



| PDG Architects Ltd  
| Community

| Extension and Alterations  
| Hunstanton Methodist Church

### Brief

Early in 2007 the Practice was appointed to undertake a feasibility study for the provision of a new welcoming entrance area to the church, together with associated repair and renewal works.

The church dates from 1896 and is constructed of local Carr stone walls, timber floor and roof structure, with a profiled clay roof covering. Beyond the north end is the church hall with kitchen and toilet facilities built in 1969.

The most recent Quinquennial inspection report had identified a number of issues that needed addressing: Decaying stone window surrounds, mullions and transoms; buckling of coloured leaded lights; repair of water damaged roof timbers and lime plaster wall finishes.

### Solution

The creation of a new principal entrance presents a new positive image for the church buildings, and serves both worship area and all the other facilities. The newly created entrance area will be the initial place of welcome, and enables people to see into the premises and thereby remove the visual barriers that may prevent them from coming in and having a closer look.

The major implication of this was the church building would then be entered from the north end, and therefore presented the opportunity to re-configure the worship area.

The wooden pews, which were not part of the original fittings, together with the raised pulpit and sanctuary area were removed allowing the formation of a new entrance to the re-orientated worship space. Seating is provided by individual chairs, which allow flexibility in how they are arranged, to suit different forms of worship or other activities. All other features, such as the wainscot and internal glazed doors, are retained with slight modifications where necessary to suit the new layout.

A stunning new tensile fabric canopy has been installed to create a new focal point, reminiscent of a sail of a boat, recognising that Hunstanton is a seaside town, and still further biblical imagery. There is also the possibility of projecting images onto its surface.

### Project details

**Client:** Hunstanton Methodist Church  
**Address:** Austin Street  
Hunstanton, Norfolk  
**Completion:** November 2009  
**Project Cost:** £ 300,000  
**Project Architect:** Paul T.D. Hutchings

### PDG ARCHITECTS LTD

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