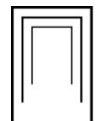


Managing major building projects in *places of worship*

RT REVD DR TIM ELLIS



PURCELL

Historic Religious
Buildings Alliance
a group within the Heritage Alliance

A Serious House

*A serious house on serious earth it is,
In whose blent air all our compulsions
meet,
Are recognised and clothed as destinies.*

Philip Larkin










The altar of promise



The marks of a healthy church

- Energised by faith
 - Outward looking focus
 - Seeks to find what God wants
 - Faces the cost of change and growth
 - Builds community
 - Makes room for others
 - Does a few things, but well
- 

Transformed
Transforming
Transformative

The altar of the house of God



Michael Nazir Ali suggests that our church communities... *will have to give up their churchy focus on priest plus stipend plus building and re-orientate themselves to something like faith plus community plus action...*



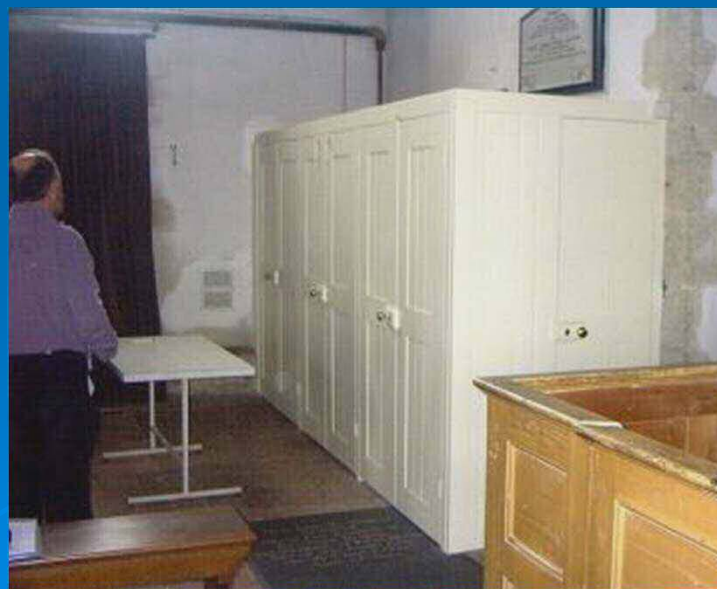


The Church Trap

If the original purpose of Christianity was to carry the spirit of Jesus through history, then it soon fell into the trap of using most of its energies to maintain itself and the life to which it had grown accustomed.

Richard Holloway: 'Between the Monster and the Saint'



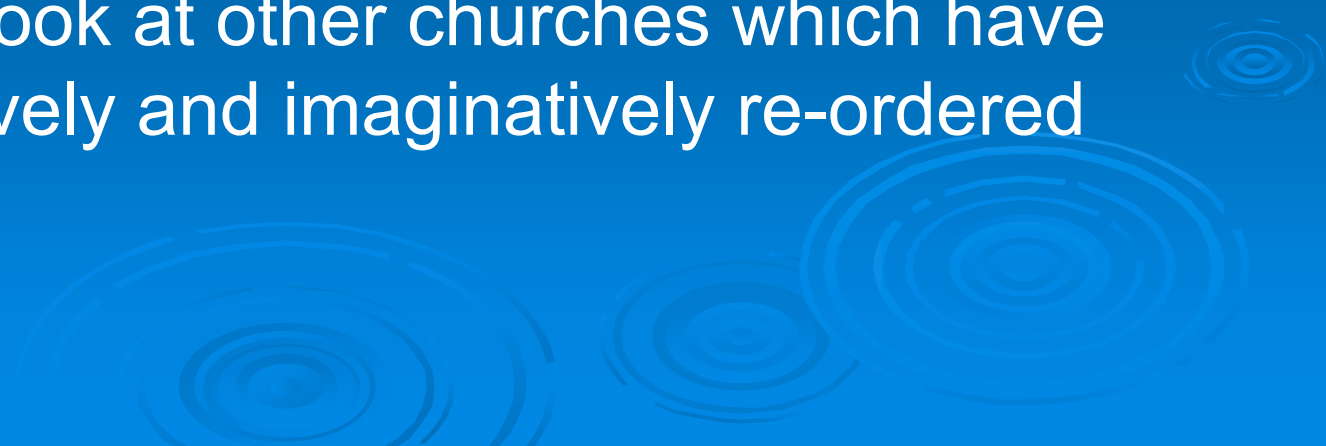


The mission of Judaism (Edgar Bronfman) suggests, is not to preserve Judaism but to build human community...the good of all religion is not to prepare us to enter the next life, it is a call to live now, love now, to be now and, in that way, to taste what it means to be a part of life that is eternal, a love that is barrier free and the being of a fully self-conscious humanity'

