

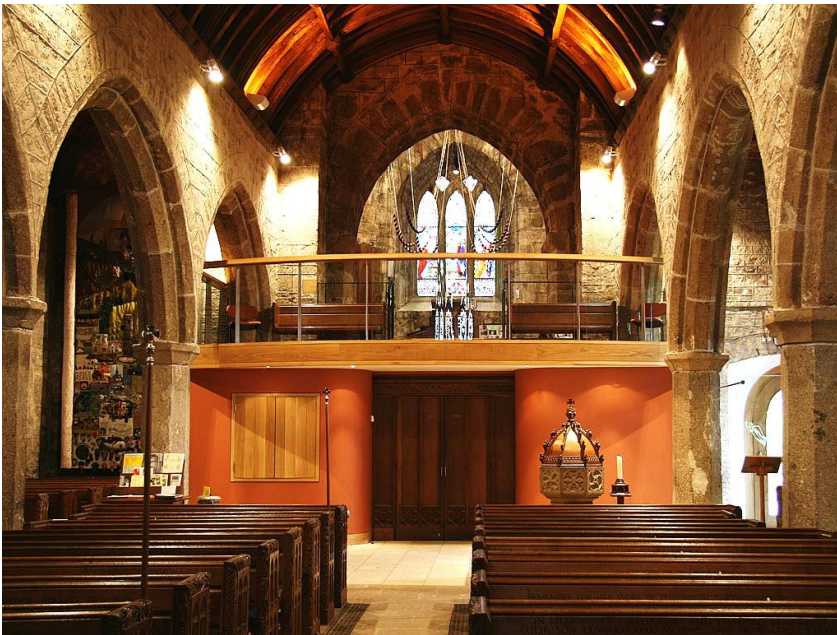
CHAGFORD, ST MICHAEL

Case study

from the Church Buildings Office
November 2014

SUMMARY OF WORKS

- Creation of gallery at West end to house toilets, storage and kitchen, to extend ringers gallery and to open up large West end window.
- Upgrade of heating and lighting.
- Removal of pews to create space for community use.
- Introduction of disabled access.



Grade I listed
C15 rebuild of earlier church; major renovation 1888;
vestry 1891; tower restored 1915.

St Michael's Church stands as a place of worship at the centre of six active parishes and has become increasingly used by the wider church and secular community: For recitals, concerts, special festival occasions and regular use by the local primary school.

The church struggled with poor lighting and heating, inflexible, fixed pews, no water supply and no disabled access. The completed works have had a significant visual impact on the quality of the light and space within the church as a whole. With the provision of the new disabled access and key amenities there can be fuller and more flexible use of this very fine building by worshippers and by the wider community.

Now the building is used for:

- Meetings in the new Gabriel Room (various local groups).
- Social gatherings (church groups, charities, baptisms etc), from drinks to coffee at the rear of the church, using the open space and kitchen.
- Concerts (church choir, Chagford singers and many others).
- Plays and the like (both local and visiting), the improved lighting and heating make a significant difference.
- Events such as the Christmas Fair and the Tinner's Fair are much easier.
- Increased numbers of visitors. (The overhead lighting, which is triggered by people entering, is much more inviting).



The works were completed in 2007 and cost
around £400,000

Architect: Allen Van der Steen,
Van der Steen Hall Architects