

Summary of Comments - Lower Hall and Stage

Name	Practicality and Function	Heating and Comfort	Decor
Chapel Member	Space limited by two raised areas	Very noisy heaters – unpleasant to sit near them. Very comfy chairs	Good displays
Chapel Member	Strip lighting seems to give old fashioned effect. Shiny new ones might help.		
Chapel Member	OK. I'm against the idea of floor being levelled. It's important to be able to see what is happening in any sort of production – a one level floor prevents this. We need a ramp onto the stage	Heating is poor and sometimes does not work at all.	OK
Chapel Member	The different levels make it difficult for people. Sometimes having one big level space would be useful. A built in PA System with a permanent home and a working T Loop should be fitted to enable people to hear the summer services and the December services. It would be useful to have some plugs on the wall by the fire exit door. Stage is difficult to access. Very little natural daylight, it always seems dark. Do we need a stage? It's hardly used as for its purpose!	Heating is erratic, often too hot or too cold. The heaters are also noisy, so make it hard to hear what people are saying when they are on. The heat distribution isn't very good either. Jo finds the new seats uncomfortable due to there being no lower back support and no way of adding it, as cushions fall through the gap! Having a few of the old chairs available for those that want them (even though they don't match!) would be good.	Is a bit tatty, but not dreadful. People don't walk in and think it looks bad, its only if you inspect the paintwork that you see scuffs.
Chapel Member		Heaters blast rather than heat	Re-vamp necessary - lighting and decor of 21 st century
Chapel Member	Access into it via the porch is cramped and steps are awkward and not good for disabled or less able walkers. If stage is retained need better steps with handrail. Remove the curtains and wings – make it into a single room	Heaters are noisy. Acoustics are poor Stage is dark! Needs a Velux roof light window.	Don't think a simple coat of paint will make much different, but its either that or do a complete refit. Stage is dark and untidy.
Chapel Member	Permanent fixed steps to stage needed with handrails. ?Move fire exit nearer platform freeing stage area for steps AND piano, ie new side door position. Handrail on steps to porch . Lift possibly to stage if basic layout not radically altered If layout stays same ie step to stage, need handrail and fixed steps to it, for those who are old, young and wobbly. If steps not fixed, as now, then need "indication" where they are and maybe an edge to rest stage front.	Heating is noisy and annoying (blowing), but it is responsive. Room is very noisy esp if hearing not as good as used to be. Carpet would help (like Den's) but is it practical for other groups? Needs loop and mikes available if used for meetings Also noisy environment due to heaters and wooden floor and echoy	Not bad compared to most places Damp patch could do with touching up but otherwise not bad
Chapel Member	Idea of raising the floor level is good but expensive?		

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Chapel Member	Steps required to stage with a wheelchair lift	HW radiator on chapel side of room.	
Chapel Member	Would be better with folding doors rather than a curtain or upgrade the curtain	Folding doors would make both sides warmer.	Consider ramp so wheelchair users can access the toilets without going outside.
Chapel Member	<p><i>Addressing the floor levels downstairs, and the entry to the building:</i></p> <p>If the floors were to be levelled it would have the effect of extending the effective length of the room by around 1.6M. This is because of the dead zones caused by drops, and the necessary need to channel people towards steps. This would also eliminate the fall hazard at the stage interface, the space loss around the curtain flanks, and the trip hazard at the small step rise at the window end. DDA compliance would be improved, and fire escape would become simpler. The theatrical & concert aspects of the building's application could be conducted upstairs in the main chapel room.</p> <p>I have been and measured and attempted to find a sensible solution to the combined issue of the street level entry, the steep concrete stairs, the lintel over the stairs, and the various levels in the building.</p> <p>The following is a list of suggestions and opportunities to enhance the entry way, give DDA compliance, enhance room versatility and improve the lower level of the building:</p> <p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the steep concrete stairs, extend the barrier across the 'gap' resulting at the top of the stairs, and possibly add a glass screen from the top of the barrier to the ceiling to reduce drafts and yet share light. • Remove the street side entry way's screening and it's door/step down into the Sunday school. • Replace the screen with a longer glazed screen running parallel with the street wall, (so as to not obscure light.) Stopping the screen between the two windows farthest away from the existing street door. • Level the floor to the screen at stage level, sealing off the current side door. This would also address the damaged floor boarding, and the interface with the concrete ground beam/wall toe that is running down one side of the Sunday school. • Make the way into the Sunday school on the end of the 	<p>The gas fired heating is cheaper to run, is very noisy and can be quite overwhelming to people sat too close to it. Electrical heating is not available, and there would be concerns about electrical energy overloading if the down stairs rooms were to be converted to electrical heating. The electrical overload can be addressed in two ways: the use of solar panels, and the adoption of the process of energy discrimination. I have put forward a previous proposal on this. To re-cap, by zoning the heating upstairs so that energy can be used down stairs, by controlling the gas heating so it is only used below say 16 deg C on initial warm up, the electrical energy released from upstairs can be used to achieve final warm up and top up temperature losses in use.</p> <p>There is another factor that if the roof spaces were insulated, then the amount energy needed would reduce significantly.</p>	

