

Quick Guide...

Reordering Church Interiors

Prepared by the Committee on Church Art and Architecture

This subject is rather wide ranging: it can mean something simple and limited such as shortening a pew or adding a projection screen to a complete makeover of a sanctuary.

There are a variety of things that promote the wish for change: making access easier, facilitating worship, replacing obsolete furnishings or fittings, improving lighting etc.

How to go about effecting changes? Start by examining your reasons: what do you want to achieve by change? Remember that change can be regarded with suspicion, especially when proposed for much loved spaces. So it is sensible to gather everyone's views and seek general approval on what is being proposed. Folk can be attached to their church building quite deeply and others might simply have difficulty in recognising what the changes can do.

It is useful to visit churches that have undergone reordering and to discuss with the congregation's representatives how they went about effecting their project. CARTA can supply contacts for this. Every building is unique and congregations are as well. Nevertheless, sharing the experiences of others will give you pointers towards both things to copy and things to avoid.

Any alteration of any kind to a worship space needs referral to CARTA and may need approval from presbytery and/or the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

Whom to Contact

Anyone wishing to contact the Committee should complete an enquiry form which can be found on the Resourcing Mission website (www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/carta) and email it to:

gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk. Alternatively, you can telephone 0131 225 5722 and ask to speak to someone in the CARTA office.

Generally this contact will result in a visit to your church by one or two representatives of the Committee. These visitors can usefully discuss your proposals and enable CARTA to offer advice on how you might proceed as well as informing you of the approvals process. Advice on other parties that may be involved and how to source building professionals may also be given.

CARTA prefers early contact. Often before proposals have been developed CARTA's advice has helped congregations define how best to deal with a project.

CARTA Quick Guides

Other Quick Guides include advice on lighting, audio visual, access for all, stained glass and communion ware. These can be found on the Resourcing Mission website (www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/quick-guides).

About the Author

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