

The white concrete of the altar canopy and parts of the balcony and balcony pillars were repainted to refresh the look. There are still many parts of the gallery which need to be repainted, due to marks and dirt in some areas.

Security To improve security in our grounds, we have bought and installed alarms in the chapel house and garage. We also plan to install very good quality CCTV cameras around the chapel house, church and parish hall, so people can feel much safer and to forestall vandalism. We had to replace all the locks in the chapel house after the burglary.

Garage Our garage roof has been leaking for a long time due to water ingress around the drainage pipe at the back. There was a lot of moss on the roof and the beams were in very poor condition. We managed to exchange most all the beams in the bigger garage which were rotting and fixed the problem with water ingress.

Chapel house In March and April high winds damaged part of the roof cover of the chapel house, causing several small leaks. The sealant in some places on the roof was fixed before bigger issues developed. After a windy and wet winter, the bottom of the back door to the chapel house was rotted and insecure. One of our parishioners, Ian, has managed a splendid repair.

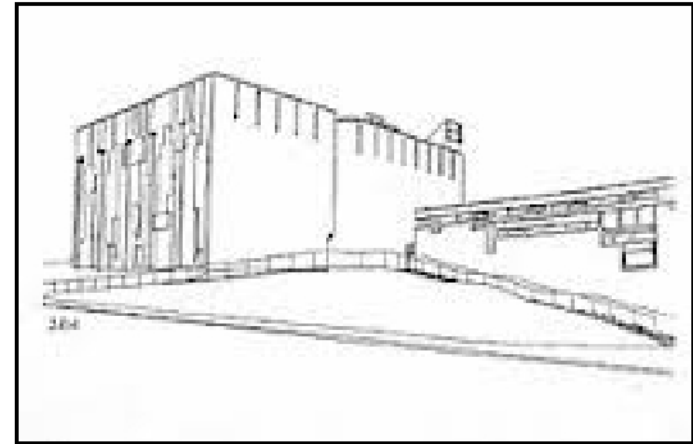
Car park We decided to dismantle the steel frames for bikes in our parish car park. We still have to put some masonry in the holes. We are also planning to paint parking lines on the tarmac to improve the system of parking.

Church toilets There is no hot water in the toilets and utility room in our church. We are looking for the best solution before cold days begin.

Parish Meeting Once we have more information about subjects like church heating, we plan to hold a Parish Meeting. If you have any sensible or urgent questions or thoughts, please contact Father Rafal or John Hastings.

We thank all parishioners for their generous hearts and continued help and support. There is plenty to be thankful for in our wonderful church community.

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE



FABRIC UPDATE

July 2018

This update provides information about activity relating to the fabric of the church buildings, including chapel house and the Parish Centre.

Weather-related - at the time of the Big Freeze, which now seems a long time ago, we experienced some external brick damage. This can be seen on the outside of the altar wall; there was damage to the faces of some of the old bricks - unfortunate but inevitable in the extreme conditions we experienced. The replacement bricks installed during the renovation were not affected.

Roof leaks There was a heavy storm during the Vigil Mass on 2 June, and we experienced a major roof leak above the end of the balcony near the altar. This was due to a weakened seam in the roof fabric. This was repaired under contractor guarantee. There is an annoying, very modest leak coming from the central light cannon, which we are trying to identify and repair.

Church Heating In spite of the wonderful summer weather, we have not forgotten how cold the church is in winter. Several of our plaque heaters are obsolete. We are in discussion with a heating engineer to evaluate an under-floor heating system. The advantage with underfloor heating is that it would create a mass of warm air between the floor and head height and this should also provide some barrier to draughts which largely come from open doors. However, installing underfloor heating would be a major undertaking, which would involve a period of church closure (perhaps 3 months). The pews would need to be taken out and the flagstones lifted. A ducted warm air system might be easier to install but less effective. In either case, we would need to consult Historic Environment Scotland for permission. This will be an expensive undertaking and we would seek grant aid if we want to proceed. We will organise an open meeting once we know more about this.

Lighting We have gradually been replacing lights in the church house, sacristy and external floodlights with new LED lamps which are more energy efficient and much cheaper to run. Thanks to Frank, our parishioner who was very helpful with this. In the near future, we will place a narrow beam floodlight on the roof of the Parish Centre which will illuminate the cross on the church roof. We will test whether we can provide illumination of the altar under the canopy.

Gardening The garden around the church house is in very fine condition, thanks to Paul, our parishioner. He also installed new garden boxes at the Plathorn Drive entrance to the church. There are also some shrubs and small

trees planted at the northern side of the Parish Centre. Paul has also started to paint the fence between the garage and chapel house.

Church Fence Father Rafal and a group of helpers are sanding and painting the fence along Whitemoss Avenue; however, there is over 100 metres of fence. This is a temporary solution as we are planning to plant a holly hedge inside the fence, from the edge of the Parish Centre to the steps leading to Plathorn Drive from Whitemoss Avenue and then up to the car park fence and then around the south end of the Parish Centre. When this has grown sufficiently, it will provide a secure area around the Parish Centre which will enable us to make better use of the lawned grounds. We can take down the fence completely when the hedge is more fully grown.

Parish centre The Parish Centre is used extensively for pastoral activities such as Children's Liturgy and faith groups and the Sunday Cafe, social activity such as coffee mornings, ceilidhs, dances and parishioner events, regular external bookings such as the Dance Class, Art Class, Jive Class and Tax Club and other external events. This is a source of income for the Parish. However, the hall is about 20 years old and we do need to carry out some refurbishment and redecoration to maintain the quality of the environment. We will be installing new flooring in the toilets and refreshing the vanity units and decorations in the ladies toilet. The wooden floor in the main hall also needs some repair.

Health and Safety in the Church The Diocese of Motherwell has recently put a formal health and safety protocol in place for all parishes. We now have fire extinguishers in place at the church entrances (as well as in the sacristy, church house and in the Parish Centre). We are looking at improving signage in the church, to make the building "dementia friendly". We also plan to put handrails on two of the balcony pillars to make it safer to get to and from the nave to the elevated area under the balcony. To improve safety for people with some visual impairment, we are also looking at making the edges of the brick steps more noticeable. There is some trade-off between preserving the authentic features of our A listed building and making it safe for parishioners and visitors. We need to discuss these proposals with Historic Environment Scotland before we make any changes. We receive a high number of visitors, particularly architectural groups, to the church.

Altar Cross Another parishioner, Paul, sanded and repainted the cross above the altar canopy using many coats; the improvement is very noticeable.