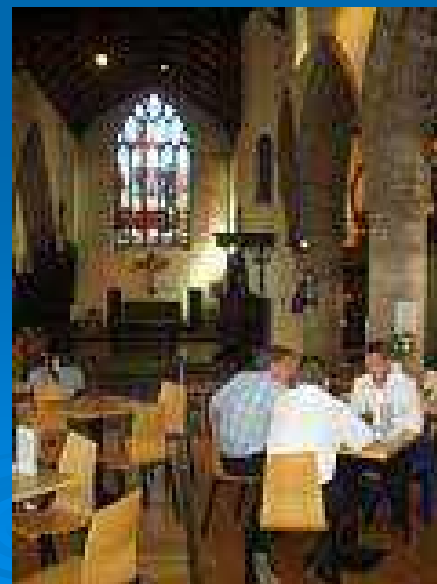
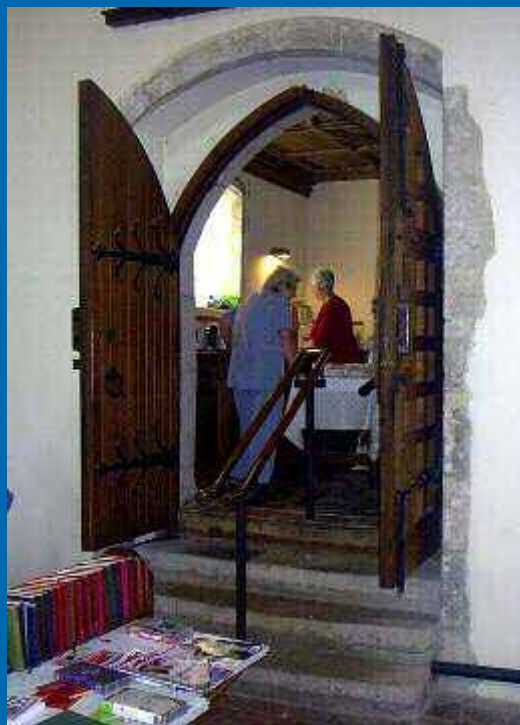
John Shelby Spong in 'Eternal Life-a new vision'



A Serious House

- Audit-establish real needs
 - Feasibility-open ended look at how your resources-built and otherwise-match the need.
 - Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
 - 'Where are we, and what are we like now?' What do we want to be?
 - Research: look at other churches which have been creatively and imaginatively re-ordered
- 





