

## Where and what was the Crypt?

In 1938 Davenports leased the crypt of a church for storage use. This Crypt was the basement of Holy Trinity Church on Kingsway in the Holborn area of London. The Crypt was used to store everything from large illusions and stocks of smaller tricks through to books, magazines and old business correspondence. The ceiling was very high, ideal for storage.

The Crypt became something of a legend for two main reasons. Firstly, very few magicians were invited in. Secondly, some of the illusions stored there belonged to great magicians of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including the Maskelynes, Chung Ling Soo, The Great Lyle and The Great Levante. As the years went by the Crypt gained a mysterious aura. Even those who did visit were in awe of the contents. Some people questioned whether the Crypt actually existed!

Davenports finally moved out of the Crypt in 1983 and the church, a listed building, has since been converted into Aviation House



*A view of the Crypt showing boxes stored up to the high ceiling.*



*If you stand in front of the old church façade of Aviation House today (2016), you can still see on the right of the building the gateway (arrowed) which led down a staircase towards the Crypt.*