

# Disley Methodist Church, Cheshire

## Church and Community Hall

The new Disley Methodist Church is a lively church at the heart of its community providing a range of spaces for worship and other community uses.

### The Client

The original Disley Methodist Church was built in 1905, but concerns over spiralling maintenance costs, and an urge to develop a more active mission and community life, prompted members to consider starting afresh with a new church and hall.

### The Brief

Concerted effort attracted funding for the project and a building committee was set up and designs requested from a number of contractors. Central to the brief was that the building should function not only as a church, but should also be suitable for community use and be economical to run and maintain.

None of the first designs submitted were considered appropriate, but when some of the committee viewed services at a church constructed by Plus Design and Build (PDB), they were so inspired by it that the company was invited to tender. PDB's architects responded to the brief with a functional design that married Methodist tradition and design innovation. Once Macclesfield Borough Council had approved the plans, the contract for the new building was awarded to them.

### The Specification

The existing church was demolished and replaced by a single storey L-shaped timber framed structure. This accommodates a church for 100 people and a multi-purpose hall, office/vestry, kitchen, store room and toilets. The building's dynamic form is

derived from its main structural element, which is a timber frame. Soft red brickwork with buff infills was selected for the external skin of the structure and grey concrete tiles for the roof – both materials and colours matching surrounding buildings.

Each wing has a different roof form. That containing the church has a steeply sloping overhanging roof whilst that over the hall is of a more conventional hipped design. These contrasting roof styles give the building considerable height and presence for a single storey building.

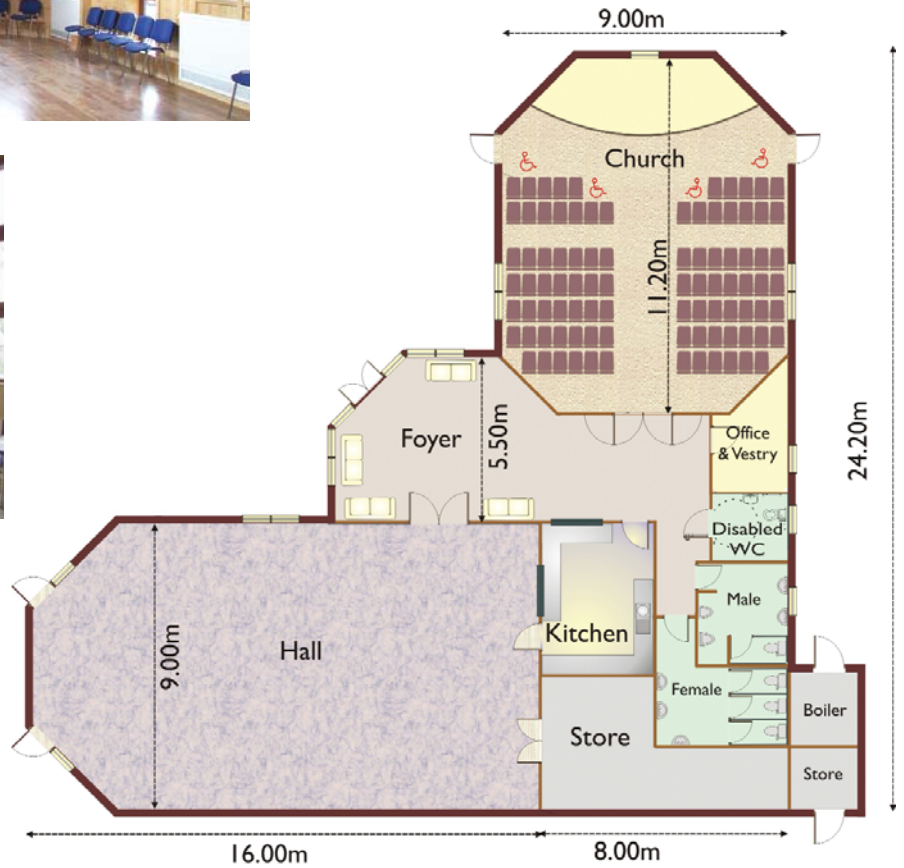
The two wings are linked by a full height entrance and foyer, fully glazed to allow as much natural light as possible into the interior. This entrance has a pyramidal hipped roof, incorporating its crowning glory – an oak cruciform.

Within the church, the timber frame is exposed to dynamic effect - its high, timber lined ceiling forming a space that creates a sense of occasion, but is still a comfortable and calm





## FLOORPLAN



space for reflection and prayer. Simplicity has been maintained throughout; an internal timber finish to the back wall combines with glazed windows in a stepped pattern to give a light airy feel. The plasterboard wall behind the communion table is finished in a muted bilberry and has a cruciform fenestration – its tinted glass, casting light onto the altar:

In the hall, a similar combination of timber and muted honeysuckle white internal finishes and stepped windows combine with high level glazing and a wood laminate floor to create an attractive, functional room well capable of withstanding the knocks and shocks of everyday use. A kitchen, store room and WCs are located behind the hall.

The new building is on a very restricted site bounded by the busy A6 to the front and residential buildings tight to the other three aspects. Site containers and offices had to be double stacked and the delivery and handling of the large timber

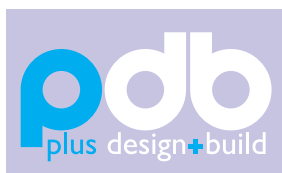
trusses, columns and other building materials carefully programmed to ensure that the build programme progressed smoothly.

### Client Benefits

Feedback from the church about the performance of the building has been almost universally positive. “PDB has managed to create an individual and aesthetically pleasing structure which belongs not only to our Methodist community, but to all of Disley,” said Tim Wallace – High Peak Methodist Circuit Development Officer. “It is a wonderful building and will contain all the resources necessary to run a modern church.”

Client: Disley Methodist Church

Location: Disley, Cheshire



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