



*The new entrance
seen at night*

St Jude's, Southsea, Portsmouth 01.10.10

Recently completed, phase one of this £2.4m 2-phase project seeks to provide extra meeting space and community facilities for a Grade II listed church, built in 1851 by architect Thomas Ellis Ows as a centre piece for his garden neighbourhood development in Southsea, Portsmouth.

A primary objective throughout the redesign was to ensure accessibility to all parts of the building. Pivotal to the success of the scheme is the creation of a new glazed entrance (with glasswork commissioned from artist Tracy Sheppard) and flexible forum refocused to the east to capitalise on the building's position directly opposite Southsea's main shopping precinct.

This forms a welcoming and clearly visible open "front door", fulfilling the basic tenets of all successful public buildings and leads through to a series of open, light meeting spaces and ancillary facilities. The extension states architecturally that St Jude's is the centre of the local community and creates a strong metaphor for the Church Family's vision of a 'church without walls' allowing see-through to the church beyond.

Fundraising is currently underway for Phase II.