

HERITAGE /DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT
FOR PROPOSED EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS/IMPROVEMENTS
AT MELTHAM PARISH HALL, GREENS END ROAD
MELTHAM
HOLMFIRTH

Meltham Parish Hall was originally the Church School and was built in 1868.

In 1962 Meltham Church of England School was opened on Holmfirth Road.

The Church School then transferred into the care of St Bartholomew's Church and was known as the Church Hall. A team of volunteers was formed and over the years the building has been modernised, the main hall became one room, a stage was built and raised seating fitted at the back. The very back room was a classroom and is now used to store tables and chairs. Cupboards have been fitted and are used by some hirers of the hall. An external door was fitted, which is a fire exit. The middle room was a classroom, and this was made into a meeting room. A kitchen, ladies, gents and disabled toilets have been installed

In 2022 new double-glazed windows were fitted across the back of the hall, following this the loft, kitchen, meeting room and back room were plastered and decorated. The meeting room had LED down lighters fitted, blackout blinds, cushions for the seating and a carpet fitted.

We are selling the Church House (no. 3 Greens End Road), as it's no longer viable and needs substantial modernisation. Some of the funds from the sale of the property will enable us to continue with the remediation/improvement works proposed to the Parish Hall.

We need to make a new pedestrian public access into the site as the existing one is included in the sale of No. 3. The remaining vehicular entrance (which also serves 4 dwellings) is narrow and not suitable for both vehicular and pedestrian access on a full-time basis. Therefore, we propose to form a new access in the boundary wall which runs parallel with Greens End Road and form a new ambulant set of steps leading up to the door of the Hall. Minor external works will include the removal some dilapidated small stone garden walls which will increase the path width for wheelchair users within the site and also create a refuge area from vehicles when gaining access into the building via the existing ramps and level thresholds readily available. Walls where indicated will be rebuilt using stone set aside from the existing. New metal railings will be installed to the steps and to the existing raised landing area. All materials proposed in the works will be sympathetic to the area and surrounding street scene.

The hall is a wonderful hub for the community and is used by many groups, Pilates, Zumba, Good as Gold, Yoga, Chair Zumba, Flower Club, Over 60's. Tumbletots, Quilts for Carers, Hospice, Local and General Elections, Scarecrow Festival, Meltham Memories, Women's Fellowship, Helme Ladies, Meltham & Meltham Mills Band, Church events (pancake party. Treatfest, Parish lunches and meetings. It is also hired for Children's Parties and many private functions.

The Stage Co. perform a pantomime and a concert every year. Meltham Gilbert and Sullivan Society perform a full stage production and many concerts.

Every Saturday morning different groups host a coffee morning. These are always well supported no matter whose coffee morning it is. People of the village look forward to Saturdays and for some it is the only time they meet with friends. Just recently an elderly lady gave the Church Hall £50 towards refurbishment as she said the coffee mornings and the hall were very important to her.

The hall is maintained by a group of 7 volunteers, and everything is overseen by the PCC.

The Parish Hall is very important to the community and the Church is very happy to support the community.

To sum up, we feel that the proposals will not have any negative effect to the conservation area, with materials used in the works harmonizing with local area/street scene. The proposed works in conjunction with the sale of no. 3 is vital for the hall to continue providing the community hub it currently offers. The new access and stepped entrance will be in line with all parts of the current building regulations including Part M of the guidelines.