

WM: The war memorial was unveiled on 3rd April 1921. The carving and details were designed in the English Gothic style and were inspired by work of that period found principally in Hampshire. The central panel of the memorial is made from bronze and contains the names of sixteen members of the church who fought and died during the First World War. The inscription reads 'To the glorious memory of those who gave their lives for their country and the cause of righteousness, in the Great War, 1914-1918'.

The case below the memorial contains our Second World War memorial book.

To see a transcription of Avenue Church First World War Roll of Honour, including names and links to biographical information from our archives, [scan here](#).



7 & 8: Documents from our church archives tell the remarkable story of how the local church community supported thousands of soldiers who passed through the Avenue during the First World War. Soldiers were provided with hot meals, essential items, and the facilities to write letters home, wash, shave, and dry their clothes. The charitable efforts of the church and community were recognised at the highest levels. Clive Wigram, Assistant Private Secretary to George V, wrote: 'I am to assure you of the King's appreciation of the splendid work done in Southampton for the troops embarking for overseas.'

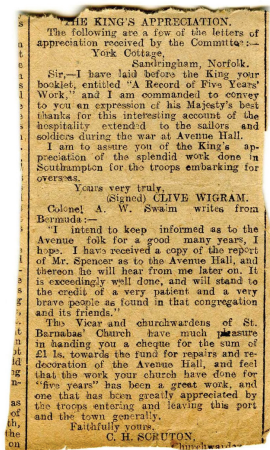


Image: Letter of appreciation to the Avenue Hall helpers from the Assistant Private Secretary on behalf of King George V.

Thank you for visiting Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church and the Avenue 2020 project. Please feel free to remain in the Sanctuary for a moment of reflection.

This indoor walk takes you on a tour of Avenue St Andrew's URC and the Avenue 2020 exhibition. Find out about the hymn-writer Isaac Watts and his connection to our church. Learn about the church architect James Cubitt. Discover the remarkable story of a united community on the Avenue in the First World War.

Acknowledgements

Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church would like to thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund, The United Reformed Church, Avenue 2020 volunteers, Bevois Mount History Group and Hampshire Archive Trust, without whom this project would not have been possible.

For more information visit:

Avenue St Andrew's URC
<https://asaurc.org.uk>

Avenue 2020 Project
<https://asaurc.org.uk/avenue-2020-heritage-project>

The route is flat throughout, though care should be taken at the front of the sanctuary to skirt the steps leading up to the communion table.

Connect to our
 free WiFi:
 ASA-Guest-Network
 Password:
 Welcome-To-ASA

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AVENUE ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HERITAGE TRAIL



Step inside
 to discover more
 about the history of
 Avenue St Andrew's
 URC: a church which
 helps others.

This trail is part
 of the **Avenue
 2020** project and is
 supported by the
 National Lottery
 Heritage Fund

This trail starts in the Focus Room.

1 & 2: The Avenue 2020 project was inspired by the desire to preserve, research, and celebrate the history of Avenue St Andrew's United Reformed Church. As part of the project, essential building works took place to make our church tower safe and to protect the treasures in our archives. We shared our findings and engaged with communities, schools, musicians, and a team of volunteers, as we learned more about the history and heritage of our church.



Continue into the Concourse and look out of the window into the church courtyard to see the sculpture of Isaac Watts.

Image: Sculpture of Isaac Watts, Avenue St Andrew's URC courtyard.

