



St. Martin's Church Castleton, Rochdale

The purpose of the project was to repair and refurbish this fine 1860 church, derelict since 1990 and Listed Grade II.

Using traditional materials the highest standards of good conservation practice were adopted. The brief also involved the re-design of the interior to incorporate modern community rooms for the use of church members and also for a way of generating future income, and bringing life back into the building. The decision to retain the building was both an architectural and an emotional one, with much of the history of the local community being rooted in the church.

The community activities are located on two floors. At ground floor level, the new worship area can be extended into the community facility by means of a sliding but solid curved screen.

The first floor appears to float above, the hall itself being enclosed by faceted glass. A new first floor ceiling slopes up dramatically towards the old chancel arch.

The strong colours in the interior - such as the kitchen and WC blocks - have been influenced by those popular during the Gothic Revival of the Victorian era. These colours are used only where walls are new; all existing walls are a neutral white, in order to emphasise the new insertions into the building.

Walls have been re-plastered using traditional breathable lime plaster, and finished with soft distemper. Externally, the slate roof has been totally relaid and trusses repaired, including new leadwork and new cast iron rainwater goods, and walls repointed.

See [Furniture and Fittings](#)