

**Durham Diocesan Advisory Committee Church Buildings Awards 2026**

**Application Form**

Name of Parish & Church	St Any Church
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Contact Name	Revd Fred Bloggs
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Which category are you applying for? You can apply for more than one category if you wish.

<b>Missional Impact</b> to include interventions to the building that have allowed greater missional opportunities for the church.	✓
<b>Building</b> to include reordering, new build, extension, insertion/intervention	✓
<b>Care and Conservation</b> to include repair/restoration of building fabric and fittings	
<b>Sustainability</b> to include towards net zero, re-use of materials and innovative solutions	
<b>Churchyard</b> to include imaginative use, re wilding, nature conservancy	
<b>Access and interpretation</b> to include access, inclusion, flexibility/multi use, interpretation, tourism	

<b>Brief description of the project</b>
Reordering of the chancel to create a chapel space at the centre of the building, a raised stage area for worship and an integrated baptistry.

## Tell us about your project.

### What was the aim of your project?

The aim of the project was to create a chapel as a space for prayer at the very centre of the church building as the previous chapel located to the northwest of the nave was cold and dark. We also wanted to make better use of the Chancel space as the choir stalls were rarely used and the worship band was previously squashed into the small north transept. Whilst the step up to the chancel was small it still prevented those with limited mobility and the aim was to provide level access to all parts of the church building.

### How was this achieved?

The Chancel was divided in two with the eastern end of the chancel forming the new chapel. The floor level was raised throughout to the height of the sanctuary which resulted in two steps up from the nave. This was felt to be high enough to lead worship from without it being too overpowering. The raised floor was extended west into the nave slightly to allow a ramped access to be provided in the north transept. The division between the chancel and chapel was formed by a solid wall to door height on top of which a large glazed screen was installed to a design created by a member of the congregation. As we were losing the view of the reredos and wooden carvings on the east wall, we wanted to create a new focus for worship. The reredos was retained in the chapel and modified to suit the new floor level. The existing altar was modified to fit into the void in the reredos and create a small shelf. A large baptistry was fitted into the floor of the chancel and cabling for the worship group was provided in four floor boxes to minimise trailing cables. As part of the scheme a flexible LED lighting scheme was installed as well as update AV infrastructure.

### What support did you receive?

The project was managed by a small project team who provided communication between the architect and the PCC as well as dealing with any minor issues once the contractor was on site.

### How was it funded?

The project was almost completely funded by the giving from members of the congregation, supplemented by some small grants.

What have been the benefits to the church and/or community since the project completed?

The project has allowed much more flexibility in terms of worship. The glazed screen has provided a clear focus for our worship. The provision of ramped access to the chancel and chapel has meant that all spaces within the building are fully accessible.

Tell us as much as you can, you can attach photographs, testimonials, videos, media and social media posts.

Who was in your project team and how did you share the workload?

The project team was made up from a range of people who had experience of managing building projects and consisted of a couple of PCC members, a churchwarden, vicar, H&S consultant and someone who had experience of grant funding. The team met approximately every month prior to the PCC meeting and notes from the project team were circulated to PCC members ahead of their meeting. At each meeting tasks that needed completing were identified and divided amongst the team dependant on their expertise. Whilst the PCC Treasurer was not part of this group, one member took responsibility for managing the finance of the project.

Who was your architect and how did they support you?

Mrs I.M.A. Architect

They were responsible for the design of the scheme, tendering, contract management and on-site project management with the contractor.

What was the total cost of the project?

£150,000

Do you think that this was value for money?

At the time I don't think we did, however it has transformed our worship as it has given us the flexibility to have a larger band and allow us to use the space in the chancel much more flexibly.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the project or the church?

The project was originally estimated as being around £70,000, but the cost of the baptistry and AV systems added to the cost of the project along with the specification of higher quality finishes.

Finally, did the project have any unforeseen benefits?

Not really, however it has allowed a much more flexible use of the building which has included hosting talent shows, musical events and even a couple of murder mystery events.

**Signed** *Revd Fred Bloggs*

**Date** *1/4/2026*

**on behalf of** *St Any Church*

**PCC**

Applications to be returned to:

Martin Howard  
DAC Secretary  
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