

SHAPING THE FUTURE - UPDATE JANUARY 2016

Since the last congregational get together on 20th September 2015, the Architect has been guided by the Project Group (Douglas Buchanan, Ross McKay, Ian Gilmour, Andrew Watson and Jim Dewar) set up by the Kirk Session.

It was clear from the comments made on the 20th September that there was general support for an upgrade of the premises but that some tweaking of the proposals, seen on that day, were required.

Various alterations have been made to the plans in light of the feedback which was given.

- A toilet is proposed in the cloak room at the front west side of the church vestibule.
- The stage in Hall 1 is not to be removed and there will be accessible storage put under the front of the stage along with convenient access to the stage from the Hall.
- Behind Hall 1 the toilet at the west side will be converted in to a storage area, the current kitchen will be changed into a comfortable waiting room, the current sitting area will be altered to form a kitchen and an accessible toilet.
- The rear access to the premises will be through the current fire door in order to make it easier for those in wheel chairs to enter. The current door will be bricked up and possibly form part of a new cupboard.

The cost of the project has increased, as more is being proposed in the refurbishment.

- All the boilers are over 20 years old and will require to be replaced with more efficient ones.
- The cost of the replacement of the pews by seats is now included.
- New heating in Halls 1, 2 and 3 is now included.
- Replacement of windows in Hall 1 by double glazed units.

The total cost is now in the region of £450,000.

The Kirk Session has agreed that the funding of the project will be in the following way.

- The sale of the Church Officer's House, around £200,000.
- Legacies received in 2015, around £100,000.
- Current church funds of around £30,000
- Grants from various Charities and Organisations who help Church refurbishment projects.
- Gifts and fundraising by the congregation.

The Project Group is clear that only affordable parts of the proposals will go ahead and that the congregation will not be saddled with large loans repayable over a long number of years.

The current problem with the heating in Hall 3 and the Office will have to be rectified soon and this will reduce the refurbishment cost, as the proposed solution is less expensive than the replacement of the boiler and the heating proposed in the refurbishment costs.

The meeting, after church on 24th January, is to give you the opportunity to ask further questions about all of the proposals. It is hoped that you will be able to stay behind after morning worship on that day as it is important that all members of the congregation feel able to contribute their ideas regarding this exciting new venture.

Andrew Watson on behalf of the Project Group.