

21st-Century Church: Better in a New Building or Heritage Building? Part 3 of 4: Offering Hospitality

St Aldates used to have its main entrance "around the back", off a dead-end street, but the new entry building was built in the opposite corner, providing direct access from the main city street. In front of the entrance new wide paving connects to the main city street with a public lawn and seating. The frameless glazing and open arches to the interior give a glimpse in as you approach the doors, encouraging curiosity.. When the adjoining coffee shop is eventually linked, hospitality will be obvious.

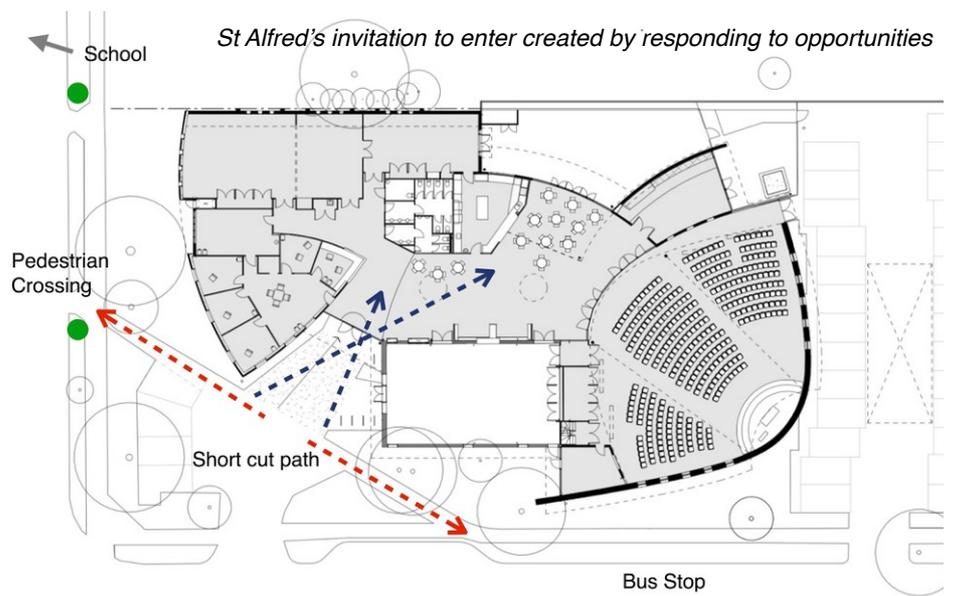
The fully glazed main entry doors to St Alfred's face diagonally across the road junction to the shopping centre. The footpath passes close to the doors, short-cutting from the pedestrian lights to the bus stop, bringing the public as close as possible to the entry. The welcome desk is immediately inside the doors and people are often seen having coffee inside.

There is an openness about the entry to both churches, inviting entry to what lies beyond. During a Marriage Course event at St Aldates, 3 couples came in off the street, thinking it was a heritage restaurant they each asked if they could book a table !

Next time: Wise Stewards



St Aldates claims its place in the street and invites entry



St Alfred's entry

