

# Transforming Trinity

One Step at a Time



## Holy Trinity Church and Community

*Sharing God's Love*



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# Introducing Transforming Trinity

Revd Jon Hutchinson

## Dear Friends

It gives me a great deal of joy to be writing this introduction and sharing with you all that is in this booklet. **Transforming Trinity One Step at a Time** brings together our hopes and aspirations for the practical development of Holy Trinity Sunningdale.

This booklet explains the long-term needs and the practical issues we wish to overcome. It gives the details and design of the solutions being considered and an estimate of the costs. Our desire is to make Holy Trinity a 'Community Hub' used by church and community every day, all week.

The purpose of this booklet is to explain as much as is possible about Transforming Trinity and to give each person an opportunity to consider pledging finances towards the work.

For this 'step' of the process I would like to visit\* every church member to discuss Transforming Trinity and invite all who have the means to consider making a pledge towards the work. Please don't anticipate a hard sell or heavy pressure. I want everyone who feels they can give to be able to do so joyfully.

So as to avoid any suspicion (*Why am I being visited first? Why am I being visited last?*)

I will draw names at random. I'll call ahead to arrange a suitable time and look forward to speaking personally to everyone (on-line or in-person where safe to do so). There are three things I wish to add.

Firstly, you may not wish for a visit and that's quite okay. Either tell me before I ring or tell me when I do. If all I have written in the booklet is enough for you then we can have a discussion about pledging to the work if you feel able to do so.

Secondly, I particularly wish to contact couples where one of you isn't as involved or comes along infrequently. I value your thoughts and do not wish any of our aspirations to be a means of disquiet at home. My prayer is that all couples can come to an agreement about what they wish to do and that you feel good about that decision.

Lastly, if you live alone you may wish to have a family member along to share the discussion and with whom you can talk over the ideas you have about giving. I think it will be reassuring for you and for them and keeps all that we are doing transparent.



Revd Jon Hutchinson, Vicar, Holy Trinity Church

April 2021

\* Visits will be on-line whilst restrictions are in place and socially distanced as restrictions ease.

# Transforming Trinity

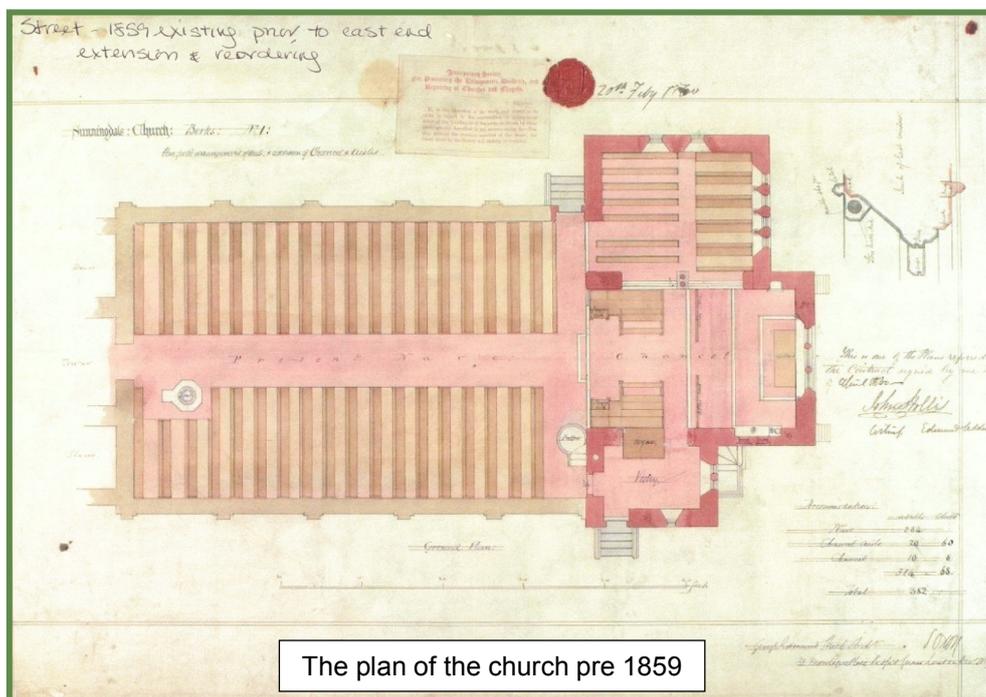
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*"There are times in our lives when repairing the building where we worship is an act of obedience every bit as important as praying in that place of worship".*

**Eugene Peterson**



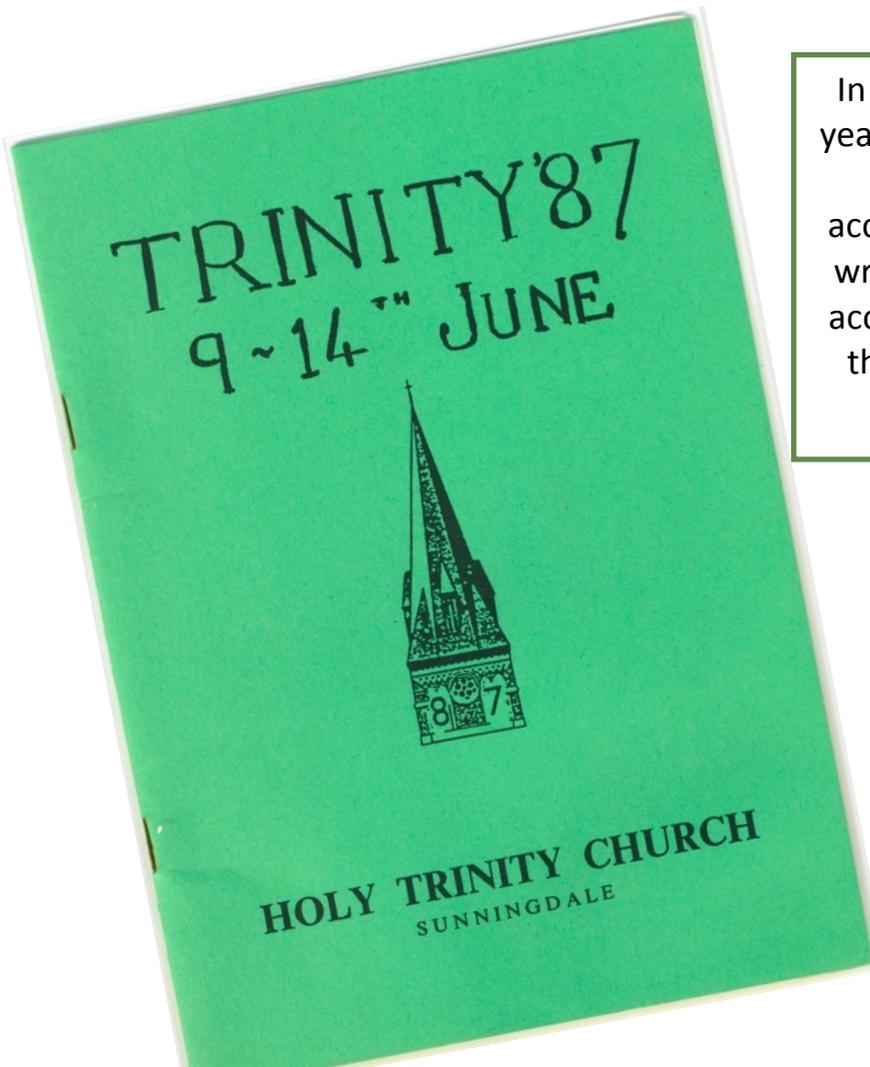
I am indebted to **Paul Sharman** FRICS MAPM who has agreed to be our Project Manager and Quantity Surveyor. Paul is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor and has acted as Project and Cost Manager throughout his career working on various project types throughout the UK and more recently at Brookwood Cemetery for Woking Borough Council on various initiatives. Paul and his wife Anne have been church members for over 20 years now and Paul was Church Warden overseeing various projects in church including the works in 2000/01 and also works in the CMI and at the Vicarage.

