

Potted History of Rushden Spiritualist Church

Rushden Spiritualist Church was started when a group of Spiritualists who had a home circle decided to get together to rent a Building for formal spiritualist meetings. This building was a former Stable for the horses in a coal delivery business in Moor Road. It was rented in 1924 and the church was born then named National Spiritualist Church. The building had a brick floor covered by rush mats.

On May 16th 1927 the land and building was purchased for the princely sum of £250 and on 13th June 1927 the church was registered as a place of Worship as a National Spiritualist Church (registration Number 50822)

By 1947 the mortgage was fully paid off and the church had gas lighting

Between 1959 - 1968 frontage land was sold to East Midlands Electricity (who built a substation on the land)

In 1979 a formal church committee was formed and in the same year central heating was installed in the church.

1980 there was a scare that the church was not registered as a place of worship, it was a mistake by the council that they had informed Somerset house that the church was no longer a place of worship. The church was re-registered, and the church had a letter of apology from Wellingborough council.

The mural on the screen at the foot of the stairs (near entrance to the church) was painted by Lillian Hickman

In 1981 it was decided that the church was to remain an independent Church and not be affiliated to the Nation Spiritualist Union.

1982 a new carpet was laid to replace the rush mats within the church.

1984 the church was included in the official list of churches in Rushden

Funeral services have been carried out within the church since 1985 and Naming Services since 1986.

1986 rostrum microphone installed, and the windows were replaced with new ones. It was decided to change the name of the church from National Spiritualist church (it had become known as Moor Road Church) to Rushden Spiritualist Church as the other spiritualist churches in Rushden had closed down.

1990 church was registered for solemnizing Marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriages Act 1949, on the condition that a registrar of Marriages must be in attendance at the ceremony and register the marriage. Also, Marriage blessings services within the Church have also been carried out since this year.

In 1991 three marriage ceremonies were conducted (since then quite a number have been carried out) also in this year the church was redecorated.

1994 the church membership had a vote to decide to just have one Sunday service at 3 pm (due to falling attendances).

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1998 Church Garden was reorganised and work on this and completed in 2000

Since 2000 there have been a few more changes to the church, in 2011 a new floor was put in at the rostrum end of Church, to replace the brick stone floor.

A wooden memory arch was built at the end of the passage to the entrance of the church in 2007.

In 2013 New healing room was built attached to the side of the church and the old mediums room at the back of Church converted to a store room. This now allows full disabled access to the Church avoiding the stairs at the front of the church.

Also, we have had the chairs in the church replaced with modern stacking ones and a new carpet laid and the windows replaced with double glazed windows.

In 2021 Church walls and toilet were damp proofed, dry lined and the church was then decorated.