

Tues 5th July 2022 – 7.30 to 8.50pm Evening Meeting

Present: CB, AH, JL, SL, EP, FS, SM.

The group talked about reordering following the format of the congregational survey currently in use:

Modernise the west-end tower entrance – there seems a clear church consensus for modernising this

Build on an external entrance foyer to the west – those present thought this would be expensive and unlikely to gain approval from the planning authorities

Add a carbon neutral heating system – yes, this was essential, but a) how to generate the heat was one thing (e.g., electric boiler) and b) how to distribute it (using the current radiators and pipes or using an underfloor heating system) another

Clear the nave and aisles of pews and replace with moveable seating – one member of the group was unconvinced that removing the pews was advantageous. Others thought this would modernise the church, increase the flexibility of use, and make for more comfortable seating. The pew advocate was good humoured about it, but unmoved.

Add a toilet at the back of the either the north or south aisles – most present thought this was necessary for a modern building

Add a Multifunctional breakout room/children's corner/creche in a new room within the tower, above the level of the entrance or alternatively in an aisle - A room under the tower would enclose the entrance rather than open it up. Disabled access would be difficult. A breakout space in the aisles, with screens that would also allow the space to be used during large services, could work

Add a balcony over an area at the back of the nave – apparently the Church did use to have a balcony! See page 33 of Elizabeth White's book on the history of the Church. However again this would enclose the entrance rather than open it up

Reorder the chancel by removing the pews and replacing with moveable seating – could the pews be retained but adapted (shortened, fitted with castors) so they could be the flexible seating within the chancel. This area could be used for e.g., the 8.30am service if a ramp was fitted. It was a traditional and historically interesting part of the Church

Incorporate the churchyard into the High Street development – this would be advantageous to the sense of welcome the building offered, and definitely desirable.

It was also noted that:

- **All this would cost money, and how much became available may have to constrain what was possible**
- **In the church services this last Sunday, reordering was talked about in the Church services, but the Hall Service did not have the opportunity due to a baptism. Perhaps the Hall Service might be able to discuss reordering on 17th or 24th July.**

Stephen M'Caw