



# St Helen's Trowell

## Renewal Project for community building

### Who are we?

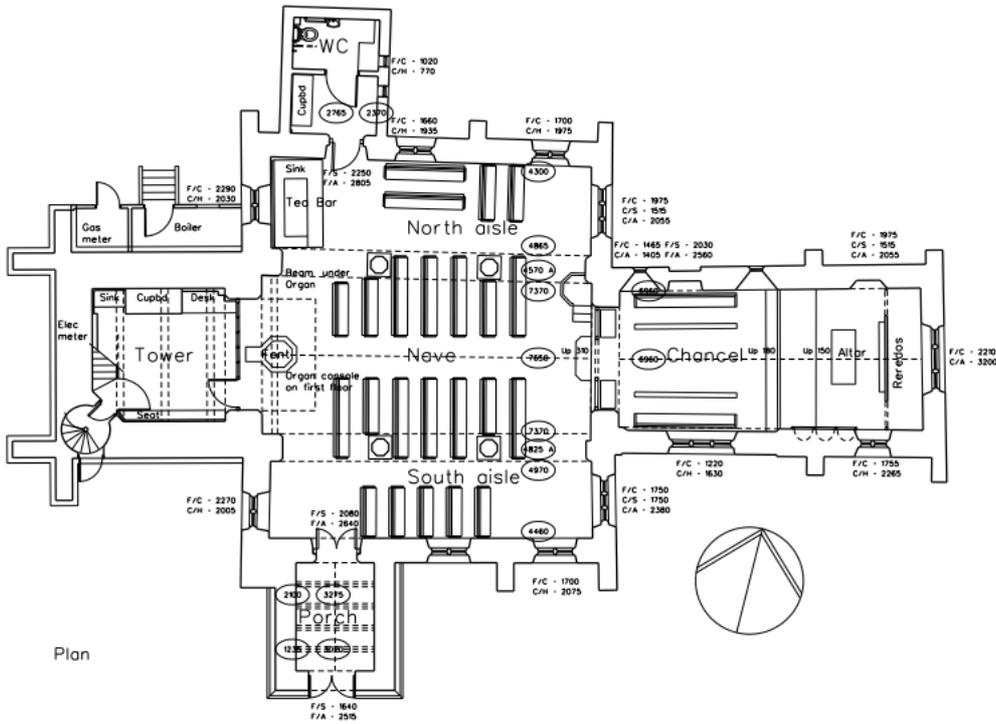
St Helen's Church Trowell is a Grade 2\* listed building that was built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, with evidence of a church on that site since 800AD. This ancient building of local sandstone has seen many changes over the years and it is vital that the building evolve to meet the needs of the village community now and into the future. Already the building is used by a Wednesday drop-in group for people living on their own, and for children's and youth events as well as by the local primary school but space is tight. The Renewal Project seeks to reorder the building in order to provide an adaptable and welcoming space that helps renew community, for St Helen's church but more importantly for the wider village. It can be found on the corner of Nottingham Road and Stapleford Road in Trowell, NG9 3QR



St Helen's is part of the Benefice of Trowell, Awsworth & Cossall – [www.trowellchurch.com](http://www.trowellchurch.com)

The Rector is Revd Dr Andy Lord (who has been there 9 years), with Assistant Ministers Revd Brenda Brown and Revd Paul Whitehead and licensed ministers Paul & Margaret Humphries. We have lively modern services and more traditional services for all ages every Sunday as well as a Wednesday drop-in, fortnightly open youth group and children's choir, monthly Saturday coffee mornings, bimonthly Village Breakfasts as well as special events through the year. The church is also used each term by the local primary school when 200 children, staff and parents visit. We welcome people from the village for baptisms, weddings, funerals and annual Memorial & Thanksgiving services. The church has an open churchyard which is important in village life.

St Helen's aims to be a church that loves, prays, grows and serves in the way of Jesus. Service to and with the community is a vital part of the life of St Helen's. St Helen's is a charity, as are other Church of England places of worship, although with an income of less than £100,000 is not registered with a separate charity number.



Plan

### What is the project?

The project aims at transforming the existing space to form an adaptable and welcoming place to enable the renewal of community.

