

Caldwell Parish Church
Reordering of the Sanctuary

Questions and Answers

Why are we making this change to our church building?

Our church opened in 1889, and was designed for the way people worshipped in the 19th century. As the years have passed, we have adapted our building in different ways to make it more suitable for our worship and mission. Replacing the pews with chairs will make our sanctuary much more suitable for church life in the 21st century - a more accessible, welcoming and versatile space.

Can we afford to spend this money?

Yes. We are in the fortunate position of having in excess of the minimum required to meet our financial obligations locally and nationally. By using our financial resources for this project we are investing in the present and future of this congregation and church.

Will this change happen before we go back to the building?

No. We have already applied to Presbytery for permission to reopen our church building for worship, and anticipate being able to gather again for worship when the Scottish Government eases the current restrictions which prevent Sunday worship.

Will the pulpit be removed?

No. That part of the sanctuary - pulpit, organ pipes, and the chancel area will not be affected by this project, other than by minor decorative works, and some new carpeting.

Why don't we just use the Mure Hall if we need space and moveable seating?

Your Minister, Board and Session believe that it is vitally important for our future as a worshipping congregation to have our own church building at the heart of this community. A building where we can gather for worship and mission, where we can offer hospitality to others, and where we can engage in all manner of different church and community activities. Some other congregations have opted to use local community facilities for worship and all church activities. They have taken out long-term regular lets of community centers and/or schools, and their church buildings have been closed and sold. In the past that was a solution for congregations whose buildings were in a poor state of repair and for whom repairs were unaffordable. However, as the Church of Scotland currently experiences various pressures on resources the sharing of buildings in that way is going to become more common. Our church building is in a great location, is in a good state of repair and we have the financial resources and willingness to act boldly in faith to ensure that we have a building which serves both congregation and community. This project is an investment in the present and the future of Caldwell Church.

Can I keep a pew?

Yes, with a little help from a joiner. Our shorter side pews are a better size for having at home, but as they are fixed to the wall at one end, they'll need a bit of work to make them stand alone. The central pews are a little long for most living rooms, but again, could be

adapted. You would just need to give us some advance notice and we'll make sure you can have a pew of your choosing.

More questions?

If you have questions which haven't been answered here, then please contact Rev Alison McBrier by email amcbrier@churchofscotland.org.uk or by phoning 01560 673686.