

Summary of Comments - Porches

Name	Practicality and Function	Heating and Comfort	Decor
Chapel Member	Dangerous steps between two levels. Limited space especially for buggies and wheel chairs	Cold dark dingy and damp	
Chapel Member	Door into chapel from Upper porch could be replaced with ones with glass panels – would be less threatening		
Chapel Member	OK	OK	OK
Chapel Member	<p>Lower:</p> <p>The lower porch is too small to accommodate the number of parents and siblings who wait in there to collect children from groups who use the building.</p> <p>It is also too small to accommodate all the buggies that the toddler group bring, without creating a hazard.</p> <p>The doorway is very narrow and impeded by the staircase, often causing collisions.</p> <p>The doorway to the hall opening into the porch is a hazard, as the space it opens into is small and you have no visibility to see if you are about to hit someone with it when leaving the hall.</p> <p>The entrance is not very obvious to people who don't know the building.</p> <p>If it is supposed to provide a cloak room facility, it is used with hesitation by people due to lack of security.</p> <p>Upper:</p> <p>The steps linking the two porches are hard, narrow, steep, shallow and only have one handrail, therefore are not very easy for many people! These issues are made worse by the fact that is a common thoroughfare, so often people are waiting for others to go up or down, meaning the person on the steps feels pressure to go faster, making them more dangerous.</p> <p>People don't spend much time here, so the noticeboards are unlikely to get read.</p> <p>The width of the porch makes it awkward for wheelchair users.</p> <p>If you are late to a service you can't see in to know what is happening.</p>	<p>Lower:</p> <p>The lower porch is used as a waiting area and it provides shelter, but nothing more to those who wait, it clearly wasn't designed for people to wait in there.</p> <p>Upper:</p> <p>There is none! There is no heating, no comfortable seating etc.</p>	<p>Is terrible! We would like these areas to be welcoming and if possible enable us to share something about us as a church with those who wait. We have a captive audience every Wednesday and Friday night, we should use that opportunity. It should also be a better reflection of the Church.</p>

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	If you have taken a baby out of the service, once in the porch you are completely separated from the service, with no visibility or sound of what's happening in chapel. It is not a suitable place to wait with a baby due to there being no heating, seating, carpet etc.		
Chapel Member	Would door opening inwards help accessibility in Lower porch?		Need decorating
Chapel Member	Lower porch is rather cramped and awkward. Access and steps are difficult.		Lower porch is utilitarian and reminds me of my primary school 50 years ago.
Chapel Member	Stairs from Upper to Lower steep, narrow, and has steps down to Lower Hall Lower porch awkward area and no flat access	Doesn't need to be comfortable as it is a porch, but should be welcoming, though that is mainly people not fabric	
Chapel Member	Put chairs in upper porch for parents waiting for Brownies		
Chapel Member			
Chapel Member			
Chapel Member			
Chapel Member	Upper Porch : is fine and just requires periodic redecoration and possibly a sealant on the stone mullions to stop flaking. Remove padlock and paint rear of door. Lower Porch : Remove stud partition onto dais making a long entrance hall area with architecturally designed glazed wall between this porch and Sunday School providing a welcoming, warm and comfortable reception area. Lift between upper and lower porch positioned over current meter room?		
Chapel Member	Both porches are very cramped, gloomy and stone floors not very welcoming. Could we replace the wooden doors into chapel with glazed ones to create the impression of more space and reduce the gloom and sense of mystery at the same time? Lower porch is awkward to enter from street. Stairs are unsafe for many.	Poor	Poor

