St George's Church, Dumfries
Church Heating and Development Proposal

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Church Heating System - as reported previously – is increasingly unreliable, inefficient, costly to run, and badly in need of a substantial upgrade.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT GROUP

For the past year, this specially appointed Group has:

- explored options for upgrading and modernising the heating system
- identified the structural work required
- considered how this could affect positive changes and improvements to the physical layout of the church
- identified work required in regard to revised Fire Safety and Health & Safety regulations
- engaged professional expertise to assist and advise the Group on the way ahead

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Group reported its conclusions and recommendations to recent Deacons' Court meetings and also to a specially arranged congregational consultation meeting which took place on Sunday 8 October 2017. All members were given the opportunity to attend and to give their views and comments. If unable to be attend, members were invited to submit any comments or questions in advance for consideration. At that consultation meeting, and at Deacons' Court, a number of key questions were raised. These were further considered by the Church Development Group and have helped to inform their subsequent recommendations.

NOTE: The page overleaf highlights some of the key questions which have arisen. It has not been possible to document every question and answer here but the Group has considered each one and is grateful to everyone who took the time to put forward their views and to ask questions.

February 2018

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, 50 George St, Dumfries DG1 1EJ
Tel: 01387 267072 | Email: churchdevelopment@saint-georges.org.uk
www.saint-georges.org.uk | Scottish Charity No: SC006404

SOME KEY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Why is this a matter for the Deacons' Court to decide?

A. The Deacons' Court is made up of elected church members and elders together with the Minister, Session Clerk, and Clerk to the Deacons' Court. It has the responsibility to make decisions relating to the fabric and maintenance of the church buildings, structure and facilities and associated finance. The special congregational consultation meeting was held to help inform their decision.

Q. Why is this project as described, necessary?

A The heating system is badly in need of upgrade and to do nothing would seriously affect the future worship environment for our members, increase costs and inefficiency. New Fire, Health & Safety regulations also mean there is a need to replace all the pew cushions in the church, not just in the gallery, as they are a fire safety hazard as well as long past their useful lifespan. The recommendation is to replace the cushions in the gallery only.

Q. Why do the pews need to be removed?

A. The current heating system is partially fixed to the pews and cannot be upgraded without taking down the pews and lifting the church flooring.

Q. Why replace the pews with chairs instead of re-installing the pews?

A. The pews will have to be removed and cannot be re-installed because the underfloor heating requires new flooring. New chairs will give flexibility of layout, increased comfort and a more modern practical look to the church for future generations.

Q. Why purchase 200 chairs, 112 of them with arms?

A. 200 is an estimate number relating to average downstairs usage. The number purchased with arms enables support for the more infirm to be supported when standing up/sitting down. The development group will investigate the availability of chairs which sit higher for those with orthopaedic difficulties. If more chairs are needed on occasion, ie for concerts or special services, they can be brought over for temporary use from the hall. There will still be the same number of seats available in the gallery.

Q. Why two boilers?

A. Two boilers will give the required capacity to cover the whole of the church building and will give backup in the event of maintenance and untoward breakdown.

Q. Will the draughty windows be dealt with?

A. The draughts are the result of the movement of cold air due to the inconsistency of the current heating. The upgraded system will make provision to eradicate this problem with new heaters on the side walls.

Q. Why purchase new carpeting?

A. The flooring has to be compatible with the underfloor heating installation to ensure maximum efficiency. The Development Group has identified suitable suppliers who can quote for this work. The carpeting chosen will be compatible also with the chancel carpet.

Q. Have the make of boiler, type of chair, colour schemes for chairs and carpeting already been chosen?

A. Final decisions will be made once there are sufficient funds available to seek best prices and designs. Colours will be chosen to co-ordinate with the church colour scheme.

Q. Who will oversee the project to completion?

A. The Group will appoint a professional project manager with expertise in church building projects and architecture.

Q. When will plans be drawn up?

A. The plans and specification for the project are currently being drawn up and will be available to view in due course.

Q. When will the project begin and how long will it take?

A. Ideally, the project will begin in the summer months this year and be completed by mid-Autumn – subject to funds being available.

