

Underfloor heating

It should be possible to install underfloor heating in both the main nave and the elevated area. This would involve lifting the flagstones and routing channels for the heating tubes, so the level of the floor would remain broadly the same as at present. The obvious time to do this is when the church is closed for renovation. We are currently investigating the cost and efficacy and other aspects, for example it would not be possible to screw the pews to the floor. The existing heaters provide instant radiant heat but are drying out the wooden pews and only heat the nave. They have an industrial appearance and were not original to the church. There is no current funding for underfloor heating, although we can pursue potential grant funding. When we have more information on costs and have conducted a site visit to check how well this works, we will be better placed to consult parishioners.

Parish Together Committee

The second meeting took place on Tuesday 23 June. The next meeting is on Tuesday 1 September in the Parish Library after 10am Mass.

Fabric Committee

The first meeting took place in the Parish Library on Tuesday 16 June at 7pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 4 August in the Parish Library at 7pm.

Committee minutes

Both committees produce minutes, available on the St Bride's web-site and displayed in the Lady Chapel. We aim to be as transparent as possible.

Web-site

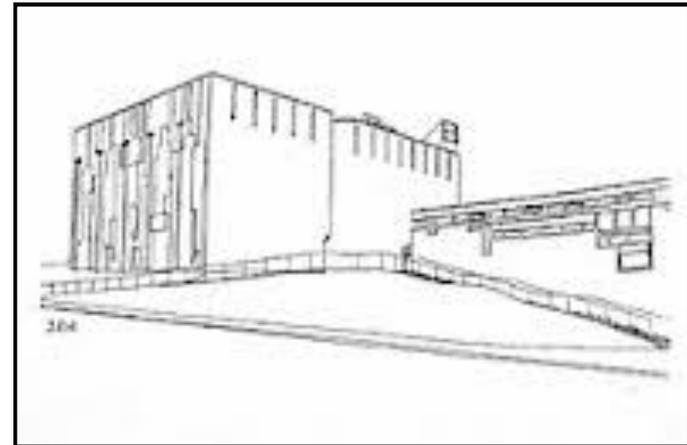
Tom Hendry has carried out a lot of development on the **Building** section of the web-site. This is still work in progress and not yet available on the site.

Your views and opinions

We are always keen to hear from parishioners with questions and views on the re-constructions and the financing. If you have any questions about the project, you can speak to John Hastings or Deacon John. We will be updating Father Bergin with all aspects of the works and the timetables, once he has had an opportunity to settle in.

Please continue to support your parish at this important time!

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE



REPORT ON REPAIR PROGRAMMES AND FUNDRAISING

July 2015

Background

This is the fourth update on repair programmes for the church buildings.

Grant-funding

In June, we heard from Heritage Lottery Fund that we had passed stage 1 of our application for funding. They have ring-fenced sums of up to £250,000 for Repairs and up to £40,000 for Development (fees, archive, architectural guide, etc.). We need to submit a further application (Stage 2) by September to secure the grant, half of which will come from Historic Scotland and half from the Heritage Lottery Fund. John Hastings and the Diocesan Estates Manager, Guy Logan, will attend a meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund in Edinburgh this Friday to provide more information on the project.

Fundraising

We had a near term target of raising £102,000 for a Third Party Contribution in order to secure our £1 million grant from Viridor Credits. We achieved this target by mid July through a combination of specific fund raising activity - £3,500 from the Sportsmen's Dinner, £730 from the Basket Tea, and a superb £54,300 from parishioner donations (much of which was gift aided, adding a further £12,000), along with approximately £31,000 from parish funds (which were reserved for renovation work). We are continuing to pursue other grant funding bodies, some of which are targeted on specific activity. Nevertheless, it is clear that there will be a balance amount which the parish will need to meet over the next few years (see last page also).

Parish Centre Extension (funding in place)

Many of you will have seen that work has started and stopped at the back of the parish centre. When the excavations for foundations were carried out, the drain beneath the manhole cover was found to be deeper than expected. We are seeking a solution. The contractor had a planned shutdown for two weeks over the Glasgow Fair, so work will re-commence in August.

Minor works programme (funding in place)

As previously intimated, work on the piety stall, wheelchair ramp, new pews in the elevated area, new external doors and removal of the glass partitions will start in September. All of the work is on track to be completed before December this year to secure the grant funding. The new doors will be fitted but then stored, while the major renovation works takes place, to avoid any accidental damage.

Major works

The order in which the works occur is as follows: Planning, tendering, contractor appointments, scaffolding, structural reinforcement, roof repairs and sealing, masonry repairs, lighting and services, re-opening. The current stages involve seeking planning consents and the preparation of contractor tenders. The tendering processes need to comply with the requirements of the grant funding bodies to ensure best value. The grant from Viridor is quite widely defined but the grant expected from the Heritage Lottery Fund is specifically for masonry repairs. This grant will be confirmed in December. The structural reinforcement involves inserting a very large number of wall ties through the walls. There would need to be significant temporary mortar repairs (an unnecessary expense) if the reinforcement was carried out ahead of brickwork repairs.

Consequently, **the proposed date for starting the major works has been delayed, although the end date is unaltered.** The broad timetable is as follows: **December 2015** - erect external scaffolding, **early 2016** - church closure, **Jan / Feb** - structural reinforcement, internal scaffolding, take down ceiling struts and lighting, **March to June**—roof repairs, external masonry repairs, **July to August** - new lighting installed, ceiling struts back, internal masonry repairs, scaffolding taken down, **September** - church reopens.

Recent activity - The Building Inspector from Historic Scotland visited last week to compare examples of replacement bricks on site. It is proving hard to source specialist bricks of the size, colour and texture that will match existing bricks. We also visited the roof to look at the copper clad light chimneys. The copper will need to be stripped to examine the condition of the wooden structure. The copper will be replaced and existing panels re-cycled. As part of the planning consent, we needed to conduct a bat survey. The inspectors visited on Monday 13th to conduct an internal examination which showed no evidence of bats. They waited outside until 11pm (before and after sunset is the period of bat activity) to monitor any bat presence. We have not yet received formal results but we do not appear to have bats.

This week - There will be some structural inspections occurring this week. Because the inspections are at the ceiling level, this will involve erecting scaffolding on the sanctuary, against the wall to the right of the altar. This is one area where we experience the worst leaks and where potential structural damage is of greatest concern. The scaffolders will start at 11am on Tuesday and on Wednesday, the inspections will take place and the scaffolding taken down. There will be minimum disruption to services.