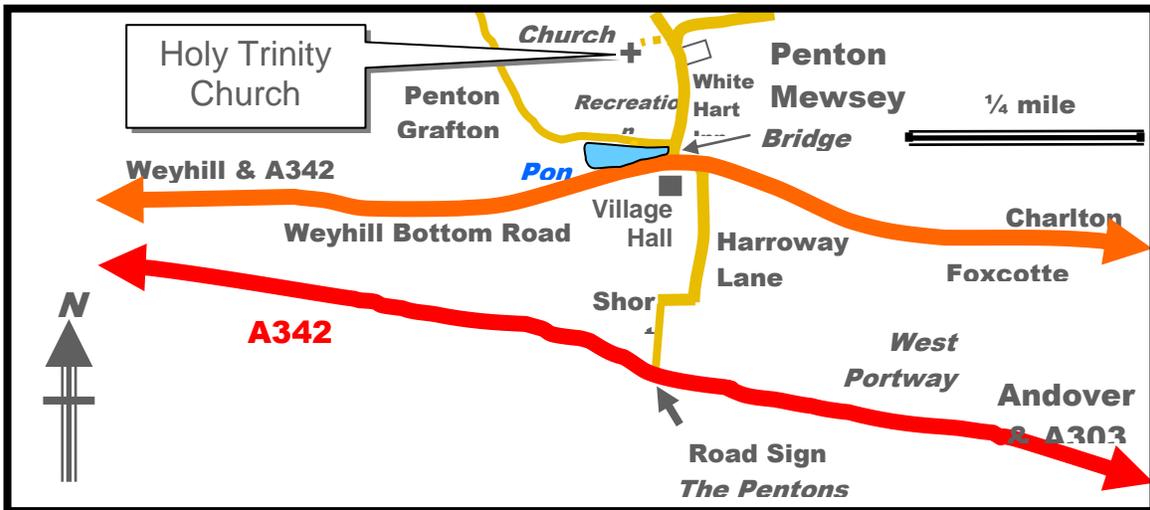
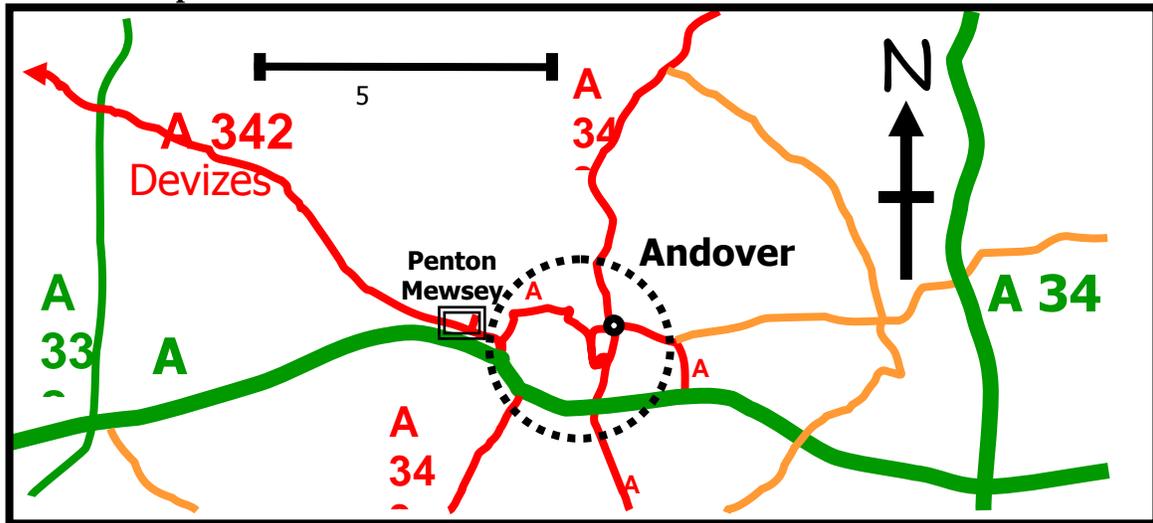


# Holy Trinity Church, Penton Mewsey Renovation Statement of Need

## Section A – General Information

The parish of Penton Mewsey has a population of approximately 380 people (336 on current Electoral Register). It is part of the Pastrow Benefice, which also includes the parishes of Charlton, Hatherden, Tangle and Weyhill. Penton Grafton, the closely adjoining village to Mewsey, is paradoxically part of the Weyhill parish, some 1.5 miles away; consequently most church-attending parishioners regularly worship at Holy Trinity.

### Location Map



The number on the Parish Electoral Roll is 74, but actual attendance is quite variable, ranging from an average of 10 at 08.30 Communion to 20 at 10.00 Family Service. These numbers are considerably swelled at Easter, Christmas and Remembrance services, when up to 80+ adults and 15 children will attend. There is a wide age range coming to services with a growing number of pre-school children, whose parents are encouraged to bring them. Currently there is no Sunday school or crèche at the church, but this is always under review and can be re-instated whenever the numbers justify doing so.

