

OUR PLANS FOR THE SOUTH WEST CORNER

Cherish
the past
Embrace
the future

We propose to **remove the pews** from this corner, and **one or two from the end of the south aisle**, to open up the entrance area.

You can see from the **area marked with yellow tape**, how much space this will create.

We would like to **move the font into the middle** of the new space, making more room for people to circulate round it.

We would **retain** the old **outer doors**, but install a new pair of **glazed inner doors**.

We think this will be good for everyone, by making a better, more inclusive welcome area, more space for Baptism families and for our annual Act of Remembrance, and as a teaching space for heritage visits.

Visitors would be able to see into the church without having to open the doors, making it more welcoming, warmer, less draughty and reducing energy bills.

We'd love to know what you think:



~ Fill in a paper or on-line **questionnaire** ~ Pop a disk into one of the **voting boxes** ~ Leave a **post-it** comment on one of the white boards ~

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OUR PLANS FOR THE SOUTH AISLE

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We are considering **removing some of the pews** from under the windows in this aisle, but we haven't yet decided how many to remove. These pews are rarely used, but chairs could be brought in for particularly large services.

We could use the space for **storage cupboards** and to make **display areas** for church organisations such as the Sunday School or the Friends, or it could be used for **exhibitions** such as this one.

We will be moving the **organ console** a little further away from the far end of the aisle, but we haven't yet decided exactly where to place it.

If we do remove some pews from the south aisle, we think this will benefit both congregation and community, by removing clutter, by improving the way we display information and by enabling better, more flexible use of the building for educational, cultural and heritage events.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE TOWER

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The **bellframe** is now almost 120 years old, and is **very rusty**. We carried out some **emergency repairs** earlier this year, but a further **£40,000** needs to be spent on a complete refurbishment.

We urgently need to make some **major repairs to the tower** itself, which lets in the **rainwater** very badly in the walls above the belfry. The problem has led to the building being placed on the **Historic England At Risk Register**. We expect the repair work to cost about **£300,000**.

The tower repairs will ensure the long term future of the church building, a significant heritage asset for the community, and will protect the restored bellframe.

Local people have told us they love to hear the sound of the bells, which remind them of their faith, and of special occasions like weddings, especially for visually impaired people. Having the bellframe restored will enable us to ensure that we can continue this ancient tradition in safety for years to come.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE NAVE

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The **pews** in the nave of the church (and those in the Staveley Chapel), have been acknowledged by **Historic England** as being of particularly **high quality**.

Visitors remark on how the **beauty of the space** opens up as they walk through the arch from the south aisle into the **centre of the church**. We agree with them!

One of the problems that we experience on Sundays is that it is **difficult** for those seated in the **side aisles** to **see the worship leaders**, and vice-versa. The **central block of pews** is therefore considered as **'prime seating'**.

So, apart from two rows at the front, we **do not propose to remove** any more pews from this **beautiful Victorian space**.

continued



OUR PLANS FOR THE NAVE

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Another problem for visitors is the **difficulty of access** from one side the church to the other at the front end of the nave. So we plan to make a **clear passage**, with no change in **floor level**, in front of the pulpit and the new dais, from the **north to the south aisle**. See more about this on the display board in the chancel.

You can see from the **area marked with yellow tape**, how this will work.

These minimal changes will maintain the appearance of the nave, and preserve for future generations this fine example of a Victorian pewed space.

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OUR PLANS: WELCOME AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

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Our plans for inside the building include a **ramp up into the chancel** from the nave, and a new clear, **level passage across the front** of church from one side to the other.

The access across the **churchyard** is extremely difficult for people with mobility problems. So we propose to lay a **new path made of resin-bound stone** chippings of an appropriate colour, to provide **completely level access** from the square outside the church gates, right into the building. This path will cost around £14,000.

We think this will be a great benefit to elderly people and people with mobility difficulties, in terms of independence and equal opportunity, also parents with young children. It will enable all visitors to access our beautiful building - whether here for worship, community events or to explore its heritage.

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OUR PLANS: WELCOME AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

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We want to make a special, open, **family-friendly area** at the end of the **north aisle** nearest the pulpit. This would be **carpeted** and **open**, to accommodate crawling **toddlers** and **push-chairs** and all the other necessary **equipment** that families bring with them.

This will enable all family members to take a full part in worship and other events, and be able to see all that is happening.

Improvements to heating and the front porch (see other displays for details) will make the building more comfortable for everyone - but especially the very young and the elderly.

All these things will help to make the building more attractive to a wider range of people, and particularly to encourage the next generation.

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OUR PLANS FOR HEATING AND LIGHTING

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We need to replace both the obsolete **heating** and **lighting** systems with **modern, flexible, and efficient** systems that are **easier to maintain** and more **effective**. These items may cost over £60,000 each.

Along with the changes in layout and access in the church, these are essential to make the building more welcoming, accessible and safe for everyone.

More efficient and flexible systems will save on energy costs and help to preserve the environment for future generations.