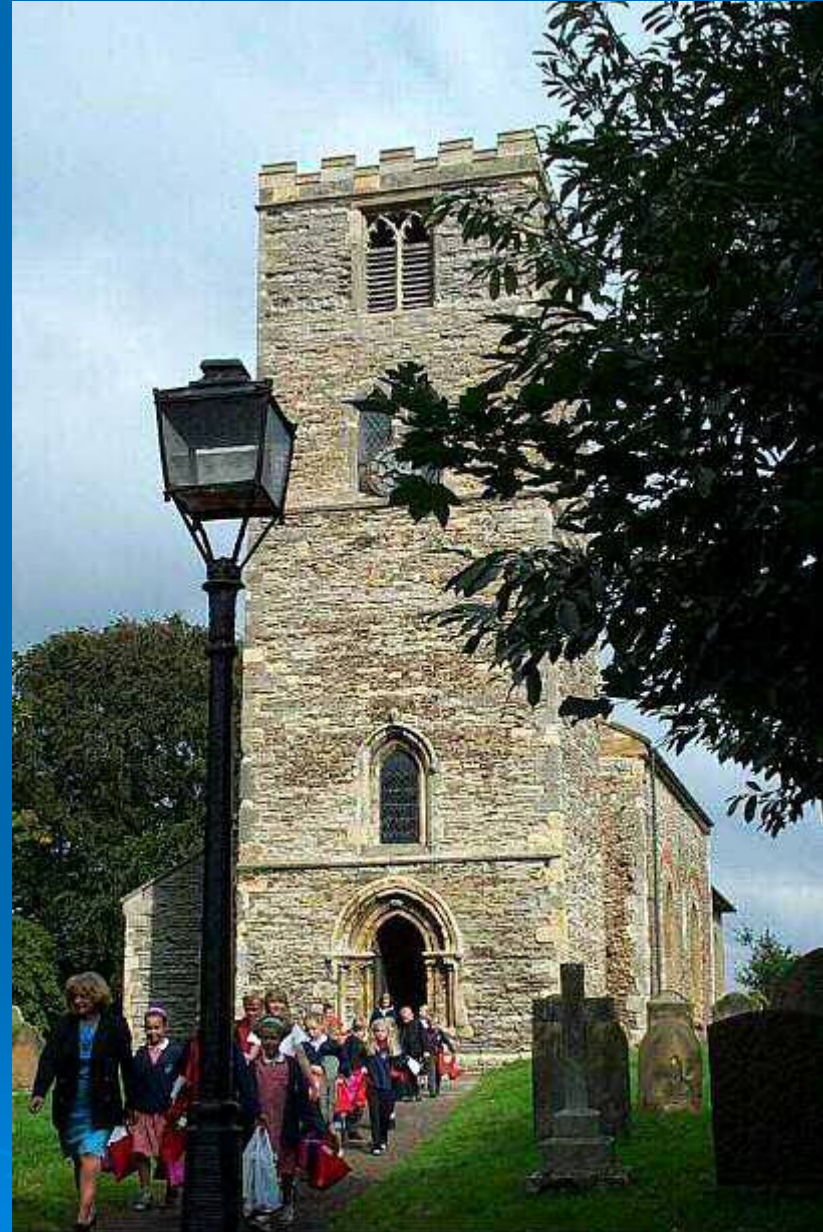


A Place for the Community

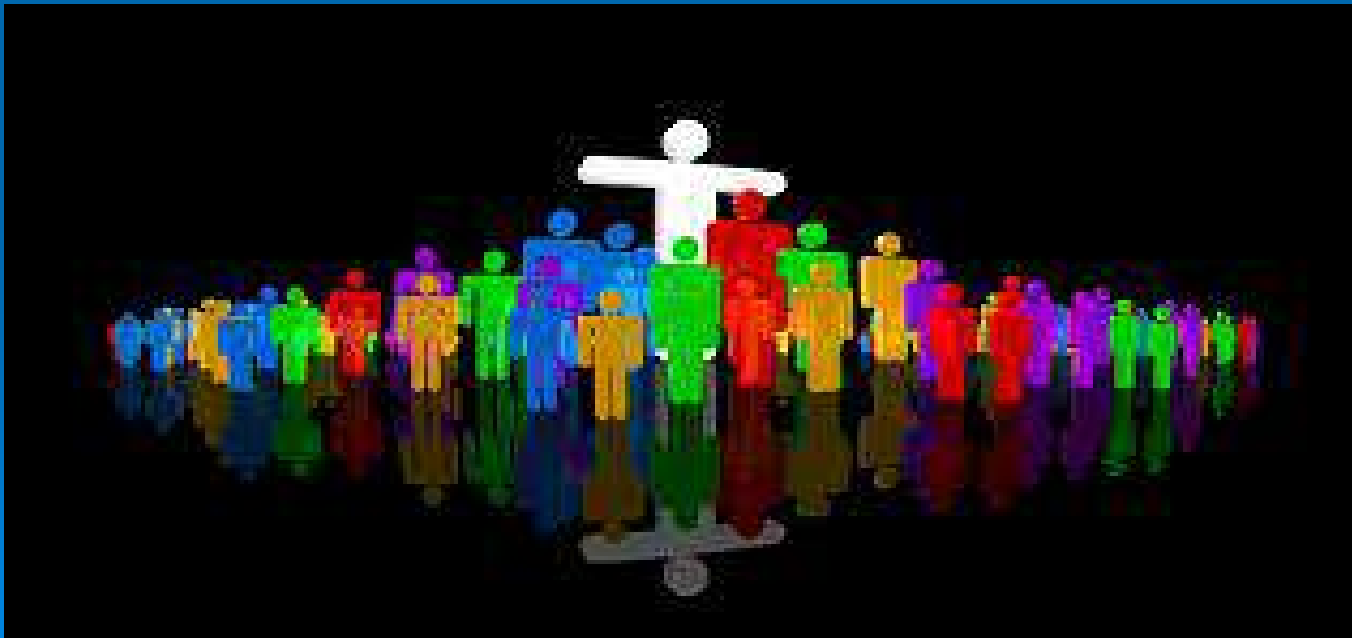
(After the Reformation)...

*The church building
became the business of
those who were religious,
or who considered
religion to be a good
thing for other people.
The ordinary person had
little to do with it'*

Canon Basil Clarke



Raise your eyes now, and look from the place where you are,
northwards and southwards, eastwards and westwards; for all the land
that you see I will give to you and to your offspring for ever



Of course, he knew well that it is the very transience of the objects of our love that moves and compels us, because we are reaching through them to a permanence that escapes us at the very moment of possession.

Richard Holloway in 'Godless Morality'



Increasingly, and we believe rightly, church buildings formerly used only used for worship, are being used for multi-purpose activities of benefit to the community at large.

It is important that the church of England should see that in the sharing of its buildings in this way it has an opportunity to serve the surrounding community-like someone opening the doors of their home.

