

CHAPEL ALLERTON ST MATTHEW

Case Study

SUMMARY OF WORKS

- Moving the font from the west end to the south door
- Screening off the west end to create a meeting room
- Removing a temporary kitchen from the northwest corner, building a new pod kitchen and adapting the pews to allow them to be easily moved



St Matthew's, Chapel Allerton was built between 1897 and 1900 to the design of G. F Bodley. The church is constructed of ashlar Ancaster and Bath limestone and built in the gothic revival style.



The west end of the church was used as a general gathering area, crèche and to hold a community cafe. The north west corner held temporary kitchen facilities. The whole of the west end looked untidy and cluttered with little space to manoeuvre around the font and pews in the area. There was also a lack of local provision for small meeting spaces for community use. The PCC wanted an enclosed area for a meeting room and crèche with plenty of storage which could be separately heated from the church and a kitchen. This was achieved by screening off the west end and building a pod kitchen. To accommodate an area for refreshments and the café, some pews were removed and the pews in the nave were adapted from fixed to moveable pews so that part or whole of the nave could be easily cleared for events. The font was moved to a more traditional position by the south door. The west door was adapted to include panelling to match the existing panelling at the west end.



These works have enabled the church building to be tidy and more welcoming for all; offering opportunities for flexible worship and for hosting a range of events, old and new, to reach out to the local community. The meeting room can be used for church and local community meetings.

Grade II * Listed
Architect: Richard Crooks
Works completed: 2019