

Proposals for the Future of

Laggan Church

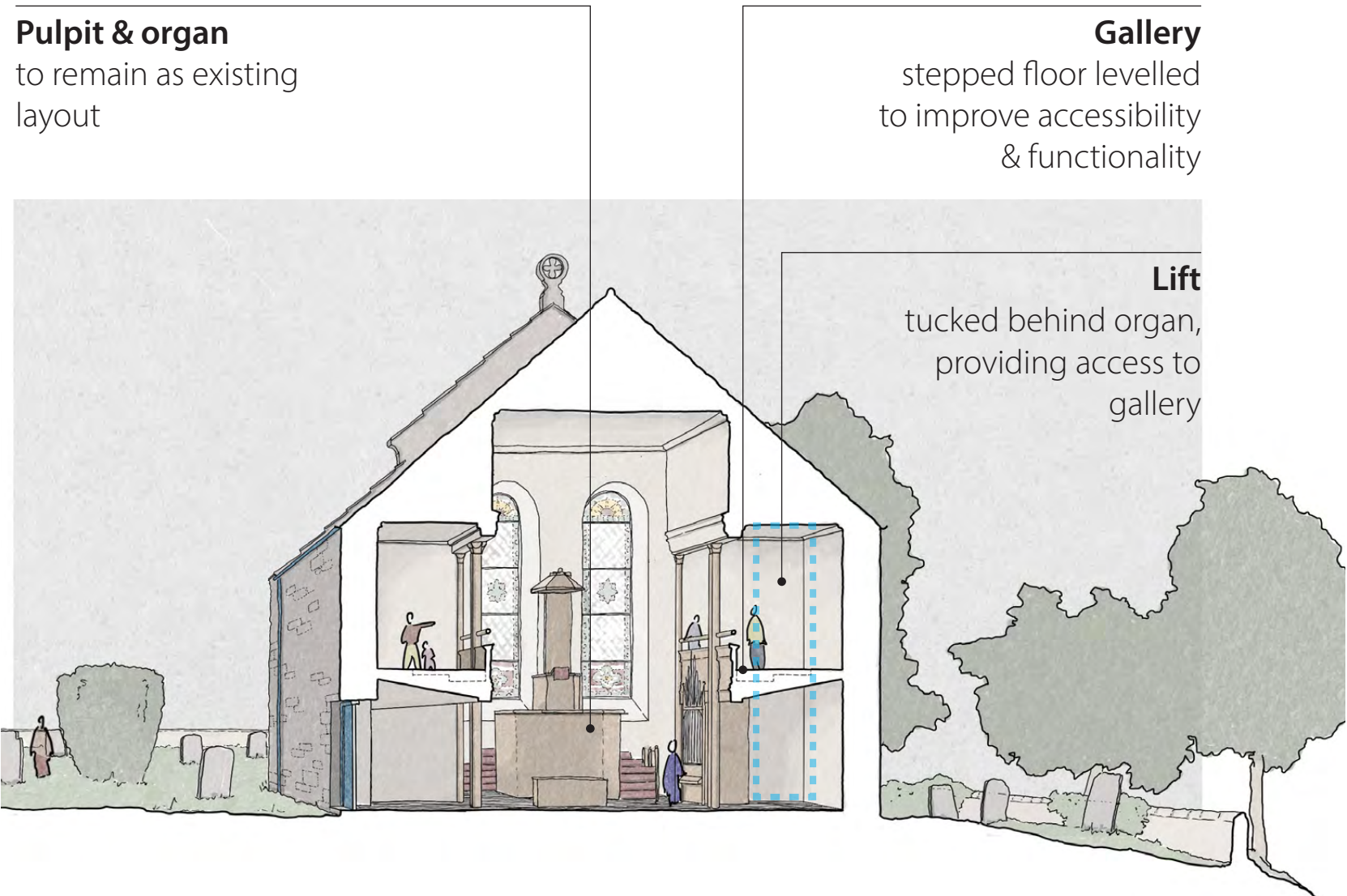
The Category B-listed Laggan Church has been bringing the local community together for almost 250 years. Originally constructed in 1785, it fell into disrepair and was substantially rebuilt in 1842, just before the Disruption of 1843 which would see over half of the congregation move to the Free Church. With subsequent major renovations carried out in 1894 and 1985, the building already had a rich history of change and alteration prior to being put up for sale by the Church of Scotland.

The building was purchased by a new community charity the **Laggan Church Partnership** who, thanks to the efforts of generous donors and volunteers from the local community, have kept the doors open for celebrations, ceremonies and services since 2024.

