

ARCHITECTS COMMENTS

In close proximity to the existing graveyard and alongside the North face of All Saints Church, Armitage Construction have constructed an extension using craftsmen and traditional materials. The result is a building that sits comfortably within a conservation area.

Armitage Construction have managed this project in a sensitive and sympathetic way that has been appropriate at all times. Daily liaison with Reverend Eales and the Church Wardens ensured that the church remained in use throughout its construction. Job well done.

Project Architect

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A Tradition of Excellence in the Restoration & Refurbishment of **Heritage Buildings**



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All Saints Church, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire

Armitage is one of the few North West companies approved by the English Heritage and National Trust to work on their projects. The experience gained on work of this kind has enabled Armitage to carry out the required work at All Saints Church, Cheadle and overcome the natural obstacles often associated with such work.

To reduce the emotions commonly associated with projects of this kind, Armitage planners were able to establish an access route to the works causing the absolute minimum of disturbance, despite the additional problems it caused the company. The agreed access was via the Lych gate and path, which were both only 2 meters in width. The main services and drainage also had to be laid beneath the path causing further disruption to site access.

To achieve this Armitage planners developed a program of deliveries and general access that required strict monitoring and control throughout the entire project, to minimise the disruption to the ongoing operation of the church services and grounds. Additionally, the construction of a suspended/cantilevered access platform across the pathway enabled over 70 tonnes of specialist stone, piling equipment, pre-cast concrete floors, large timber trusses, support steelwork and other general materials to be transported to their positions with minimal disturbance.

The construction project itself covered the extensive refurbishment of the existing building and the development of an 140m² extension incorporating an entrance hall, meeting room, office, toilets, kitchen and flower assembly room.

Specially prepared feature stonework was required throughout the building. Pitch Faced and 'Ashlar' stone was incorporated in a number of locations and points of particular interest include windowsills, stone bay, arched door, window surrounds and buttress corners.



Stone seating was required to be affixed to the outside wall of the vestry and a crane could not be used. A solution was provided by LGH Group plc, by providing a counterbalanced floor crane that could be used within the narrow extension. The extended arm lifted the chair, the weight of which was carried on the back of the crane, through an opening in the extension wall and placed in position on the external wall.

As with a number of contracts carried out for organisations such as English Heritage and the National Trust, the All Saints project required extensive, specialist joinery work to be undertaken. Interesting examples of this include the

hardwood timber ceiling in the meeting room which was entirely constructed and installed by Armitage joiners, the resizing and re-angling of the church pews, the replication of hardwood panelling and the installation of intricate hand carved timber work and timber flooring.

Three different sized roofing sections needed to be connected seamlessly to the existing church roof, each with a different pitch. Although plans indicated significant problems could be experienced at this stage, Armitage were able to carry out the work to the highest of standards without any disruption to the program.