

Underfloor heating

We have investigated the provision of underfloor heating in both the main nave and the elevated area of the church. This would involve lifting the flagstones and routing channels for heating tubes to be laid, so that the level of the floor would essentially remain the same as at present. Test flagstones have been lifted to assess how feasible and costly this would be. The best time to put this in would be towards the end of the project when the church is still closed. However, there is no budget for this unless we can get specific grant funding, so this is no longer part of the current project. We need to replace the boiler which provides central heating and hot water to the church house as soon as possible, independent of a heating solution for the church.

Fabric Committee

The Fabric Committee met in the Parish Library on Monday 9 September to consider the status of the various projects. Minutes will be put on the website in due course.

Church closure—timetable and programme of services

Scaffolding will be erected outside the church in December but the church will remain open until after the weekend of 2/3 January. The first weekend for Sabbath services in the High School will be 9/10 January. Midweek morning services will be held in the Parish Centre. Sacramental Masses (First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation) for the children of St Kenneth's will take place in Our Lady of Lourdes. Weddings and Funerals will take place in other churches in the Deanery. We are still considering where to hold Baptisms.

Parish Meeting

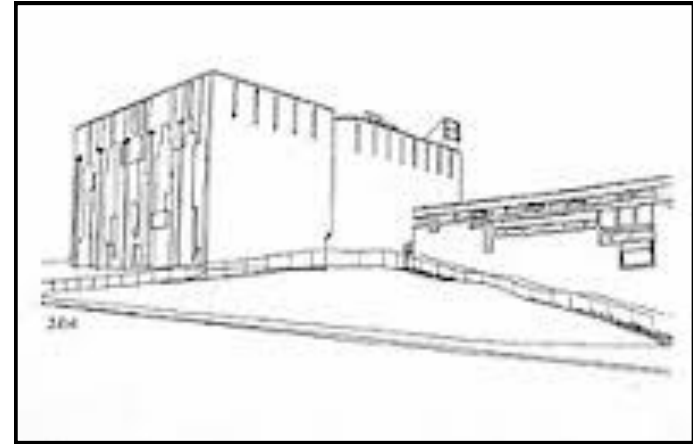
There is a meeting in the Parish Centre on Sunday 29 November to provide up to date information all of the above topics and to answer any questions you may have.

Your views and opinions

We are always keen to hear from parishioners with questions and views on the works conducted so far, the main re-construction we are about to start and the financing. If you have any questions about the project, you can speak to John Hastings or Deacon John.

Please continue to support your parish at this important time!

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE



REPORT ON REPAIR PROGRAMMES AND FUNDRAISING

November 2015

Background

This is the fifth update on repair programmes for the church buildings and the first produced since July this year.

Grant-funding

In September, we heard from Heritage Lottery Fund that we had provided sufficient information for HLF (in conjunction with Historic Scotland) to award a Development Grant of £40,000 while we finalised our submission for the main grant of £210,000. This grant is designated for masonry and brickwork repairs. We needed to provide details of contractor tenders as part of final submissions. Historic Scotland also need to sign-off on the bricks to be used in the project. They have provided provisional agreement on colour and texture and the site officer will visit the site on Monday 23 November to examine the test brick panel built adjacent to the Parish Centre. This is a critical stage, allowing us to complete our grant application.

Many funding bodies will not consider grant applications unless HLF have already awarded a grant, so receipt of the HLF grant has allowed us to submit grant applications to other bodies. We are currently awaiting responses from five of these bodies; some of the applications are the first stage of a two stage process but one is at the final stage. We should have more information soon.

Financing the project

The £102,000 raised by the Parish as a Contributory Third Party allowed us to draw down £1million from the Landfill Community Fund through Viridor Credits. This can be used to pay for building works but not for professional fees. We used part of the Viridor grant to pay for lighting because we needed to initiate drawdowns before mid-August. We will draw further funds to pay for materials ahead of the contractors starting work on the project, and then use the grant to pay contractor bills. All the architectural and planning work (including surveys and tendering) fall under the category of professional fees. The Viridor grant cannot be used to pay fees; the Diocese has met these costs to date, so this means the Parish already has a loan from the Diocese which will need to be repaid (over time). Other grant funding is likely to be less restrictive in use. We also hope to be able to reclaim VAT on the project from the Government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme. However, project costs will exceed grant funding and VAT relief so the balance of cost will need to come from a Diocesan loan and further fundraising. The planning team is currently reviewing contractor and material costs ahead of the start of the project, now that contractor awards are near finalisation.

Parish Centre

Work on the Parish Centre was due to have re-commenced last week, but was affected by the adverse weather. We hope to be able to say more about the Parish Centre at the forthcoming Parish Meeting (on Sunday 29 November).

Minor works

The joinery work has been completed, so that leaves masonry repairs as the only outstanding element. We are awaiting sign-off from Historic Scotland of the proposed replacement bricks. The balance of the grant for minor works will be used for brick purchase, following the sign-off.

Major works

The timetable is still as follows: **December 2015** - erect external scaffolding, **early 2016** - church closure, site sealed and entry restricted to contractors, **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.

The main contractor, CCG (based in Cambuslang) attended the School Council this Monday to explain how they will secure and manage the site. CCG believe engagement with neighbouring residents is vital, to ensure the success of projects. They take Health and Safety issues very seriously; they have experience managing projects in close proximity to schools. The only way to bring materials to the site and to remove debris is via Plathorn Drive. CCG adopt “just in time” processes to minimise storage on site. They aim to schedule traffic as far as possible to avoid the daily school runs and lunch periods although that does mean narrow time windows. CCG's operational activity will mean they will occupy part of the Parish Centre car park, and will use an entry gate in that area for deliveries. Inevitably, this will mean that parking might be somewhat restricted and Plathorn Drive will need to be kept clear (parking is restricted there in any case during the week).

The external scaffolding will be shrink-wrapped, both to provide weather protection and to minimise construction noise, particularly during the reinforcement phase (**Jan/Feb**) when extensive drilling will be necessary.

The main issue that has emerged during the investigative surveys undertaken over the last few months is the very poor state of the drains outside the base of the altar wall and the east wall. Plans are being drawn up for the full excavation and repair that is likely to be needed.