It is recognised that **the building will need to be adapted** to allow it to host a wider programme of activities, enabling crucial income generation to cover running and repair costs, and making it suitable for today's community. Laggan Church Partnership have been working with a team of architects to examine how the building could be altered to improve access and amenity for everyone. We have drawn up a few options for the future of the building, all of which are designed to have a low visual impact on the main space, while providing the facility and flexibility required to support its ongoing operation, and **we would love to hear your thoughts on the developing proposals.**



01&02: Laggan Church in 1951 by Robert Moyes Adam *images courtesy of University of St Andrews library & DC Thomson*
03: Laggan Church in the 1990s, with white rainwater goods
04: The 'last service', December 2024



Adapting Laggan Church

The building currently has no running water or drainage connections, while the fixed seating and stepped gallery pose barriers to access and limit the flexibility of the space for any additional activities.

It is proposed to level the gallery floor, removing the majority of the pews to this level and building up the floor height to enable it to become a multi-functional space. A small lift, as well as potentially a second access stair, could be added to allow the gallery to be fully accessible. A new water supply and drainage connection will allow the installation of an accessible WC and a small kitchenette; vital facilities that will enable everyone to use and enjoy this beautiful historic space.

Repairs to the fabric of the existing building, including an overhaul of the stained glass windows and rectification works to help manage damp, will also be required to ensure that Laggan Church remains standing at the heart of the community for many years to come.

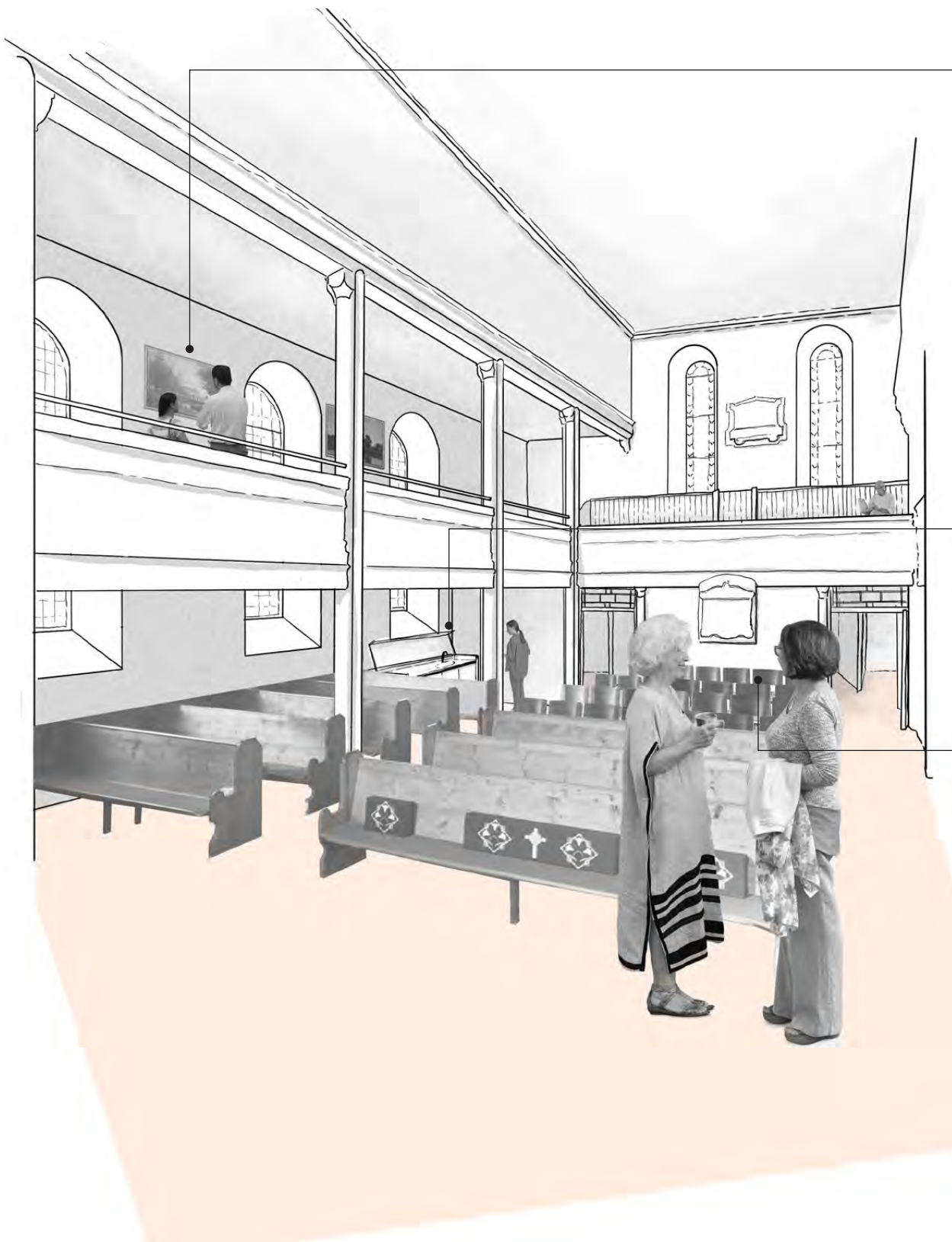
Proposals for the Future of Laggan Church