Also to **Mark Goodwill-Hodgson** who we have appointed as our Architect. Mark is a Specialist Conservation Architect with an MA(dist) in Architectural Conservation and is the nominated architect for over a 100 churches of varying grades, including fourteen at Grade 1, as well as inspecting three Scheduled Ancient Monuments. He also has a special interest in the implementation of sustainable energy in historic buildings.



# A Long Term Need

## Nothing New



In 1987, Holy Trinity celebrated 100 years of the 'New Nave'. At the end of the opening article in the accompanying booklet, Robin Warne wrote about the need for additional accommodation. A complete copy of the article is on the "Transforming Trinity" page of our website.

Even a brief history of the church shows that the building has been added to and adapted over the years.

The old nave and tower were removed (1887) for the present nave, aisles and spire. The present organ was installed in the old vestry and eventually the current vestry was built on the north side (see pages 18 and 19).

Now once again the question of accommodation has arisen. Not that the church itself is too small - would that it were! - but there is a need for a small hall for the Sunday School to use during the morning service, and the opportunity would be welcome to the parish to provide a separate choir vestry and a parish office as well.

Additional accommodation has never been addressed although the use of the Coronation Memorial Institute (CMI) demonstrated how valuable extra space could be.

During the time the church had use of the CMI, all manner of church and community groups made use of the building and the café was a well-used social space for meeting and waiting - particularly parents collecting children.

Since the loss of that building there has been the desire to create a "Community Hub" to equip and enable the church in its mission locally.

**Transforming Trinity** seeks to address the needs for additional rooms and multi-purpose spaces; not just for our own use, but available to the community as well.

# Living Stones

## The Spiritual Reality



In March 2017 at my interview for the vacancy at Holy Trinity, I showed a favourite picture of a drystone wall and quoted from 1 Peter 2:5

*“you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood”.*



Scandale Pass, Cumbria

My desire to come to Holy Trinity was inspired by the Parish Profile which included this section....

*Can you help us*

- *Revitalize the community hub project?*
- *Ensure our church is open and relevant to our community life?*
- *Lead us in developing this vision?*
- *Engage and enthuse our Church and local community in our community hub?*

**Transforming Trinity** will explore how we might accomplish these aims.

Unbeknown to me, Carol Gay had created a piece of artwork based on 1 Peter 2:5 and Jane Ward-Hall had brought her copy to hang in the lounge at the Vicarage where the interviews were to take place.

When I think about **Transforming Trinity** and the fabric of our building, my starting place is the spiritual reality of being God's people; called together to witness to His grace and love. We are the living stones.

As God's people we aspire to embody in our church family a true reflection of the love of

Christ and His command to “love one another”. This is not a feeble, mushy affection, but a robust commitment to acceptance, respect, tolerance and loyalty and thus “sharing God's love” is both a description of our spiritual house and our aspiration as we play a part in the community.



Living Stones © Carol Gay 2004.  
Carol is married to Revd Stuart Gay;  
Curate at Holy Trinity from 2001 to 2004.  
This picture is in the Chapel at Holy Trinity.

The church building, the actual bricks and stones are a physical representation of the spiritual reality. We want the church building to reflect the same qualities we aspire to as a church family; our Christ-like character and our values reflected in the church building.

Our theology of welcome is much more than a cheery hello on the door.



# Living Stones

## The Spiritual Reality

It's to create a space that is warm and welcoming. A place that is comfortable, good to be and where we feel we can belong. A place where shared activity fosters friendship and shared meals bring fellowship.

A place where children can play and with quiet spaces to pray. A place where our awe and wonder in worship can be enhanced by the beauty of our beautiful church. A place that is practical, with a church office, rooms for a whole variety of meetings and the often neglected but vital storage space!

And wouldn't it be wonderful to have more efficient heating supplied via green energy? Incorporating sustainable energy has a high priority. The Church of England has committed to being carbon net zero by 2030.

Holy Trinity is an iconic and beautiful building but it does have limitations. These have been known about for a long time (see page 4).

**Transforming Trinity** is about creating new spaces, enhancing the facilities and retaining the essential character and beauty of our church.

The Diocesan Advisory Council who oversee any change to a church building will always ask for proof that an extension, development or reordering will meet a specific need.

Holy Trinity is awash with proof. Internally we know the problems all too well (heating, lighting, draughts, uneven floor and so on).

During the time the church had access to the CMI building over the road (from 2003 to 2011), the suite of rooms and the café demonstrated that additional space aided the church in its mission and ministry. Rob Fleming has written about this on page 17.

I often listen to the agenda items at the pastoral team meetings and think about how much more we could do with a coffee shop, meeting rooms and a hall. We are doing these things now as best we can...we could do so much more because we used to do more!

**Transforming Trinity** brings together all the aspirational hopes for the church building that allows our spiritual house to flourish and grow. Our primary purpose is captured in 1 Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

**Transforming Trinity** equips the physical church so that the spiritual church can grow and flourish in its primary purpose; declaring Jesus Christ as the light of the world.

**Where we're at...**

**Community Hub**

Currently we have planning permission from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (2015) for an extension to provide new community rooms, catering and toilet facilities. Previously there was insufficient support for completing this in one big build, and therefore moving forward we are considering an incremental approach. Although we have not applied for a Faculty, the DAC and other stakeholders have been fully involved in the formation of the current plans. To make our building more welcoming, we have installed more seating (2016) and are working on new heating have enjoyed a strong history of community engagement.

We believe that a community hub will help strengthen encounters with existing community partners by providing much needed facilities, and provide new opportunities for mission activities.

**Can you help us**

- revitalise the community hub project?
- ensure our Church is open and relevant to our community life?
- lead us in developing and delivering this vision?
- engage and enthuse our Church and local community in our community hub?

*"So much excellent work is going on, much of it unseen and behind the scenes"*

Church Survey, July 2016

# Transforming Trinity

## The Scope of Work



The major new initiative is a west end extension and the pictures and diagrams below and on the next pages help illustrate what is envisaged.

The new development uses a contemporary reinterpretation of the vocabulary of the existing building, celebrating and influenced by the work of GE Street and JO Scott.  
A glass section of roof would allow light to flood the building illuminating the enclosed west window.



The existing stained glass window at the west end (that's the window above the font) will remain as it is now but be enclosed by a new building. A glass roof insert will allow light to come through so that it can still be enjoyed.

