## St James Faculty Application: Church Extension and Seating Project Exploring the space required @ St James [11/6/20]

The table below details one exploration of the space required at St James for the building to be used for God's mission. In particular, it seeks to explore whether or not all the pews should be removed to fulfil the purpose of the building.

| Activity | Details | Space Required | Pew Removal Scale (F=Full, P=Partial, N=none) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stations of the Cross | Stations would be set up about nave columns. Journey starts @ door, and runs down S aisle, across to N aisle, back up, and then into main body of nave where cross will be standing. Near more space to adore Cross at front. | Need c. 12-25 people to be able to move freely around nave as detailed. | F |
| Prayer Stations | At various time of the year, prayer stations are useful to assemble at leave in situ. The numbers can vary. In the past, we have been limited to 2 because of space available. | We would like to be able to set up between 6 and 12 stations, with the facility for small groups of c. 6 people to gather around. | P; could probably use both aisles. |
| Art and Flower Exhibitions | 8 art pieces in main nave, since the lighting and ability to mingle and move is best. These would be from local artists and schools, e.g.. The lack of space in the nave had a direct impact on the hosting of prior flower festivals, and eventually led to them being stopped since the number of stands/stalls and people could not be accommodated in the central region. We would like to host the present village show. | The village show would require c. 20 tables and c .75 people minimum. | F |


| Hospitality/Worship Events Events: Maundy Thursday, Harvest, Ascension, Christmas | We need to be able to set up a long, thin section of tables in the body of the church, with altar in prime view. Then, have seating about this. To enable food to be shared, and worship to be done about the tables. When we have tried this, having tables down the centre aisle it has not been able to worship effectively. | Need c. 5 tables for c. 25 people for some of these events; more likely for Harvest. | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Hospitality/Worship Events: Parish Breakfast, Churchyard Working Party, Churches Together Prayers, 9 Lessons and Carols, Carols Around Tree | We have been unable to host our 9 lessons and carols hospitality effectively in the church in its current configuration; we could likely do this if the 2 aisles were cleared. We would like to offer hospitality after our Carols around the tree service which attracts hundreds of people. To do this we would need to clear the side aisles, and likely some space in the central nave. | We need to host c. 12-18 people around tables for many of these events. For the Christmas events the numbers may be c. 100 who stay for hospitality. | P; could likely do in 1 or 2 aisles. |
| Cafe/Messy/Youth Worship | A type of fresh expression where families, e.g., grab a simple breakfast, gather around tables, and engage in a form of worship. Would need to see main AV screen. A similar format would be useful for youth gatherings, and for hosting messy church events. | c. 8 tables in the middle of the church for c .30 people Messy. Larger numbers of people and tables for Cafe, < 100 | F |
| Senior/Youth Ministry | Host gatherings for this demographic to watch a film, playing of games, engage in physical exercise class (a couple of hours a day); access to main screen required. | c. < 50 people. | F |
| Nurture Courses, e.g., Alpha, Lent courses | Requires hosting a simple meal in the centre of the church, watching a video, and then discussing it. | c. 20-40 people | F |
| Homeless Shelter/Advent Sleep Out for young people in church to raise awareness and funds | We would like to be able to use the church to host vulnerable people during winter. We envisage, 'Nightingale' cubicles, through the church. | c. 30 people for Advent Sleep out | F |
| Enhanced wheelchair access for services | Currently, we struggle with more than c. 3. We have a requirement to increase this, since we have people from Birch Heath Lodge who would like to attend. Often, 3 have to line up at the front of the church. | c. 6 | P |


| Midweek Communion hospitality | Host coffee and cake | c. 12 | $P$; do in the aisles |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Worship/Music Group | We have hosted one in the last year with great difficulty, since there has been insufficient space at the front of the church | c. 6-8 | P; accommodate down aisles. |
| Concerts | We would like to host worship and other concerts for youths in the centre of the church. | c. 50-100 | F |
| Drama Activities | Present dramatised readings/plays of the bible during Sunday services, youth gatherings, school (Nativity, Harvest), and Christmas (Crib) services. We have found our attempts to do this limited by lack of space | c. 12 | P; likely requires removal of front 4 rows of pews. |
| Hosting large meetings, e.g., PCC, APCM, Parish Council | Currently not possible in Lady Chapel. Need prime access to screen | c. 20-40 people, with tables. | F/P; maybe could get away with c. front 8 rows of pews removed? |
| Community Vegetable market/ Resource/Recycling Exhibitions | Need, as a minimum, a series of tables down the nave sides to host stall holders. | c. $<75$ people | F/P |
| Godly Play Sessions/Parent and Toddler Group Sessions | Need space at the front to sing, dance, and play with younger people. | c. < 20 | P; likely need space where front 4 pews are. |
| Baptism/Remembrance Services | There is a requirement to create more space around the font (the position of which we would like to keep) for families to gather around. Clearing, some pews from the rear centre is also desirable to allow the standard bearers (on Remembrance Sunday) to form inside the church, near the font, and still allow good access; currently it is very cramped at the back, and this causes a significant delay to the start of the service. | c. 50 for stand-alone baptisms. <br> c. extra 2 m width channel for Remembrance, with space for c. 6 standard bearers. | P |

Summary Comment: In light of the above exploration, we recognise that in order to use the building for $100 \%$ of its intended uses the removal of the pews is a legitimate requirement. There are church seating solutions which could be envisaged that do not require the removal of all the pews, since many of the intended uses could be achieved with the removal of the side aisle pews, and a portion of the pews at, e.g., the front of the church. For these solutions, we estimate they would allow us to fulfil c. $50 \%$ of the intended uses of the church.

