

Summary of congregation feedback January 2015

The notes below present a brief overview of the conclusions from the above congregation meeting. The opinions were collected in group discussions following an update of progress given by the incumbent supported by the transformation and repair project leader, Dave Allin

1) Management of the restored and improved building

To ensure everyone has the best access to the facilities we will need a rigorous booking system and, when volumes merit it, may require paid staff or a formal rota of volunteers to manage lettings.

We need to ensure it is possible to rent parish room and nave at the same time.

We will need a trolley or some other means to move pews even after modification. We will need to come to clear guidelines and charging policies over who rearranges furniture and what state the building must be left in after use.

2) The various uses of the space

The discussions focussed on the three main groups of users and the sort of activities that might take place.

Congregation uses

Flower festival
Youth smoothie bar
Messy church
Children's play
Choir practice
Lunch club
Funerals with the recognition that these vary in number and are at short notice
Ceilidh
Dinners
Interfaith meetings
Burns night
Saints days

Commercial

Concerts
Agreement that in general regular letting to bodies such as Exeter College should be for half days only to avoid 'locking out' other uses.
Weddings and receptions

Community

Fitness
Coffee morning
Art exhibitions
Services
Image gallery as fund raising?
Martial arts
Surgery
YMCA
Pool table
Organ lessons
Attract tourists perhaps including the church in redcoat tours

3) Practical matters

We need to provide much better signage from the roads. An example might be banners on pulleys

4) Design considerations

Multi use room

This space should be flexible and rentable as well as sound insulated.

Toilets

Must allow wheelchair and the associated pusher.
Care to place the basins in the best place
look at the possibility of a third toilet if space allows

Kitchen

Top spec below full food prep level

Storage

Needs to be accessible and enough
How to improve use munuments room
What must we store? The importance of not collecting junk in case it is later useful.

Heating

Can we insulate to reduce costs?

5) General comments

If we do not rent we will close
Maximise rental, target at least two full lets a week
The community are very important and should be more actively engaged
We will need to review use on a regular basis
We need to block enough time for church use
Get Queen street parking open on concert nights
Chair storage
Pews must move
Wifi plus Internet
Security, loos not visible from nave