

Notes from re-ordering meetings

(The below is a summary of the post-it notes from the 2 consultation meetings about the re-ordering of the church. I have tried to group comments under different headings and put very similar comments down as eg x3, x4 etc. Alison)

Toilets

- High priority x 9
- Separate toilets and servery
- Toilets need to be wheelchair accessible x 2
- Could these be in the entrance lobby, in the glass atrium?
- Need to have baby-changing facilities

General Enthusiasm

- Yes, we need to do it
- Excited – let's go! X 6
- Building needs to be used
- Be positive and enthusiastic about welcoming all on a Sunday
- Change, however small, fuels momentum
- Up for change, but with care
- Our group consensus is that now is the time to make building changes

Entrance

- Entrance is key to outreach and mission x 3
- Prefer West Door as main entrance, as focal point of church
- Glazed porch could open up the church to the community and help to see in x 5
- Like the addition of a visible foyer – more welcoming x 3
- Really want to see the West Porch reordered before I die
- External developments are undesirable on aesthetic ground and amount to vandalism, and would actually make church more inaccessible, not less so

Seating/Flexibility

- Flexibility of seating is key – chairs instead of pews x 4
- Flexible spaces rather than 'children's area' etc
- Flexibility to move things for each style of worship x 4
- Does this space need to be more flexible for the 21st century and beyond?

Sustainability

- Solar panels most important
- Must redevelop to achieve sustainability – space and underfloor heating
- Carbon footprint should be a priority x 4

Hospitality

- Hospitality facilities are important x 2
- Kitchenette on south side would be an advantage as it would be near the south door to access hall kitchen items if needed

Storage

- Plenty of storage (especially for flower team!)
- Storage needed
- Storage needed for chairs

Consultation

- Consult as widely as possible x 2
- Process must engage – targeted consultation eg schools
- Need to be a listening church by reordering with full community support
- Involve community: music festival, High Street development, new ideas – leisure/art

Children and Youth

- Make space for adequate children's and youth work x3
- Children should be central, not out of sight
- If children's corner is at the back, parents and carers will not be able to participate in the service?
- Isn't the whole idea of a 'children's corner' a bit old fashioned?
- Rename 'children's corner'

Process and Principles

- Happy with the process
- Fully agree – excellent principles x3

Vision

- This vision is big, the time is ripe and the Lord is with us, working with us
- Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the project
- All these peripheral things are important, but the big vision, a clear mission, is needed first
- How much energy will be absorbed doing this reordering? It could slow down /stop mission?
- Missional church so need to appear more welcoming – encourage people in from the High Street x2
- Church needs to be open to new users and bring new people into the church

Miscellaneous

- Do we need a Lady Chapel?
- Start some initial fundraising now
- Can we find a use for the High Altar area?
- Timescale – 10 years was mentioned, but when realistically would work start and is there a priority to what work is carried out first?
- Accessibility – yes to a lift!
- The chancel seems to have been ignored on all the plans. This is wasted space that could be used in so many ways eg Lady Chapel/prayer corner
- Chancel development used for: smaller services or children's corner or storage or tea/coffee area or youth
- Look at changes in other churches

- Ensure that there is sufficient lighting from the rear of the dais. The present position of the lights at the front is often inadequate
- The spaces on each side of the tower lend themselves to smaller rooms, for whatever purpose