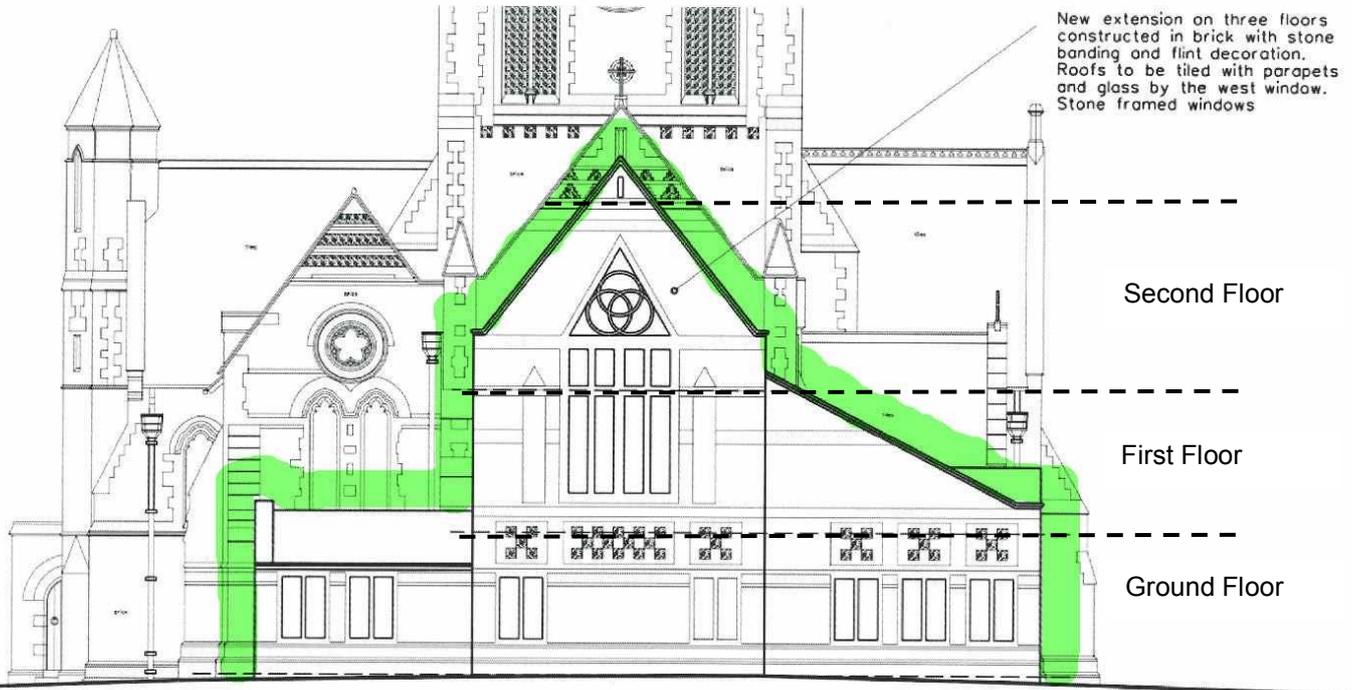
Any west end extension will mean covering some graves. This is a matter of great sensitivity and there is a proper consultation procedure to be followed. The implementation of an extension will not disturb any graves as foundation pillars avoid the grave plot and the floor is suspended above the ground, not resting on it. Grave markers will be carefully and sensitively relocated and records of graves kept. Permission by the Chancellor for something like this is only given after very careful consideration.



# Transforming Trinity

## The Scope of Work

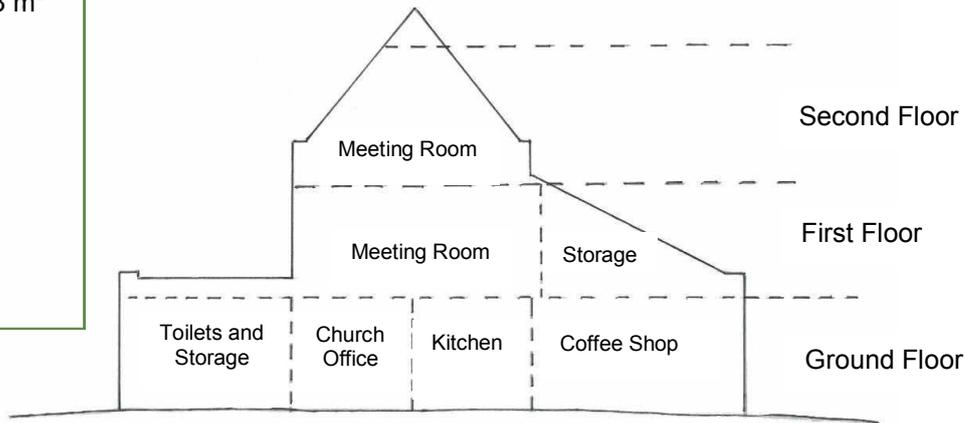
West end extension viewed from Trinity Crescent



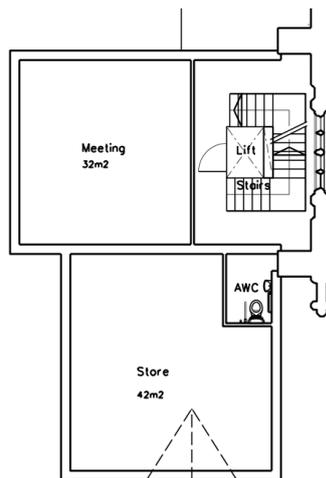
Total room space created = 183 m<sup>2</sup>

Coffee shop	45 m <sup>2</sup>
Kitchen	16 m <sup>2</sup>
Office	16 m <sup>2</sup>
2 Meeting rooms	each 32 m <sup>2</sup>
Store	42 m <sup>2</sup>

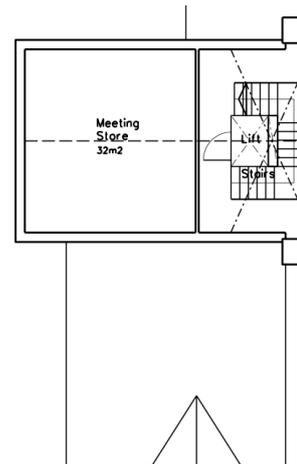
Plus 3 toilets (1 WC + 2 AWC)  
2 small store rooms  
Lift to all floors and stairs.