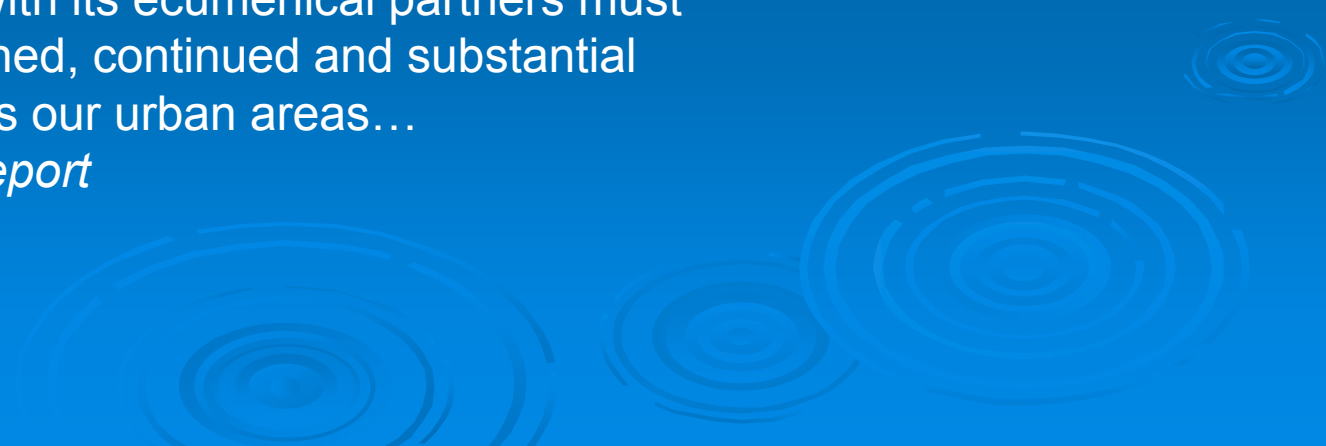
Faith in the City Report

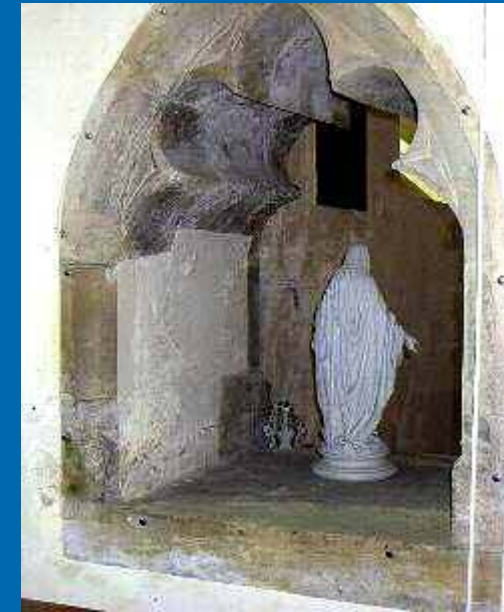
..the church building, if it is to be a witness to the faith, must have atmosphere that is alive and welcoming.

Faith in the Countryside

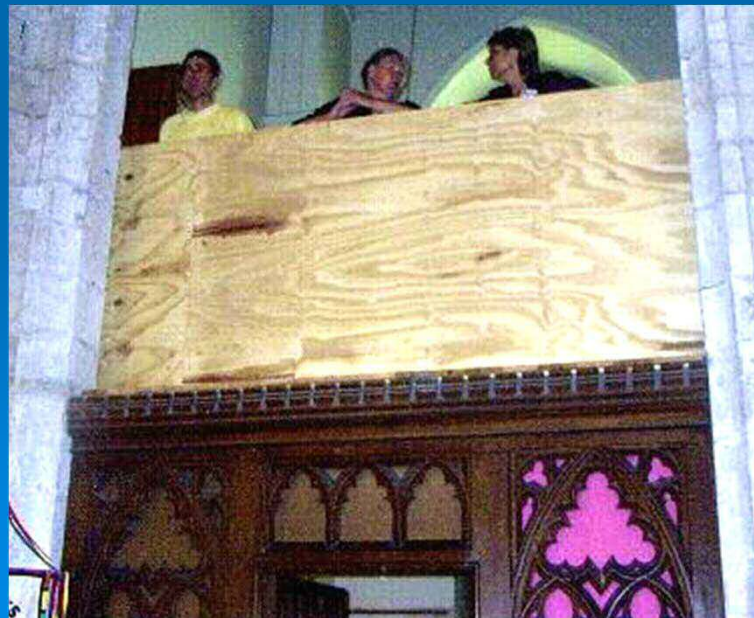
The Church... with its ecumenical partners must maintain a planned, continued and substantial Presence across our urban areas...