Option A

In this option the ground floor would continue to function as a space for **ceremonies, the celebration of important life events, and worship services**, with the removal of some pews to the rear of the space providing added flexibility and enhanced amenity for **concerts and other performances and gatherings**. A small kitchenette is proposed within the south aisle - this would take the form of a carefully-drafted furniture piece, which could fold away when not in use.

Improved access to the upper gallery through the addition of a lift tucked behind the organ would provide a space for **local community archive storage, heritage interpretation display, and pop-up events and exhibitions**, with an accessible WC and cleaner's store located within the current vestry.

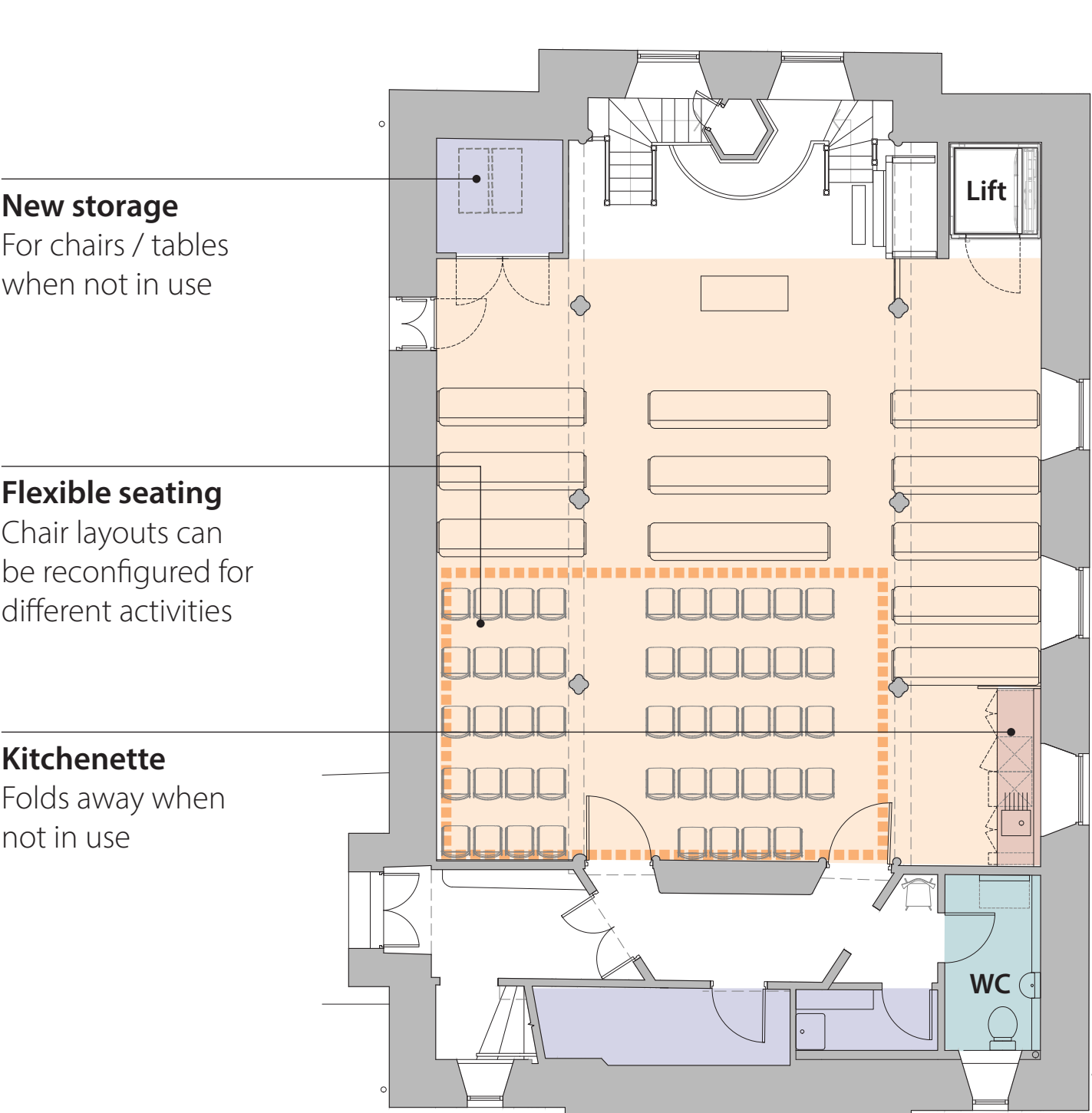
- Main seating space
- Flexible use for other activities
- Local archive / reading
- Kitchen
- WCs
- Storage



