

news

HUGHES AND COMPANY

New pew makes a stand in bid to unseat the plastic chair

by Ed Thornton

A SOLUTION may have been found to a dilemma that has provoked many heated PCC discussions: whether to replace pews with chairs.

The furniture designers Luke Hughes and Company have produced "stacking pews" (left). The pews, which are made mainly out of European oak, "sit well in a traditional setting without removing any natural beauty or liturgical importance of the building", a statement from the company said. The pews can be moved and stacked so that the space can be used for other activities.

"In these times of austerity, churches are

returning to one of their original purposes, that of being a place for the community as a whole rather than just for worshippers," the statement says. "Once fixed pews are removed, stackable pews allow you to change a place of worship into a theatre for productions, or a space for events, meetings and groups, in minutes — a real community space."

A churchwarden of St Michael and All Angels, Kingsnorth, Norman Humphries, said: "When we have the colour party for the children, they really come into their own, as the pews are stackable and easy to carry. We gain so much more room; even the choir can change their seating arrangements."

