

Our Church Project

Our church was built over 120 years ago and designed solely as a place of worship by prominent architect of the time Peter McGregor Chalmers. As well as currently being used for regular religious services, funerals etc., the category C listed building is occasionally used for other purposes but its wider use is greatly restricted by its original layout.

The building's spacious interior comprises traditional fixed wooden pews in the nave and a chancel with choir pews and pipe organ. There is also a side chapel and a smaller meeting room, but just a single toilet with no running hot water and there are no kitchen facilities. In addition to Sunday services, school services and annual Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association services, occasional concerts are held in the building and, being larger than the High School's theatre, the church is used for the annual end of term Carnoustie High School Awards Ceremony. The building's use is limited due to the fixed pews and lack of other modern facilities. In addition to it remaining a place of worship our plans are to make the building a community space in which concerts, dance & keep fit classes, coffee mornings, drop in facilities, public meetings, exhibitions and health related activities such as blood donor sessions might be held.

With the church's Philip Hall up for sale, the proceeds of sale along with funds raised by the congregation and grants received are to be used to completely transform the interior of Carnoustie Church into a well-equipped space which will become much more suitable for wider community use. We will be removing the pews, making the chapel at the north east of the building into a meeting space, renewing heating and lighting, installing a kitchen and suite of toilets including a disabled toilet, and providing an internal disabled ramp which will provide access to all areas of the church. We have already installed an AV system and fibre broadband internet access. Here some images of how we visualise the building will look after the renovations.



Nave and chancel



Nave showing ramp, kitchen/meeting room and toilets



Kitchen/meeting room



Kitchen/meeting room

Our plans, which are at an advanced stage, will transform the interior of the building into a community space and greatly increase its availability for community use, at the same time making it more sustainable in future.

We have approval from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland for the works and have submitted application for a building warrant to Angus Council for approval. The delay in reaching our required level of funding has caused the Mechanical & Electrical Consultant Engineer to recommend that the gas boilers be replaced as part of the project. Some of the increased cost of materials and labour are due to Covid 19, Brexit and inflation, resulting in increased professional fees. Therefore the whole project, including estimated fees but excluding VAT, will be in the region of £550,000.

Including the estimated proceeds of the sale of the Philip Hall we have so far raised just over £400,000 (including grants of £26,750) from which we have already paid fees of over £61,100. Another factor contributing to our shortfall in funding is the effect of Covid 19 on grant giving bodies, as they were closed to applications and are now facing a backlog. Also, the low interest rates received by grant giving bodies on their investments in recent years has resulted in less funding being available for organisations like ours whose development projects had to be put on hold during Covid. As the church is a listed building we hope to be able to reclaim at least 75% of VAT charged on the works and fees, but we estimate the shortfall in funding required for the project to be between £125,000 and £150,000, and we shall have to pay the VAT before we can claim it back.

We have again approached the congregation for further donations and pledges, and are applying for grants now that funders are more receptive to applications, in the hope that we will be able to proceed with the upgrading of our building possibly later in 2023 or early next year.

You can donate to the project securely by following this link: <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/?cong=301791>

or by bank transfer to Carnoustie Church sort code 83 17 01 account number 00194442