

Climate Change Statement

Trinity Workshops – Conversion of the former Holy Trinity Church, Denby Dale, into a Community Workshop with Mezzanine Floor and small outdoor Classroom.

Denby Dale and District Men's Shed Association

Holy Trinity Church, Denby Dale, HD8 8UZ

11th November 2025

1. Introduction

This statement explains how the proposed conversion of Holy Trinity Church into a community woodworking and metalworking workshop will help to tackle climate change and support Kirklees Council's Climate Emergency goals. By reusing the existing building rather than demolishing and rebuilding, we are helping to save energy and reduce the carbon impact of construction. The project will bring a valued local building back into use and preserve its historical aesthetics. We are creating a place where people can share skills, make and repair things, and connect with others in a sustainable and positive way.

2. Energy Efficiency and Carbon Reduction

The project will improve the energy performance of the building where possible, while respecting its historic character. We plan to insulate internal walls and roof spaces where suitable, draught-proof doors and windows, and fit secondary glazing to improve comfort. Lighting will be upgraded to LED throughout, and efficient electric heating systems (probably infra red) will replace outdated equipment. Heating will be zoned so that only areas in use are warmed. The new outdoor classroom will be well insulated and built from timber or other low-carbon materials.

3. Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy

We will explore opportunities to install a solar array on the south facing roof and the installation of an appropriate battery storage system, subject to structural and heritage considerations. Both systems will have smart controls to ensure effective management and monitoring as well as allowing us to take advantage of smart renewable energy tariffs. The design also allows for future connection to renewable energy systems, such as a community heat network or air-source heat pump, if funding allows.

4. Sustainable Transport

The church is in the heart of Denby Dale, close to bus routes, the railway station, and footpaths. Most users and visitors will be local and are encouraged to walk, cycle, or car-share. Cycle storage will be provided, and car use will be limited to essential users. The level of traffic will be no greater than when the church was in regular use.

5. Construction and Materials

We will reuse as many materials as possible from the existing building, such as timber, stone, and fittings. Where new materials are needed, we will choose local, sustainable options. Waste will be kept to a minimum, and recycling and responsible disposal will be

prioritised. Wherever possible, local tradespeople and suppliers will be used to reduce travel emissions and support the local economy.

6. Water and Drainage

Existing rainwater goods will be repaired and reused. We will install water butts or small rainwater harvesting systems for garden use. The development will not increase surface water runoff, and the garden area will continue to absorb rainfall naturally.

7. Biodiversity and Resilience

The garden around the church will be managed to encourage wildlife, with native and pollinator-friendly planting, bird boxes, and natural habitats. No trees will be removed, and the small classroom will be carefully placed to avoid root disturbance. External lighting will be minimal and designed to protect bats and other nocturnal wildlife.

8. Community and Long-Term Benefits

Trinity Workshops will encourage repair, reuse, and making – helping to reduce waste and promote sustainable living in the local community. The project also supports health and wellbeing by bringing people together to share skills, reduce isolation, and create lasting value in a low-impact way.

9. Summary

This project represents a sustainable and responsible approach to reusing an existing community building. It will cut carbon emissions by avoiding demolition, improve energy efficiency, and promote sustainable travel and biodiversity. Trinity Workshops supports the Kirklees Local Plan, the National Planning Policy Framework, and the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.