

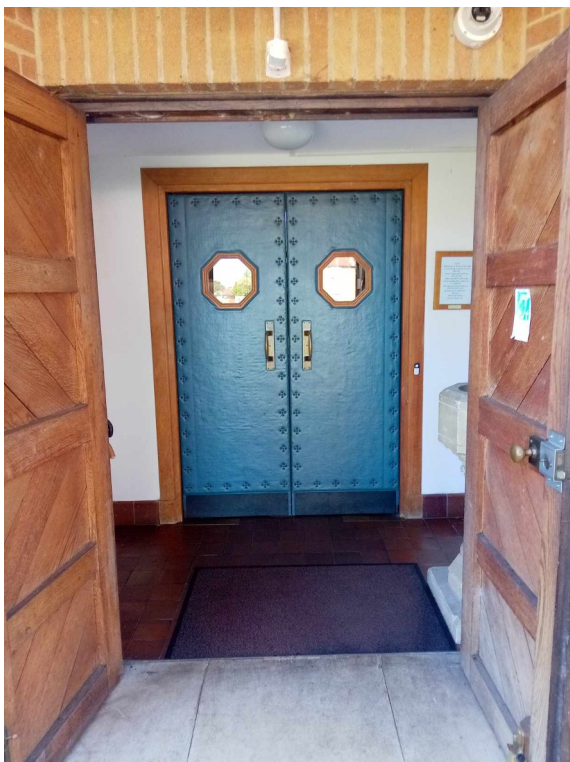
Holy Trinity Church, Hamp Street, Bridgwater

Statement of Significance and Need for the replacement of inner main doors

Holy Trinity Church is a 1960's construction situated on the Hamp Estate in Bridgwater – a "Magnificat" parish ranking amongst the most deprived in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). The estate comprises a significant amount of social housing built in the period 1920's to 1970's, some sheltered housing, and around the fringes of the estate are some newer, private housing developments. In addition, there are three schools. The local Re-Creation centre is host to the very well used and much needed Food pantry.

The church community is increasingly acknowledging the need for the church to be "outward facing" in providing a space and a church community which is concerned for the local community as a whole, and which offers its space and people for the use and welfare of the wider community. The church is keen to build on its reputation as a "welcoming church" by being increasingly open, accessible and transparent in all it does. Already the church building is used for community use, in particular the regular weekly "Social and Craft Morning" which is well attended by church members and non-church members. The building is used by the schools for festivals, concerts and other occasions. The church and grounds are used by the Hamp Community for occasional Community Fun Days which are largely organised and run by non church members, in addition to the church's own Christmas and Summer open days which are popular local events. Whilst the church is keen to attract younger people, the fact remains that the majority of users are elderly, and some are in frail health.

Currently the main entrance to the church looks like this:



The blue inner swing doors are extremely heavy to open. Increasingly frailer church users are having to ask others to open the door for them. Also, the existing doors allow for a very limited view into the church by means of the two small windows which, for some, are too high to see through. It has become increasingly apparent that there is a need to replace the inner main doors with ones that are much lighter in weight and therefore easier to open. In line with the church's desire to be "open", welcoming and "outward-facing" in its worship and outreach, it is considered that fully glass doors would be beneficial in making the entrance less austere and more welcoming. People will be able to see that the church is "open" and will be able to see what is going on inside, thus negating the perception by some that the church is a "closed society".

The inside of the church is furnished with light oak furniture and fittings which very much forms the appearance and ambience of the building. In keeping with this, it is proposed that replacement doors will have light oak frames.

The proposed replacement inner doors will look like this (computer generated impression):



The replacement doors will use the existing handles which will be transferred across from the old doors. The new doors will be on new both-way swing hinges which will be lighter to use than the existing ones. The doors will be lighter in weight and will push open more easily and freely than the existing doors thus making them much easier to use, and more accessible for wheelchair users.

It is considered that this proposal for new doors **will be significant** in improving the appearance of the church entrance, making it more welcoming and giving the appearance of the "openness" of both the building and the church community.

It is considered that this proposal for new doors **will meet the need** for doors that are lighter in weight and easier to use for those who find the exiting heavy doors a potential bar to entry of the building.

This statement of significance and need is agreed and adopted by the Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council on the 27th day of November 2024.

William Lane

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Rev William Lane, vicar & chair of Holy Trinity PCC