UK Church 27 November 2026 | English article

Hope Church Buys Snettisham Chapel After 47 Years Renting as Funds Arrive in 21 Days

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The Lord provided the funds in just 21 days!"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

After renting the village hall in Snettisham, north-west Norfolk, for 47 years, Hope Evangelical Church finally has a permanent home of its own. The congregation of just 23 people has bought the former Methodist Chapel in the village - and their share of the £300,000 cost arrived in just 21 days, with grants covering the rest.

Forty-seven years is a long time to be a guest in your own village. The church set up chairs, packed them away, and did it all again the next Sunday, for nearly half a century. Now the keys are theirs.

When the congregation voted to buy the chapel, elder Ian Mullard could hardly believe how quickly the money came together. He told Evangelicals Now, in words that have since travelled far beyond Norfolk:

"The Lord provided the funds in just 21 days!"

Fellow elder Richard Pennington added the line every small church dreams of saying one day: "This is the sort of thing that happens to other churches!"

Hope Church Snettisham: How The Chapel Was Saved From Developers

It was not plain sailing. Halfway through the purchase, the Trustees for Methodist Church Purposes delayed the sale to seek planning permission to convert the chapel into two flats. Hope Church suddenly found itself back in a bidding process, up against developers who wanted the building for housing.

The chapel, which opened in 1908 and closed in late 2023 as attendance dwindled - its last use as a Methodist chapel ended on 10 December 2023 - could easily have become two homes. The planning application for the conversion was real, and the developers were real. A 23-member congregation was bidding against them.

Almost a year after the church first decided to buy, the purchase is finally complete. Regular Sunday services have already resumed in the building, and the congregation is no longer packing chairs away at the end of the morning.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

READ THE FULL STORY

Continue on FaithStories -- the complete article, with sources and related stories:
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/news-1200.html?utm_source=pdf_guide&utm_medium=organic_pdf

More from FaithStories

FaithStories - Home
https://faithstories.onrender.com/

(Spanish) Hoy: Víctor Aguilar toma posesión como obispo de Querétaro ante 12.200 fieles
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/es/news-1205.html

(Portuguese) Pastor José Bezerra é morto a facadas durante culto em Cidade Ocidental
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/pt/news-1206.html

(Hindi) Revanta Reddii Sarakaara Hara Charcha Ko Krisamasa Ke Lie Degii 30,000 Rupaye
https://faithstories.onrender.com/articles/hi/news-1207.html