The church is used regularly for local weddings (4 in 2011), funerals (1 in 2011) and baptisms (5 in 2011). The creation of the Pastrow Benefice has increased demand for these to be held at Holy Trinity, particularly for weekday celebrations, when Charlton's church hall at St. Thomas' is fully occupied by other, regular users. Charlton is an urban parish with some 6500 on its electoral roll.

Holy Trinity church is open during daylight hours and a steady stream of visitors takes advantage of this facility, in particular those who are interested in the War Graves situated in a carefully maintained area of the pretty churchyard. Comments in the Visitor Book are always positive.

The church itself has no adjoining hall or other buildings. In terms of local, community facilities, the village of Penton Mewsey has a public house, "The White Hart", situated some 100 metres from the church. The village also has a well maintained Village Hall with active Recreation Committee, which is shared with Penton Grafton. The hall is situated some 300 metres from the church on the far side of a busy road. There are no public toilets in the village.

The last Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in March 2010 and Report issued in April 2010. The most significant item from this was the need to replace totally the church's roof, with some minor metal and leadwork needing repair. The estimated cost of these works will be in excess of £40,000.

In other respects, the report was generally positive and recognised the good state of regular maintenance.

In terms of finance for the repair, the church has no funds of this magnitude available. However, the PCC have supported a project to raise the sums needed from whatever sources can be found and created a Fundraising Committee to manage the campaign. It is proposed to approach a number of grant funding organisations and private individuals to put forward the case and hopefully secure the necessary support.

In addition to the roof repair, but also recognising that there are some synergy and cost benefits, it has been proposed to improve the facilities at the church by the addition of a toilet and basic kitchenette within the overall project scope. The first priority will be to secure funds for the roof repair with a further phase to follow to provide the toilet and other works. The overall cost estimate is approximately £135,000.

## **Section B – The Need**

### **Fabric:**

- The roof tiles on the church building must be replaced because they are no longer sound and beyond economic repair in small sections.

### **Facilities:**

- We need one accessible toilet and the ability to serve refreshments.
- We need to provide some internal screening within the church to reduce heat loss and improve the vestry facility.

### **Architect's Project Brief for toilet and additional facilities:**

Holy Trinity Church, Chalkcroft Lane, Penton Mewsey, Hampshire SP11 0RD: Listing Grade LB2S. Listing Date 1960. National Reference 404 834

I am instructed by the PCC of Holy Trinity Church, Penton Mewsey to develop proposals to provide an Accessible Toilet, with Facilities for Disabled Persons, on the north wall of the Nave, abutting the west wall of the Vestry, plus refreshments / flower arranging storage, preparation and washing / sink facilities in the Vestry that is, itself, to have a modified screen erected between the Nave and Vestry to improve sound and temperature insulation, plus zoned heating efficiency in the church.

Rex Butland B Arch RIBA  
Chartered Architect

## **Section C – Difficulties in meeting the need**

**Facilities:** There is no toilet within the church and there are no public toilet facilities within the village. The public house, that is approximately 100 metres of the church, is not open on a Sunday morning; but in any case it is not thought to be an appropriate facility for users of the church, particularly for young families or disabled people. There is no suitable space within the building for a toilet installation, but it could be provided on the outside of the north wall with access from within.

There is no water supply to the church and no dedicated refreshment preparation area. When hot drinks are served after the Family Service, water and a boiler has to be brought in and used cups taken away after the service to be washed up. Water can be piped in from an external source, but a kitchenette facility would need to be built in part of the Vestry where there is space for this.

## **Section D - The Proposal**

### **Fabric:**

In terms of the **re-roofing of the church building**, there is little to add, other than it was identified as an urgent need in the last Quinquennial Report (March 2010). There are no alternatives, but to replace the tiles in exactly the same style and material, i.e. hand made clay tiles. The work specification would also include the updating of the roof insulation to current standards. There is probably very little insulation in the present structure.

**Facilities:** (See also attached plan)

(a) The provision of a **toilet and the kitchenette facilities** within the existing building were examined in some detail by the PCC and our appointed architect. It would be possible to accommodate the new kitchenette within the Vestry, which is quite large and has under-utilised space. The inclusion of the toilet within the same area would not be possible and in any case would have practical difficulties, e.g. access during services. Fortunately, there is a blocked up door in the North wall, leading to the churchyard. This can be opened up to provide access at floor level to a purpose built, single toilet within its own extension structure. Wheelchair access to and through the door can be achieved without widening the old stone archway and within the church itself there are no restrictions in terms of pew placements.

The removal of effluent from the toilet can be achieved by running a drain line through the churchyard to a public sewer point close to the churchyard boundary. It is understood that a fresh water supply can be provided from a mains water point close to the same position thereby reducing the need for more excavation of the churchyard and associated costs.

