

## Hall occupancy Policy

Following the fire inspection we have been provided with calculation's regarding occupancy levels which are as follows:-

### **Requirements for Means of Escape**

The requirements for modern buildings for means of escape are laid down in Building Regulations Approved Document "B", Volume 2, Non-residential buildings (ADB). But it should be noted that the FRO Guides issued by the CLG acknowledge that old buildings may not be physically capable of amendment or may be listed and alterations need to be minimised. But in these cases the lack of alteration may need to be compensated for by 'management of the risk' or other appropriate action.

### **General Principles:**

For places of public assembly ADB says that the occupancy level is calculated on the basis of one person for every 0.5sq m of floor space (excluding toilets, circulatory areas and the like). In areas where fixed seating is provided, the actual seating capacity may be used.

### **Church:**

The occupancy of the church can be considered as the 385 seats available.

We have three exits, two of 1550mm width (the porches) and the single door from the office area of around 800mm. Discounting one of the large doorways as required by ADB, gives a total exit capacity of  $310+50= 360$  persons. This does not comply with ADB in that we are apparently short by 25 people, but the figures in ADB are based on a conventional building with low ceiling and the recognised evacuation time of 2.5 minutes before smoke under the ceiling may hinder escape. In the church we not only have a clear view of the building interior but the high roof will act as a smoke reservoir for a considerable while. This will prevent smoke obstructing any escape route for well beyond the time it would take the 385 to quit the building.

Travel distance is limited to 18m by ADB which we are just outside but tolerance for the high roof is allowable.

### **Centre:**

This has both old and new parts – the latter will have been designed to the then current version of ADB, and as far as I am aware the various factors regarding occupancy and escape widths have not seen any alteration in the two editions of ADB since 1995. The ADB factor of 0.5sq m per person leads to discomfort and there is nothing to stop the church setting its own lower limit for users if you wish to.

**New hall:** Dimensions are 7m by 11.5m = 80.5sq m = 161 people.

An exit width of 1050mm is required for 111 to 220 people - both our exits individually exceed this width and therefore even with one exit unavailable we comply with ADB. Travel distances are well within the 18m required by ADB.

**Memorial Hall:** Dimensions are 5.5m by 11.5m = 63.25sq m = 126 people. Assuming that the larger exit (the old entrance) is unavailable, the doorway to the new entrance needs to be 1050mm wide which it is.

**Upstairs** in new part: ADB lays down that for a single staircase exit, the maximum number that can use that part of the building is limited to 60 persons. ADB also stresses the need to ensure the escape route is maintained

**POLICY:**

Church – Guideline of 400 people

Centre Hall- Maximum 100 reduced to 80 for seated buffets/meals

Memorial hall- Maximum 50 reduced to 40 for seated buffets/meals

Upstairs- Maximum 30

**Any event for more than this number will need sanction from the PCC before the event takes place.**

PCC Adopted 21/11/11 Review Nov 2013