

From pews to work benches

What role can Shedders play in the future of former places of worship retained for community use?

Presentation from Harry Whitmore, Churches Advisor



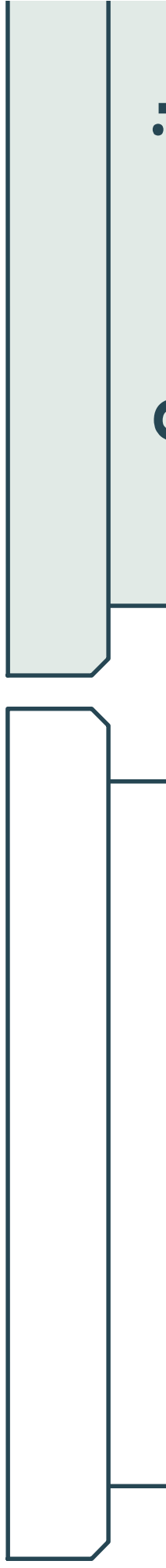
What will we be covering to

- Introduction to the Community Ownership Support
- What is the New Futures programme?
- What's going on with church disposals?
- What's any of this got to do with sheds?
- Could a church building be right for your shed?



About the Community Ownership Service (COSS)

- COSS supports the sustainable transfer of land and ownership across Scotland
- COSS is a partner of the Scottish Mens Shed Association in collaboration with COSS to help Scottish Men's Sheds through the **Community Asset Transfer** process.
- COSS is part of Development Trusts Association Scotland, a national organisation with three core pillars.





Last year Fiona Taylor spoke at Community Asset Transfer pro



The Community Asset Transfer Process

Fiona Taylor



About COSS – support for Asset Transfer

**If you're looking for support
with Asset Transfer, please
contact my colleagues at
the core COSS team.**



About the New Futures: Former Places of Worship programme

- **The New Futures Former Places of Worship Programme Ownership Support Service**
- It is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) (HES) and Development Trusts Association Scotland
- To provide enhanced support to community groups in the place of worship (typically a church) across Scotland to manage the significant and unprecedented number of former places of worship disposal over the 2020s

Advice & Support

Training & Resources

Networking & Events



Workshops and resources

- The New Futures programme has a rolling series of resources available to community organisations.

Workshops

Rolling Workshop Programme

1. First Steps to Community Ownership
2. Involving Your Community
3. Finance and Fundraising 1: Grant Funding
4. Finance and Fundraising 2: Alternative Funding
5. Your Building: A Guide
6. Business Planning
7. Financial Planning
8. Community Right to Buy



Resources

Churches Crowdfunder Guide
New Futures:
Former Places of Worship

Development Trusts Association
Scotland
A Thriving Community-led Network

BELLFIELD'S BIG BUILD
TOTAL SO FAR
£20000
£180k
£160k
£140k
£120k
£100000
£80k

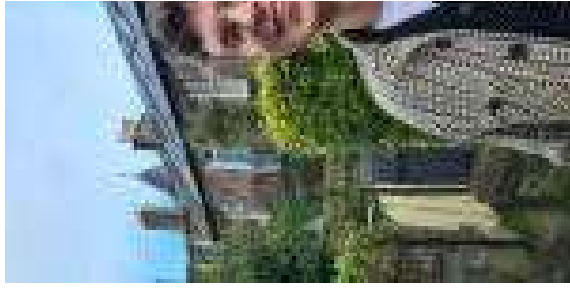


The New Futures Team



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What's going on with church

I alluded to church disposals, but what exactly is going on?

The Church of Scotland have been disposing of church buildings across the country