Gallery
used for exhibitions,
archive &
interpretation

Kitchenette
tucked beneath
window level in
south aisle

Seating
rear pews swapped
for moveable chairs



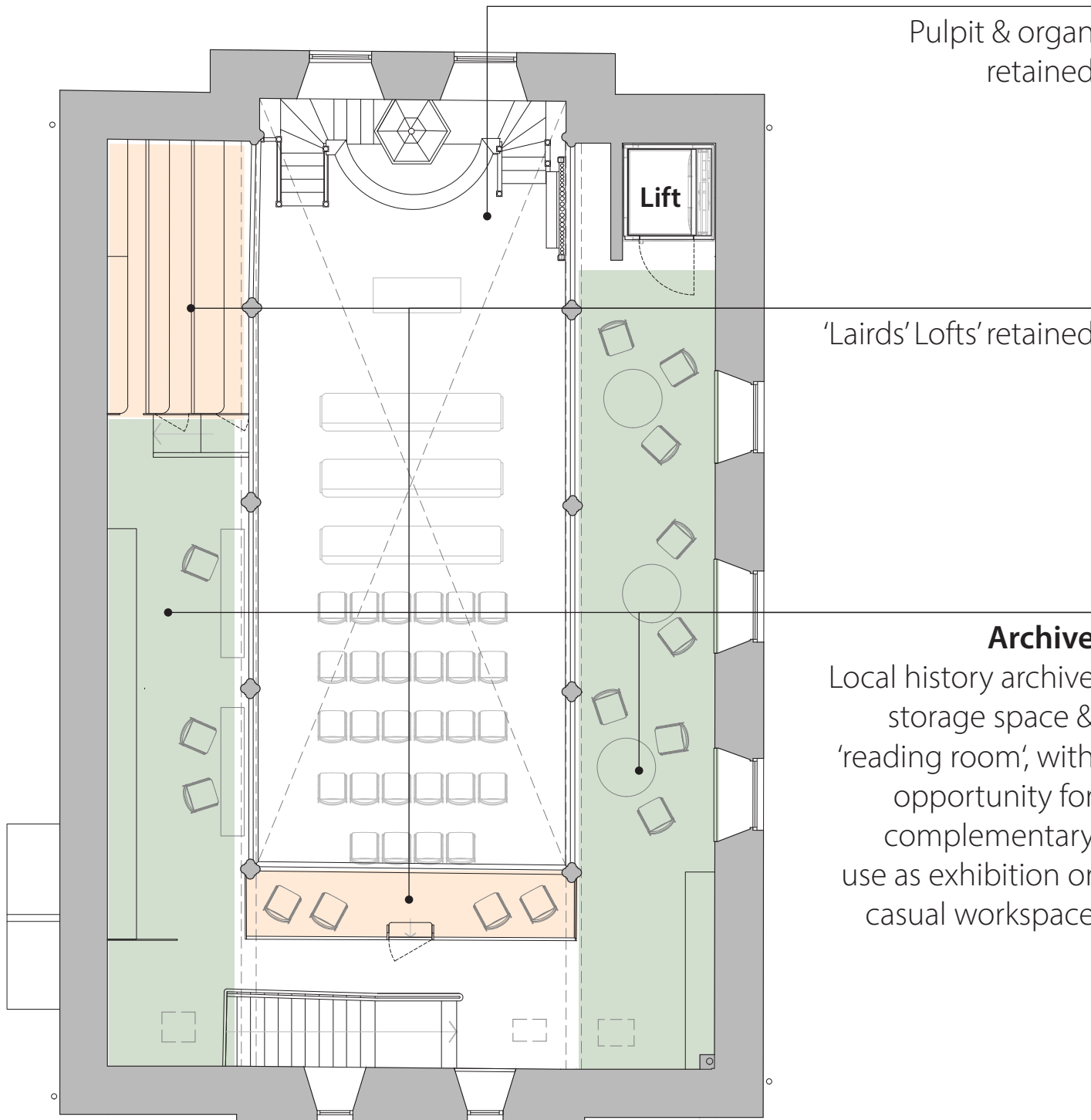
New storage
For chairs / tables
when not in use

