

Statement of Need

We no longer have a choir. These stalls are now very seldom used, other than at a few very large funerals when comfort and visibility would be better served by chairs in the same space. The front seats, evidently intended for choirboys, are very uncomfortable for most adults: if you sit and lean back you hit your head on the bookrest behind, as demonstrated by the first of the following photographs.





The stalls obstruct the view for those sitting in the Transepts behind them, as demonstrated by the following photograph taken from a seated position in the South Transept (looking towards the "glass room").



In association with the "Stones Shout Out" project, we have sought advice from a wheelchair user and a disability adviser about improving accessibility. One area of concern is St Matthew's chapel in the South Transept, where the votive stand is not wheelchair accessible and the stand's presence cramps the seating. It is also not possible to move the chapel altar for the celebrant at a Eucharist to face the congregation. These problems would be corrected by moving the votive stand into part of the space at present occupied by the south side choir stall.







The "Stones Shout Out" project includes the creation of a labyrinth in the Nave floor. We have acquired a portable canvas labyrinth, funded by the diocese. However, the presence of these stalls in the Crossing prevents us from laying it out fully and securing it in a safe manner for public use. (The photograph which follows was taken during a meeting of the church's Building Project working group.) This prevents the Vicar from holding workshops to describe and demonstrate the purpose of such a labyrinth.



Each set of stalls is fixed into a base plinth. These are extremely heavy to move: the latest relocation from Chancel to Crossing required a team of strong men from the Talylyn Railway. There is no space for them elsewhere in the church. They are too big to leave the building in one piece, and are not designed to be dismantled for storage elsewhere prior to reassembly.

Estimate of Sale Value

Rogers Jones & Co have estimated that the stalls would realise around £100-150 at auction, the purchaser to arrange removal.

We have identified a local woodworker willing to dismantle and remove the stalls free of charge for re-use of the timber.

Another option would be to dismantle the stalls to use the timber for constructing bookshelves, as proposed by the Llan Project for St Cadfan's, provided that storage space (outside the church) can be found.

Roger Whitehouse
date
for St Cadfan's Church