

Fence along Churchill Avenue

The fence that runs along the east wall of the church and then turns along Churchill Avenue towards Whitemoss roundabout is in very poor condition and is beyond repair. We have not yet decided what to do. A hedge may be an appropriate long term solution but would take some time to grow.

Underfloor heating in the church

This remains on our wish list. As previously noted, the installation would involve removing the pews and lifting the slabs in the nave, so installation will mean closure of the church for 6-8 weeks. The cost should be around £100,000. We would hope our Grade A listing would be advantageous in helping to secure grants to meet a major part of the cost, although grants are becoming harder to obtain. We would not start on this any earlier than summer of 2018 to avoid another spell of disruption for parishioners.

Events

The Parish Together Committee has organised a number of successful fund-raising events in the parish centre and the church. The next event is a concert on Thursday 20 July given by the Italian musician Roberto Tardito. Half of the ticket money will go to parish funds.

Gift Aid and Covenant Scheme

We are very grateful to those who have signed GiftAid declarations, which enable us to reclaim basic rate tax on donations and collections. This year, we got £4,000 more than last year from giftaid. Please consider joining the Covenant Scheme, if you are not already in it; there is no cost to you.

Fabric Committee

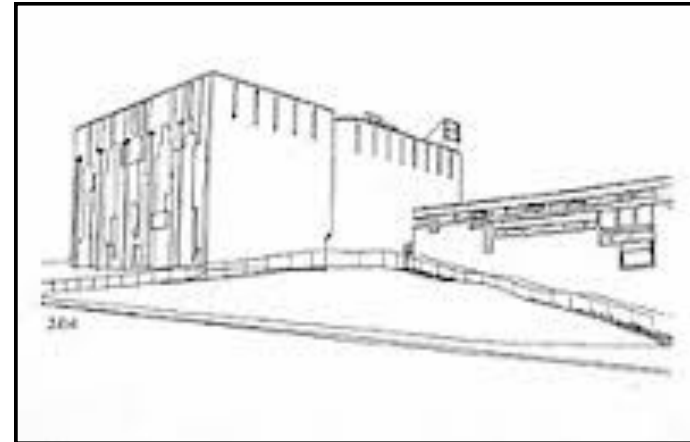
The Fabric Committee has been looking at parish finances, mainly because of the overlap with renovation costs and the programme for Diocesan loan repayments. We are looking for two additional people to join the Committee. It would be helpful if they had accountancy or business backgrounds, to help analyse our financial statements and plan budget guidelines. If anyone is interested, please speak to Father Rafal or Deacon John.

Your views and opinions

We are always keen to hear from parishioners about the works, including financing and fundraising ideas. If you have any questions or thoughts, please speak to Father Rafal, Deacon John or John Hastings.

We thank you for your continued help and support in our parish.

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE



REPORT ON FABRIC

July 2017

Background

This update on the fabric of the church and surrounding buildings covers the period from February 2017.

The church

The weather has been good with very little heavy rain or wind over the last few months, so there has not been very much evidence of roof leaks. We do remain vigilant. Following a small leak near the altar wall at the altar edge of the balcony, the contractors brought a cherry picker to investigate brickwork at the rain gutter surrounds using a water hose to test for leaks. They applied brick sealant around the gaps above the rain hoppers. There has been modest water incursion just under the parapet where the south light cannon meets the altar wall; we thought this may come from rain driven through the external brick face that is being conducted across the gap to the inner face. However, the contractors removed internal bricks and did not find any evidence of this. From time to time, there has been some water under the middle light cannon. However, this has also been intermittent. Even when the rain has been heavy, these areas have often remained dry so it has proved very difficult to trace the sources of any leaks, which are small. These are in areas above the slatted ceiling or high in the light cannons which are difficult to get to. There are no leaks where the new roof fabric covers the building.

Part of our Historic Environment Scotland (HES) grant was designated to create an archive and exhibition area for visitors to the church. We now have a temporary archive on the balcony, out of the way of the main nave and elevated area. There are some electrical conduits on the balcony floor which create a trip hazard. One of our parishioners, an electrician, is moving the wiring for the lights underneath the balcony to eliminate this hazard. The balcony does not meet current health and safety standards; the parapet is quite low and the gap below is wide enough for a small child to fall through. We are obtaining health and safety and design advice about making this area safe. Some of the grant from HES and Heritage Lottery Fund is designated for this purpose, as well as visitor leaflets and guides to the church buildings.

We have reserved funds for erecting a cross in the niche at the northern edge of the east wall. We hope this will be installed this year.

We would like to improve signage in the church to make it more dementia friendly. We also need to introduce some fire extinguishers near the church exits to improve our Health and Safety standards.

Grounds and garden maintenance

We are considering planting a floral cross on the grass bank under the Churchill Ave ramp which will appear in daffodil season each year. Please let Father Rafal or Deacon John know if you have any views about this.

The church house

Father Rafal arranged some painting and decoration in some rooms (mainly Canon Ryan's rooms) and the modernising of the tiling in the kitchen (while maintaining the original design features). We are investigating whether some office areas to the west of the house might be made available for commercial letting, to raise funds to help repay the Diocesan loan.

Parish Centre

We aim to upgrade the female toilets with a new floor covering and some upgrade to sanitary units. This will make it easier to keep this area clean and hygienic. This is part of our ongoing planned maintenance programme. There are also a number of potholes in the car park behind the Parish Centre. We have closed one gate at the entrance to prevent deterioration. We are taking steps to obtain quotations for the repair. There is also a small repair needed to the tarmac at the top of the piazza steps; water is permeating into the tunnel linking the sacristy and the presbytery.

Visitors to the church

We continue to welcome a reasonably large number of visitors to the church, most of whom are interested in its architecture. There were two large groups of students (from Antwerp and Kaiserslautern), individual students (many from Glasgow School of Architecture) and visitors from the UK and abroad. In June, the main board of Viridor Credits, which provided a £1million grant towards our renovation costs, came for a tour of the church including the roof; this was part of a tour of their Scottish funded projects. We will host a talk about the architectural significance of the church on Sunday 20 August as part of the Booked Festival, a series of events around East Kilbride which celebrate the building of the new town. We will also be taking part in a Doors Open Day in September, working along with EK Old Parish Church.

Repaying the Diocesan loan

Notwithstanding the generous grants we received for the renovation work from external funding bodies, the parish still has to cover the balance of renovation costs. Our loan from the Diocese is around £495,000. We are repaying the loan at the rate of £1,000 each week. At this rate, the loan will be repaid in around 10 years. The sources of funds for meeting the loan repayment come from an allocation from offertory collections, monthly special collections, allocations from Parish Centre income, concerts and other events held in the church, Club 200 (now 219 members) and individual donations.