

# Selkirk Parish Church

## Building the Future

### Comments November 2021

- Development of the premises should be considered as a whole, not just improvements of the worship area.
- At present the worship area is approximately two thirds of the premises total floor area and this section is only used for one hour per week.
- If the premises are to be sustainable for the long-term future, they need to be adapted to provide a wider community use on a seven day a week basis.
- Currently the usage over the next 25 to 30 years is unclear so any development needs to be very flexible with various size rooms.
- The premises need to provide accommodation which is not available in other buildings within the Selkirk Community. Groups like Guides, Scouts, youth clubs, music practice, mums & toddlers, play groups, pension group activities etc. At present there is not a wide availability of rooms in the town, except Victoria Hall, which is very large.
- It maybe that the uses can be instigated or supported by the Church but are managed and run by employed staff, either directly or indirectly.
- A small worship area (100 to 120 seats) to be provided. This area could generally be left as a permanent worship area for all services and private prayer. It would require flexible seating and furniture to allow for variable usage and expansion into adjacent spaces, to provide 200 to 250 spaces.
- To provide additional medium and smaller spaces the existing worship space will need to be divided by the inclusion of more floors and dividing walls (either permanent or temporary).
- Disabled access to all areas including upper floors will need to be provided.
- A welcoming front entrance with reception area and office to be the focal point of the future premises.
- The building will require several rooms of varied sizes to allow diverse types of community activities to take place.
- All these activities will need storage space and storage will also be required for tables and chairs if the rooms are dual purpose.
- Smaller meeting rooms for committees and small group meetings are also required.
- Office space for the additional staff which will use the premises and organise activities.
- Consider small office space to lease out for people working from home who do not have space and facilities there.
- Need a larger commercial kitchen with wash up and larder facilities.
- Need toilets, including disabled, all round the building on all levels.