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	<p>new screened 'corridor' so entry is through the door, and then turn right into to the new single level room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corridor could also provide a cloakroom facility and buggy pen. • The length of the corridor should be used to form a ramp between the street entry level and the Sunday school's new level to again facilitate DDA compliance • If the resultant loss of height in the Sunday school is deemed too much, or the character of the room is thought too utilitarian, the curved ceiling could be removed to expose the apex roof structure as long as the revealed roof is properly insulated. <p>All this levelling would all require the heating moved up, or replaced as appropriate, Sunday school lighting would also need re-assessing.</p> <p>Please note that I have avoided re-positioning the street entry door so as not to spoil the symmetry of the arched windows and because of the thickness and weight of the exterior walls.</p>		
Chapel Member	<p>Redecoration and strip and re-varnish floor. (Adrian) Redecoration and new wooden floor raised to the same level as the stage so the floor level of the whole of the downstairs is the same. Remove stage flats and curtains to open up space. Could possibly provide storage space beneath. (Caroline)</p> <p>Stage:- Same as Sunday school adding mobile storage units (neat office style, contemporary and lockable) Redecoration to match Sunday School.</p>		
Chapel Member	<p>This is the part most often used by the community but access is awful. Floors are difficult to keep clean. Re Stage:- Floor comments as Lower Hall. Gloomy & lacking natural light. Stage edge a potential danger for the unwary. Now rarely needed as a raised stage.</p>	Reasonable	Very Dated

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Chapel Member	The different floor levels are a problem.	Handrails are a necessity. Access is awkward	
Chapel Member	<p>The multiple floor levels are a problem to many people, particularly to the disabled and aged.</p> <p>A single level floor without steps would give access to the toilets and kitchen area to all. The room would become much larger and more useful with a single level floor.</p> <p>I believe it would be possible to form a new entry to the lower hall directly off the street, by extending downwards to floor level the existing 3 window openings and incorporating a set of outward opening doors, which would become the new emergency exit.</p> <p>A ramp could then be built parallel to the street from the new doors up to the new floor level which would ease access for the disabled and aged.</p> <p>The "transparency" of the building would also be improved by the extra glass on the front face.</p> <p>The existing side door (emergency exit) could then be blocked off if a new door and emergency exit was formed onto the street.</p>	<p>The heating is very poor ...either too hot or too cold never a happy medium.</p> <p>The heaters are also very noisy.</p> <p>Sunday school room and stage should be thoroughly insulated (walls, ceiling and floor) and a new gas CH heating system installed using hot water and radiators.</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>Very old fashioned and outdated.</p> <p>If the walls were insulated, they could then be plaster-boarded skimmed and painted. This would solve the old fashioned look.</p> <p>The floor surface is also quite piece-meal and rough and difficult to keep clean.</p> <p>Redecorate the stage area with lighter colours.</p>
Chapel Member	<p>When we hold summer meetings in here, those with hearing difficulties struggle – no amplification available, often inexperienced people involved in these meetings, environment (wooden floor) makes clarity of sound difficult</p> <p>Better steps and hand rail would be helpful if we keep the difference in levels from stage to SS</p>	<p>Heating is not very effective, is noisy and tends to make people uncomfortable (either too hot or freezing).</p> <p>Thermostat not always a help.</p> <p>A simpler to operate system would be good, and one which provides more of a background, consistent heat rather than erratic, noisy blasts!</p>	<p>Is due refurbishment.</p> <p>Needs redecorating to get rid of long-standing stains from water leaks.</p> <p>Generally messy (eg electrics cupboard at piano side)</p>

