

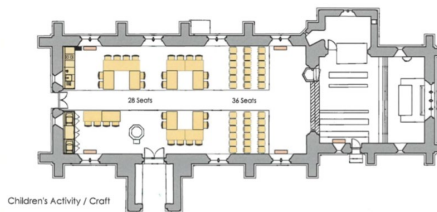
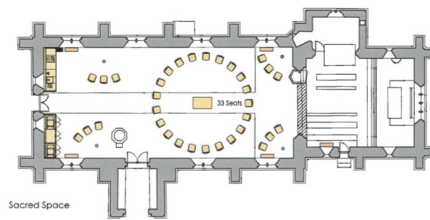
What it will deliver.

Creation of a dynamic environment, capable of hosting a multitude of events suitable for all ages. It will address the needs of comfort and convenience. It will better cater for the requirements of all generations. The flexible seating will allow for smaller groups in settings that are conducive to greater participation, augmented by modern facilities.

The internal space will be easily configurable to host such events as exhibitions, performing arts, crafts and informal lectures – tailored to suit the expected numbers in attendance with seating arrangements that play to the strengths of the building but focus on the audience's engagement - maximising participation and enjoyment. An improved heating system will ensure year-round comfort and enable full use daytime or evening.



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How we can achieve it.

Luckily, we are very fortunate to have an enormous number of friends, villagers and parishioners who have repeatedly shown that, given the right cause, you will support a mission of this magnitude – with zeal and dedication.

A variety of “Fun-raising” events are being planned to supplement direct donations.

Additional ways of giving are detailed on the loose attachment to this leaflet. It's our belief this building holds the traditions & history of the whole community, a legacy worth fighting for!

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Revitalising Christ Church, Henton

Summary of Presentation 8th February 2024

Further information may be found on the Parish web site:

www.chwchurches.co.uk

or, by contacting the church wardens:

Dave Harris 07906 314502

Sue Peel 01749 677502

The journey so far. A brief history.

Henton church was designed by architect Benjamin Ferrey, a former pupil of Augustus Pugin, in 1844 with a seating capacity of 306 'free' seats.

Funds were raised from local donations, subscriptions, a proportionate grant from the Incorporated Church Building Society & a donation of 25 shillings from dowager Queen Adelaide.

A Mr. Knight of Wells was appointed contractor and the church was completed and consecrated in October 1847 at a cost of £1200.



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Further landmarks:

1864/5: Organ installed – funded by subscription

1973: New pulpit stonework & new communion table added

1881: Henton technically became a parish

1897: First heating apparatus installed

1905: East window commissioned and installed

1920: The memorial window added to commemorate those who died in WW1

1929: First electric light installed

1986: Repairs to roof, bell tower and redecoration funded by local donation

1987: Received Grade II listing

Why do we need change?

Currently, the church has limited appeal, it lacks the amenities to properly host a range of events that we know would fit with a building of its character and presence in the village. As presently configured it doesn't lend itself to functions where conviviality is key, where attendees can sit in comfort, where young and old can mix in smaller groups – perhaps performing crafts or sharing produce. Providing refreshments is always

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a challenge. Alternative service formats are not always possible and hosting any kind of group performance is a squeeze, logistically. Comfort is clearly a major 'turn-off' as is lack of suitable facilities.

We face the prospect that diminishing congregations and use will lead to lower income and possible closure!

The plan

- Replace the pews with new, individual, comfortable & flexible seating.
- Install a running water supply and build a small kitchen unit with storage.
- Provide an updated audio-visual system with internet access
- A new lighting system
- Improve the heating with high-output radiators
- Upgrade the toilet facilities
- Ensure the whole church is accessible for disabled use.

There will also be changes to the flooring, repairs to stonework & external paths.

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