You can easily see what's available on the Church of Scotland website

From reading the Presbytery Mission Plans, published by Scotland's 11



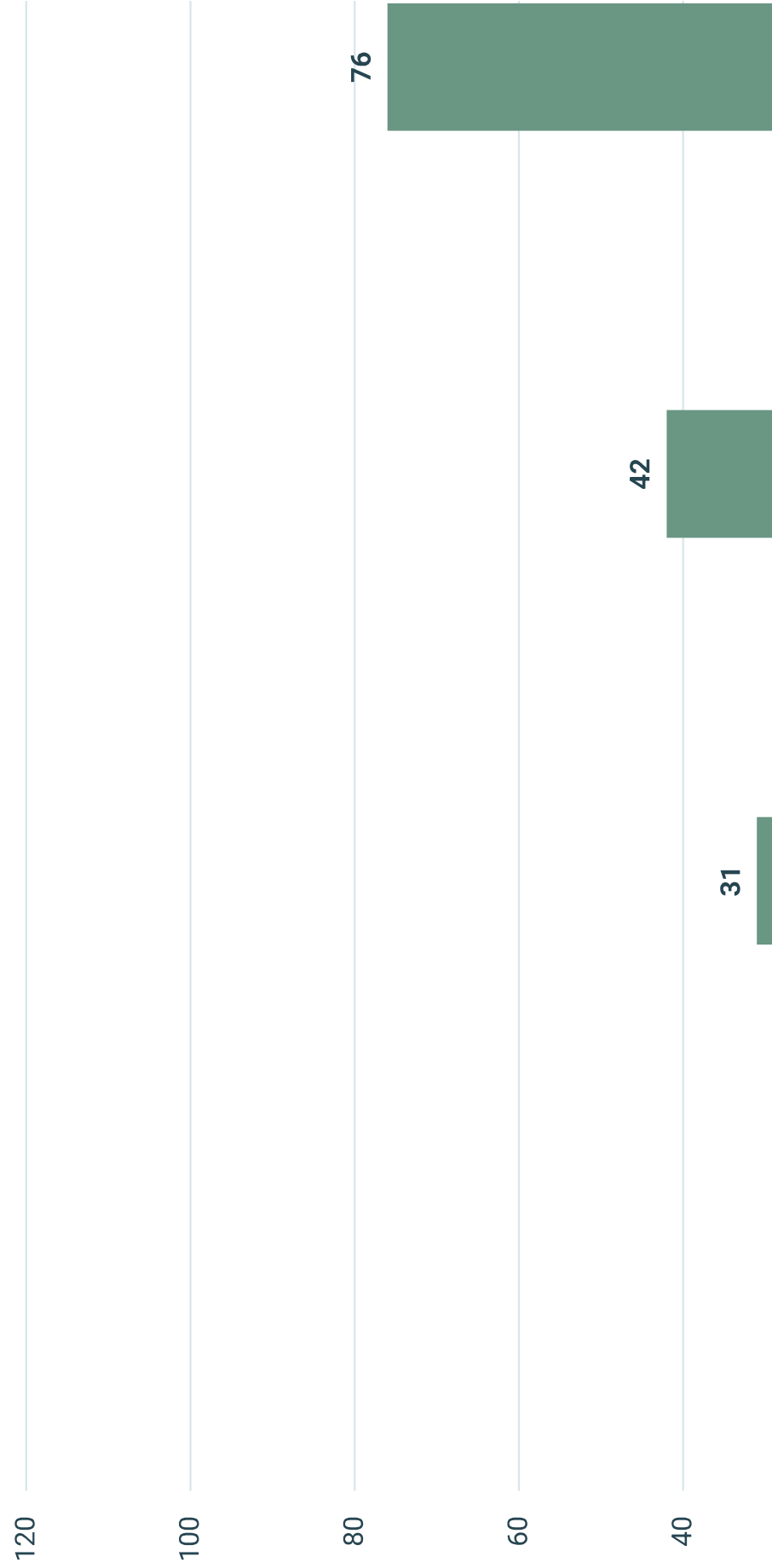
A horizontal bar chart comparing the percentage of respondents who believe the U.S. should take more action to address climate change, categorized by gender (Men and Women) and age group (18-29, 30-49, 50-69, 70+). The y-axis represents the percentage from 0 to 90. The x-axis lists the categories. Data values are labeled at the end of each bar.

Gender	Age Group	Percentage
Men	18-29	20
	30-49	28
	50-69	34
	70+	11
Women	18-29	18
	30-49	13
	50-69	4
	70+	10
Total	18-29	13
	30-49	18
	50-69	33
	70+	23
Men	18-29	42
	30-49	47
	50-69	77
	70+	9
Women	18-29	52
	30-49	20
	50-69	11
	70+	13



What's going on with church

Number of church buildings authorised for disposal between May 2020 and April 2026, according to the reports to the General Assembly





What's any of this got to do

In response, communities have been coming together to build, renovate, and keep them and convert them into community spaces.

We have supported over 100 groups looking at church buildings.

As the number of Sheds and Sheddards grow, more groups are looking for ways to accommodate them.

Could these church buildings present opportunities for new uses? Or are they just premises in a historic community building?

Or can Sheds help support other community organizations? Can they be used as assets, aiding the transition to community ownership?



Shed in a church? Pros and

Could these church buildings present opportunities
Sheds? Here are some pros and cons of taking on

Pros

➤ Spaces are often large, and can
be adapted to be flexible

➤ Church buildings in rural areas
can be affordable

➤ Sheds can do some of the repair
work needed themselves

Cons

➤ Churches
may be

➤ Churches
the high

➤ There
own



Collaboration: how can shed community groups own and share their assets?

How can Sheds help support other community organisations to take on and adapt these assets?

Buying a church building may or may not be for you. If more churches go into community ownership, then the support they can get from their communities.

What can Sheddars offer these buildings? Can they within their community to help support the new life building?

Often the first thing to do is to change the name



Pews! What can be done w





Pews! What can be done w





Pews! What can be done w



Whalsay Kirk Development Our Project Get Involved Memory Hub Events E-B

MADE FROM WHALSAY KIRK

REUSE • RECYCLE • REPU

We're giving original 19th-century Whalsay Kirk timber a new life.

Reclaimed from the kirk's pews, backs, modesty boards and wainscoting of history. Some items also use timber from the former communion table of essential restoration work, helping make way for improvements includ time.

Rather than waste this beautiful old timber, we're reusing, recycling and piece is different, and every purchase helps support the restoration and

Looking for something special?

We welcome commissions, personalised pieces and new project ideas. If — we'd love to see what we can make.





Not technically pews, but



Thank you for listening

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