



Holt Methodist Church's 'Light and Life for All' project

What is this project?

The Light and Life Appeal will restore the Grade II listed Holt Methodist Church, improve facilities, opening up the church to much wider community use, bringing many more people into the church and attracting more people to worship, and a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Works include removing a 1980s suspended ceiling to reveal the vaulted ceiling, clerestory windows and rose window, removing some pews to improve access, relocating them to a reinstated choir gallery, and upgrading hospitality facilities. We will install energy-efficient heating and lighting, new sound equipment, and will decorate the building.

Development Phase Grant and the National Lottery Heritage Fund

HOLT METHODIST CHURCH HAS BEEN AWARDED A GRANT BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND TOWARDS THE LIGHT AND LIFE FOR ALL PROJECT

£47,018 development grant

with a potential delivery grant of £475,826

This is to restore the Grade II listed building and transform it for community and cultural use

made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players



Costs

Our capital works will cost around **£820,000**. Already, as a congregation, we have raised **£157,000**. We are seeking support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. However, we are now needing to apply for several other grants due to the curtailment of the Listed Places of Worship VAT scheme has increased this **shortfall to around £162,000**.

Our Mission

As God's people we will actively bear witness to the Gospel by:

- Inviting and welcoming all.
- Strive to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Build and nurture relationships through love, prayer, support and acceptance of one another and those within the community.
- Engage our hearts and minds in meaningful worship and lifelong spiritual learning.
- Assist and advocate for those in need.
- Be good stewards of God's creation.

Our Vision and Mission is to show God's love in our community and encourage, support and help those in need showing them Christ's love through our deeds and actions.

Holt Methodist is a lively and growing Methodist church in the Norfolk town of Holt. Outwardly affluent, Holt is well-known as a place to retire, and the site of Gresham's School. However, there is another side to the town, of people who are much less affluent, those who are lonely and isolated, and young people who need our support.

Our The Grade II listed church is a landmark in the town. Located at the western end of High Street, everybody in Holt knows it well. Built in 1862 by Thomas Jekyll of Norwich, of yellow brick and flint with red brick dressings, it is of a unique design and unusually grand. Consequently, it is a standout Methodist Church architecturally. It tells its own story of Methodism in Holt: a tangible artefact arising from a dispute in the church community and the following re-unification and unity of local Methodists. The building as a piece of architecture is of some significance nationally. Our project will mean that this very special heritage is better cared for, and once again fully visible.

Our Community Impact

We will greatly increase the use of the church, particularly for those in greatest need. Although Holt is thought of as an affluent town, there are pockets of deep social disadvantage. We have undertaken a community audit, which helps us understand what the people of Holt want and need. Examples of how we hope to address this are:

- Holt Youth Project serves the needs of vulnerable young people. We have agreed that the reordered church could be used to provide cookery lessons, and also respite dinners for young carers, who often have little time for themselves.
- Our cream teas provide a place to meet for older and vulnerable people, and those who cannot afford the expensive cafes on Holt's High Street.
- We are in the early stages of discussions with North Norfolk District Council to provide adult education classes in the church building, as no other such provision exists within a reasonable distance.
- We are working with Inspired Classrooms who invite schools into churches, as a special place to explore key stage curricular activities.

We want to increase the cultural and tourist use of the churches. We can do this by:

- Offering the church as a musical performance venue for the annual Holt Festival and other occasional events.
- Potentially creating a Methodist 'heritage trail'. Already, as many as 250,000 religious pilgrims visit the Walsingham Shrine each year. Many of these travel on to visit the Methodist church. Holt is in an area of considerable tourism, placed close to the North Norfolk coast.
- We want to increase footfall to the town, working with local tourist authorities.

These are just a sample of the interventions that we plan, and we hope that they indicate our missional and community intent.

