

### **Work Party**

Anyone who has been on the balcony or higher reaches of the church will be aware of the significant amount of material (former pews, chairs, cardboard boxes, wood scraps, old building materials) that have accumulated over the years. These areas could be cleared and reorganised but it's unfair to leave it to one person. This is a weekend task organised outside the time of services. This is active work. If you are able to volunteer, please let us know. We will arrange a suitable date later in May or early June.

### **Donations**

Donation forms will be available from this weekend (in the Sacristy). Use of Gift Aid will make a very substantial contribution towards our immediate need to meet the third party contribution to secure the £1 million Viridor Grant. Please sign up for Gift Aid for any such donation if you pay tax.

### **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, Father Ness or Deacon John.

### **Contact information**

John Hastings

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### **Interesting web-links**

Stallan Brand

<http://www.stallanbrand.com/Home/Historic>

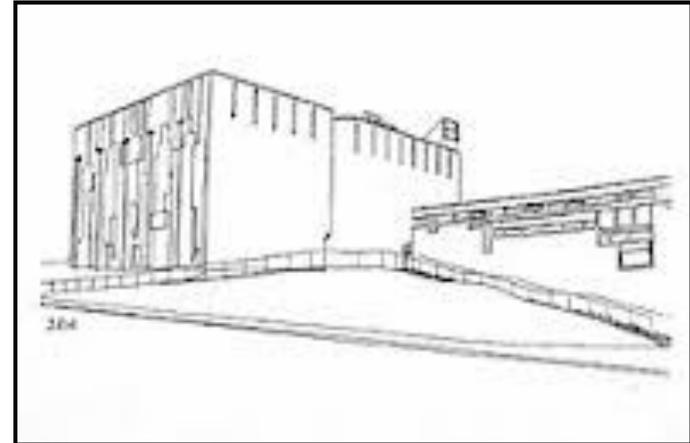
NVA / St Peter's

<http://nva.org.uk/artwork/kilmahew-st-peters/>

St Bride's Restoration

<http://www.rias.org.uk/directory/practices/stallan-brand/st-brides-church-restoration/>

## **St. BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE**



## **REPORT ON REPAIR PROGRAMMES**

**May 2015**

## **Background**

This is the third update on repair programmes for the church buildings. Over the last two weeks there have been some important developments. The most significant was the meeting chaired by Allison Kerr which was held in the parish centre last Sunday (26 April) when over 100 parishioners gathered to hear about progress, to discuss the issues around keeping the parish together during the period of church closure, the fundraising that is necessary, and to ask questions. Christine McAinsh has produced a report on the meeting which is on the parish web-site and is also displayed in the Lady Chapel.

## **Major works programme**

John Hastings attends fortnightly progress meetings at the office of Stallan Brand, the architects in control of the programme. Guy Logan, the diocesan Estates Manager also attends. Guy has been working on our major grant proposal, liaising with Heritage Scotland. The work involved in the current stage of the grant proposal is complete; Guy is in discussion with the grants officer, refining costs on which the grant will be based. Heritage Scotland provide grants for a large number of church projects (of all denominations) and the Bishops Conference of Scotland recognises the need to maintain a strong relationship with them. Heritage Scotland (and their project officers) have specific requirements and can direct the standard of work that is carried out across the entirety of the project. But the grant we hope they will provide can only be spent on repairs to the brickwork and mortar of the building (whereas the Viridor grant relates to the entire project).

John Hastings was impressed by the extent of work (mainly investigative) already being carried out. A high level review of all drawings and reports is being prepared for contractor tenders. Specialists are in place. Brick and mortar samples have been taken. Brick manufacturers have been approached for quotations for the speciality bricks that are required. The specialist for services visited the building again this week to check routing for electrical conduits. Most wiring in the building is likely to be replaced. Other surveys have examined structural weaknesses in the walls, specifically at the north-east corner, under the pulpit and the rear wall which supports the concrete canopy over the altar. However, at some stage, the church will need to be closed temporarily during the week to allow a more extensive survey to be undertaken. Although the installation of new lighting will not take place until late in the project, new LED light fittings have already been selected which have been approved by Heritage Scotland and a quotation obtained.

## **Archive**

The diocesan officers have been conducting a major clear out. A number of items that have been uncovered, including a booklet of quantities and costs prepared when the church was being built, a 1985 report on the campanile and the documentation for the refurbishment carried out under Donal Toner's supervision in 1988 when the most recent major repair of the roof was completed. This involved the removal of asbestos and major work on the roof and gutters to stop the extensive roof leakage at that time. This latter information is particularly helpful for the current project. There is also a substantial amount of archive information held in Glasgow School of Art. This includes the dramatic photograph of the architect's wooden model of the church which has been printed and is displayed in the Lady Chapel.

## **Committees**

We want to set up two committees - a Parish Together committee concerned with keeping the community intact, and a Fabric committee concerned with the building projects, fundraising and events, marketing, and archive to build a permanent display of information about the church. Some volunteers have come forward but need additional people (especially from the 20-55 age group). We particularly need expertise in areas like project management (for committee projects, not construction), fund-raising, event organisation, web-site builders (we would like to create a dedicated web-site for the church building), the use of social media, and creative skills (art and photography, architecture, writing) to build content for the permanent archive.

## **School projects**

The church is an iconic architectural building situated in this town We can explore how we might involve primary schools (through guided visits) and secondary schools (through art and photography projects) as part of a wider project to increase appreciation of the building in the town and its use.

## **Visits**

On Wednesday 29 April, Angus Farquhar of NVA (a creative arts practice in Glasgow) visited the church along with an architect from NORD. Angus is currently leading a major refurbishment project for St Peter's, Cardross, the former catholic seminary, now lying in ruin. The architects involved are Avanti and NORD. On Saturday, Mark Baines, an award winning architectural tutor from Glasgow School, visited the church along with two colleagues. This follows a visit earlier in April by 50 architectural students from Antwerp in Belgium.