Ground Floor



First Floor



Second Floor

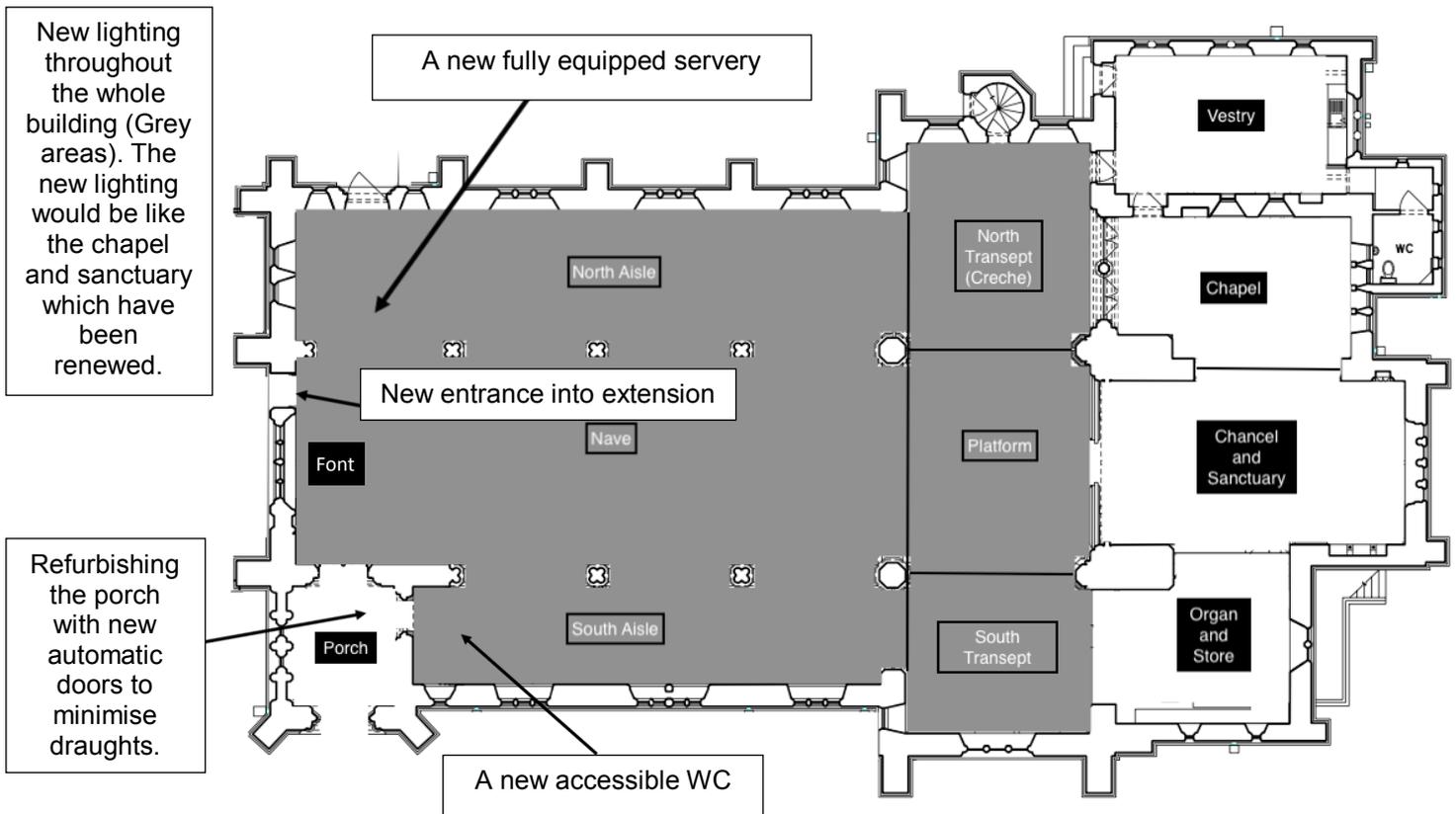
# Transforming Trinity

## The Scope of Work



If changes are made to a building we are so familiar with, will it change our experience of worship and fellowship at Holy Trinity? I don't believe it will. The floor might be different (and warmer!) The seat you use may be different. It would be lovely if the lighting was different! But we are not changing the internal shape and architecture of the building as we know it...that last happened in 2001 (the south transept and platform area) and before that in 1974 (the north transept). I think we will quickly become familiar with the new building and before long become used to any changes.

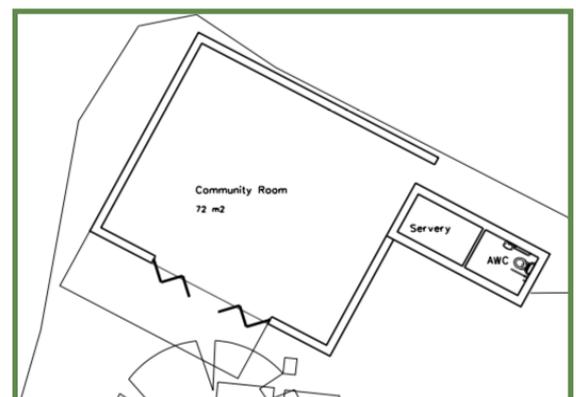
This is an outline of the church. The area in dark grey is where we would create a new floor with underfloor heating. Elsewhere (vestry, chapel, sanctuary, organ) the existing floors would remain.



A new idea is to explore the north west corner of the churchyard as the location for a hall, a much needed asset for church and community. This would incorporate the old mortuary building which would be refurbished and could become the location for a toilet and small servery.

Here Mark has shown a simple outline of the space available with the mortuary adjacent to a new build. Sliding bi-fold doors could open on the southside overlooking the graveyard.

As a separate building it could be of new materials, highly insulated and energy efficient! In the Heritage Project the community room in the proposed extension provided 62 m<sup>2</sup> of room, this new building in the NW corner allows us to create 72 m<sup>2</sup> of room plus the additional facilities.





# Transforming Trinity

## What do we Need and Aspire to do?

### New build – west end

Extension including all finishes, kitchen, lift and electrical (light/power) installation  
Allowance for new furniture

### Church refurbishment

Replace lights with new LED lighting  
Works to the entrance lobby  
New disabled WC adjacent to the main entrance  
New servery area completed

### Church development

Removal of floor and furniture.  
Renew the flooring (nave, aisles, transepts and crossing)  
Underfloor heating – (same area)  
New furniture

### Community building (in the NW corner by the Mortuary)

New build complete  
Refurbishment of the existing building to provide toilet facilities

### External works

Lighting to the drive  
Lighting to the spire  
New footpath from Church Road to main church entrance  
Create car parking spaces (including disabled) on the drive

This is a considerable undertaking and we need a funding campaign to discover what resources will be available (see pages 14 and 15). I'm mindful though of a prayer we use each week in our more formal liturgical service at 9:00am. It's based on 1 Chronicles 29:11-14. King David knows that God does not want him to build the temple in Jerusalem, it will be a task for his son Solomon. David's response is to accumulate all the wealth and materials to facilitate the building.

He gives praise to God, recognising that everything we have is God's. It all comes from him, even our life and health and capacity to earn. When we give, we are giving God's own back to him. All giving is sacrificial, after all what you have given away you cannot spend! Each of us will need to consider our response to the challenge of Transforming Trinity.