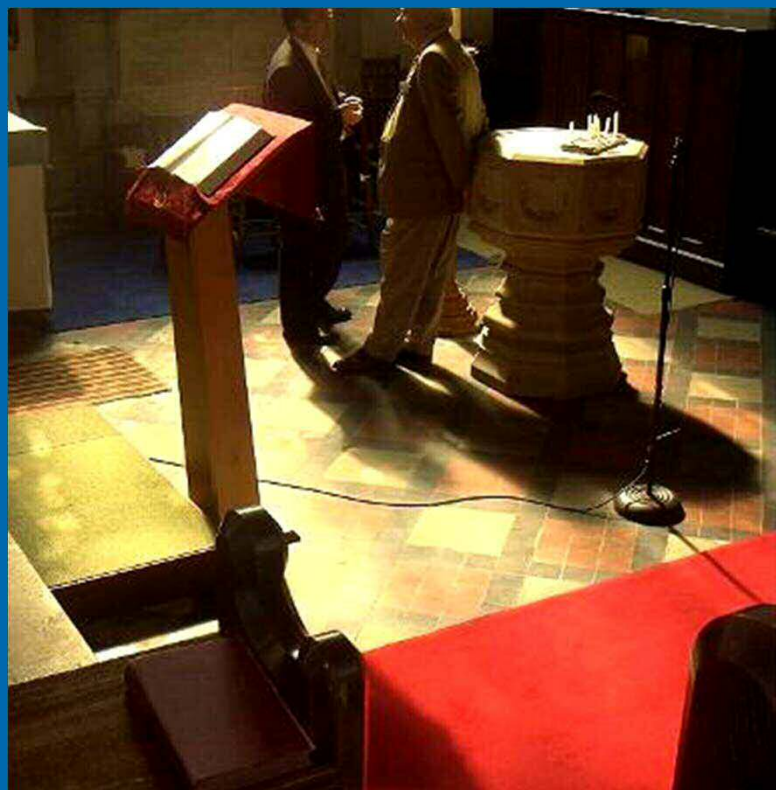
Faithful Cities report

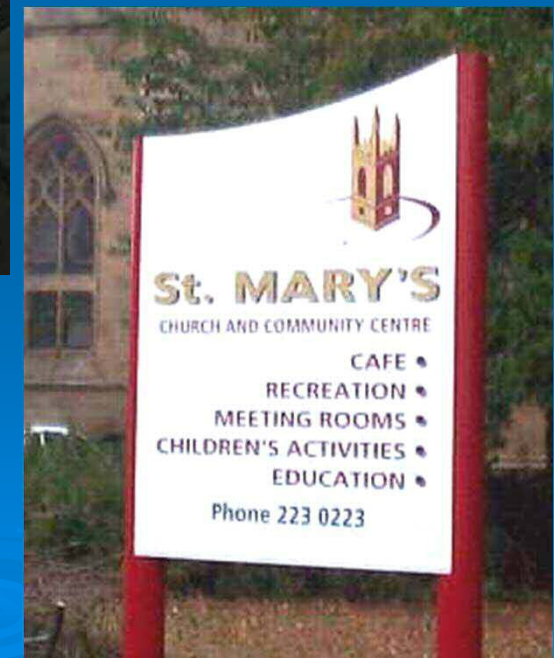
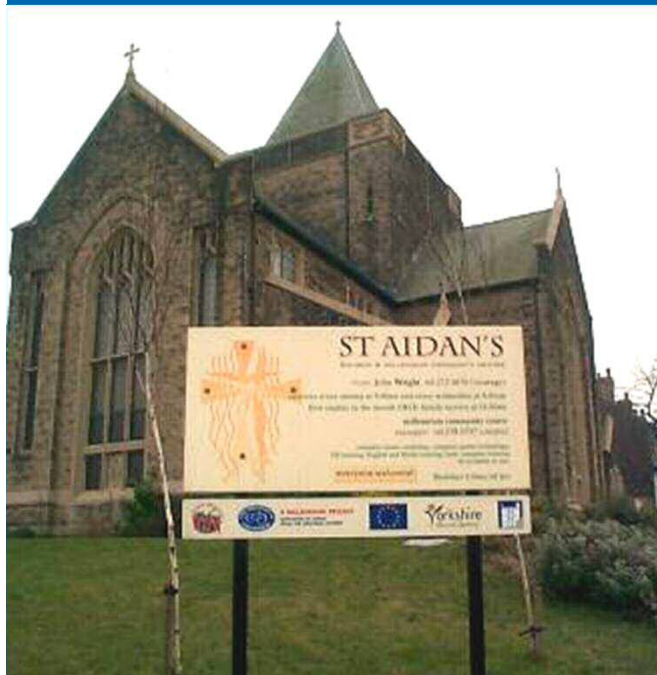
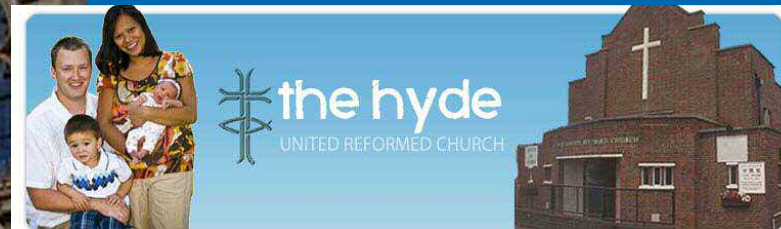




What Impression do we give?







Watch an old building with an anxious care, guard it as best you may and at any cost of any influence of dilapidation. Count its stones and bind it together when it loosens or declines. Do this tenderly, reverently and continually and many a generation may yet be born, and pass away beneath its shadow.

John Ruskin





*The Church has succeeded in
turning wine into water*

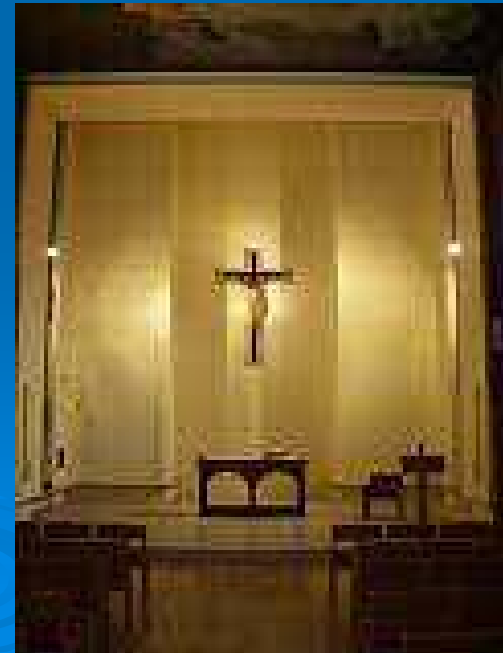


A Place of the Gathered Community



‘Holy Communion is celebrated by the whole people of God gathered for worship’