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Chapel Member	Lower Porch very small and unwelcoming		Décor needs attention
Chapel Member	<p>The lower porch is very poor. It is small and uninviting, particularly since this is the main entrance to the area of the building most people see. The narrow stone steps from the lower porch, the space taken by the access to the meter cupboard and the main door to the street are a nightmare (too many functions in a tiny area) and desperately need improving.</p> <p>I would like to block off this street door and the meter cupboard and create a new, full-width flight of carpeted steps (probably in timber) from the upper porch down to the lower porch.</p> <p>A new access to the Lower Hall would be created from street by adapting the 3 x existing windows in the end wall. Most difficult issue is the meter cupboard - but I'm working on it. I think it is do-able!</p> <p>The upper porch is better - however, the space is cold and un-inviting, particularly with the stone floor. The solid doors into chapel make the chapel seem mysterious and un-welcoming. People in the porch are cut off and isolated the activities going on in chapel.</p> <p>I think the doors into chapel (and the side panels, glazed with opaque glass) should be replaced with clear glass to improve transparency.</p> <p>The large noticeboard is not used much and I think it could be replaced (or partially replaced) by a window into chapel to improve the visibility of what is happening in chapel.</p>	<p>Both porches lack proper heating and feel cold and unwelcoming. The upper porch could be improved by installing heating and insulating, improving the visibility into chapel and by installing speakers to relay the service and by introducing heaters, carpeting and seating.</p>	<p>Décor in both porches is poor and needs refreshing.</p>
Chapel Member	<p>The top porch works adequately with regard to available space. Added to which there is no where to extend except up the hill.</p> <p>Practical improvements are given in the "Heating and Comfort" column.</p> <p>The bottom porch doesn't work practically. Again improvements are listed in the "Heating and Comfort"</p>	<p>Top porch is heated already and in my opinion is adequate for the times when people are arriving or departing.</p> <p>However I would like to see a new "warmer" floor covering put down over the stone flags. This is not a huge cost. It would be much more welcoming to people attending services, weddings, and funerals.</p> <p>I would also like to see the 2 pairs of wooden double doors into chapel replaced with total glass doors. Again this</p>	<p>Both porches are very much in need of decoration. If that's all that is done, then this is a low cost item</p>

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	column.	<p>would “open up” the auditorium of the chapel room and again is far more welcoming. 50% of the back wall of chapel would then be glazed. Many modernised churches have done this.</p> <p>The bottom porch (if expanded) would benefit from a heater. As it is at the present, a heater could be dangerous to small children.</p> <p>The bottom porch is too small for Mothers and Toddlers with buggies, or people waiting to pick up children. People tend to wait in cars or stand on the pavement.</p> <p>The solution would be to extend the bottom porch into the space at the back of the SS room currently used for chair storage. This needs developing as a solution but in simple terms it involves walls being taken down and a new glazed panel wall constructed to provide light to the SS room. This would be much more welcoming. It should also include moving the door into the SS room from its current position to the other end of the new bottom porch.</p> <p>The question of floor levels will come into play. If we leave the level of the SS room and stage as they are, then the new extended porch could ramp down to the level of the SS room.</p> <p>If it is decided to make SS room and stage all one level, then the porch level would need to be ramped up slightly to the new door.</p> <p>However the greatest problem is the bottleneck caused at the steps down from the top porch to the bottom porch. Pinch points are the valley gutter above, the position of the meter room, the length available to have steps down, and the access door from Church Street. Sorting this out could lead to expensive structural alterations.</p> <p>A relatively cheap alteration which merits consideration is to accept what is there, but replace the stone steps with “open” riser wooden steps. There is only a little that can be done to reduce the steepness of the steps, but at least they would not look so frighteningly solid.</p>	
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Chapel Member	<p>Steps are v steep with narrow treads – handrail does not go all the way down. Not the safest stairs!</p> <p>Front door tricky to lock and unlock, especially for those not used to it.</p> <p>Noticeboard in upper porch probably not much read because people do not generally linger in there.</p> <p>A noticeboard which would be seen by hiring groups/parents etc would be good to advertise our events – at present I do not see where this could go.</p> <p>Double doors from ramp into upper porch not very inviting as they are solid – some glass in them would enable people to see in and out and give a more open feel. I realise it would have to be special tough glass in that door.</p> <p>Doors into chapel I think should also be glazed doors for the same reasons.</p>	Stone flags are cold	Generally looks a bit 'dated'. We need to think about what would give a more welcome feel.
Hirer	Lower porch is very small and very congested at start and end of our sessions		
Hirer	Stone steps down to hall are very very steep. Perhaps some carpet on them to make them less slippy. Or an alternative down from the chapel could be found if the steps were removed.		
Hirer			
Hirer	Would it be possible to fit a Door bell? High level catch on lower door so toddlers can't escape.		

1750 words