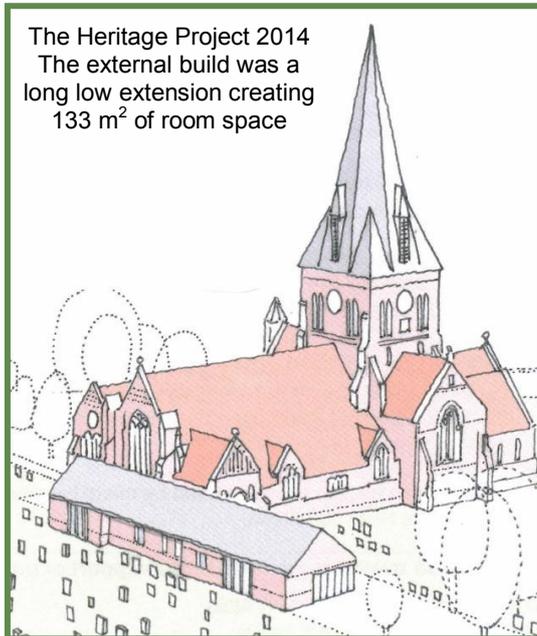
Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power  
the glory, the splendour and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you  
and of your own do we give you.  
*Amen.*

# Transforming Trinity

## Building on Previous Experience



**Transforming Trinity** has not just appeared out of the blue. We are able to learn from all that was explored previously in “The Heritage Project” (THP). The feasibility studies by architects Acanthus Clews and the digital surveys of our church and site have informed our choice of a west end extension because this was considered the most feasible place to build.



The Heritage Project 2014  
The external build was a long low extension creating 133 m<sup>2</sup> of room space

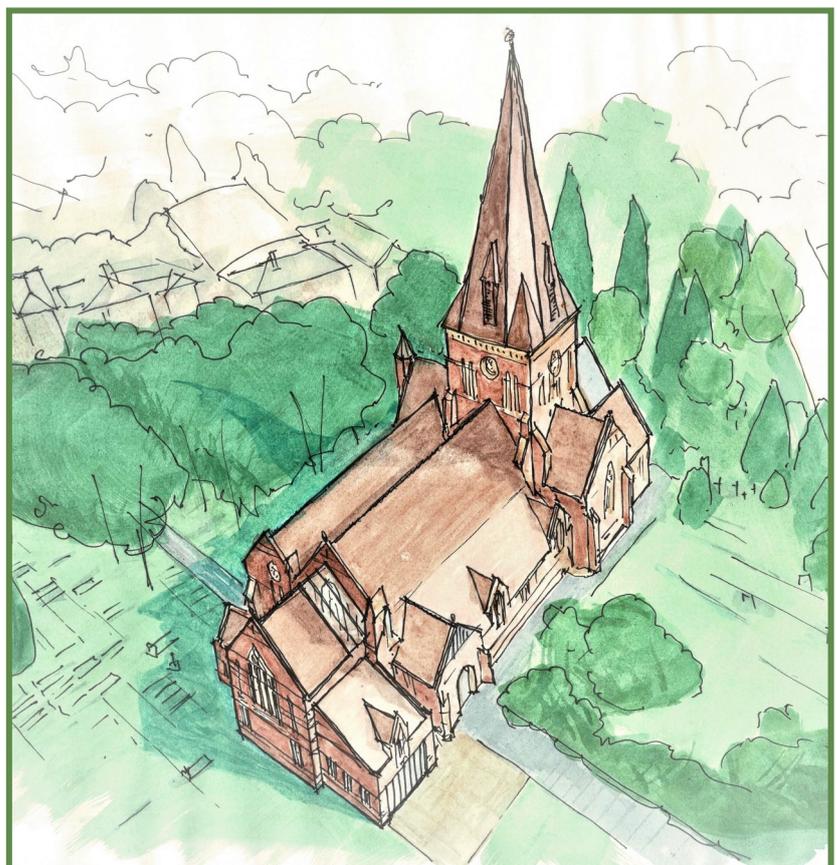
However there are significant differences. Many church members commented that THP seemed too costly to accomplish in one go. We will work out the cost of Transforming Trinity as a single project because it is prudent to do so and also break the work down into phases (see page 14).

The previous new build was a single storey extension leading down the driveway. It partly obscured the west end and made a significant impact on the approach to church. It created 133 m<sup>2</sup> of room space.

Mark’s advice was to create a new west end and enclose the old. Although we reduce the footprint of the new building, by going upwards a great deal more space is created; 280 m<sup>2</sup> in total (including circulation space).

THP also included a plan to relocate the organ onto a mezzanine floor above the north aisle. We have decided to leave the organ in its current location. We shall also retain the older parts of the church (rood screen, choir, sanctuary, chapel) as they are now.

The west end extension and the community building together create 352 m<sup>2</sup> in a variety of rooms and spaces. The previous scheme created 133 m<sup>2</sup> so Mark’s ideas have taken the previous development forward in a giant leap. The absolute ideal would be to do it all in one go but we shall first of all see what resources we have and then see what it is we can do.





# Transforming Trinity

## The Process Thus Far

Although the extension planned in 2014 was granted planning permission by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM), lack of funding meant none of the project got underway. Then followed the vacancy and the arrival of a new incumbent! To re-visit the central idea of a Community Hub and to address the outstanding faculty/building issues, we invited architect Mark Goodwill-Hodgson to come as our consultant and listen, look and consider what might be done.

His creativity and inspired ideas have helped lead to **Transforming Trinity**. We have considered carefully the decisions and assumptions made in The Heritage Project and thought again about the needs of the church as we are, as we hope to be and as far into the future as we can envisage. Some ideas have been dropped and others introduced, for example we wish to retain the serveries in church and place a community hall in a separate space from the church.

At this stage of the process we need to discover what financial resources will be available to us and bearing in mind that the majority of funding will come from among all of us, (ie church and community), we should address the risks.

### Risks

We haven't got detailed plans and costs (estimated figures on page 14) and haven't applied for a faculty (church permission) or planning permission (RBWM).

Outside influential bodies need to be consulted such as Heritage England and the Victorian Society. We've been down the road before and our plans are a closer match to the existing church than previously, but we need to be aware that our plans may have to be adapted in response to these other bodies.

Then there is the Diocesan Advisory Council (DAC) who are advising the Chancellor who

makes the ultimate decision.

When we consider what we might give towards Transforming Trinity it's in the knowledge that we are at an early stage and plans might have to change.

In giving to the scheme we are giving in the hope that we can do it all, but aware that we might phase it.

Our giving has to be on that basis. Eventually we hope to do all the things listed in this booklet but depending on the funds raised we shall take a decision on what it is we can do first.

I will encourage everyone who feels they can give to do so as generously as they are able towards doing part of the work and hopefully all of the work.

### Mitigating risk

There is one simple solution to managing the risks in our situation and avoiding conflict. Open communication. My commitment to visit everyone and talk through the broad plans we have is alongside asking people to pledge towards the scheme.

Once we know what the pledges are and the total funds available towards Transforming Trinity, we can plan specifically what it is we are able to do and then share that widely.

I will gladly re-visit anyone who requests a second consultation to consider their response to definite plans, be they part of the scheme or the whole.

### Communication is the key

It takes time – but it's time well invested, as we seek in these most practical things to 'love one another', not take advantage or mislead. For now, we need to reflect on what we can give if we feel able to do so.

# Transforming Trinity

62 Park Crescent



Throughout the Transforming Trinity process your elected representatives; Churchwardens and PCC, have been fully involved in every stage of the work from the decision to recruit Mark, to this booklet which they have signed off!



I very much appreciate their diligence and careful consideration, the tone and manner in which discussions are conducted and the positive faith they bring to it all.

I am happy to report to the church and community that every member of the PCC is behind Transforming Trinity and have each committed to give towards it according to their means.