Q. What happens to Sunday worship arrangements?

A. Sunday worship will be organised as usual, but in the church hall for the duration of the project. Hall lets should continue unaffected.

THE DECISION

The decision to go ahead was taken at the Deacons' Court meeting held on 15 January 2018. The Court gave formal approval to proceed with the planning and preparation for the upgrade and associated fundraising. Subject to funds being in place, the following recommendations of the Development Group were approved:

- appoint a qualified professional project manager/engineer to oversee the project
- purchase two new industrial capacity gas boilers, to provide underfloor heating together with all associated construction and installation works to cover the whole of the church building, sanctuary, vestibule, offices and all ancillary accommodation.
- purchase 200 new individual chairs – 112 with arms 88 without
- purchase new flooring(carpet) compatible with underfloor heating systems
- purchase replacement cushions for the gallery pews to comply with fire safety regulations
- retain appropriate funds in the event of any unforeseen costs or remedial work required (contingency funds)

COSTS / FUNDS REQUIRED

The task of co-ordinating the fundraising for the project will be overseen by the new Church Development Fundraising Group chaired by Rosemary Murray, convener of the St George's Finance Committee. The estimated cost of the scheme is £138,000. This includes remedial work, professional fees, all purchases, restoration of the downstairs area, replacement pew cushions for the gallery, upgrading work in the vestibule, office, ancillary accommodation and contingencies. Currently, as a result of ongoing fundraising, St George's has around £23,000 available to support the project, but will require to raise the additional £115,000 to fund this.

THE NEXT STEPS

PLEDGE / GIFT / INFORMATION SESSIONS

The project is dependent on sufficient funds being raised, donated and/or pledged within a comparatively short timescale. This will involve organising individual donations, gift aid and monetary pledges as well as fundraising events and activities. This can only be achieved with the support of St George's members, family and friends. To that end, the Group has organised:

Information, Gift and Pledge Day

with members of the Group on

Saturday 14 April 2018
10am - 2pm
Church Hall and Church

Information, Gift and Pledge Evening

with members of the Group on

Tuesday 17 April 2018
6.30pm - 8.30pm
Church Hall and Church

NOTE: Members of the Church Development Fundraising Group will be on hand to discuss how members can consider pledging specific amounts of money, make donations and agree to Gift Aid on their pledges. Any discussions with individuals will be confidential.

Members who are unable to attend or would wish a more private meeting to discuss their intentions can request a home visit by a member of the group.

St George's Church, Dumfries
Church Heating and Development Proposal

FURTHER INFORMATION

During the period February to July 2018, there will be regular updates on progress with the fundraising and the church development plans. There will be, in due course, visual material on the plans, samples of chairs, carpeting and display information on the project. The project will be promoted as widely as possible through Focus, Church News, Intimations, notice boards, posters, the website, Facebook, local news and print media and through elders' visits.

Any member wishing further information or with constructive suggestions or comments on fundraising is invited to contact the Church Development Fundraising Group via the Church Office (Monday - Thursday) on 01387 267072 or by email: churchdevelopment@saint-georges.org.uk

A Prayer for Christian Giving

We thank you, God, for all your gifts:
For life in your wonderful world;
For space and time to enjoy your gift of life;
For talents that bring us a sense of fulfilment.

We thank you, God, for coming as Jesus:
To show us how much you love us;
To forgive us through the cross of Calvary;
To raise us with Christ to new life with you.

We thank you, God, for your Holy Spirit:
Your presence to guide us day by day;
Your power to support us day by day;
Your assurance of your continuing love.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH, 50 George St, Dumfries DG1 1EJ
Tel: 01387 267072 | Email: churchdevelopment@saint-georges.org.uk
www.saint-georges.org.uk | Scottish Charity No: SC006404