

## Hive Community Hub Timeline

Year	Event
1837	Trinity Church founded by a group of 15 secessionists led by Emily Gainsborough (the artist's great niece). Trinity Congregational Church was built on the site of a mediaeval tenter-yard. Immediately to the north had been the chapel of St Sepulchre (12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> C). This might have been built on the model of the Holy Sepulchre copied in the round church at Little Maplestead and erected by the Knights Hospitallers. It is thought to have been pulled down during the Reformation. There are subterranean remains of the building. The present Gainsborough Street was formally Sepulchre Street, named after the church. When the foundations of Trinity Church were being dug, several human skeletons were found, no doubt from the mediaeval burial ground.
1838 - 39	Trinity church built with first service in 1838. Originally there were no galleries and the seating was in box pews. The original school room seems to have been built at this time behind and to the left of the church.
1856	Galleries added and further work needed after ceiling collapse in 1856. The gallery seating of 1856 is of stained pine with mahogany capping to the upright panelled backs and partitions
1865	Box pews were replaced by open benches in a similar style to the pews in the gallery
1891	The front, which was built in gault brick with stone dressings and incorporates new staircases and an enlarged rear gallery for choir and organ, was added. It was designed by the minister, the Revd. Charles Henry Vine, and became the model for his church in Ilford. It is thought that the school room was doubled in size at this time by replacing one wall and the addition of a beam giving a double roofed structure
1902	The side windows of the church were altered to be more in keeping with the new front of the church.
1911	A new 2 manual Conacher organ with rostrum pulpit painted in matching colours and new choir stalls were installed in the front of the sanctuary. The bench seats of the pre-1911 choir were installed in the rear gallery.
1960s	Entrance vestibule widened and glass screen added. Communion rails and choir stalls removed.
1966	Against the rear wall of the church is a large lean-to, which replaced an original lean to building rebuilt in 1966; this is now linked to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century former school room to form a large hall. Toilets were added at the front of the school room and a new entrance was added to Friars Hall.
2017	Church closed for worship and put on the open market
2018	Small original organ removed from front gallery and installed in another church
2019	Planning permission obtained by Hive for change of use into a multi-use Community Centre
2021	Church and Church Hall bought by Hive and renamed as Hive Community Hub

## **Grade 2 listed with the following details**

2. Opened 1839, rectangular church, red brick with white dressings. 3 2-light leaded casements at gallery and ground levels. Wide eaves. Slate roof of moderate pitch. Interior: wood galleries on cast iron columns with foliate caps. 1891 "Gothic" yellow brick front with stone dressings including traceried mullions pointed West window in gabled end with central entrance porch. Small tower at North West corner with spire partly louvred. History of Sudbury, Grimwood and Kay, pages 65 and 66.

Listing NGR: TL8711741213

*The following notes about the interior and exterior are from a description of church buildings subsequent upon complete refurbishment and restoration 1991-2 and from a report made in 1994 by the Suffolk County Council officer responsible for the 46 listed non-conformist places of worship in the county.*

### **Exterior of Church**

The original building is in red brick, 5 bays long, with pilaster strips between each bay. A small section of the 1838 facade which is visible shows that it was in white brick and tuck pointed. The side windows, confined to the 3 centre bays, were sashed before 1902. Each has 2 arched timber lights. The white brick reveals and first floor arches are original. The Gothic Front, in gault brick with stone dressings, survives unaltered. It is symmetrical, apart from a gabled tower to the left, from which rises a louvered bell turret with slate-clad spire.

Against the rear wall is a large lean-to, rebuilt in 1966; this is now linked to a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century former school room to form a large hall.

### **Interior of Church**

The restored interior is an impressive space. The 3-sided gallery is carried on fluted iron columns with stylised leaf capitals. The gallery seating of 1856 is of stained pine with mahogany cappings to the upright panelled backs and partitions. This seating is fairly similar in style to the ground floor benches fitted 9 years later. The bench seats of the pre-1911 choir are still in place in the rear gallery. Dominating the interior are the organ and rostrum pulpit, painted in matching colours. The 1911 choir stalls survive on one side only.

## **Additional Notes**

### **Front Balcony**

This balcony seems to have become the dumping ground for many of the alterations that have taken place in the buildings history. The original small organ has been removed for use in another church and there is evidence that the area has been used for showing projected images as there is a large screen left behind. Some small bench like seats have been installed at the rear of the balcony may be part of the pre 1911 choir seats or may be for the children who sang in the choir. The whole area is a health and safety nightmare due to the many changes in level and style of seating all these alterations have left behind.

### **Friars Hall**

The church hall beside the church has also grown over time. The original detached schoolroom is believed to date back to the building of the original church in 1838 and consisted of a rectangular room with a mono-pitched slate roof. This building was then doubled in size to make an almost square building with a double pitched roof and central beam. The original roof trusses can still be seen in the attic space and are similar in style to the original roof trusses in the church. At some point in time a lean-to structure was added to the building but this was replaced in 1966 by a linking lean-to building included a disabled toilet and baby change, a kitchen, a dining room and a vestry. At this time the ladies and gents' toilets were improved and linked in to the church via the new improved flat roof front entrance and corridor. There is a mismatch in style of the windows in this part of the building probably from the re-use of some the windows from the old lean-to building

### **Cellar**

There is a cellar that runs the length of the church as can be seen from the curved supports in the foundations of the building. Only a part of the cellar is accessible as the most of it has been bricked up and backfilled. The remaining cellar is a dry space and houses the gas boiler which supplies heating to the church and church hall.