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<p>Chapel Member</p>	<p>The room, with the stage, has big practical issues. The 2 levels lead to problems with regard to access and not just for wheelchair access.</p> <p>With older people struggling to get up the steps between the 2 rooms, it is now very important that we proceed with handrails, irrespective of future ideas. I don't think this is a "maybe". They may only be short term but for very practical reasons we need them now.</p> <p>In the longer term, I think it would be good to raise the floor level of the SS room to that of the stage. The discrepancy between the level of the stage and the level of the bottom porch is best taken out in a ramp in the extended bottom porch suggestion.</p> <p>However this will lead to further work .e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2 heaters in the SS room will need raising. • The fire exit door will need raising – space is available. • A ramp to the street will need to be built outside in the fire exit passageway. This will need to be carefully discussed with our neighbour who already has damp problems in her wall. • The proscenium panel will need to be taken down. • Plus other matters maybe. <p>As we use the lower hall in the summer and for other events such as Forum, we need to have the loop system permanently fixed up. Not a costly item but needed.</p>	<p>The heating has been a matter of discussion for decades! It is either too hot or too cold.</p> <p>However over the years we have decided to stick with the existing heaters. A degree of control has been added with the installation of the room thermostat, albeit training people to return the setting to where it was when they came in is a headache! For some reason it can throw out the heating for the next occupant.</p> <p>Alternative forms of heating will be expensive and in my opinion will not solve the problem. Overhead heaters create hot heads and cold feet. Radiators do not provide instant heat, which is generally what is needed in this room.</p> <p>However the heating controls need attention right away. This isn't a "maybe"! Chris and Richard know about the issue. I think a new control panel appears to be solution, but they will know best. It would be good to solve this before the onset of autumn. This ought to be a maintenance budget item.</p> <p>If the floor level is left as it is, comfort wise it might improve things to cover the floorboards, with something "warmer and softer". The same applies to the stage.</p> <p>Finally, there is a suggestion that the roof space needs insulation. The benefit clearly, as in domestic properties, is less loss of heat. With the expectation that fuel prices will keep on rising, and that the insulation is not expensive and could be put in by us, I think this will be good value for money.</p>	<p>At the very least this room, with the stage, is, in my opinion, desperately in need of decoration. The cost would be relatively inexpensive and should be considered as something budgeted as a maintenance item.</p> <p>It is a poor reflection on us as a fellowship. It could be done immediately, and if greater modifications are felt to be appropriate later, the re-decoration is not a huge matter.</p>
<p>Hirer</p>	<p>It would be super to have a single floor level throughout.. This would be safer and more practical for us.</p> <p>Stage is only used by us once per year so it would be better as one room with one floor level - same as lower hall.</p>		
<p>Hirer</p>	<p>Great space but would be better without the stage. The acoustics make the girls voices louder (or is it just them?) Availability of OHP and screen would be useful occasionally. Whilst the stage area is sometimes useful, for the most part</p>		

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	<p>I worry that the girls will fall off and / or the curtains will be pulled down. It would be safer without the stage. A piano in tune and in good working order would be helpful.</p>		
Hirer	<p>Floor space is quite limited and stage area too large</p>	<p>In the winter we have an all or nothing situation. The heaters make the room very hot then it instantly becomes very cold. The temperature doesn't seem to reach a happy medium.</p>	<p>I think the décor is fine.</p>

2500 words