

# Threemilestone Methodist Church, Truro

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The relatively modern Methodist Church in Threemilestone, which opened in 1974, was in need of new windows and general refurbishment. This could be seen as a daunting task but Gill Harris in her new role of Chair of the Properties and Finance Committee took on the challenge. Replacing the windows in the sanctuary space and other re-ordering tasks had been discussed on and off during the past 7-8 years and had never been undertaken. Gill's approach was to break the refurbishments into manageable 'chunk' sizes to tackle piece by piece for individual attention and for future fund raising.



*Gill Harris,  
Chair, Properties & Finance Committee*

Her first 'chunk' was in August 2015 when the painting of the interior of the Church Hall and Church sanctuary, together with the replacement of the hall windows, was considered first. The church managed to raise an amazing £4,000 over the summer by their own efforts with a charity auction and other local fund raising events. With these refurbishments in place it was time to move onto the next phase, this being the replacement of the windows in the Church Sanctuary.

The Church Sanctuary windows were composed of the old style 1974 metal framed 'Crittall' glass. The quote for the replacement of the windows was £8,500. Having just raised the previous £4,000 the church community had exhausted their pockets and their fund raising ideas. However an opportune email came from Transformation Cornwall advertising their series of three free funding workshops - Funding applications for beginners; Developing your Project and Monitoring-Evaluation and Sustainability of your project. So Gill, along with a colleague, attended the first workshop which immediately opened their 'eyes' that there was funding available for projects, such as theirs, which they had never anticipated before. They found the workshops very encouraging and inspiring which helped make them feel equipped to try for funding bids themselves but also were aware that support was available from Transformation Cornwall if they required it.

Subsequent to attending the workshops Gill submitted a funding bid to a M&S fund but was unfortunately unsuccessful. However undeterred Gill visited the Methodist Church in Britain website where she received advice to contact the local circuit office and to apply for grant funding from Methodist funds. Therefore in June 2016 a funding bid from the Threemilestone Methodist Church was submitted for £10,000. To their delight £6,000 was granted as a gift, with the sum of £4,000 to be paid back over 4 years (commencing from 2017).

Now with confidence Gill and the Committee are progressing onto other projects requiring attention in the Church. Cutting their energy bills is of high importance which has already been pursued by changing their energy supplier, but with the intention to replace the ceilings in the church and hall, which currently have no insulation, and also to install energy efficient lighting. With the knowledge gained through the Meet the Funders workshops, the Committee are going to apply for funding from a local Kenwyn Fund, All Churches Trust and Sita.



There are also other projects on the horizon for the church ranging from enlarging the church hall floor space to finding useful storage solutions within the building. Now having experience of applying for funding, Gill and the Committee, feel that these projects are achievable, and with the past experience of applying for funding, alterations and refurbishments can be possible, for the future church and community use of the building.

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*New windows in Church Sanctuary*