

# St Mark's Church

Dating from 1826, St Mark's Episcopal Church in Portobello is a Category B listed building and was one of the first Episcopal Churches to be constructed in the Edinburgh Diocese after the repression of the Episcopal Church.

The church is a charity under Scottish Law and the trustees alone are responsible for raising the funds to care for this historic building, and to ensure it remains a focal space for the whole community.

The church is in active use as a place of worship and is also widely used by local community groups, including for rehearsals and classes, for yoga and dance, for bridge clubs and lectures, for coffee mornings and concerts.

The surrounding wall, graveyard and garden area have recently been refurbished and include a memorial garden and interpretation boards outlining their history. They are a popular place for reflection, quietness and recreation.

A survey of the building in 2014 outlined essential renovation work which needs to be completed on the church building and this project is based around the key areas requiring urgent or necessary work.

This propelled the congregation to talk about the future of the building and our ministry and mission today. This proposal seeks to bring the current building up to a good standard and ensure St Mark's is transformed to serve the Portobello community for another 200 years.



This transformation preserves the beauty of our heritage and renews it for the future of the church congregation and the people of Portobello.

## How can you help?

**Fundraise ...** when shopping: Give as you live ... and easyfundraising - look for St Marks Portobello and donate when you shop on line, from books to holidays, from groceries to new furniture.

**Donations ...** Give on line ... all donations online will go to this project rather than the general expenses of the church.

**Seek sponsorship -** from corporations .. but also smaller runs, walks etc

**Organise a fun activity** to raise money - a dance, a fair, games ...

**Talk:** Let people know what we're hoping to do ... talk and spread the word

**Offer help -** some of the milestones on this journey will include work that we can do ourselves (clearing, painting etc) ... can you help?

**Pray ...** this is critical as we transform this building to be a welcoming, flexible and accessible place for the whole community while remaining faithful to the tradition of faith in this place.

## ST MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ST MARK'S

1826 - 2026

Repairing a unique Georgian church,  
making it safe for the future  
and bringing facilities to current standards,  
to create different, flexible and accessible spaces  
for a wide range of community and church activities.

TOWARDS  
200 YEARS

# Basement

## Looking back

- The basement does not meet modern fire regulations for services. It is dark and is not easily accessible for discrete community activities.
- There are many different levels of flooring and ceilings.
- The backstairs do not meet modern fire regulations and to there is a need for a safe staircase.

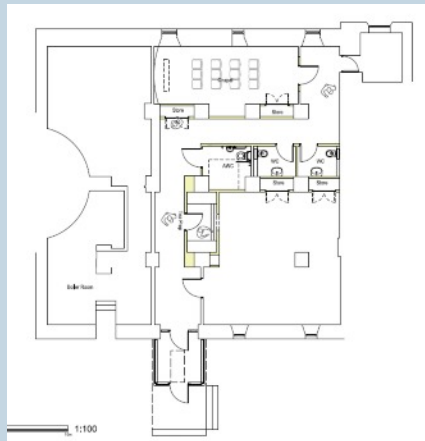
## Looking forward

- Moving the current chapel so that it receives natural light and creating a multifunctional room
- Enlarging the current meeting room
- Installing a kitchenette / tea preparation area for groups who are using either of the downstairs rooms
- Moving the toilet and adding two additional toilets, including one accessible.
- Rationalising the storage
- Creating a welcoming and fully accessible porch / side entrance so that groups can use downstairs without disturbing users upstairs.

All areas will be sound proofed.



All plans are illustrative only - they are still in the formation stage and are subject to the permissions of the statutory bodies, listed building consent and the Diocese of Edinburgh



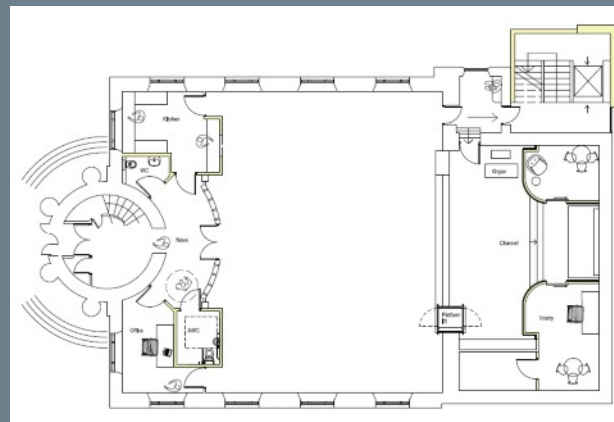
# Ground Floor

## Looking back

- The main structure of the church building is well maintained and the roof had a major overhaul in 2005.
- The ceiling is in poor repair, affecting the walls and cornicing.
- The floor is now dangerous for the range of activities from children's dancing to fit classes for the elderly.
- Decoration: The church was last painted in the 1960s after a major fire. The paint used did not allow for the old plaster to breath.
- The lighting is not fit for purpose - it is not original, obscures the view from various places within the church, is dangerous to maintain and is not flexible for different settings.
- Level access to the building is not adequate. A metal ramp was installed earlier this century as a temporary measure and it is now time to ensure proper access.

## Looking forward

- Remove the top two wooden steps (added in 1960s) to create a flat area for small informal worship and increase ease of access to the communion rail.
- Create two rooms at the back of the existing altar area for small meetings and storage.
- Enlarge and renovate the kitchen so that it is fit for purpose for community activities.
- Create an additional toilet - meeting modern specifications for accessibility
- Install glass doors to create welcoming entrance



# Balcony

## Looking back

- The balcony has a number of different levels. Modern regulations mean that it can no longer accommodate the numbers it was built for.

## Looking forward

- Two partition rooms would be added to the back of the balcony
- Recent work has made the balcony rail safe. Current plans are to restrict the available seating to 45 and remove the multiple levels..



## Estimated Costs

Ceiling Repairs, Decoration, Lighting, level access	
Balcony and Ground Floor transformation	£200,000
Basement Renovations	£200,000
Porch to basement	£35,000
Stairway extension	£85,000
External (remove tarmac, pave, and protect areas)	£20,000
Professional Fees, VAT etc	£100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£640,000</b>

The church is seeking grants and external funding for much of this total. They will want to see evidence of community and congregation commitment.