*General Notes - Book of
Common Worship*



'... if the church is seriously concerned to engage with and live out the Gospel, then perhaps its buildings should reflect the accessibility of Jesus'
Canon Peter Cavanagh



The Home of Liturgy





The Second Vatican Council spoke of the Church as 'the pilgrim people of God', reminding us of a very ancient, traditional description....(it follows that) those who dislike change and oppose it in the name of tradition are not within the tradition of the Church which, by its very nature, must be a Church on the move, a searching Church without any abiding city here.

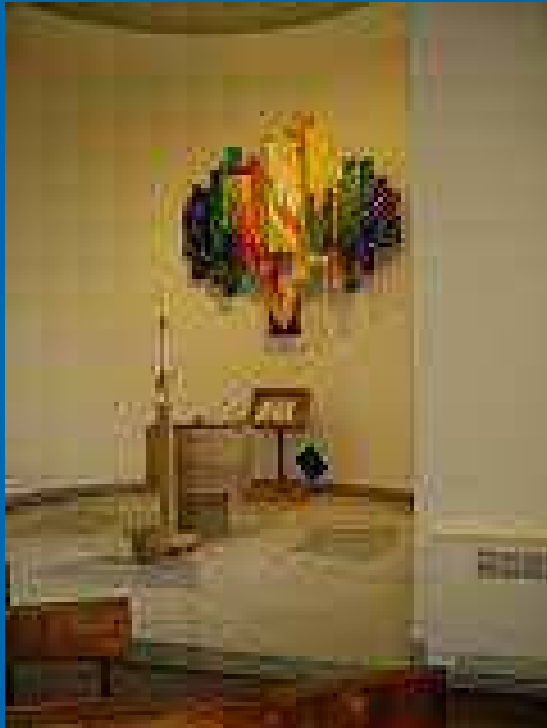
Gerard Hughes in 'In Search of a Way'

'Primitive people found a clear distinction between so called sacred and profane space. Sacred space is the place of regeneration, creativity and transformation. Sacred space provides an anchor for one's existence in the midst of the hazards of environment. This experience of sacred place is all but lost in our contemporary culture'

Huffman and Staufer

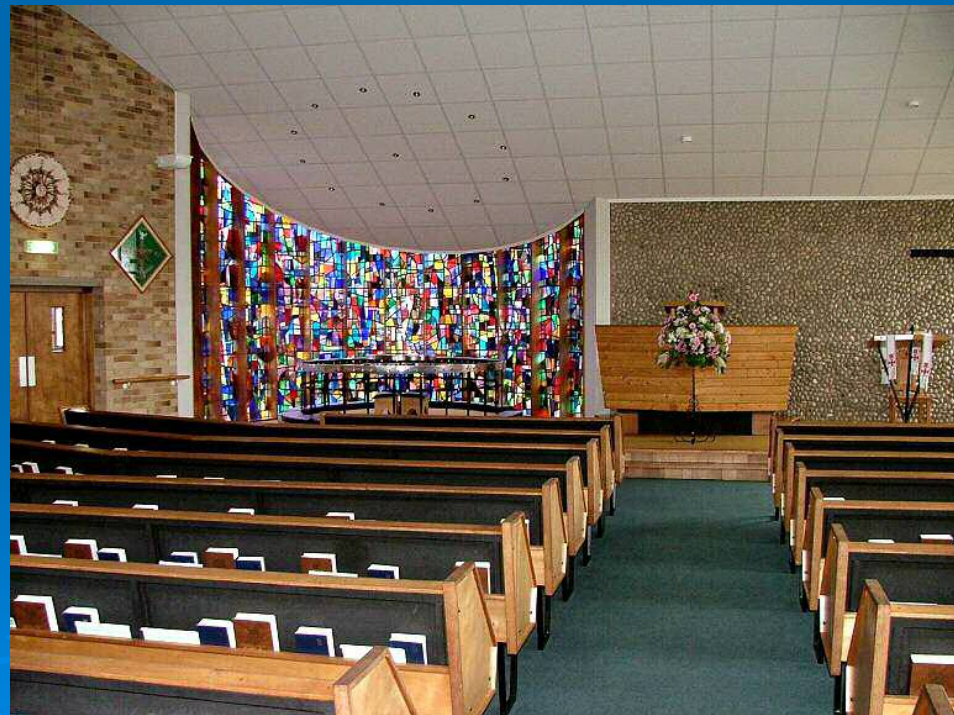


It needs to be realised that the architecture of the building is capable of exercising a profound influence on the worshipping community's understanding of itself and its mission'