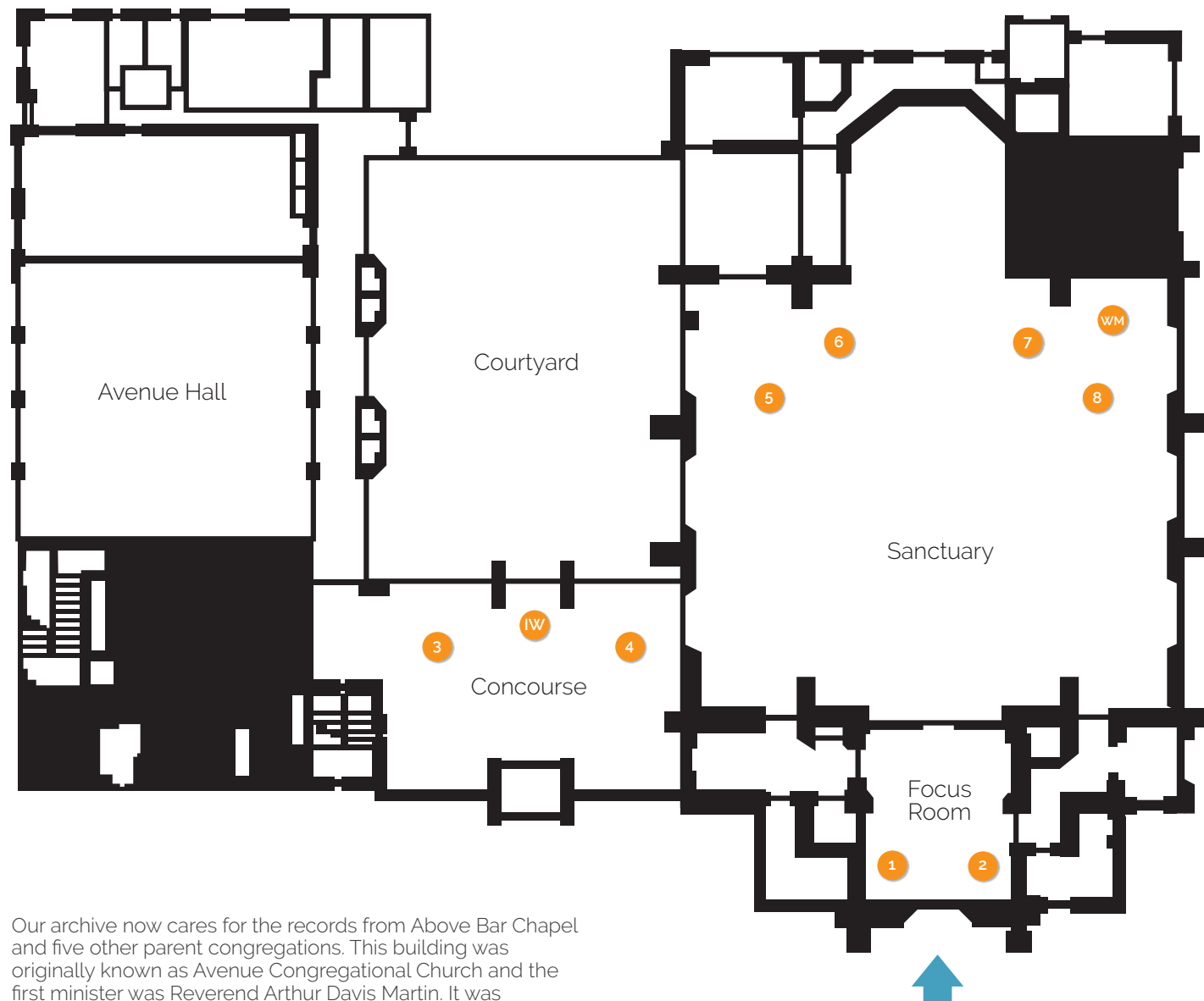
This sculpture of Isaac Watts was saved from the façade of one of Avenue St Andrew's parent churches, Above Bar Chapel, which was bombed during the Second World War. The sculpture was moved several times, first to the Tudor House Museum, then to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, formerly on the corner of Brunswick Place and Dorset Street, and finally it arrived here at Avenue St Andrew's URC. To find out more about our church family tree, [scan here](#).



IW, 3 & 4: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was a famous poet, hymn writer, minister, and theologian. He became known as 'the father of English hymnody' and gave his first sermon at the age of 24 at Above Bar Chapel. Watts was educated at King Edward VI Grammar School, Southampton. A line from one of his best-known hymns, 'Our God, Our Help in Ages Past' features as the title of Peter Jones' book, *The Stormy Blast*, which tells the story of five members of the school during the First World War. One chapter is on Owen Hobbs (1889-1916) who was also a member of Avenue Church. He is remembered alongside other casualties of the war on our war memorial.

Head into the Sanctuary and to the left-hand corner to learn about our building and its architect, James Cubitt.

5 & 6: Avenue St Andrew's URC has a rich family tree (see above) and our origins can be traced back to 1688 when Above Bar Chapel was founded in the centre of Southampton.



Our archive now cares for the records from Above Bar Chapel and five other parent congregations. This building was originally known as Avenue Congregational Church and the first minister was Reverend Arthur Davis Martin. It was founded in 1892 by members of Albion Congregational Church (a daughter church of Above Bar Chapel) and designed by James Cubitt, famous for designing Union Chapel, Islington.

The spacious and friendly arrangement of the building provided a spiritual home for those living in the surrounding area, including high status properties in Winn and Westwood Roads, as well as more modest houses in Alma Road, Avenue Road, and other parts of Bevois Mount.



Cross over to the opposite corner of the church to see the war memorial and to find out about our church and the First World War.

Image: The first Avenue Congregational Church building was known as the 'tin' church. The first service was held on 25th December 1892.