

# STOKE CANON, ST MARY MAGDALENE

## Case study

from the Church Buildings Office  
March 2015

### SUMMARY of WORKS

- Creation of community space in the West end of the Nave.
- Adaptation of pews to make possible worship “in the round.”
- Creation of narthex/ gallery in West end with WC, lift, kitchen and office/ meeting room space.

The reordering has created a large flexible space with movable seating; kitchen area (sinks, microwave, boiler, hot plate, no oven) and storage; a gallery with further seating together with rooms for vestry/benefice office and toilet facilities accessed by both stairs and lift and a worship area “in the round.”

These provide for:

- The needs of existing traditional worshippers as well as those whose wish is for a more informal style of worship.
- The need for space which can be used for social, health and educational outreach activities.
- The need for a building which reflects the 24 hours, 7 day week nature of the Gospel.
- The needs of the adjacent church school.
- The needs of disabled persons.
- A sustainable building with a dependable income.



Grade I listed  
Mainly C15. 1825-9 aisles widened by C  
Hedgeland; 1864 clerestory added to nave  
by C E Giles



The resulting worship area has underfloor heating and high-tech audio-visuals, can accommodate traditional and modern services and can be used for plays and concerts. The open plan area and gallery meeting area are used for community activities, including concerts, health sessions for the elderly, coffee mornings, parent/ toddler group, weekly lunch club, history groups, Pilates, quiz group, activity sessions for young children and by the adjacent school for assemblies and dance/drama lesson and performances. A huge range of community groups use the church, virtually seven days a week.

The works were completed in 2009

Architect: Michael Willis