Flexible seating
Chair layouts can
be reconfigured for
different activities

Kitchenette
Folds away when
not in use



Ground Floor Plan



Pulpit & organ
retained

'Lairds' Lofts' retained

Archive
Local history archive
storage space &
'reading room', with
opportunity for
complementary
use as exhibition or
casual workspace

Gallery Level Plan



Proposals for the Future of Laggan Church

Option B

Again the ground floor would continue to function as a space for **ceremonies, the celebration of important life events, and worship services**, with the removal of the pews to the aisles providing added flexibility and enhanced amenity for **concerts and other performances as well as small gatherings**. The existing entrance route is reconfigured to create a separate kitchenette, accessible WC, and cleaner's store, with new glazed double doors from the vestibule to help manage congestion at peak use.

Improved access to the upper gallery through the addition of a lift tucked behind the organ would provide a space for **local community archive storage, heritage interpretation display, and pop-up events and exhibitions**.

- Main seating space
- Flexible use for other activities
- Local archive / reading
- Kitchen
- WCs
- Storage



Gallery
used for exhibitions,
archive &
interpretation

Kitchenette
through door at rear

Seating
aisle pews swapped
for moveable chairs

New storage
For chairs / tables
when not in use

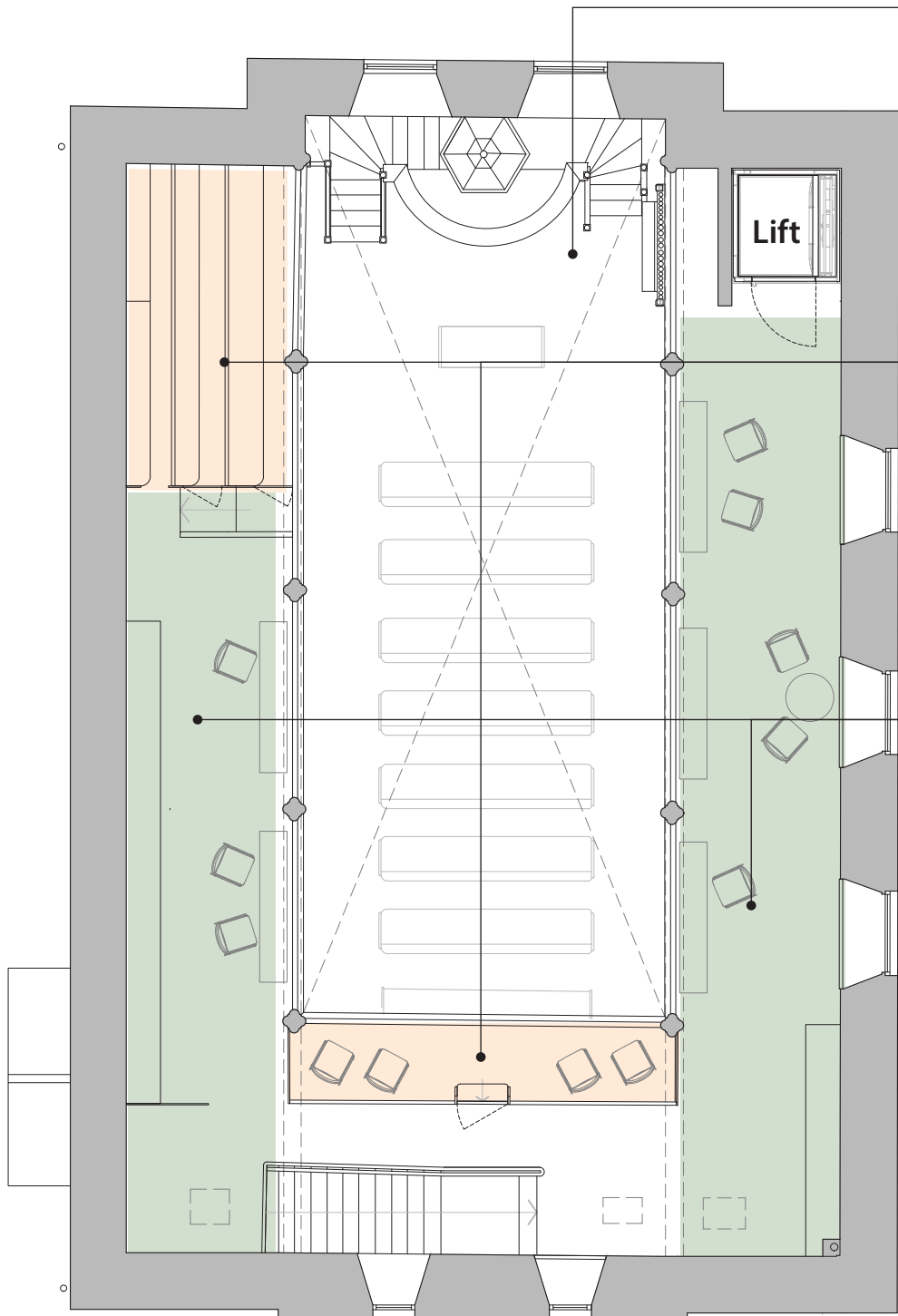
Flexible seating
Chair layouts can
be reconfigured for
different activities

