

## **Restoration Project 2016 “Universal Access”**

Update Autumn 2014

In September 2014 the Architect Appointment Sub-committee (Ivan Humphreys, James Perry, Christine Rankin, Ian Foster, Stephen Baker, Geoff Hewitt) meets to consider the proposals and fees submitted by the four short-listed tendering firms of architects. Following a presentation by the architects to the Sub-committee a recommendation will be made to the Select Vestry.

The appointed architect will work along with their professional team to consider how our design brief can be realised. It is hoped that a scheme design can be prepared by Christmas 2014, and a presentation made to the church early in the New Year. During the remainder of 2015 the professional team will work on the finer details of the project and acquire a building contractor before work commences on site in January 2016.

We would encourage everyone in the parish to view the full design brief given to the tendering contractors on the Parish Website, a brief summary of which is provided below.

### **DESIGN REQUIREMENTS**

#### **Church Building**

Conservation Restoration Works.

Upgrading of the building fabric.

Relocation of the organ.

Replacement of the M&E Services Installation.

New Vestry Room.

New additional entrance from new welcome area.

New audio visual system.

#### **Parish Centre**

Larger Kitchen incorporating existing Youth Room.

Lock up storage space in kitchen.

Cold storage facility.

Direct link from the kitchen to the main hall.

Creation of additional storage space to the main hall.

Creation of an access route from the entrance lobby, between the kitchen and Kajiado Room, to the new church welcome area.

Lighting to upper carpark.

Additional disabled carparking spaces.

### **New Welcome Area / Meeting Space**

Creation of a new entrance to the buildings.

New entrance into the Church from new welcome area.

Provision of a permanent coffee bar.

Passenger Lift to the Parish Centre level.

Provision of a new Youth Suite.

Provision of designated Children's space / crèche, with access to the Church.

### **Phasing**

Details of phasing / access to be addressed.

Relocation of the existing NIE kiosk.

Access required to the Parish Centre at all times, including the office, toilets, main hall and Kajiado Room.

Church Services to be held in the Church Hall while the Church is being refurbished.

Works involving the Kitchen carried out during the summer months, when there is a reduced requirement for catering.

The following areas have also been considered:

### **RESTORATION SUB-COMMITTEE DESIGN BRIEF**

**1. Audio** The restoration must incorporate an improved audio system that will be much more user friendly and effective.

**2. Visuals: Sight Lines** The restoration must reduce sight line problems, minimise pillar obstructions and increase connectivity between those leading the service and the congregation.

A re-positioning of the choir will help them in their role of leading the singing and free up space to the front right hand side of the church for seating. It will also help the organist lead the choir more effectively

**3. Visual Aids / Props / Screen** The restoration must incorporate an improved audio/visual system that would be much more user friendly and effective – while ensuring that screens don't jar with the atmosphere of the building.

**4. Baptism Services** The restoration should consider a sensitive re-positioning of the Font to ease current space, access and visibility issues.

**5. Holy Communion Services** The restoration should incorporate curved seating and moving the choir will provide more space at the front of church. A longer communion rail should then be provided with no steps. This will make

Communion a smoother and more efficient service for the whole congregation and people will feel free to stand or to kneel to receive Communion as they prefer.

**6. Children** A permanent crèche with a glass screen visibly and audibly connected to the main worship space will enable parents and children to remain part of the service without any feelings of self consciousness if a child is not happy.

**7. Small Group Worship** A restoration of the Church with a connecting building should improve access to the Church from the Parish Centre and car park. Together with zoned lighting this should increase usage of the Church building for different services throughout the week.

**8. Music** In a restoration of the Church singing quality should be improved by repositioning the organist, the choir, and our musicians/singers in relation to the gathered congregation. Tidying equipment and music scripts in a more appropriate manner will be possible.

This will make the church more flexible for other church-appropriate but non-worship occasions (eg choirs, concerts etc).

**9. Sitting / Kneeling** A restoration plan should seek to include more flexible, comfortable, storable seating. Any new chair will need to be carefully chosen to aid flexibility and comfort and facilitate kneeling for those who wish to do so.

**10. St Columbanus Educational Display** Drawing on our rich Columbanus history there will be opportunities for education, creativity and merchandising, (especially with the 2015 St Columbanus anniversary on the horizon) which to date remain untapped. Website, postcards, North Down Museum, possible production of a tapestry are possibilities which might be housed in the new design.

**11. Welcome Area / Meeting Space / Hospitality** The joining of the Church building and Parish Centre will create a new entrance lobby (as well as making the Church building readily accessible from the upper car park, Parish Centre and Groomsport Road) and afford flexible meeting space, a welcome area, information centre, hospitality provision and a collection point.

**12. Toilets / Cloakroom / Wheelchairs / Pushchairs / Walking Rollators** A restoration plan which connects the Church and the Parish Centre will offer ready access to toilets, cloak rooms and disabled toilets in the Parish Centre and create space for temporary storage. The new seating will seek to

accommodate wheelchairs and make movement around the Church building for everyone much freer.

**13. Entry / Exit / Security** A restoration plan which connects the Church and the Parish Centre will address all the lingering entry/access and health and safety issues.

**14. Clergy Vestry** A restoration scheme will ideally include appropriate provision for both clergy and churchwardens.

**15. Storage / Cleaning Equipment** Additional storage facilities must be included in any restoration design, to tidy our kit and equipment, to de-clutter our worship space and to reduce the need to use the bell tower for storage.