

## Sympathetically crafted and functional

*Stephen Owen, award winning artist, designer and craftsman in wood, was asked to make a lectern for St Matthew's Church, Borth. The commission was in memory of John Glynne Evans, who was warden and treasurer at St Matthew's for over forty years. Stephen explains the inspiration and design process for the lectern*

My starting point was the fact that most visual lines in the church building are straight. It is only the arches of the window tops, the folds in the fabric of the vicar's vestments and the shapes of the people in the congregation that break up an otherwise linear image.

There are not many straight lines in creation and, as we are taught to follow Christ's path, which is anything but straight, I was inspired to work in a freer way.



Three curved legs grow up to the angled surface to hold a Bible and create the platform from which the word of God is preached. Each leg is made up of six laminated pieces of wood providing a very strong construction. Shaped by hand, the legs widen at the top to merge into the top surface. The lectern is so light it is easily moved with one hand and is silky smooth that is a delight to touch. Three legs form a tripod which give ample stability and speak of the

spiritual metaphor of the Trinity. All three elements work together and can only function with each other in place.

Today, more ministers are preaching from floor level, among the people, rather than climbing the old pulpit steps to be six feet above contradiction. The days of sit up, look up and shut up are long gone so I wanted to create a piece that was both functional to facilitate the ease of moving around and also to be a piece that would have many uses.

Already the lectern has been used to read the scriptures from, hold sermon notes and has been used as a music stand.

The golden tone of the cherry wood complements the oak and pine interior while creating its own presence as an outstanding piece of contemporary church furniture. Cherry takes a very fine finish.

I wanted to draw the viewer's eye into a form of beauty and upwards to the word of God.

For more information visit [www.stephenowen.com](http://www.stephenowen.com) or e-mail [woodlandworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandworkshop@gmail.com)