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Holy Trinity Church

Community Hub

 **Client:** Holy Trinity Church,
Hurdsfield & Macclesfield


 **Sector:** Community


 **Location:** Macclesfield, Cheshire

The Brief


Holy Trinity Church required a modern community hub to provide flexible accommodation for church activities and wider community use. The existing facilities no longer met the growing demand for events, support groups and outreach programmes, creating a need for a permanent, high-quality building that could be delivered efficiently while respecting the character of the historic church grounds.


Located within the grounds of a church dating back almost 200 years, the project required a sensitive design that complemented its surroundings whilst complying with planning requirements. Elite Systems delivered a full turnkey modular building, including design, manufacture, delivery and installation, creating a welcoming, energy-efficient community facility with a large events hall, office accommodation, kitchen and accessible welfare facilities.

 **Project:** Modular Community Hub

 **Location:** Macclesfield, Cheshire

 **Project Cost:** £228,822.26

 **Timeline:** 10 weeks from order to completion

 **Key Features:** Community hall, office, commercial kitchen, accessible WC, Siberian larch cladding, aluminium glazing, external decking and access ramp.

The Main Features

Outside

- ✓ **Natural Timber Cladding** – Untreated Siberian Larch cladding provides a contemporary appearance while complementing the surrounding church buildings.
- ✓ **Accessible Entrance** – External decking, access ramp and level thresholds provide inclusive access for all visitors.
- ✓ **High Performance Envelope** – EPDM roofing, insulated wall construction and aluminium double-glazed windows improve thermal performance.
- ✓ **Rooflights** – Rooflights maximise natural daylight within the main hall.
- ✓ **Modern Aluminium Doors & Windows** – Durable turquoise aluminium glazing provides an attractive architectural feature.
- ✓ **Rapid Installation** – Factory manufacture significantly reduced construction activity within the live church grounds.



Inside

- ✓ **Large Events Hall** – Approximately 62m² flexible hall suitable for worship, meetings, community events and health sessions.
- ✓ **Dedicated Office** – Separate office providing secure administration space.
- ✓ **Commercial Kitchen** – Fully fitted kitchen with adjacent storage supporting community catering.
- ✓ **Accessible Welfare Facilities** – DDA compliant accessible WC, baby changing facilities and additional WC.
- ✓ **Comfort & Building Services** – Air conditioning, mechanical ventilation, LED lighting and fire alarm system throughout.



Challenges

The project presented numerous challenges, which we addressed with determination and creativity. Some of the key obstacles included:



Historic Church Setting

The new community hub was to be constructed within the grounds of Holy Trinity Church, a site with almost 200 years of history. It was essential that the building complemented the existing church rather than detracted from it. Careful consideration was given to the building's appearance, scale and material selection, with natural Siberian Larch cladding and sympathetic architectural detailing chosen to blend with the surrounding landscape and historic stonework.



Planning & Site Constraints

The church site presented several planning constraints, limiting the type of construction that could be used and restricting the amount of permanent groundwork that could be undertaken. A modular solution was selected to minimise excavation, reduce the need for extensive foundations and shorten the overall construction programme while still delivering a permanent, high-quality building.



Maintaining Church Operations

Holy Trinity Church remained fully operational throughout the project, continuing to host regular worship services, community events and support programmes. Construction activities, deliveries and crane operations were carefully planned around the church's schedule to minimise disruption, maintain safe public access and ensure the surrounding grounds remained usable throughout the works.



Restricted Site Access & Installation

Access into the church grounds was constrained by existing roads, mature trees, boundary walls and neighbouring buildings. Detailed logistics planning was required to coordinate deliveries, position the crane safely and install the modular units efficiently while protecting existing landscaping and surrounding infrastructure.



