

New Church in Driffield, East Yorkshire



Driffield's Methodist Church was a very large Victorian building which, despite extensive 1960s alterations, was unsuited to current needs, had accessibility difficulties and had become costly to maintain.

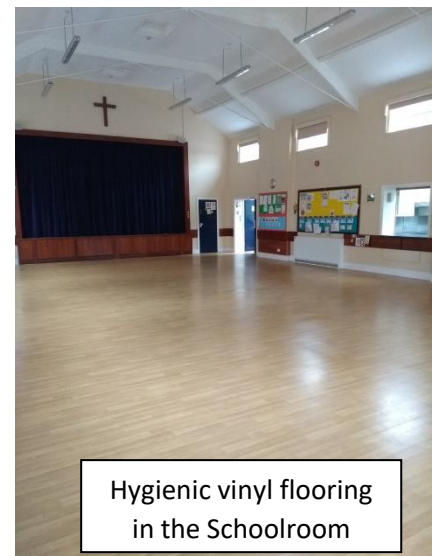
As bringing it up to date would be extremely expensive, in 2011 the decision was made to demolish and erect a modern user and eco-friendly building. September 2020 saw the culmination of a decade of planning, fund-raising and obtaining of many grants with the opening of our new Church.

After the Church had obtained planning consent for demolition and re-development, reliance on the adjacent Victorian Schoolroom increased dramatically with the transfer of all activities from the main building, as well as its own unique community support, including the thriving Driffield Methodist Playgroup.

Having commissioned a full building survey we prioritised a sequence of refurbishments to make it a more welcoming, sustainable and safe communal space. These include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ solar panels on the roof,
- ❖ new central heating boiler and controls,
- ❖ a newly fitted kitchen,
- ❖ renovated toilets, with water-free urinals,
- ❖ energy efficient windows, and
- ❖ more recently, new hygienic flooring.

The total cost was approximately £150k and this came from existing resources, fund-raising and various grants.

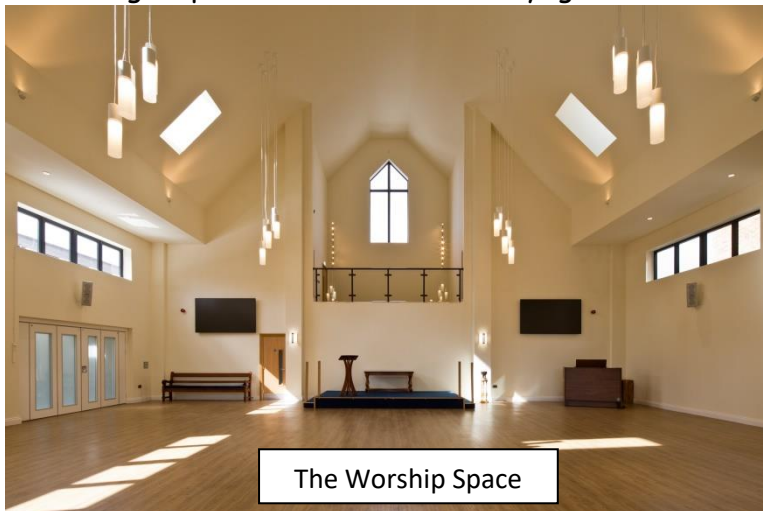


Hygienic vinyl flooring
in the Schoolroom

This work has received many accolades including the prestigious Duke of York's Community Initiative and the Church is an award holder in both the project and leadership skills categories.

Demolition of the old Church began in November 2018 and over 90% of the material was recycled; many unwanted furniture and artefacts were also sold to raise money. Delays for various reasons and, recently the coronavirus crisis meant that the keys were not handed over by the contractor until September this year. Plans for a formal opening along with a week of other events in May had to be cancelled.

The new building houses a worship space with room to accommodate up to 200 people with the latest audio-visual capacity and a new Viscount electronic organ. Other facilities include a large main hall, entrance and café/meeting space (cloister-style), state-of-the-art toilets, a kitchen, minstrels' gallery in the worship space as well as storage space and a new sensory garden with seating area. The Church has been



The Worship Space

designed to the latest standards and is both light and spacious with simplicity of design.

The new build incorporates the very best insulation materials which optimise the underfloor (main rooms) heating which is derived from a ground source heat pump fed by ten boreholes. Smaller rooms are heated by radiator or mechanical air venting.

This, along with the Schoolroom solar panels, reduces our dependence on other energy sources and also generates an income from the Renewable Heat Incentive. Bi-fold doors between the worship space and cloister area can be opened to facilitate larger events. Access control using proximity fobs gives good security and auditing of use with maximum flexibility. Safety and protection is facilitated by installed CCTV.



Westgate Entrance, garden space to left.

With the exception of a mezzanine floor which houses the minstrels' gallery and two storage rooms, the building is all on one level and accessible to all from either the front or rear entrances.

This fulfils our aim of not only having a

modern place of worship but to give the capacity for outreach and mission whilst, at the same time, providing space for community use.



From Middle Street North.