

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

St. Alban's Church, Charles Street	
<b>1. WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a <b>building or group of buildings</b>	y
a <b>monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)</b>	
a <b>place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)</b>	
a <b>landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)</b>	
<b>2. WHY IS IT INTERESTING?</b> Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
<b>Historic interest</b> – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	y
<b>Archaeological interest</b> – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	y
<b>Artistic interest</b> – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	y
<p>What is it about the asset that provides this interest?</p> <p><b>Historic interest:</b> A church was built to serve the southern area of the East Oxford Suburb between Magdalen Road and Howard Street (known as the Robin Hood Area) and was built in 1889, replacing a small mission room that had been built two years earlier. This doubled as a boys' school until the completion of the Irving Building at Hertford Street in 1896. A new church was begun in 1928 and consecrated in 1933.</p> <p><b>Architectural interest:</b> The present church is of an unusual design, with a long, low profile from the street accentuated by semi-circular arched windows, framed in red brick. Whilst this may be an unassuming building reflects developing taste in the late 1920s with Italianate influences, which are characteristic of the work of T. Lawrence Dale (the Diocesan Architect). These details include the arcaded windows, pantile roof, bell-cote and bas-relief decoration to the Tympanum of the main door.</p> <p><b>Artistic interest</b> – contains 12 stations of the Cross by Eric Gill. Angels and chalice over the entrance are by John Henry Brookes (Principal of Oxford College of Technology, Art and Commerce – after whom Oxford Brookes is named)</p>	
<b>3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED?</b> Is the interest of the asset <b>valued locally</b> for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
<b>Association:</b> It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	y4
<b>Illustration:</b> It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y3
<b>Evidence:</b> It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y2
<b>Communal:</b> It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	y1
<p>How is the asset locally valued as heritage?</p> <p><b>Communal:</b> The church provides an important centre for worship for the Anglican community in the Robin Hood Area, contributing to their sense of identity and cohesion. It is also used by the community for events, which include art exhibitions that also help to showcase church's own artworks.</p> <p><b>Aesthetics:</b> The design of the building is particular to the influences of the architect although this could be seen as following in the Italianate tradition used in of St Barnabas' Church in Jericho, reflecting the status of the community in both areas. It is nevertheless an attractive building that</p>	

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suits the scale of the surrounding suburb.

Illustration: The building illustrates the missionary work of the church in this area of the suburb, which historically was one of the city's poorer communities.

**Association:** Through the continued use the site and understated ecclesiastical architecture the building maintains a connection to the earlier church and mission hall that stood on this site and were the location where the church provided for the education of children in the Robin Hood area.

The association with John Henry Brookes contributes to the wider history of the development of public education in Oxford from the establishment of the Ruskin School of Art to the foundation of Oxford Polytechnic (now Oxford Brookes University), to which J.H> Brookes made a significant contribution that has had a major impact on the city.

4. <b>WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL?</b> Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
<b>Age</b> ... Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	
<b>Rarity</b> ... Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
<b>Integrity</b> ... Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	y1
<b>Group value</b> ... Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y3
<b>Oxford's identity</b> ... Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y1
<b>Other</b> ... Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
How does this contribute to its value?	
<p><b>Oxford's Identity:</b> This building stands out as a focus for the identity of the Robin Hood Area of East Oxford, built to serve its Anglican Community and to provide a space for mission work to support the community in general. As such, it makes an important contribution to the identity of this neighbourhood within the suburb and helps to tell the story of the suburb as a whole within the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century when this was a far from affluent area, where the church provided for both the spiritual and physical needs of the community.</p> <p><b>Group value and Integrity:</b> The church contains one of two sets of Stations of the Cross by Eric Gill within the city (the other is in T. Lawrence Dale's Church of St Francis in Cowley). Eric Gill left a legacy of artwork across the city, in college chapels, convents, churches and public places. The stations of the cross were designed for St Albans Church and reflect the Anglo-Catholic influences of T. Lawrence Dale.</p> <p><b>Integrity:</b> The building is well preserved retaining its original appearance and detailing as a good example of the architect's work responding to the limits of its site and the scale of surrounding development.</p>	

Graham, M., 1987, *On foot in East Oxford* (Oxfordshire County Council)

Huxley, S. (with Edith Golnast), 2011, *Eric Gill in Oxford* (Huxley Scientific Publishing)