

I was thinking briefly about the redesign you mentioned – and initially thought back to Ian Strachan’s plans and thought about how much mileage was in them... I do think we have a lot of space we aren’t making best use of. And I agree that if we can offer use of that space for community things that can only be a good thing. I was reading somewhere recently where someone was attributing the initial demise of Sunday Schools to Sunday football, and then there being nothing else to attract children to church & maybe they could have thought of church football..... If people can see that going into church property / space isn’t scary then that’s a good thing, at least a bit of contact....with welcoming notices and so on (I remember Elizabeth who lives at Whinnybraes and goes to one of the Valley churches, said she’d come to a reachout event because she saw the notice when she was in the church hall for Pilates (or similar exercise class!).

Anyway for the sanctuary, initially I thought of Ian Strachan’s proposal then thought of where are the place I personally find most worshipful – well an ancient little church in Paris, where you could feel the prayers of centuries.....but we can’t achieve that in short order, so.... Places that are filled with light. Do you remember the chapel at Carberry? And the BGH Chaplaincy. What I think about both these places is there is lots of light and you look out on to a garden - well a fountain-like area with plants at the chaplaincy – and of course I just remember both look on to a cross.

So I think the present sanctuary is quite dark, there’s not really much about it that I personally would long to keep. It’s dark, cold, the set up with the pulpit where it is the choir area and the pews - none are very 21st century or particularly comfortable .

Could we repurpose the hall so that it became the sanctuary, either the outer back wall becoming glass, looking out to the garden, or have windows like the chaplaincy and a wee inner courtyard.

The present sanctuary could then be floored - 2 levels so we'd need a lift - get a nice big kitchen in there on the ground floor and plenty space – you could leave that as a big space which groups might want to use/ events and upstairs you could have smaller rooms.

That's just some thoughts and I don't remember if you did just ask for thoughts!