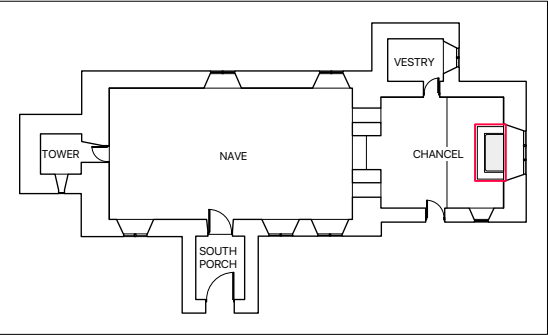


St James' Church, Wick is a Grade II* listed building. As a consequence of this designation it is statutorily protected. Extreme care should therefore be taken not to cause any unspecified damage to any fabric or part of these structures on or within the site when undertaking any construction works.

Upon the chancel of St James' Church set against the east wall beneath a Laudian window stands a pre-Reformation altar slab incised with a central consecration cross, dressed from local limestone. The altar slab or mensa of pre C16 origin is of great importance within the Parish.



GROUND FLOOR KEY PLAN - DO NOT SCALE

PROPOSAL

- 1. STONE ALTAR:
It is proposed that the existing stone altar slab is moved away from east wall to the front of the altar step to allow both east and west facing services to be held. Within the proposal the existing plinth is to be removed and replaced with two new ashlar walls to support the altar slab (mensa). In doing so a bedded memorial which is currently obscured by the plinth will be revealed and reinstated.
- 2. EAST WALL:
The east wall of the church has signs of water ingress which has damaged the plasterwork. The relocation of the altar will allow remedial works to address the water ingress. The existing plaster is damaged in small isolated locations and will also be scared when the altar is moved. It is anticipated that the dampness will largely be cured following repointing of the walls externally. Minor patch repairs using lime mortar will be undertaken and painted with mineral based paint.

STONE

- 1. REPAIR OF STONE ALTAR:
The existing stone altar slab is to be removed from its existing plinth, carefully breaking away the cementitious repair without damaging the natural stone. The slab is then to be repaired by a specialist conservator/ stone mason, using a length of stone to piece in the missing edge and dressed to the (presumed) original form. A local limestone is to be used during repairs.
- 2. NEW STONE WALLS
New ashlar stone walls are to be introduced to replace the existing plinth, set up to the front of the altar step.

LEDGER STONE

The black ledger stone beneath the altar is currently mainly obscured by the altar's plinth. It is believed to be from the 18th century. When the alter table is dismantled the memorial will be recorded before the new altar plinth is erected. The new design will expose far more of the ledger stone that can be seen currently.



PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING ALTAR

