

Library Accommodation Working Group: Preliminary Report

1 INTRODUCTION The former St Andrew Chapel is now generally known as The Library. It is often also used as a meeting room when the Parish Room is not available. However, these two purposes have been increasingly compromised by the room's use, officially and unofficially, as a place of general storage. This report on how the situation might be improved, was requested by PPC at its meeting on 12th June 2017.

2 OUTLINE RECOMMENDATIONS The following recommendations are the result of consultations, by correspondence and/or at a site meeting, between current users of the room (Anne Donnelly [Library], Bill Douglas [SVdP, Passkeepers, Property Committee], Bruce Royan [Property Committee, Hospitality], Sophie Bennett [Music Group], Tina O'Donoghue [Holy Dusters] and Joyce Cullen [Children's Liturgy]):

- a) **The room should be dedicated to library use, quiet study and contemplation, and occasional meetings**
- b) **To this end, all use for non-book storage should end**
- c) **In the short term, items no longer needed should be ruthlessly disposed of, and retained items stored, depending on frequency of need, in**
 - a. **The cupboard space in the Loggia at the back of the church**
 - b. **A small room in the Presbytery, accessed via the fire escape corridor**
 - c. **The Cellar**
- d) **In the longer term, minor building works should be undertaken improve the usability of**
 - a. **The Loggia space**
 - b. **The Presbytery room**
 - c. **The Library itself**

3 USAGE The group considered whether the current official use as a Library and meeting room was optimal. Did we actually need a Library, and if so, should it remain in this room, and how could it be made more attractive to use? It was concluded that the room was well suited as a Library, a place for quiet study and contemplation, and occasional meetings, once it was decluttered.

4 ALTERNATIVE STORAGE SPACES The Cellar is available for infrequently used items. Father has offered a small room in the Presbytery for larger items in frequent use. The Cloister cupboards, can be used for smaller items in frequent use, if they are rationalized (n.b. this process has already started). Unwanted items should be ruthlessly disposed of.

| Material to be Stored | Proposal |
|---|---|
| Building maintenance equipment (eg ladders) | Scrap long ladder (no longer considered safe to use). Others to Presbytery |
| Building maintenance supplies (eg tiles) | To Cellar |
| Chairs | Shabby, bulky and heavy: replace with additional "Comfort" folding chairs |
| Children's Liturgy costumes | To Cellar |
| Christmas decorations | To Cellar |
| Cleaning equipment | Donate Henry vacuums to Fresh Start: store upright next to cupboards |
| Cleaning materials | Move to existing space in cupboard |
| Coat Rack | To Cellar |
| Confessional partition | To Cellar |
| Hospitality consumables | Donate glasses and china from cupboard to Fresh Start: transfer consumables to cupboard |
| Hospitality equipment | Hotplate, Urn, Soup Kettle to Cellar |
| Music equipment | Donate duplicated/ unwanted items to Charity shop. Store music stands and needed music books in Loggia (or Presbytery) |
| Prayer Group trolley | To Presbytery |
| Small freestanding bookshelf | Donate to Fresh Start |
| Small freestanding heater and humidifier | To Cellar |
| Umbrella accessories | To Presbytery |
| Unsolicited donations*: books | To Charity shop |
| Unsolicited donations*: food | To SVdP |
| Unsolicited donations*: religious artefacts | To Charity shop |
| Unsolicited donations*: toys | To Fresh Start |

* Notice should be given (via Newsletter?) that items left unannounced in the room will be treated as lost property, and if not claimed will be disposed of.

5 PROPOSED LONGER TERM WORKS The Working Group **recommends** that it should be asked to produced detailed proposals, with illustrative costings, for improvements in the following areas of the church:

a) **The Library**

- a. **Wall painting** Restore “The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes” and the two red-haired Angels. Even if the results are not perfect, they will be appropriate for both artistic and devotional contemplation, in the context of the two other works by Maurice Meredith Williams (the stained glass windows of St Margaret and St Giles)
- b. **Curtains** Remove the curtains and the blocking-in of the archway, and install appropriate lighting for the paintings
- c. **Altar Step** Remove the carpeting which currently obscures the altar step, and represents a trip hazard. Restore the altar step if necessary.
- d. **Shelving** Remove the top layers of shelving, to reveal the ocular stained-glass window of St Giles.
- e. **Partition** The height and depth of each of the current shelves is not well adapted to the storage of library books. It is proposed to build a partition (low enough to allow continued viewing of the St Giles window) in front of the existing shelving, which could then be released to provide much-needed additional storage space for the ministries. The visible side of this partition would be equipped with shelving better suited to books, and the library would be re-shelved there
- f. **Lighting** Replace existing PIR switched lighting with conventional switching more conducive to meetings, study and private prayer
- g. **Heating** Upgrade the heating systems appropriately for the room’s use

b) **The Loggia**

- a. **Archway** Block up the northernmost archway with white painted plasterboard or ply, and move the Baptistry Gates to this position so that they can more easily be viewed
- b. **Cupboards** Remove the L-shaped cupboards, and replace with parallel rows of deep shelving either side of a central aisle

c) **The Presbytery Room** Line the room with appropriate storage shelves

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