Our congregation and members of the local community will at last be able to experience the level of comfort that they would expect to find in any public building in the 21st century.

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OUR PLANS FOR TECHNOLOGY

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We would like to install a **modern projector system**, with a **large bright screen** that can be **hidden when not in use**.

We would like to **move the sound desk**, to improve the sightline to the worship leaders.

We think it is very important that the **technological aids** we use **should not detract** from either the sense of **heritage** and **historical continuity**, or the **reverence** of our worship.

The use of projection instead of service sheets will save paper, which will be better for the environment and save money. It will open up a huge range of possibilities for church, school, community and educational events.

It will enable us to include more modern forms of worship, and attract a wider range of people to our church.

A permanent installation that can be hidden most of the time would better protect the historic feel of the building than the present temporary arrangement.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE NORTH WEST CORNER

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We propose to open up this area completely - **removing the wooden frontals** that at present impede access to the area, and lowering the **floor level** to match that in the aisles. There would be a **new, more compact servery**.

By **removing some pews** from this end of the north aisle, we could make the space large enough to place **tables and chairs** for cafe-style catering after **church services** or **open days** like today.

You can see from the **area marked with yellow tape**, how much space this will create.

We think this will be good for everyone, providing a space where friendships can flourish, and social isolation eased.

Providing better hospitality will benefit all who come to services and events.

The space could also be used for meetings and events organised by the church or community organisations.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE NORTH AISLE

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We want to **remove some of the pews** in the middle of this aisle, to create a dedicated **sales and display** area for Guide Books, Christian books, greetings cards and other items.

We want to make a special open, carpeted, **family-friendly area** at the end of the **north aisle nearest the pulpit**.

You can see from the **areas marked with yellow tape**, how much space this will create.

We think that a permanent sales and display area will provide a resource to the congregation and visitors all the year round.

The family area will enable those with small children to take a full part in worship and other events, and be able to see all that is happening.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE HOLLINGWORTH CHAPEL

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We have **no plans** to make any changes here in the Hollingworth Chapel.

We did consider moving **Reginald Bretland's marble effigy** out of the chapel, but we felt that this would be an expensive and difficult operation, compared to any benefit it would bring.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE CHANCEL

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We propose to make better use of the chancel, **removing some or all** of the large **choir pews** and replacing them with **high quality, but moveable seating**.

This would give us a much more flexible space for the choir or music group, with the singers facing forwards instead of sideways, making for a much improved sound.

This would be of great benefit to worshippers, also visitors who come for concerts and other performances.

It would be particularly good for All Age services, our Nativity and Christingle services, and especially for School events, where the chancel regularly needs to accommodate a large number of children.

The space could also be used for smaller services of up to 30 people. The seating could be placed facing either way - to the nave, to the east window, or inwards as now. In particular, the 8.30am service would be held here - the Staveley chapel is often too small to accommodate the numbers that attend.

On other occasions, the chancel could be turned into an atmospheric space for prayer, meditation or other group activities, with chairs placed in a circle.

continued



OUR PLANS FOR THE CHANCEL

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We propose to **extend the chancel** floor forwards with a **solid wooden dais** (platform), giving a **better angle of vision** to our service leaders - they would be able to see more of the congregation (**particularly in the side aisles**) and vice-versa.

A **ramp** would be built to the right hand side of the dais, giving **access to the chancel**. We would need to move the eagle lectern to make way for the ramp, but we have not yet decided on its exact position.

This would be of great benefit to disabled and elderly visitors, many of whom cannot manage to climb the step - also wheelchair users and families with buggies. This will make the space more accessible and inclusive.

A **new moveable communion table** would be commissioned for the dais, although we would **retain the existing high table** in the sanctuary for special services, for instance Christmas and Easter.

We want to keep the high table, as a valued part of the history and tradition of the building and the congregation.

continued



OUR PLANS FOR THE CHANCEL

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continued

Two pews would be **removed from the front of the church**, to make room for the new dais but no others would be removed from the large central seating block in the nave.

You can see from the **area marked with yellow tape**, how much space this will create, making a **space for people to circulate** in front of the dais, into both side aisles, without any change in floor level.

Making a clear passage across the front will improve access for congregation and visitors, especially those who are elderly or disabled, wheelchair users or families with pushchairs.

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OUR PLANS FOR THE STAVELEY CHAPEL

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We propose to keep the Staveley Chapel as a **place for quiet private prayer.**

There would be just **one bank of pews** placed centrally in the chapel. We would **re-use** as many of the high quality **historic wooden panels** and pew ends as possible.

We would like to move the stone effigies of **Sir Ralph and Lady Elizabeth Staveley** out from under the screen to a **more visible** position wholly inside the chapel.

We would **restore** some of the **canopied seats** from the chancel back to their original pre-1930 locations, inside the chapel.

We think this will preserve the chapel as a special, quiet space, and will enhance the display of some of our most important heritage.

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