

# PROPOSED INTERNAL ALTERATIONS AT CHIPPING CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



## DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

PREPARED BY

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The building was constructed in 1838 and opened as a chapel in late 1839. In 1882 the chapel was closed and it was re-opened in the early 1900's as Chipping Congregational Church. The church has been recently extended to create a kitchen, meeting area and a disabled toilet to enhance the current facilities enjoyed by the community. As well as the recent extension a folding partition has been constructed in the position of a previous wall to allow the main space to be extended when required.

Chipping Congregational Church became a listed building on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1983 and its listing description reads as follows:

*Chapel, 1838. Squared watershot sandstone with sandstone plinth, quoins and square gutter. Each wall is of 2 bays, having windows with glazing bars, plain stone surrounds with semi-circular heads, keystones and radiating glazing bars. The south-west wall has a door with plain stone surround beneath each window. Between the windows is a plaque: 'PROVIDENCE CHAPEL ERECTED BY SUBSCRIPTION MDCCCXXXVIII'. The north-west (gable) wall has a one-storey porch at its left-hand side, now extended. Its right-hand return wall has a door with plain stone surround and a small window with plain stone surround, semi-circular head and keystone to its left*

The church has a congregation of around 60 - 70 people with around 20 children attending Sunday school and other youth activities.

## 2.0 THE NEED FOR DEVELOPMENT

The church is often at full capacity with its current congregation and would benefit by being able to offer space for additional members. It would also benefit from being able to offer the growing youth community a large space for youth club and other

activities. A larger space would also give the church more options for fund raising events to support its current use and maintain the building.

The pulpit and pews are currently orientated to serve the main hall with the folding partition closed. The smaller half of the main building is a multi-use area suitable for small meetings, youth activities, etc. Its use is limited by its size.

When the folding partition is opened up the main church is not extended sufficiently as the pulpit is too far away from view as it is centred on the current room size. Also the multi-use room is not provided with any benefit when the folding partition is opened as the pews are preventing the space from being expanded.

The internal layout of the main hall is in need of reorientation to provide the benefit that a folding partition offers. This would help to create the flexible accommodation required by the evolving use of the church.

### **3.0 PROPOSAL**

It is proposed to relocate the pulpit to the south-east elevation and remove the pews. This would allow the church to provide loose chairs facing the pulpit with the folding partition closed and maintain the same numbers that are currently provided. With the folding partition open it would allow the church to provide services for an additional 40 people.

As the chairs would be loose items they could easily be removed which would allow the church to provide activities in a much larger open hall. These could include youth club activities, village meetings, charity fund raising dinners, etc. This would give the church the benefit to generate additional revenue which would support its use for future generations.

#### 4.0 JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSAL

The proposal to remove the pews can be justified due to the fact that these are not an original feature of the church. The extract from the church ledger which can be seen below, confirms that these were actually installed in 1963. The heritage statement covers more detail on the reasoning for their removal.

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The Twenty second annual meeting was held on Wednesday Oct 2nd 1963. at Mr M. Huddleston's Saddle Side Farm. The meeting was opened with Pray by Pastor Seed and a passage was read from the Bible.

The minutes were then read and passed also the Church accounts were read and passed as correct.

The Sunday school accounts were very satisfactory.

The next item was the reopening of the Chapel on Friday the 15 of Nov.

Electric heating and new seats having been installed. Mr Todd of Clitheroe to be asked to be Chairman failing him Mr. Thomas Yates to be asked.

The Speakers to be asked firstly Mr Braughton of Clitheroe secondly Mr E. Brewer of Goosnargh.

The annual Prize Giving to be held on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of November.

Herbert Talbot to be asked as Chairman and

The proposal to relocate the pulpit can be justified by also noting from the heritage statement that only part of it is original. It is also likely that it has already been moved from its original position from when the building was first constructed. A further relocation of this original feature would not have any significant impact on the buildings listed status or heritage, its retention is most important. The majority of the joinery around and behind the pulpit is not original, again carried out sometime during the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Within the buildings listing description there is no reference to any internal features at all, no special importance or architectural merit. The fact that we propose to retain what we know to be original demonstrates the clients understanding of the importance of retaining and protecting the buildings heritage.

## **5.0 SUMMARY**

It is important to allow the church to not only support its current congregation but to also allow it to support growth and future generations. By allowing the reorientation of the main church hall and removing the pews it creates a larger more flexible space that not only allows the church services to continue, but also allows it to support a growing congregation. In addition to this it also supports other activities which can serve the community for multiple uses and provides options for the church to generate more income to be self-sustainable.

The proposal can only be viewed as a positive way to ensure that a listed building remains in good order providing the function that it was originally designed for. By supporting the current younger generation will ensure it is around for future generations.