

Whitemoss Avenue (cont.) There has also been a persistent coloured leak from a drain adjacent to the wall on Whitemoss Avenue. We have contacted British Telecom who own the drain and they have examined it. However, they have not yet managed to identify the source of the leak and fix it.

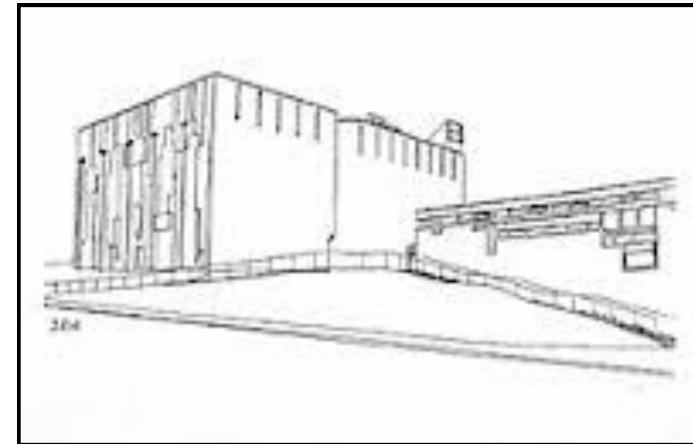
Chapel House High winds damaged part of the roof cover of the chapel house, causing several small leaks. We used sealant in some places on the roof which worked as a short term repair. However, this area is vulnerable to wind damage followed by rain penetration. A more extensive repair will be necessary to prevent more widespread damage. The windows of the church house are also in quite poor condition. There are over 200 windows in the church house—a feature of the architectural design. Replacing the windows will be an expensive task. Because this is part of the A-listed building complex, the replacement windows will need to be as similar as possible in material and design to the existing windows. We will be able to install double glazing units so the church house will be better insulated and cheaper to heat. We are looking for grants to help defray the repair costs.

Visits to the church We continue to receive a relatively large number of visitors to the church, particularly from groups of architectural students from European institutions. The architectural reputation of the church continues to grow worldwide. This is partly because it is emblematic of its period of construction, but also because it is a functional building from this period which continues to be in daily use in the role and purpose, the worship of God, for which it was so beautifully designed.

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

September 2019

This update provides information about activity relating to the fabric of the church buildings, including chapel house and the Parish Centre. This is the first update on fabric we have provided since July 2018.

Church and Church Surrounds - Heating is always an issue. In Autumn 2018, we carried out the first major maintenance of our wall heaters. It took some time to obtain spare parts for some of the heaters. We managed to get all of the heaters working before the chill of winter. They are now all fully certified and on an annual maintenance contract. We still have an issue with draughts, mainly coming from the doors. When the church has been cold and we turn on the heating, the area under the balcony remains unheated and this creates draughts between the heated and unheated area. We are looking to see whether electric air curtains (essentially fan heaters) at the doors might help to reduce the impact of draughts.

Roof leaks The central light cannon in the roof is subject to an occasional leak which occurs when there is both heavy rain and it is being driven by a strong easterly wind. We also have occasional problems with the slanting windows behind the altar when there is heavy driven rain. We are working with the Diocesan Estates Office to resolve leak issues.

Toilets and Utility Room We have installed water heaters in both church toilets and the Utility Room. We still have a couple of problems with sink drainage which we are trying to resolve.

Church Surrounds CCTV has been installed around the church, parish centre and their precincts for security purposes. The church is surrounded by public areas and, when the church is not in use, these areas can be quiet and vulnerable. There was weather damage to bricks over the winter. The wall around the path into the back of the parish house was in a dangerous condition and was repaired.

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.

Parish Centre Father Rafal and a group of helpers repainted the fence along Whitemoss Avenue and around the sunken area outside the emergency exit from the church. The grassed area behind the parish centre was flattened. The base of the parking area is in poor condition in some areas, particularly along seams in the tar. We are examining ways to improve the surface to make it less susceptible to damage. We cleaned out the gutters around the hall and removed a blockage in one of the down pipes.

Inside the Parish Centre, we installed a new alarm, improved signage and added CCTV. In the toilets, we upgraded the lights with LEDs, installed new flooring and upgraded the sinks. We replaced the hot water tank with a new system; the old unit had insufficient pressure to provide adequate water flow to the kitchen sinks. We will be replacing the toilet seats. In the main hall, we replaced the side lights with LEDs and we are working on replacing down lights. We have still to undertake a number of projects including sanding and re-varnishing the dance floor, a general clean up of the main hall from the ceiling down; then we will be re-painting the walls.

Health and Safety in the Church We are looking at improving signage in the church, to make the building "dementia friendly". We also plan to put a handrail on one of the balcony pillars and another behind the final confessional leading from the stall to make it safer to get to and from the nave and the elevated area under the balcony. We are also looking at making the edges of the brick steps more noticeable to improve safety for people with some visual impairment, . 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.

Whitemoss Avenue There was some subsidence at the bottom of the steps to Whitemoss Avenue and the supporting wall there was damaged. We are seeking quotations to make repairs to the wall. We undertook some repair to the steps from Whitemoss Avenue to the piazza, which were dangerous in places because of loose mortar.