Entrance
New glazed
double doors

Kitchenette
in separate room



Ground Floor Plan



Pulpit & organ
retained

'Lairds' Lofts' retained

Archive
Local history archive
storage space &
'reading room', with
opportunity for
complementary
use as exhibition or
casual workspace

Gallery Level Plan

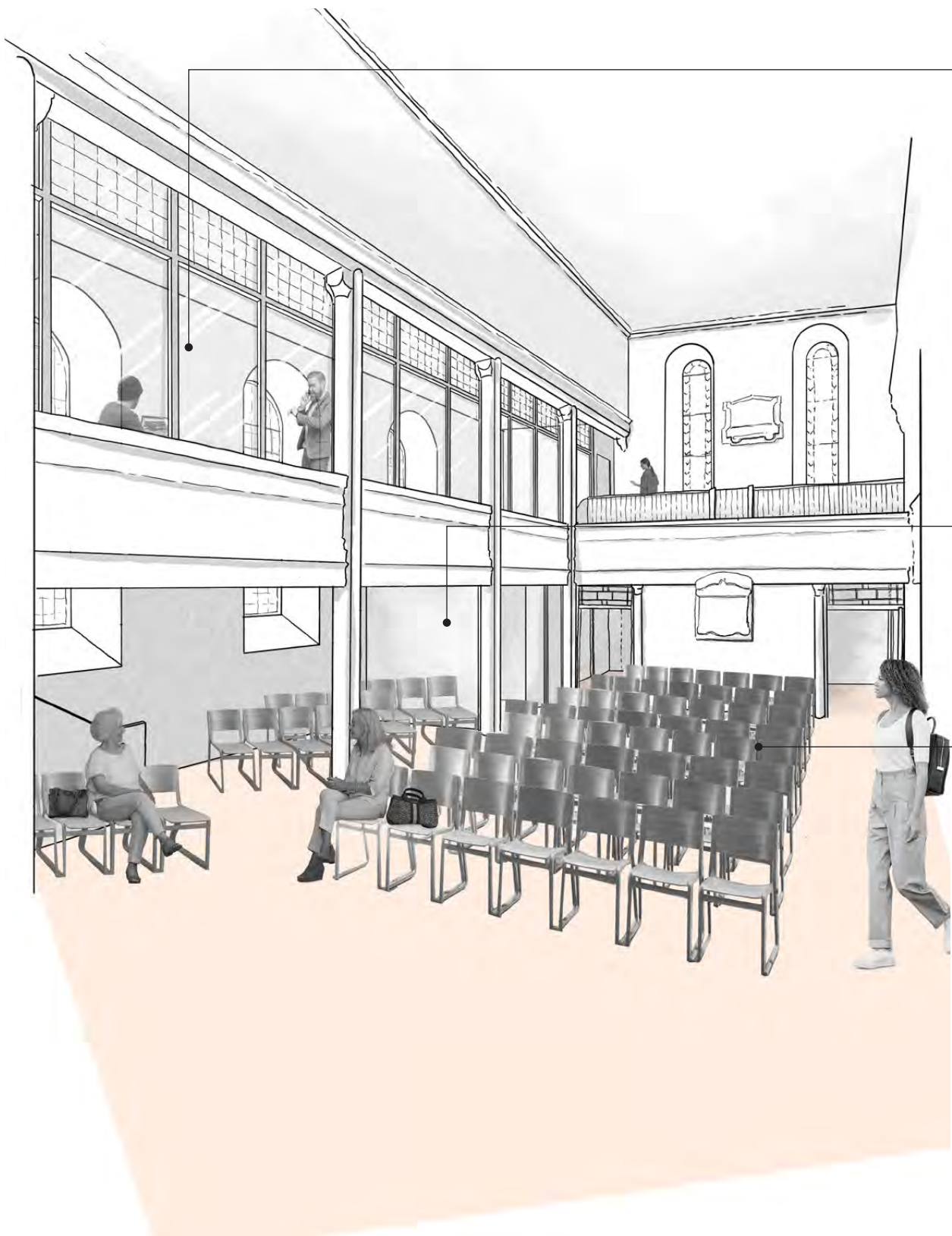
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Option C