**Adaptable.** There is a need for more adaptable space in the community as both our Church Hall and the Parish Hall are well booked with some bookings turned away as we are unable to accommodate them. Currently the Church building has two levels and fixed pews that hinder disabled access and use of the building by the wider community. The project aims to level the floors and replace the pews with adaptable seating. This will create two spaces for use: the nave which can accommodate groups of up to 80 and the chancel smaller groups of up to 20. A new audio-visual system will be usable in both spaces, important as such facilities are not available elsewhere in the village.

**Welcoming.** To encourage a welcoming atmosphere the porch area will be updated with glass outer doors and heating rather than the current iron gates. The existing heating system will be replaced with a system that will provide the essential heating throughout the winter that the current system can't provide. Recognising the historic nature of the building and the way this draws people in, the aim is to retain, reveal and enhance the best of the church's historic features and architecture. The medieval walls in particular need treatment to preserve and enhance them. A new lighting system will better highlight these features and give a bright atmosphere of welcome. The vestry will be updated to provide a small crèche area visible from the chancel area and providing storage.

**Renewing Community.** Trowell has a strong sense of community, winning the Nottinghamshire village of the year in 2009. It was also chosen to be the Festival of Britain Village in 1951 and this honour is remembered with the local pub being called The Festival Inn as well as a memorial obelisk which was erected in the village at the start of the new millennium by the Parish Council. A village committee continues to ensure that this historic achievement is celebrated on anniversaries, with recent commemorations taking place on the 50th and 60th anniversaries. These involved the village community

and church with various activities taking place over a three day period including dances, events for children, flower festivals, displays of heritage and old memorabilia and Songs of Praise type services. The church building is at the centre of the community and many know the building and visit the churchyard. A renewed building would provide additional and different spaces for meeting than are currently available. This would allow better use by groups such as the school and uniformed organisations. There is a need to sustain and develop the sense of community in Trowell and this project seeks to do this through the sensitive development of St Helen's building.

**Restoring Heritage.** Work is needed to restore the walls and East Window to preserve the heritage of the building. Extensive restoration was started in 1928 and this included work to the floor, walls, roof beams, bells and tower. It has been reported that during this time, unskilled parishioners were asked to re-point much of the stonework joints inside and outside of the building. This was done with a very strong mix of cement mortar, rather than the traditional lime mortar. Furthermore, internal eroded areas were filled with cement mortar render. This resulted in a rather untidy dark grey patchwork effect which has meant the medieval walls in particular need treatment to preserve and enhance them. We have a beautiful stained glass window at the eastern side of the church which was made by the renowned Victorian stained glass designer and manufacturer, Charles Eamer Kempe. This, sadly, is currently hidden by wooden carvings which were introduced in the Victorian Era. By lowering the level of the floor in the chancel area, and the lowering of the existing reredos screen, this would enable this window to be revealed and its beauty enjoyed again. The wood carvings would also be preserved and reused within the project.

This vision has developed over a number of years in consultation with our architect and with advice from the Diocese and national church. The planning permission (Faculty) was granted in early 2015 and the congregation asked to raise money, for which £41,500 has been pledged to date. The overall cost of the project is just under £200,000 – a figure calculated by a Quantity Surveyor alongside the architect.

## How is it to be funded?

We have developed a fundraising strategy in conjunction with Tony Brown who advises the Diocese on this. Firstly we have asked the regular members of St Helen's for pledges of money towards the work, given either as one-off gifts or over the next two years. This has raised £41,500, 20% of the total costs. We are applying for significant grants towards the costs of this community space from both large funders (such as WREN and the Lottery) and smaller charities. Also, there is ongoing fundraising with regular coffee mornings and special events such as Food & Fireworks and Puddings parties.

The work can be considered under a number of categories, the figures for which include architects fees and contingency figures:

Porch Entrance:	£4,200
Chairs:	£7,800 (approx. £60 each)
Creche:	£12,000 (update vestry for use as crèche)
Improve Heritage:	£30,000 (particularly in regard to the walls and redos)
New heating:	£36,000
New electrics:	£43,000 (general electrics, lighting and AV system)
Accessibility:	£52,500 (levelling the floor)
Other furniture:	£7,200 (moving and retreating oak)
Worship furniture:	£5,000 (movable altar-table, leaders desks & lectern)

Different funders are being sought in regard to each of these.