



The Gemeindehaus, Gerschede

## A short history of Gerschede and Greenford links



The Parish Church, Greenford

As we are soon to host 20 visitors from Germany, here is a potted history of the link.

In 1999, through a bit of serendipity, Claudia Neuse came to stay at The Rectory following her qualification in Germany as a teacher. Claudia is a child of the Vicarage. Her father Uli Neuse was the Pfarrer of the Evangelische Kirche in Gerschede, a district of the city of Essen.

Whilst still in Germany, Claudia had been a member of a choir, the Jugendensemble in Essen and she proposed a visit of this choir, then led by Andreas Frohling, in the summer of 1999. The visit was a great success and was reciprocated the following year by a visit to Gerschede by the Holy Cross Choir. Naturally, a parish link was suggested and in 2001, a sizeable group came to Greenford from Gerschede and stayed in homes of members of the congregation. In 2002, a group of Holy Cross people went to Germany for a mutual visit.

In 2003, we had a year off!

However, contacts were kept live and, in 2004 there was another successful visit from Gerschede people to Greenford. Then in 2005, 25 people accepted an invitation to go to Gerschede and we had a really good visit. The point is that we have become friends, and not just people who visit each other!

So at the end of May, 20 friends from Gerschede will arrive for what we plan to be a memorable and interesting long week-end. Everyone is invited to share the events and meet the people.

The visits have been marked by personal friendships, musicality and fun, with worship of God at the heart of our relationship, albeit worship with two very different styles.



The interior of the Old Synagogue in Essen