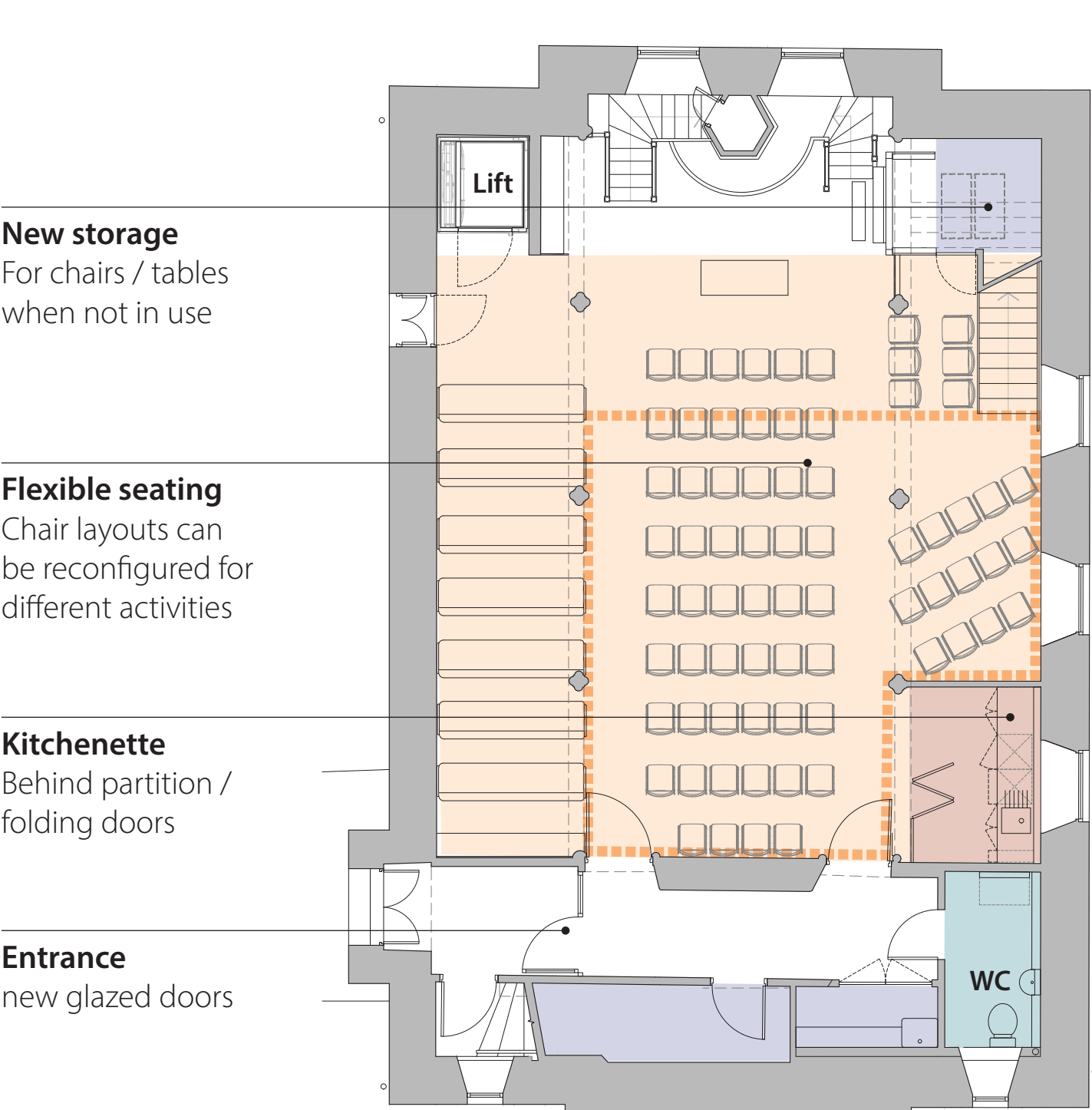
The ground floor would continue to function as a space for **ceremonies, the celebration of important life events, and worship services**, with the removal of the pews to the nave and south aisle providing added flexibility and enhanced amenity for **concerts and other performances and gatherings**. The rear bay of the south aisle is partitioned off to create a kitchenette, with folding doors to the main space to close this area off when not in use.

Upstairs a separate area is created within the south gallery for use as a **co-working space**, with a second access stair from the main space. The north gallery houses the **community archive**, with improved through the addition of a lift. A new accessible WC and cleaner's store are provided within the current vestry, with an additional WC upstairs at gallery level.

