

Stratton St. Margaret



Their dream finally opens up its doors

Worshippers are celebrating the realisation of a 20-year dream as a new church opens its doors. Previously, Swindon's 110-strong Mormon community had to hold all their services in an aging chapel in Deacon Street in the town centre. Now thanks to the hard work of its congregation, a tailor-made church has opened in Highworth Road, Stratton St Margaret and Stayson Taylor one of the main organisers couldn't be happier. The 31-year-old marketing manager from Grange Drive, Stratton, said: We are all absolutely delighted that we finally have our church. The idea of a purpose-built church was raised in the early 1980s, but it's taken until now to raise enough money to make it happen. And he reckons the impressive Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was worth the wait. It's brilliant, he said. The old church had a lot of problems and was getting old. It was also very difficult to get to and park. This church has plenty of car parking spaces, which will easily accommodate the congregation. As well as being used for Sacraments equivalent to Communion the church will also play a key role in educating worshippers. The church is split into two parts, said Mr Taylor. We have the main worship area and then a large classroom where teaching can be conducted that is a key focal point of this project. People can go along for the lessons, which start at 9.30am on Sunday, and then attend worship. The building was designed specifically to attract youngsters. Mr Taylor said: The materials were specially chosen to create an airy feel. It's very light inside and very modern I'm sure everyone will like it. Fellow organiser, Kelly Christensen, 32, of Mason Road in Abbey Meads, agreed. She said: I have been a member all my life. It's an excellent family-oriented church. Swindon members have waited so long for this. The builders have done an excellent job and the grounds are brilliant with lots of greenery outside. The work, which was carried out by Reading-based contractors Rok Build, took nine months to complete.

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