

BUILDING SUB GROUP REPORT

Précis by Anne Latter

The small sub group of three members has consulted widely beyond the parish and produced a detailed report. I have made a précis using the report's own words but the full report can be read and photographs looked at.

The group feels that the church building and acoustics need utilising to serve the needs of the wider community. There are four key changes suggested for the interior of the building.

1. Seating in the main body of the church

This should be flexible and more comfortable. They suggest red upholstered wooden frame chairs with clips to hook them together as needed. In the majority of services and events chairs would be linked together but could be easily re-arranged or stacked.

2. Choir stalls and platform

To optimise flexibility it would be advantageous to replace the choir stalls with chairs matching those in the nave but with the addition of music stands attached. The group suggests the removal of the screen of two low white walls at the front of the chancel and raising the platform. This would act as a staging area for concerts and shows. The whole of the chancel could be carpeted and the choir seating could face the congregation for better sound projection.

3. The Children's area.

It is vital to encourage young parents and their children and we realise that young children do create noise. Enclosing an arched area in a side aisle with either sliding screens or solid glass would enable children and parents to follow the service particularly if a loudspeaker system relayed everything that was going on.

4. The North Porch as a visitor centre

This would be part of making the church more welcoming. It would be available during most daylight hours to give people a very clear indication of the church's community and awareness of its welcoming attitudes to newcomers. To achieve this there would need to be draught proofing to the outer door by means of an inner door. Remove the wardrobe storage cupboard. Redecorate and fit suitable carpet or flooring. Use the four-drawer cabinet for storage and display. Mount displays on exhibition boards which would allow for flexibility. The open space would enable people to sit and watch a DVD presentation about the church and history of the parish.

Finally the group recommends a more user-friendly light switch panel to avoid confusion as seen at the Easter Vigil.