

Refurbished church hosts activities for all

WORSHIPPERS in Ryde celebrated returning to their refurbished church building with some amazing services over Easter.

A project to renovate the historic All Saints Church, Ryde, was completed by the start of Holy Week, which marked the next chapter of this church's development. Hundreds of people enjoyed Easter services with baptisms, kids' church and an Easter egg hunt in the refurbished building.

They appreciated the underfloor heating, the limestone floor, a new audio-visual system and a modern cafe area at the back of the nave. They also saw some of the church's original pews that have been carefully sanded and repaired for continued use, alongside new chairs.

The church was closed last autumn for services while repairwork took place, with services mostly taking place in the adjoining church hall. A second phase of renovation work will take place in that hall and to create new toilet facilities later in 2026.

The team rector, the Rev Heath Monaghan, said: "This really is a new beginning. The building has been refreshed, but what excites us most is what God is doing in our growing, welcoming community.

"We have activities for all ages – kids, youth, families, young adults – and whether you've never been to church before or haven't been in a while, we'd love you to come and see. You might be surprised at what you find.



Left: Ashton Wood and Alys Hamilton at the re-opening of All Saints Church; right: the Rev Heath Monaghan and Gemma Torrington as work is completed

"We know that this refurbishment will make a huge difference as we seek to develop this church community to serve Ryde now and in future generations.

"Our vision has always been to create some more modern facilities while at the same time preserving the rich heritage of All Saints Church. The more flexible furniture, level flooring and effective heating will allow us to use the building more easily for midweek community groups.

"The project was designed with careful consultation and collaboration, including detailed on-site consultation with the Victorian Society. That allowed us to put together a renovation plan that retained details such as the central

cross of Victorian tiles and 60 of the original pews."

The refurbishment of the inside of All Saints Church building was partly funded by strategic funding from the national Church of England as part of our diocese's Rejuvenate strategy.

Alongside regular 9am and 11am Sunday services, the church hosts a number of activities throughout the week. These include Tots on Thursdays - for parents, carers and young children - and regular Alpha and Youth Alpha courses. It is also running the Marriage Course, designed to help couples strengthen their relationships.

For details, visit www.ryde.church.