Peter Hammond in
Towards and Church Architecture







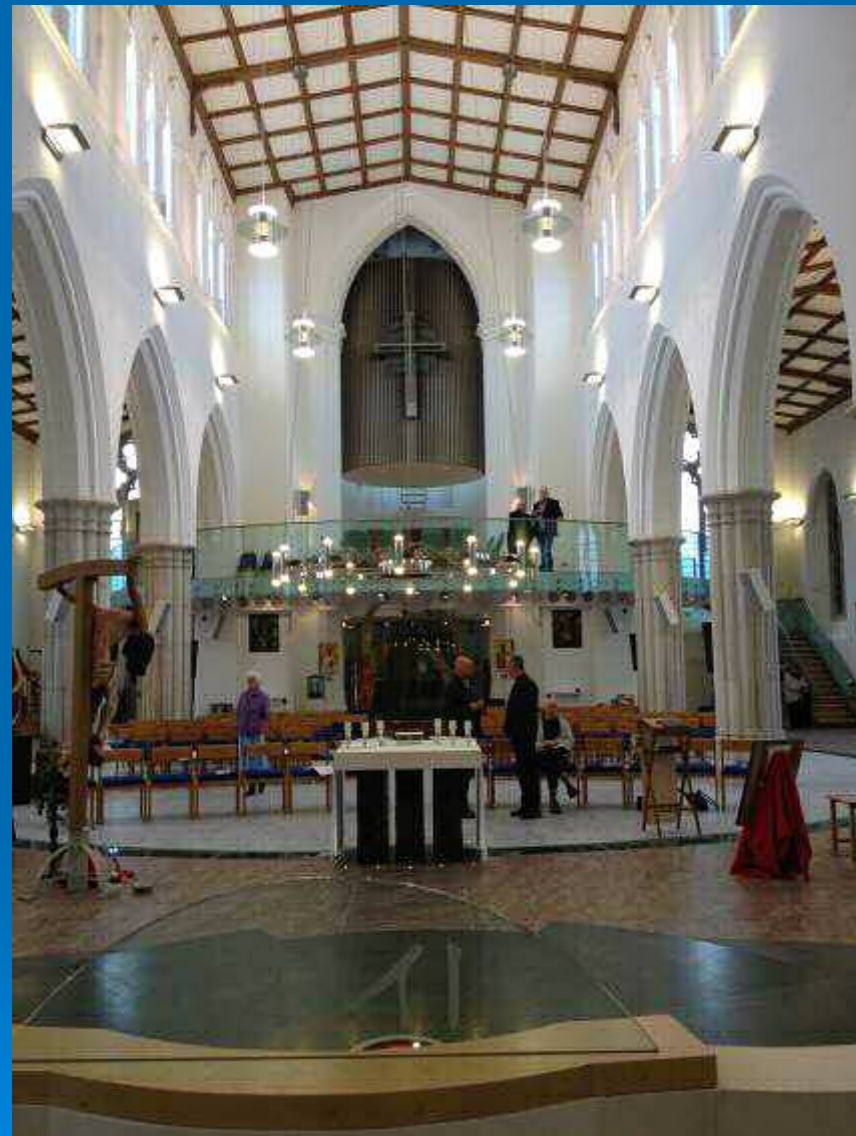














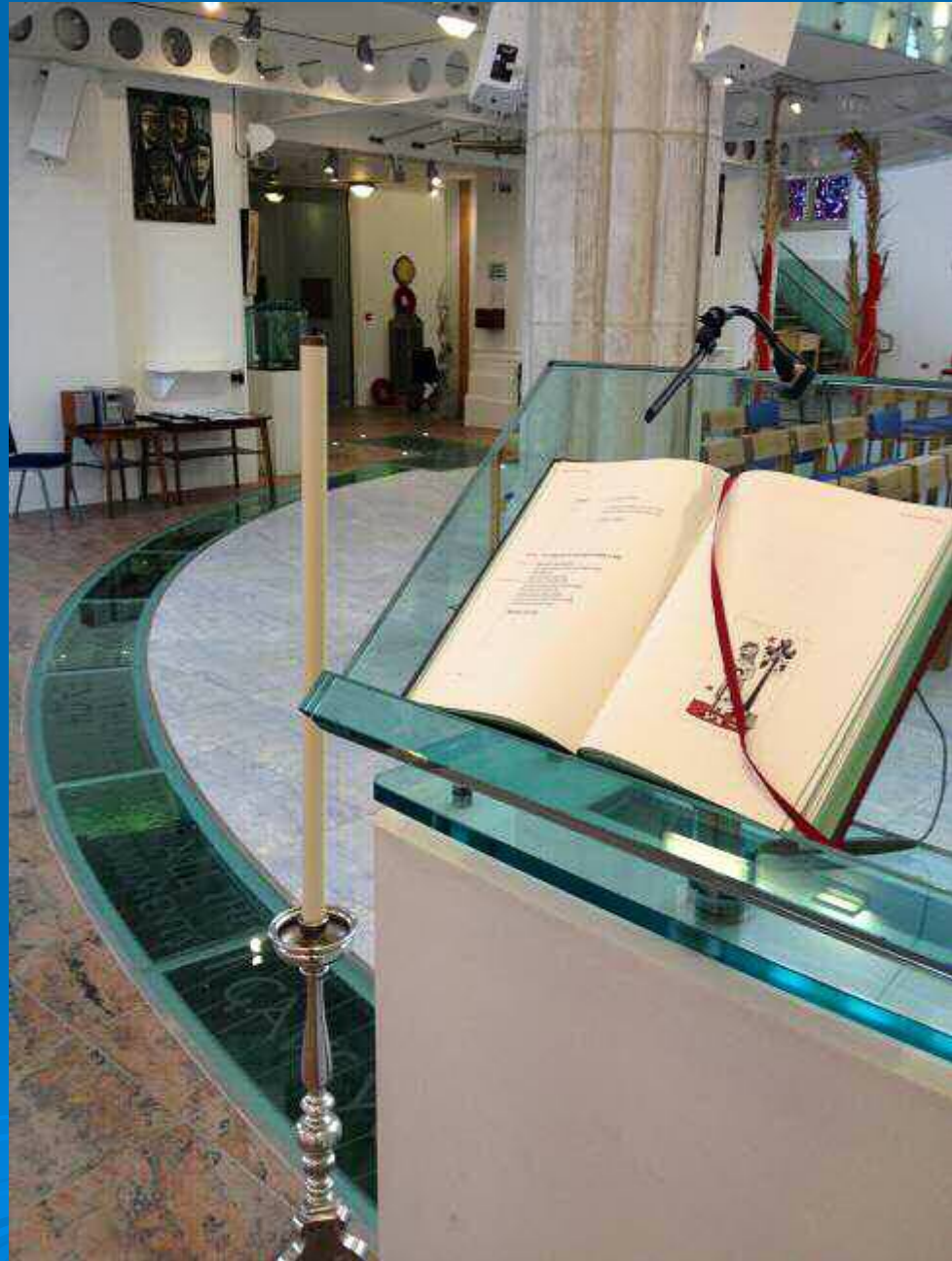


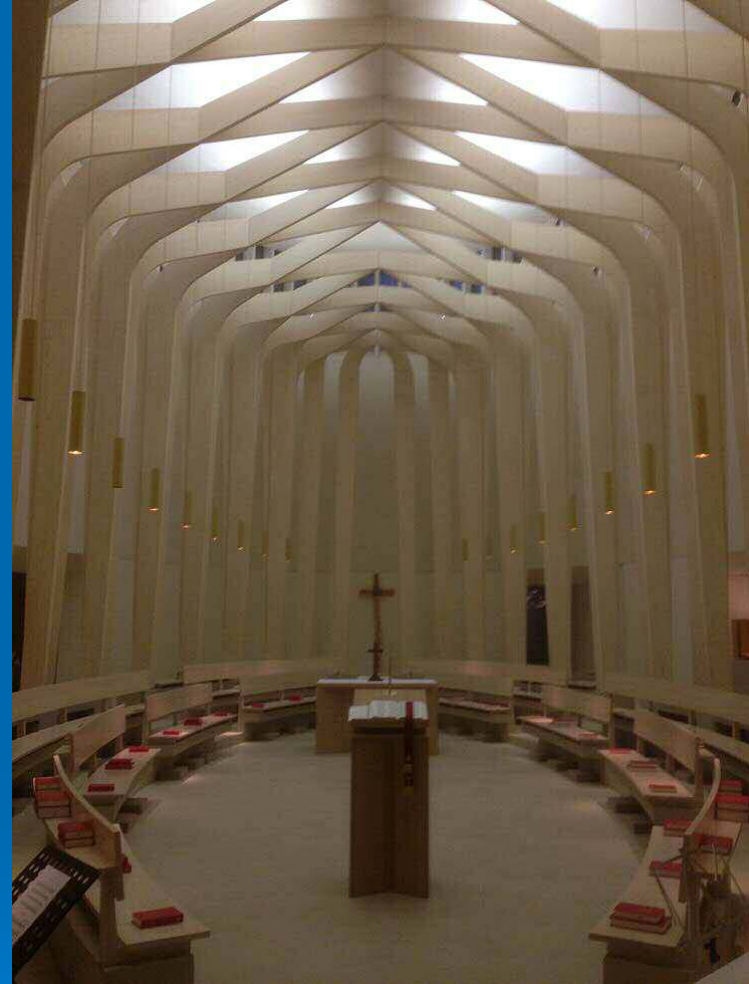




*The purpose of a church is to
move to worship, to bring a
man to his knees, to refresh his
soul in a weary land.*

Sir Ninian Comper





*‘The Abbot of Fecamp Abbey used to say that
his church prayed of itself’*

Ninian Comper



For the Church today the challenge is to find a way of focussing our attention outside the institution and to resist the temptation to be pre-occupied with the insistent, internal demands for more money, new roofs, more clergy, more children in Sunday School and more young families in the pews. However, the insistent demands of the institution, both at denominational and local level, are only part of the story. Journeying out requires the capacity to rise above the anxiety associated with encountering and embracing a potentially overwhelming outside world.

Ann Morisy-Journeying Out



A Serious House

