



together with members of the congregation who had relevant professional experience, were examining plans and costs. One of those congregation members, a professional architect (of One 17 AD Architects, Huddersfield) took over from the original architect. By March working drawings had been produced. Gradually by sacrificial giving enough money was available to commence the first phase.

### First Phase 1997

The church was temporarily screened off at a point immediately in front of the present screen. Work went on whilst Sunday worship continued in the area that had been the original area of the church prior to the 1874 extension. This first phase of the re-ordering was completed in 1997. Behind the ash and glass partition it provided the church with a parish office, toilets that also included facilities for the disabled, a kitchen and a lounge. A mezzanine floor included extra meeting rooms for children's and other groups upstairs, the main upstairs room being named the Warneford Room in honour of the first Vicar of the parish. It became possible to use the building on all 7 days of the week.

The desire to complete the work grew. As the remarkable sacrificial giving by the regular members of the congregation continued in a wonderful way it became apparent that the second phase work could start in the summer of 1999.

### Second Phase 1999

In an 8-week period in June and July 1999 Sunday worship was held in a crowded Parish Hall in Godfrey Road, the completion work was carried out. This included the removal of the pews and the original floor and the replacing with a new floor after the fitting of the ducting for new heating, ventilation and lighting systems. Photo shows the old floor taken up revealing the foundation walls!

By August 1999 a European ash dais had been fitted at the front of the chancel and furnished with ash liturgical furniture, Holy Table (altar to some), lectern and clergy desks/chairs. The previously under used font, now without its large pedestal, was mounted on a moveable base so that it can be put in place for baptisms. This arrangement brought the Holy Table further forward in the church so we can gather round it as the family of God. Comfortable, upholstered chairs replaced pews with more flexible seating arrangements. Many of these chairs were paid for by members of the church in memory of family members. The former baptistry in the North Transept was partitioned off and dressed in European ash and with glass windows to match the woodwork of stage. This provided a new room suitable for a crèche, with toilet facilities.

The old vestry was improved to provide a meeting place for groups. Other parts of the work included: remedial work on the roof; decorating the church; improved lighting, heating and ventilation improvements in similar style to Phase 1, and a great deal of other wiring to improve flexibility; new sound equipment including sound desk and CD decks, amplifiers and cable ducting for future enhancements.; new audio loop system. The carpeting of the floor completed the task

### Who Paid

There was no magic money or very large donations. Apart from grants of £7,000, the whole of the £245,000 cost was met by the sacrificial, loving and generous free will giving by members of the church's congregation. As a result, not only do we have a renewed building ourselves, but from the tithe we were able to help about a dozen different projects in Britain, East Europe, and some other countries including the building and equipping of a whole church for a 'homeless' village congregation in south India.

### Transformed

So the building had been transformed and equipped for the 21st Century, on the lines of the vision that really began some years earlier. There had been many planning meetings, prayer meetings and gift days but today we see and benefit from the fruits of that visionary thinking and input from so many good people. Above all, our thanks and praise goes to our Lord God himself. He gave us the vision. From Him came the human and financial resources.

# ALL SAINTS'



## The Reordering of All Saints' Church



By Ken Sawyer



# THE WHY, WHEN AND WHO PAID !

## First Thoughts

It was during the 1980's that thoughts first arose in the minds of some members of the church of the need for a restructured or re-ordered building. Early in the decade several valuable improvements had been made. These included a sound system, the renewing of the organ, the installation of warm air ducted heating, the removal of old lino and the fitting of carpet to cover most of the floor. The windows were repaired and protected, the church was re-decorated and a new porch door was fitted. Removal of some pews at the rear of the church created welcome circulation space. All was paid for! The church was brightened but was still only being used on one day of the week and there was still the lack of toilet facilities, essential for Sundays and for visitors to some occasional service

The value of these improvements underlined the need for further steps to develop the building so that it would be suitable for the worship, fellowship life, ministry and mission of the church in the 21st Century. Meeting rooms for groups were needed, and the Sunday School which was out on a limb whether at the Godfrey Road Parish Hall or in All Saints' School. Furthermore the two room aspect in the church building, that is leaders (Clergy and Readers) and choir in the chancel and the main body of worshippers (or audience?!) in the nave accentuated problems that detracted from fully shared worship and participation and even of visibility

## First Steps Forward

By 1991 an increasing number of people, including the Vicar the Rev. Tim Wilson, were realising the need to restructure or re-order the interior of the church building. The Church Council (PCC) began to look at the idea of re-ordering the church to provide a building more suitable for the church's task of worship, outreach, and service for the next century. Could the interior of nave and chancel be adapted in a way that was sympathetic to the context without the loss of the best of the existing structure? Could the old wine and the new wine be blended? The Fabric and Finance group began to consider a project to enable and enhance the work of All Saints' in its worship, fellowship and outreach. Consultation with and advice was taken from experienced sources available in the Wakefield Diocese and elsewhere. Visits were made available to reordered churches. Care was taken to seek the opinions of members of the congregation and to consider their views. Architects were interviewed and one was engaged to prepare a possible scheme.

## First Plans

Plans for: Suitable facilities for fellowship, children's' work, other meeting rooms, kitchen, office/vestry and toilet facilities in a two level area at the rear of the building and for a new worship area in accordance with modern liturgical practice, adapting the existing nave and chancel, and also for a crèche and a further meeting room at the east end of the church, were drawn up and presented in April 1993 and a public meeting was held.

The pulpit, pews and choir stalls would go but much of the fabric (such as windows, reredos and font) would remain. A new economical space heating system was planned. The font would be moved. Comfortable chairs, which could be flexibly arranged, could still seat the numbers of worshippers present on major occasions. All the desired needs could be met.

There was positive enthusiasm from many although a small number were not immediately at ease as they felt that part of the tradition and history could be lost. Every attempt was made and time was taken to resolve any difficulties and tensions. So the necessary 'faculty' (a church legal requirement) was applied for and after one written objection was made to the Diocesan Chancellor he declared in March 1994 that he granted the faculty as he had to have due regard to the role of the church as the local centre of worship and mission and to present and future needs.

## First Appeal Launched

The scheme's appeal was launched in September 1994. The PCC had already decided that a biblical tithe (one-tenth) of all that was received would be given away for Christian projects locally, nationally and further afield. So if the initial estimate should be £250,000 then £275,000 would be needed. By January 1995 £63,000 had been given or promised, a generous initial response. By this time the Fabric and Finance group,