(b) In terms of **the kitchenette** itself, a number of similar improvements have already been installed in local churches with great success. The facility would include a sink with cold and hot water taps (the heater for hot water being incorporated within it) and a food preparation surface. When not in use, a fold down cover allows for the area to be used as a wide working surface along the North wall of the Vestry. The water supply to and grey water drainage from the kitchenette would be serviced through similar facilities as for the new toilet.

(c) The provision of a new, **transparent screen** between the church's nave and vestry will make significant improvements to the internal insulation of the building. Currently, cold air and draughts from the vestry area (North facing) are not restricted and cause great discomfort to church users on that side of the nave. The heating within the vestry is not sufficient to counter this effect.

It is also planned that the lower section of this new screen would be made of wood and be foldable so that the vestry could be used as a small, separately heated, enclosed meeting room, which could also be used as "toddler group" area or a crèche during services.

Alternatively, it could be opened up to provide more space as an extension to the nave when more seating area was required.

**N.B.** All the above proposals have been reviewed on site by the Diocesan Advisory Committee, English Heritage, Church Buildings Council and the local authority (Test Valley) Conservation Officer. Favourable support was given by all parties without prejudice to Planning and Faculty approvals.



## **Section E – Support and practicalities**

Our church, Holy Trinity in Penton Mewsey, has not stood still over the time since it was first built on this site some 1000 years ago. It has evolved and been altered over those centuries, influenced by its direct users, but perhaps more importantly by its immediate community and the overall environment in which the Church finds itself. To ignore those external influences would rapidly isolate us from those we seek to serve and gain support from.

We want to embark on this ambitious project in order to keep pace with what is considered as a reasonable standard for a building where the public meet for a common purpose. We already know that there are parishioners who are elderly or who have young children who will not come to Holy Trinity because there is no toilet facility. Compared to our Electoral Roll, we are not getting the congregations we deserve and therefore must continue to reduce the barriers to those who are not attending on a regular basis.

Just as the church has changed over the years, so has the village. Recently, a Day Care Nursery has opened and the Vicar is visiting there regularly. They would be open to coming to the church too if we had proper facilities.

Later this year, a Day Care Centre for young people with disabilities is due to open in the village at Penton Lodge. The access to the church is excellent for them, but without a toilet such folk cannot risk coming to services.

Because we have now been joined in the Benefice by St Thomas' at Charlton, a parish of more than 6.500, we are now seen as a shared facility for weddings and funerals when no room exists there for those services during the weekdays. St Thomas' church is used as a Community hall with a sacred sanctuary area and may be occupied with other users during that time. We need to be able to offer the same basic facilities within our church. A toilet is now seen as a basic facility, even in a rural church.

A recent experiment by our Priest in Charge, demonstrated that the provision of a camping toilet tent in the churchyard for a large wedding was very well used and appreciated. This should only be seen as an experiment to prove the concept.

We would like to use the church for other functions, such as musical performances and recitals in the evenings for everyone to come along to. These would not conflict with the other community activities put on at the Penton Village Hall. They would be complementary and more suited to the setting and acoustics within a church building. However, not only is the provision of a toilet necessary, but also the ability to serve modest refreshments to an audience. Currently, this is very difficult to achieve. All fresh water has to be brought in. Cups, saucers and plates have to be carried in and taken away afterwards for washing up. All food has to be prepared off-site and carried in for serving. It is a logistical nightmare!

The new toilet will bring a small amount of additional cleaning and maintenance cost to the church. This should be more than offset by the projected increase in attendance at services alone. Incidentally, the toilet will only be opened when the church is in use. It will not be available to any occasional visitors when the rest of the church is open.

There is no precise business plan to back this project up. There are no fact-based projections to show that our costs will be covered over time by an increase in church attendance and income from other events. However, what we do know is that we need to move Holy Trinity, Penton Mewsey into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We are a tangible asset to our village community, who appear to value our presence and would experience a tremendous void if we were not there within them. There is verbal support across the community for what we are planning and we must respond to modern standards as our ancestors did before us. We cannot afford to stand still and hope that we will continue to survive or we will wither and die in the process.

## **Section F – Significance and Impact**

The proposals relate well to the accompanying Statement of Significance for the church. Externally, the new toilet extension will occupy only a very small area on the North elevation, within a corner that was created by the 18<sup>th</sup> century addition of a family “pew” by Carter, now the vestry. The materials proposed, whilst of local brick, will incorporate some flint detail which will tie it in well to the existing walls. The roof to the toilet will be of a catslide design which will naturally extend the vestry roof to a lower level and be covered in the same tiles as the church. Overall, the new extension for the toilet will be in sympathy with the present building.

Internally, the proposals will only enhance the church, both visually and in terms of purpose. The most obvious change will be the addition of the screen between nave and vestry, but since the material being proposed is transparent at the higher level, the effect will be minimal. The folding screen doors at the lower level will replace the existing curtaining and be of good quality wooden construction in keeping with other wood detail within the church.

The addition of a kitchenette facility within the vestry will not be noticeable to most visitors. However, it is proposed to clad the external panels of the fitment with good quality wood, again in keeping with other areas of the church interior.