

# BARNSTAPLE, HOLY TRINITY

## Case study

from the Church Buildings Office  
March 2015

### SUMMARY of WORKS

- New level floor and carpet
- Removal of pews and replacement with chairs
- Under floor heating, lighting, sound system,
- WC, kitchen, west end lobby,
- Climbing wall in tower!



Grade II\* listed  
Designed 1843 by G Abbot & D Mackintosh;  
rebuilt, except for tower in 1868 by White

The Church is a typical Victorian example built in 1868 by William White. The tower pre-dates the church and dates from 1843-5 in the Somerset style, and at 38 metres high is the main reason for the Grade II\* listing and very visible in the Town and surrounding areas. The Church was reordered in 2009, alongside repairs to the tower at a cost of £400,000 and the climbing wall installed in base of the tower in late 2010 for £12,000. The church reordering concentrated in the Nave and involved a new carpeted floor with underfloor heating, amended vestibule with disabled WC, removal of pews and installation of a small kitchen. The congregation now averages 150 people, with many more young children.

The Former church school provides a good multi-purpose hall, kitchen, office, extensive storage on 3 floors etc. and so there was thus no need to subdivide the church, which is often filled both for worship and social activities.

There is greater flexibility of access and integration for those with disabilities enables all to be incorporated in our worship and provision of good quality tea and coffee within the church space has enhanced the social interaction before and after services. Facilities in the Church allow the Church and Hall to be used

independently when required and for conferences and larger meetings, the church can be used as a standalone building or in conjunction with the adjacent hall.

The tower now houses an indoor climbing wall which can be used as an outreach opportunity and provides a facility in Bamstaple that was not previously available for local schools, youth groups, scouts and guides amongst others.



This was used intensively in the early years, less so now, as the Parish no longer has the right personnel to staff it.

The Church is now being used for many regular community and cultural activities that could not be accommodated here before, including:

- A weekly mothers and toddlers group, using the carpeted and heated floor.
- Coffee and social mornings with activities.
- Regular concerts using the good acoustics, including a professional recording session and international choirs & ensembles. The parish are looking to encourage regular art and drama.
- Outreach includes:
  - Sunday Evening in Ashleigh School for parents & children,
  - Care to older residents,
  - Prayer walk around neighbourhood,
  - Bible based discussion in "Drop In",
  - Help group does DIY for housebound,
  - Messy Church, Open Book team,
  - Healing on the street, Street Pastors etc.



The works were completed in 2011 and cost around £412,000.

Architect: Jerry Kent