

Design & Access Statement for St Marks Church, Regent's Park. London NW1 Interior Glass Door and Front Path Landscaping.

Site and existing building:

St Marks Church is on the corners of St Mark's Square, Albert Terrace and Regent's Park Rd. Its fourth (Eastern) boundary runs along the tow path of the Regent's Canal. It was originally built in the 1860s and was bombed in the Second World War. It was subsequently re-built and finished in 1956.

This application seeks permission to replace the existing, rather unwelcoming inner porch door with a glass equivalent, and to re-landscape the existing front path.

The existing door is in painted timber. It is ill-fitting and has become difficult for some people to open. It also maintains a very closed and forbidding look to the church even though the church is actually open. The door has to be wedged open when people arrive, with consequent loss of heat and cold blasts through the winter months.

Design:

This glass door will be more welcoming but it can be kept closed against the weather, as visitors will be able to see that the church is open and people are inside. The new door will be set in an oak frame which will itself be carefully scribed into the existing recess in the stone door opening. It will have a lion, the emblem of St Mark, etched into it and will be fitted with an automatic opening PIR control. Many churches now have glass inner doors.

The landscaping in the front will create a gentle ramp up from the front gate to the outer porch door, replacing the existing 3 steps. The original York stones will be re-used and second hand ones will be used where necessary to blend in the original ones. There will be diminishing steps at the sides with flat Yorkstone paving both sides and painted iron handrails, to allow people to descend from the church to the surrounding paths in the garden.



The Church Interior and the Existing Timber door.



St Marks Church. General Views of the Front Entrance and Garden



Access:

The garden is much loved by parishioners and visitors alike. The new landscaping layout will improve the access to the church and its grounds.