One matter for most serious consideration was the asset we owned, 62 Park Crescent. This two bedroomed terrace was purchased with church funds some years ago (£131K in 2000). This means that although the property was held in trust (the Diocese do this with all such assets) the capital released from the sale is unencumbered and free for us to use.

When this was first mooted in a PCC meeting it seemed right to take the next month to pray and reflect on such a decision. Church members will know that Curates have used the house before now and that generally the Diocese likes a parish to have a property for this kind of use. This is mainly because there is then no cost to the Diocese in housing a Curate; the cost is borne by the parish.

The sale of 62 Park Crescent will also have an impact on church finances as we have been receiving a rental income.

Taking all these matters into prayerful consideration, the PCC believed it was right to sell the house to benefit Transforming Trinity. The Diocese were informed and gave their permission to seek a sale of the property. Our agent advised the last tenants and I also made a personal visit to explain the situation. Our priority was to give them sufficient time to make alternative arrangements before proceeding with a sale and I'm glad to report they found a very suitable alternative nearer their children's school.

The whole process was overseen by a chartered surveyor in accordance with Charity Commission regulations and a sale (delayed by the first lockdown) was finally accomplished for £405K.



# Transforming Trinity

## Estimated Costs and Funding Grid

Our Project Manager and Quantity Surveyor Paul Sharman has used his experience to give us a realistic guideline towards costing our plans.

Transforming Trinity. Doing everything as one single piece of work.	<b><u>£2,065,254</u></b>
West end extension as a stand alone project.	£1,288,747
Internal church refurbishments as a single project	£528,844
The community hall and refurbished mortuary	£168,062
Additional works	£129,601
Total cost of doing the work as a phased series of projects.	<b><u>£2,115,254</u></b>

We shall explore every avenue open to us for funding. There may be works on the church that the Heritage Lottery Fund would support and there are other trust funds who may well contribute to particular aspects of the work. All the advice I have received though indicates that the bulk of the finance is likely to come from those connected to Holy Trinity and for whom it is a special place. Please note that ALL money raised for Transforming Trinity will be used for the project.

My aim is to visit every church member to discuss Transforming Trinity and invite everyone to pledge financial support to the work if they feel they can do so. There may be those who don't wish to see these developments and their feelings are to be respected, but until we explore what the church response will be financially, we cannot decide how much of Transforming Trinity we can do.

### How will this be funded?

A capital appeal at a church can be the cause of some angst!

Will we raise the money we need?

What kind of pressure will I be under to give?

How long will we have to listen to sermons about giving?

Will the phrase 'sacrificial giving' be used to make us feel guilty?

### There is another way

I would love everyone to feel they could be part of Transforming Trinity, giving what they are able to give and doing so joyfully. What I mean is that whenever you think about it, you are happy to have given and glad you were able too. You are pleased with the amount you decided upon and that giving that amount brings you joy. You can pray about the work knowing you have played your part.

**Joyfully**

Earlier in this booklet I quoted from King David who was prevented from building the temple in Jerusalem, that task was for Solomon. David accumulated the wealth necessary to allow the building to happen. His response to God was one of joy, giving thanks that he could play his part even though it would be fulfilled after his life's end.

# Transforming Trinity

## Estimated Costs and Funding Grid



Giving joyfully sets the right tone for what we hope to achieve. Our giving is prompted by **faith**, believing in the work and the importance of the church. We give in **hope** that the work we do will achieve far more than we can imagine. We give out of **love** for God and gratitude for His grace shown to us.

Transforming Trinity Funding Grid		
A single lump sum	Annual payments over 3 years	Monthly payments over 3 years
£300,000	£100,000	£8,333
£180,000	£60,000	£5,000
£120,000	£40,000	£3,333
£90,000	£30,000	£2,500
£60,000	£20,000	£1,667
£30,000	£10,000	£833
£21,000	£7,000	£583
£15,000	£5,000	£417
£9,000	£3,000	£250
£6,000	£2,000	£167
£3,000	£1,000	£83
£1,500	£500	£42

This funding grid is to prompt a discussion and for your consideration. It can be hard to pluck a figure from the air even if you are looking at your accounts, savings, investments and assets.

I would invite you to pray and ask God to prompt you. Whereabouts on the scale will your giving be? It might be below the bottom figure and it might be above the highest figure! Don't rush a decision and don't ignore it...prayer is the key. Guided by prayer you can come to a decision that will be joyful.

### Gift Aid

Many of you will Gift Aid your regular giving allowing us to claim back the tax. This is a hugely important aspect of our annual income and we are most grateful. Lump sums can also be Gift Aided, but we can only claim back the tax you have actually paid (it's not just an automatic percentage on top of your gift because you pay some tax).

When the time comes we shall have a discreet discussion with those who can usually Gift Aid to ascertain what portion of their Transforming Trinity gift might attract the tax back.

Luke 14:28-30. Do you remember the metaphor Jesus used when talking about the cost of being a disciple? He says **"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?"** Jesus makes it clear that following him is something to be considered carefully.

I've had the same image in mind for Transforming Trinity. We don't know what we can do until we know what resources we have and it's for each and every one of us to consider the matter carefully and prayerfully.



# Testimonials

## From Church Members



Carole and Roger Finch

We came across HTS when we attended the Sunday afternoon church services, held at Lynwood Court Care Centre, when we moved to Lynwood Village, following Roger's stroke. We really enjoyed the services, and soon started to attend Café Church on Sunday mornings.

We were struck by how friendly everyone was - how Roger's wheelchair was accommodated amongst the church pews, and we felt very welcome straight away. We soon stopped feeling like visitors; rather we have already begun to feel accepted and part of the community.

Roger's focus of concern is always the availability of a toilet for the disabled so the provision of such a toilet adjoining the entrance porch would be a huge comfort to a disabled person, indeed for anyone arriving at the church for weddings or funerals, as well as church services.

We were both helped by the six week Prayer Course we attended - again provision was made to help accommodate Roger in his wheelchair in the small groups. We are excited to see that replacement of the pews with flexible seating is part of the plans. Another major stress for anyone in our situation is parking, which allows sufficient space for the carer and the wheelchair to come alongside the passenger door on a hard level surface. It also needs to have good lighting. Naturally, we think it very important for this part of the plan to be implemented.

We are very excited about the potential for outreach, encouragement and support within the community, which will be possible from a purpose designed café, as well as a meeting room upstairs.

As more people live longer, become disabled, isolated or lonely, regular group activities have been seen to be very beneficial - in fact a lifeline for some. We know the church has a real heart for community work - we have seen the work that is being done at Lynwood - and that would become possible, once the plan has been implemented.

Finally - church heating - it is essential so that the elderly, the frail and the disabled, can be confident that the church will be warm.



Margaret Tittle

Anthony and I moved to Virginia Water in 1983, and have worshipped at Holy Trinity ever since. The weddings of both our daughters were very memorable family occasions in the church, and our grandchildren were both baptised here. Anthony was Churchwarden from 1988-93, and for many years he ran the very successful Lent appeal for Muheza hospital In Tanzania.

There have been small changes to the church over the years, but I believe that the time has come for us to invest in the future for our church family. We greatly regretted the loss of the CMI building, and a new building, built in keeping with the church fabric, would be a great asset, as we would be able to offer more opportunities for the local community, and schools from the area, and expand our ministry.