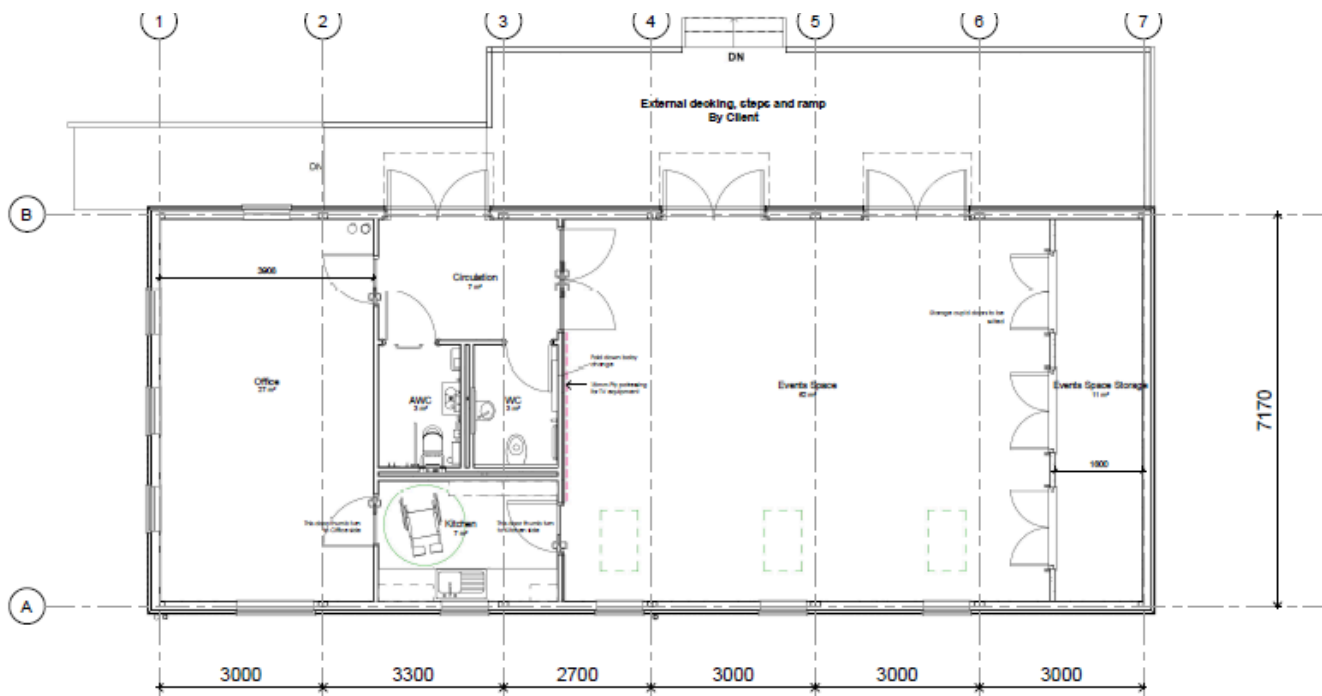
Delivering a Flexible Community Facility

The building needed to accommodate a wide range of activities, including worship groups, community events, NHS drop-in sessions, meetings and social activities. Designing a flexible internal layout that incorporated a large events hall, office, kitchen, storage and accessible welfare facilities within a compact footprint required careful space planning and close collaboration with the client.



Accessibility & Modern Compliance

Although situated within a historic setting, the new facility was required to meet current Building Regulations and accessibility standards. Level access, external ramps, accessible toilet facilities, wide circulation routes and modern mechanical and electrical services were integrated into the design to ensure the building was inclusive, safe and suitable for users of all ages and abilities.



The Solution



Offsite Manufacture

The building was manufactured within Elite Systems' West Yorkshire factory, allowing quality-controlled construction to progress independently of site conditions and reducing programme risk.

Community-Focused Design

The completed building provides:

- ✓ Large multi-purpose events hall
- ✓ Office accommodation
- ✓ Commercial kitchen
- ✓ Accessible WC and baby changing
- ✓ Storage
- ✓ Breakout facilities
- ✓ External decking and ramp access

Quality & Sustainability

Delivering a high-quality, sustainable hub:

- ✓ High-performance insulated building fabric
- ✓ Durable Siberian Larch cladding
- ✓ Aluminium double glazing
- ✓ Energy-efficient LED lighting
- ✓ Air conditioning and mechanical ventilation
- ✓ Factory-controlled manufacture reducing waste and improving quality.



“

It was exciting for people at church to see the final product. It seems to fit well with the environment around it, and really meets our needs. It's used all the time now.

– James Gibson, Vicar

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The Results

The completed community hub provides Holy Trinity Church with a flexible, permanent facility capable of supporting a wide range of church and community activities. The building now accommodates worship groups, support services, NHS drop-in sessions, meetings and local events within a modern, fully accessible environment.



James Gibson
Vicar at Holy Trinity Church