



Barthol Chapel church could be made into a flexible space for community and church use.
Does the community want/ need such a space?

Barthol Chapel church is the biggest public building in the community - almost the size of Inverurie swimming pool - and is greatly underused. Built in 1875 in memory of the 6th Earl of Aberdeen, it was designed for a congregation of 350, but the congregation is very much smaller now and this large and lovely building is only regularly used for Sunday worship and the café on the second Saturday of every month.

There is work to be done in the near future to keep the building wind and watertight and it is a good time to discuss whether the building might be adapted to be more useful and accessible for the school and larger community. With some internal alterations – suggestions include improved heating, a level wooden floor and flexible seating - it could become a useful community asset, in addition to the space available at the school. Community access to the school is limited to term times, evenings and weekends, so Barthol Chapel currently lacks year-round access to a large, flexible space.

At an initial Open Meeting held on 30th April, the mood was pretty positive and there were many and varied suggestions for possible uses including school PE, badminton, fitness classes, art/craft space, bowling, community cinema, concerts, ceilidhs, work stations, wi-fi hub and much more.

But it will take time and effort to create such a space. This is a huge project.
We are currently investigating costs but realistic estimates for the major items are:

Work to the roof and walls	£100,000
Removal of pews and new floor	£100,000
Appropriate Heating system	£ 70,000
200 chairs plus hanging racks	<u>£ 10,000</u>
	£280,000

Add in storage, lighting and electrics, doors, security, insulation, re-decoration and the unknown extras and the total cost could be £400,000 plus. An equivalent new-build would cost considerably more.

We would raise some money locally and reduce some costs by doing work ourselves, but this is a small community. So one suggestion is to use crowd - funding to spread the fundraising call far and wide, smaller donations from large numbers of people, using the story of, and future plan for, the church building in the community. There are grants available for larger sums from various bodies, trusts, heritage organisations, the lottery and the Church of Scotland. We would not be the first community to do this - adapt the church to make a community hall combined with a smaller worship space [see Kinloss and Findhorn Parish church].

<http://kinlossandfindhornchurch.org.uk/Community-Hall.php> – and will take advice from those with experience.

We are doing preliminary investigation into how the building might be owned and run, but the scheme won't go any further without the backing of the whole community. We need to know if you, who live in Barthol Chapel, need and want such a space - a flexible community hall and church combined.

THE SURVEY

PLEASE could you and your household take a moment to respond to this short survey? You can either complete the survey individually on line, via the community website <https://www.bartholchapel.com> or use this paper copy for all your responses. The survey can be returned using the envelope, either by post [with a stamp] or by dropping it into the box on the railings at Barthol Chapel church.

1. Does Barthol Chapel want/ need a combined community hall and church?

Respondent	1	2	3	4	5
YES/ NO					
Reasons for your decision.					

2. Would you like to be involved in some way if this scheme goes ahead?

Respondent	1	2	3	4	5
YES/ NO					

3. If yes, do you have any skills, experience, expertise, ideas, time you could offer?

Name	Help offered,/ skills

4. Any other comments?

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If you would like to know more about any future steps, please provide your name and contact details. Any details you provide will be held by the BCCA solely in connection with this possible project and will not be shared.

For analysis of results, it would be helpful if you would indicate the age groups of respondents.

0 - 17	18-64	65+

Name:

E mail address/or other contact:

Please could you respond by **Friday June 22nd**
 Further information: bccachurch@bartholchapel.com
 Thank you for taking part.

May 2018