Our journey with Holy Trinity Church started after the birth of our first child when I joined the Mother and Baby group. That led me on to attend the



Wendy and Phil Baillie

Alpha Course, then the Ladies' Prayer Group and finally join the Sunday morning congregation.

Faithful, fun friendships were established between myself and the ladies in the Prayer Group and their support for me through mental and physical illness and pain has been vital in my journey towards recovery.

As a family we were fed on a practical level, as well as a spiritual one, when the Caring Cuisine ladies stepped up with homemade meals in the days and weeks after the birth of our second child.

At the Sunday services our children have been nurtured in their faith by many in the congregation but in particular by the Sunday School leaders. They've also been inspired by the Youth Band and welcomed as younger siblings by the youth of the church.

We are excited by the proposed development of the church buildings. Our hope is that the whole community would find a warm welcome in the new space and that we would all find it to be a place of enrichment, whether sharing difficulties or celebrations.

# Testimonials

## From Church Members



Roz Doherty

I am very excited about the proposed project of transforming Holy Trinity Church one step at a time. I have been part of the church for many years. It has been a place where I have made lasting friendships and has been instrumental in my journey of faith and that of my family.

When the church had the CMI facility, it was a focal point for the local community. Through the church pastoral team, we continue to offer activities, like the Rendezvous Café, Lunch 'n' Meet and bereavement support.

With the proposed extension I believe we could develop these ministries and do so much more.

A new office and additional meeting rooms are long overdue, and I see the café becoming a place for us to share God's love with church family and the wider community. It would be wonderful to have our church facilities transformed in this way for future generations.



Rob and Martina Fleming

Well what a great project! We moved to the area 13 years ago and feel so lucky to live in such a diverse and dynamic community. Great schools, a vibrant church and amazing facilities for whatever you want to do within an hour of here. Of course all of this counts for little if the friends you have and community in which you live, aren't welcoming, warm and embrace new people/views. We feel we're lucky in this regard too!

Maintaining this requires getting the right balance between individual freedom and collective responsibility. It needs effort, understanding, generosity and tolerance – not always easy after a busy day at work, getting the kids to their different clubs and just the demands of everyday life!

If we think back, one of the big losses we had as a community around 7 or 8 years ago, was the closure of the CMI. A space where there was a café and where community activities took place. It meant we all met each other just that little bit more often, linkages between different people of different ages/backgrounds were just that little bit better. When the CMI closed it was almost as if the village had lost some of its soul. The amazing street parties we had (hog roast/band) stopped, so did the children's youth workers who brought so much vibrancy. We also saw different parts of the community gradually drifting apart.

Of course, the soul's still there. It's merely slightly more hidden. A development that helps restore a facility that fosters this community interaction seems so much more than just a physical build. It provides a place for all of us to help develop the community we live in, to make it welcoming, inclusive and supportive. We're sure it will spawn so many more things that none of us have even thought of yet. For this reason, as a family, we're really supportive of this initiative and hope it can go ahead.

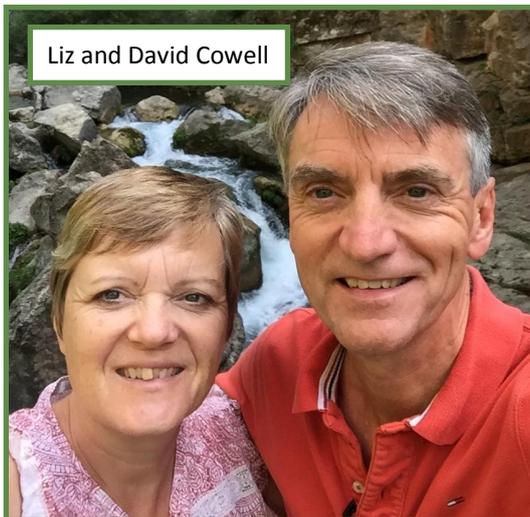
We have recently become members of Holy Trinity Church, we have had such a warm welcome and have been embraced by the church community.

As communities such as ours develop with more housing, more people travelling longer distances to work and school, it is even more

important to ensure there is a place where people can gather, worship, meet and renew friendships and connect with one another. A place which can support the needs of the church community and the village of Sunningdale.

This exciting expansion of the church in keeping with the present Victorian building will allow our community to grow in so many ways. Meeting rooms to give space for our youth group to grow, to hold courses to benefit our spiritual journey and to our village to offer the space for so many social activities. The new café will be an important hub for the community offering social engagement across all ages. The modernisation of the church will benefit all, allowing flexible seating, much needed toilets and a warm environment.

As a complete package this will move our church into a new era and we feel very privileged and excited to be part of this development.



Liz and David Cowell



# Holy Trinity

## A Short History

Before the parish church was built, local people wishing to worship in an Anglican church would travel to Sunninghill (or possibly Old Windsor). With the population reaching nearly 600 it was decided in 1839 that a church should be built in Sunningdale and Mr John Platt bought and donated the ground. The triangular plot adjacent to the High Street was the site of an old gravel pit that had been worked out.

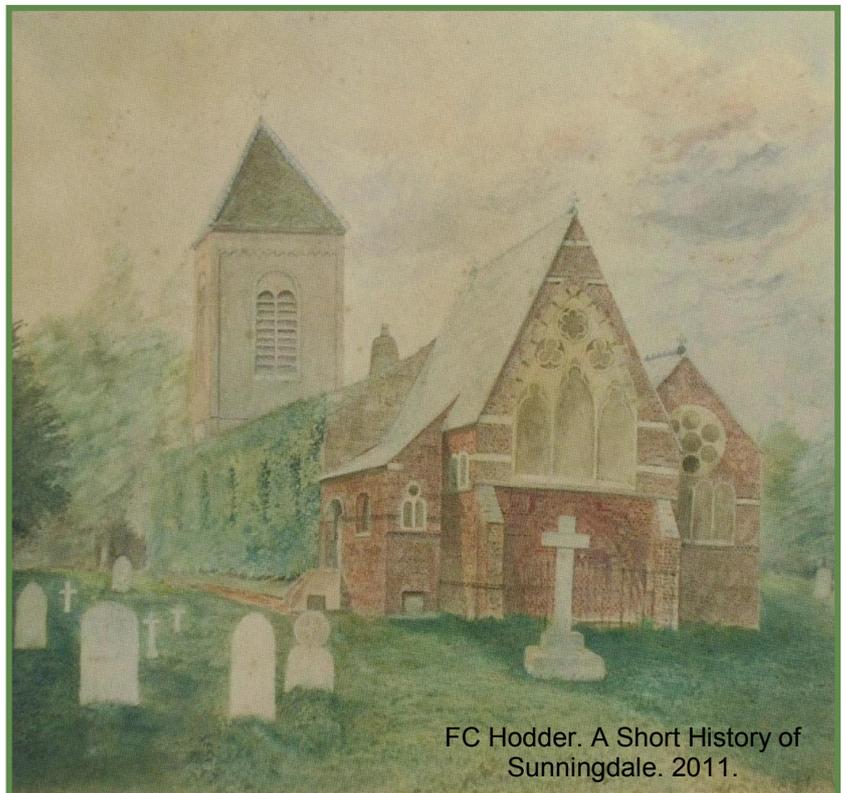


The first church building was completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1840. It was designed by architect Robert Ebbles, was quite small and plain and of that church nothing remains other than the foundation stone laid by HRH Princess Augusta on 27<sup>th</sup> September 1840. The church cost £1,600.

