

Method Statement for Seion Chapel, Aberdulais

Seion Chapel is a well maintained building that consists of two halls with additional storage rooms. The current building was built in 1860 and has many beautiful historical features which we wish to maintain to a high standard for the historical significance.

However we wish to remove specific pews within the main chapel hall. The pews we wish to remove are not original to the church. From the information we have been given from prior members of the Chapel, these pews were fitted in the early 1900's and were taken from another chapel.



[Insert: Photo of box pews to the back and the pews we wish to remove at the front]

The style of these pews are not in keeping with the original box pews which are of significant value due to their unique box style.

Our intention is to restore the Chapel back to its original style by emphasising its wonderful original characteristics whilst making it function for the local community and all its needs.

However, we do not wish to get rid of the pews but to repurpose them in various places within the Chapel and its grounds as well as gift them to The Mission Hall (Presbyterian Church of Wales) as they require them for seating within their hall.

The Vestry within Seion Chapel will be a function room which will house a food bank, baby bank and a coffee bar for community gatherings. Whilst the main chapel will be used for more specific group activities. For example, women and men's mental health groups, as well as a media hub which will facilitate a greater reach into Wales itself. It's important to bear in

mind that whilst removing the box pews would be of an advantage to us, we understand that these pews may be of more historical value and therefore will have to remain and be maintained to a high standard, of which we are willing to do.

Descriptions of works:

The centre pews of the main Chapel Hall will be removed.



These are not fixed pews but are slotted into timber flooring. There are 10 pews to be removed. These pews are a mixture of Oak and Pine that has an aged wax finish. We intend to remove the pews one by one, taking care to not make any unnecessary damage. This will be undertaken by some of our church handymen and overseen by a carpenter and our fully qualified structural engineer. Four of these pews will be treated and used for outdoor seating for those who wish to visit the graveyard and spend time with their loved ones. The remaining 6 pews will be used for seating in Neath's historical Mission Halls with tables for dining. The remaining timber that is currently used to connect the pews will be used as material for a coffee bar for the community.

These centre pews are unfit for purpose within the chapel. Some are loose and therefore cannot be used for its intended purpose.



The Chapel will not function for religious services on a regular basis but as a community hub therefore the seating is currently not conducive for its intended use moving forward.

Our aim is to provide multiple services to the locals for free which will help individuals and create a wonderful community feel. By removing the inner pews the room will become multi functional and therefore of great use to the local community again.



[Insert: The box pews which will remain untouched]