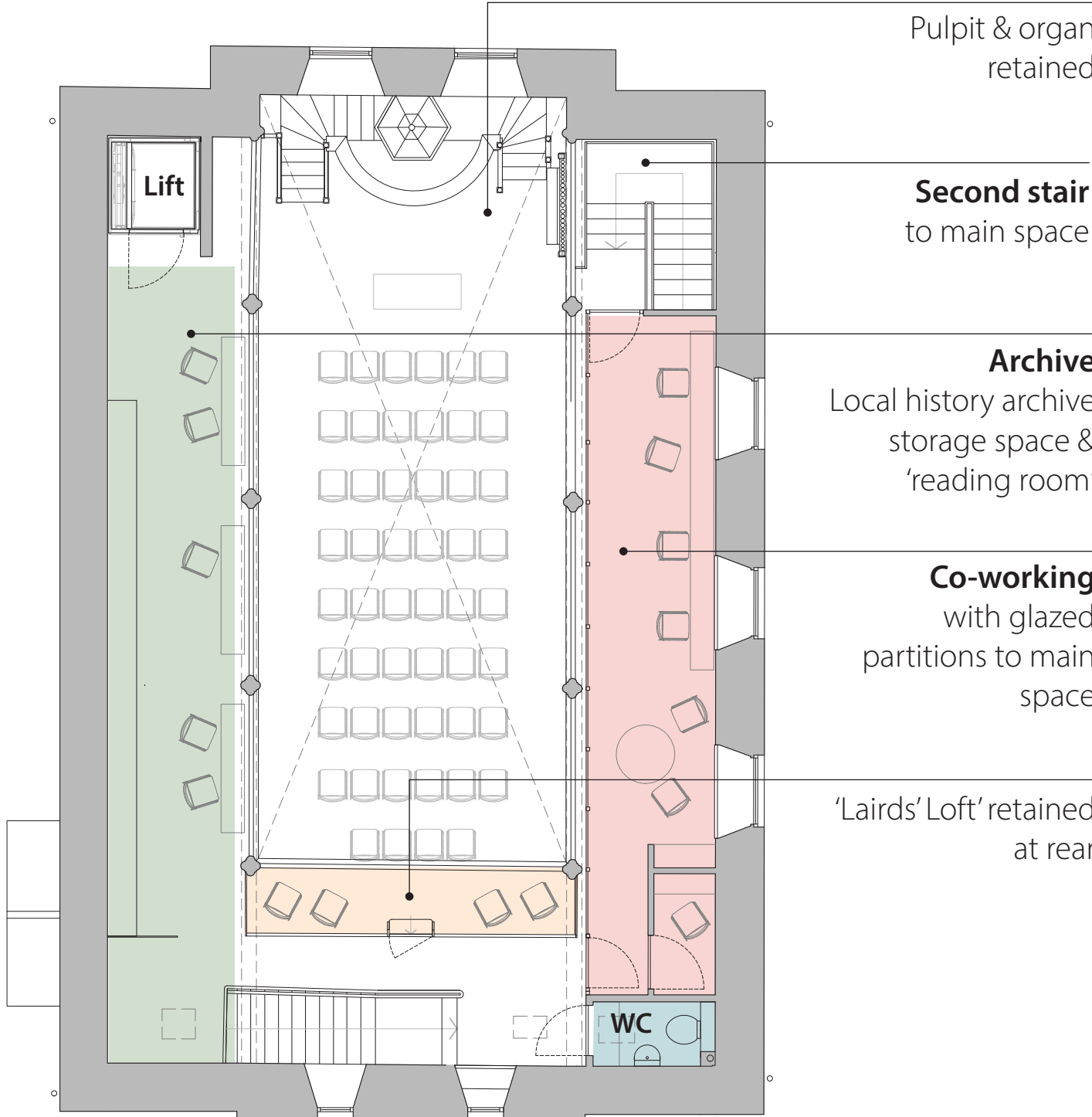
- Main seating space
- Flexible use for other activities
- Local archive / reading
- Kitchen
- WCs
- Storage
- Co-working



- South Gallery**
sound- & thermally-insulated co-working space, with glazed partitions between the existing columns
- Kitchenette**
concealed behind partitions and folding doors
- Seating**
central and south pews swapped for chairs; pews remain to north aisle



- New storage**
For chairs / tables when not in use
- Flexible seating**
Chair layouts can be reconfigured for different activities
- Kitchenette**
Behind partition / folding doors
- Entrance**
new glazed doors



- Pulpit & organ retained
- Second stair**
to main space
- Archive**
Local history archive storage space & 'reading room'
- Co-working**
with glazed partitions to main space
- 'Lairds' Loft' retained at rear



Ground Floor Plan

Gallery Level Plan