In 1860 the Revd WC Raffles Flint developed the first church building adding a Chancel (what we now think of as the choir and sanctuary) and a small Chapel, designed by architect GE Street. Revd Flint carried out the work to commemorate his uncle Sir Stamford Raffles who founded London Zoo and Singapore! We do have a picture of the church at that time notable for a square tower at the west end.

By 1880 the population of Sunningdale had almost outgrown the church and the need arose to re-develop despite the work done just 20 years earlier. The rebuild was done to coincide with and celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887. Much of the church as we know it is from this time. The design was by architect JO Scott and the foundation stone for this major rebuild was laid by HRH the Prince of Wales who later became King Edward VII.

The Chapel that Raffles built had to be used as the Vestry when the previous Vestry was extended and occupied by the church organ! The new Vestry (the one we know) was built in 1905 and to allow for its construction two stained glass windows were partly bricked up. Glad to have the Chapel back, a new altar, rails and paving were installed in 1907, the gift of William Trotter. Using the Chapel for something else and claiming it back seems to be a recurring theme!



FC Hodder. A Short History of Sunningdale. 2011.

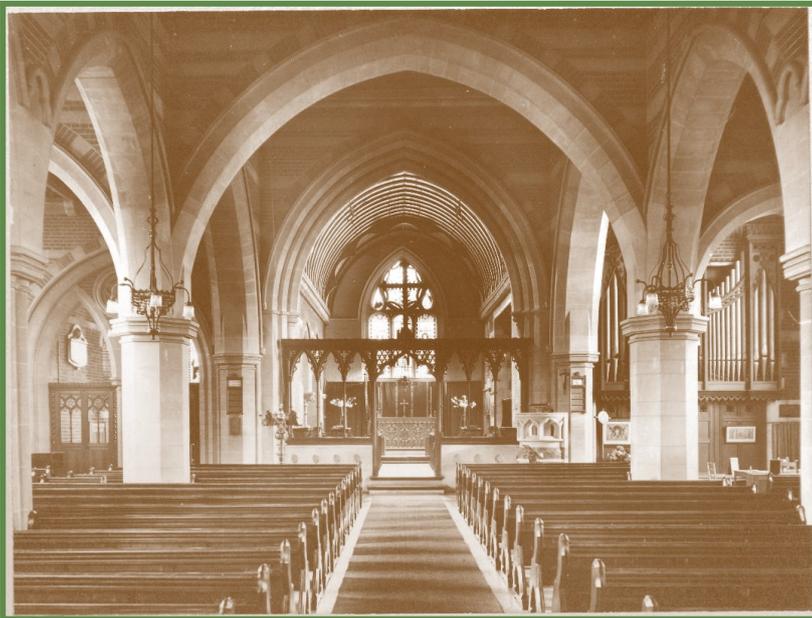
# Holy Trinity

## A Short History



The west end tower and old nave were removed to be replaced with the crossing, spire, nave and aisles we are familiar with. Much of the space was occupied by pews and many church members will recall how the pews continued forward to near the pulpit, well before the platform was installed.

As needs changed so the church has adapted. In 1974 the north transept was enclosed creating the room we use for the creche and other meetings. In 2000/01 a whole series of works were carried out, enclosing the south transept, refurbishing the vestry and linking it to the Chapel, the restoration and conservation of the ceiling over the Chancel and Sanctuary.



How churches are used has changed over the decades and some of the changes to Holy Trinity have reflected this. Creating a useful room from the north transept is one example. Installing the platform in the crossing is another. To accommodate additional activities many parishes build church halls but this does leave the church building largely unused except for worship.

As theological understanding has changed, so has the attitude towards the use of a church building. The idea of a “Community Hub” at Holy Trinity is

**These photographs are on the church website under “Transforming Trinity”.**

**Note. The candelabra now in the aisles used to be over the Nave. The pews went virtually all the way to the Rood Screen.**

**Have you ever wondered why the north and south aisles don't match? I think I know the answer but would be glad to hear your theories.**

to create a place where a whole variety of activities can complement our desire to share God's love. We have the twin desires to keep the church as a place of awe and wonder and to provide all the spaces, rooms and halls that we need.

Our church community is drawn from a wide area and we have a variety of needs. Whether we walk or drive to church, whether we want to provide for children, teenagers, or adults at all stages of life, Transforming Trinity is about enhancing and equipping the church fabric to accommodate the widest possible variety of activity.

We must remember we are the Parish Church and we are a place of long connection. People visit and recall they were married, baptised or had funerals of loved ones here. We hold all their stories in our history and the church needs to be welcoming and a ‘thin place’ where the presence of God is felt.

We are also a place of learning, friendship and laughter whether it's a visit from the school, a coffee morning together or a social event. As we consider the next steps, this prayer is one we can all share.

***Almighty God, who first inspired the people of Sunningdale to start the building of our beautiful church over 180 years ago, inspire and direct us now to provide a building fit to worship you and serve our community in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.  
Amen***



# Transforming Trinity

## Commendation from +Olivia, Bishop of Reading

### Dear Friends

I am excited about the plans to transform Holy Trinity and would like to encourage you to get on board with this bold and imaginative work. I am currently reading *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson and am struck by the ease with which the non-conformist congregations in the American Mid-West in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries put up their buildings and pulled them down when they no longer suited or served the needs of the community and the purposes of the Gospel. **Transforming Trinity** is not so radical! But this vision is also about work and worship; about serving the needs of the community and enabling the Good News to be heard in new and different ways.

Friends, the times we have been through have been extraordinarily demanding on all of us. The vision of **Transforming Trinity** asks that we not only survive them, but that we defy them, and emerge with a strong sense of what we need to thrive and grow as this decade unfolds before us.

You may know that my particular passion is the environment, so as well as the provision of community, social and meeting space, I am delighted with the plans to renew and to 'green' the heating system and energy use. What an opportunity we have here to put our thoughts, words and anxieties about the state of the planet's health into concrete action – a solid and enduring monument to which we can point and say *this is how much we care*.

This current iteration of a process which has been going on at this beautiful and iconic church since it was built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century is one which will take it far into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and beyond as we gift this building to our children and grandchildren. I commend this vision to you and ask that you engage with it with your hearts, minds, imaginations and pockets. It is a gesture of faith and defiance, undergirded by the Love that will not let us go.

+Olivia, Bishop of Reading

March 2021



## Further Information

This **Transforming Trinity** booklet explains the hopes and aspirations of our church for renewal and development. It explains the long-term needs and the practical issues we wish to overcome. It gives the details and design of the solutions being considered and an estimate of the costs. Our desire is to make Holy Trinity a 'Community Hub' used by church and community every day, all week.

This booklet is part of the development / funding stage that will allow us to take the first steps.

Further information is available from the church website - [www.holytrinitysunningdale.co.uk](http://www.holytrinitysunningdale.co.uk)