

Design Access Statement

St. John's has looked after a wildlife garden to the rear of the church for many years. It hosts benches, a wooden walkway and a pond with space for wildlife to inhabit. In recent years there has been less interest in the area and wooden walkway now needs replacing before it becomes dangerous.

St. John's hopes to bring new interest to the area by raising the ground level using imported topsoil from nearby developers to create a level area. On top of the level ground they propose to place a 8m x 12m canopy to create a covered area which can be used throughout the year. Once the canopy is in place they propose cut away shrubs, bushes and saplings to create an area where bushcraft skills can be taught and enable more established trees to thrive. There are also plans to create raised beds where vegetables can be grown. The area will then be used to encourage ecological teaching through 'Forest Church' and the area will also be offered to local uniformed groups (such as cubs, brownies, etc.), schools and pre-schools to use. The church also proposes to start an outdoor toddler group which can explore the area, discovering nature.

The embankment which the church is built upon will be left as it currently has several native wild flowers growing in it, including wild orchids.

The area under the canopy will also be used for outside worship and occasional day time and evening events throughout the year.



Proposed Stretched Canopy