

### **Other matters (cont.)**

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. The fence is beyond repair. We have not yet decided what to do. The ground between the fence and the Parish Centre car park was always very boggy. The contractors used this area for their site works. They stabilised the area using aggregate. We agreed they should leave this in place. However, some additional soil cover may be needed to level the area so the grass can be cut.

We have already started re-decorating the gardening and grass areas around the church and chapel house.

### **Events**

The Parish Together Committee has organised a number of successful fund-raising events in the parish centre and the church. We have also had two breakfasts on Sunday mornings after 9:30am Mass and regular Thursday coffee mornings after 10am Mass which takes place in the Parish Centre. We are very grateful for the parishioners who have catered at these events, those who provide raffle prizes and all who have supported the events.

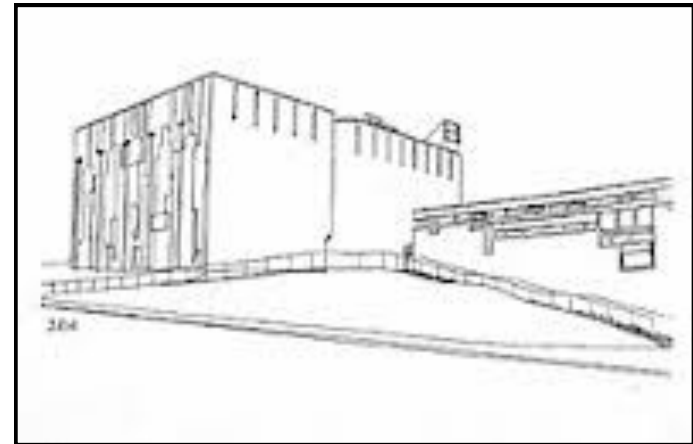
The next major planned event is the St Patrick's Ceilidh on the evening of Friday 17 March. Please come along and support us.

### **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 generous and continued help and support in our parish.**

# **ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE**



## **REPORT ON REPAIR PROGRAMMES**

**March 2017**

## **Background**

This update on repair programmes covers the period from October 2016. It also considers projects that we have in progress or are on our wish list.

## **The church**

The weather has been good with very little rain or wind this winter, so there has not yet been a full test of the weather seal of the building. The contractor has re-sealed the window panes behind the altar and on one window pane in a light cannon. We believe there is a small hole in the roof fabric around a roof drain just above the minstrel gallery which we expect to be fixed this week.

There was a loose seal on one of the hoppers outside the altar wall, collecting rain from the roof and feeding into the downpipes. We needed a small crane to carry out the repair, and bird protection spikes were fitted in the niches on the piazza wall and entrance when we had the crane, resolving the problems with bird droppings at the piazza door.

The organ was returned to the church by specialist movers in late October. A new audioloop has been installed. Some redundant wiring was removed.

There is a problem with one of the gas heaters on the balcony; the fault lies in the electrical ignition system. Some parts need updated. The problem is that, because of current Health and Safety regulations, very extensive tests would need to be carried out before undertaking replacement of the parts at fault.

Part of our Historic Environment Scotland grant was designated to create an archive and exhibition area for visitors to the church. We would like to use the balcony, so there is no interference in the main nave and elevated area. This will involve some re-wiring, as electrical conduits on the balcony floor are a trip hazard. The balcony does not meet current health and safety standards because the parapet is quite low and the gap below is wide enough for a small child to fall through, so we need to install a railing around the parapet to bring the balcony back into use. We are assessing costs.

We have reserved funds for erecting a cross in the niche at the northern edge of the east wall. We need to check planning permission. We will display the proposed design next week. The cross is likely to be around 3½ metres tall.

We would like to install underfloor heating in the church. This will 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. We would not start on this any earlier than summer of 2018 to avoid another spell of disruption for parishioners.

## **The church house**

The central heating boiler for the church house was over 30 years old and has been replaced. The boiler and hot water tank are in the Parish Library (in the same location as the old boiler). They are now housed in a small plant room in the corner of the library. The ceiling roof above the old water tank was partially removed to allow access to pipes and the ceiling has been repaired.

## **Parish Centre**

All work on the extension and refit of the kitchen and bar is complete. We have held several parish events in the hall over the last few months (see Events on next page). We have been promoting the use of the hall to increase lettings from external parties. We already have made some progress. This will raise additional funds for the Parish. We have spread the load of hall management by adding to staffing. This includes bringing the operation of the bar in-house.

## **Funding the renovation**

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. We have a loan from the Diocese of just over £500,000. We are repaying at the rate of £1,000 each week. At this rate, the loan will be repaid in around 11 years.

## **Club 200**

We launched Club 200 at the start of October. We have 201 members. We can accept new members at any time. So far, there have been 21 weekly prizes of £60 and one special quarterly prize of £120. Based on the current level of membership, we will raise approximately £8,400 from Club 200 over a year going towards renovation costs. In addition, Club 200 is adding to a sense of parish cohesion, which is a great benefit.

## **Commemoration bricks**

During the renovation, we removed some rose coloured glass bricks that formed the glazing behind the altar balcony. We held onto the bricks which still need to be cleaned. Our idea is to use these as commemoration bricks that can be engraved (e.g. with names of former parishioners). We have not yet determined where we would display these. We would aim to use these as a further means of fundraising.

## **Other matters**

There is a major pothole near one entrance to the car park behind the Parish Centre. We have closed the gate at that entrance to prevent deterioration. There is also a small repair needed to the tarmac at the top of the piazza steps. We will arrange repairs in late spring when the weather improves.