pray in certain parts of the church and on others we walk around the church holding crosses and icons as well as in monk ordinations the one to be ordained must lay down on the floor in an area that does not obstruct the service and likewise also in other ordinations.

12. Several times a month we have open days when the public come to visit the monastery this includes schools, other parishes , ladies clubs , WI women institution, people interested in the monastery and people who have heard about us, are just curious , people who are looking for spiritual enlightenment we give them a presentation inside the church. We also help people who are in a difficult situation such as being homeless, having family problems, need help breaking smoking habit or just in need of general help. We also offer team work events where groups of youth can come and work together to improve there people skills and increase their personal confidence. As a Christian monastery it is our belief to be very hospitable to visitors so we require an area to cater for them in which they can sit down to eat , drink and relax as well as an area to pray in. This is why we require a basement.

So in summary of all of these points I would like too kindly request on behalf of His Grace Bishop Antony, the monks of this monastery and the wider Coptic congregation that you grant us this space for a new church that meets our requirements in alignment with the Coptic Orthodox rites.

Thank you so much for your help and support and we look forward to hearing from you.

Always in our prayers.

