

The Vicarage School Room



The Vicarage School Room is the church and community hall of St. Mary's church. The School Room was built from outbuildings of Gillingham's first vicarage, which dated from Tudor times and stood behind the site of the School Room. The Room itself was built around 1839 by the vicar Henry Deane following the rebuilding of the church.

The Vicarage School Room is a Listed Building Grade II. The street front incorporates windows and fragments which were taken from the church when it was rebuilt.

In 1839 Henry Deane opened a National School in the building, described in this notice:

A National School for girls and boys will be shortly opened at the new School Room, near the Vicarage. All the children will be taught reading, writing, summing, and knitting, and the girls will be taught needlework. Each child will pay one penny a week. No child can be admitted under six years old, nor any who does not know the alphabet.

The main part of the building was then used as a parish school, Sunday school, meeting room, and venue for public events and meetings, with other parts of the building as the vicarage coach house and stables. Today the south end is used as the parish office.