

Parish finances (cont.)

It is likely that even accounting for Club 200, higher covenant refunds, and special monthly collections, there will still be a funding gap of as much as £10,000 each year. It will be difficult to meet this gap in full without specific and significant donations from individual parishioners or from legacies.

We managed to raise £100,000 in mid 2015 as the parish contribution needed to secure the Viridor grant; this was made up of £31,000 from parish funds, £52,000 from parishioners, giftaid of £12,500 on parishioner contributions and £4,500 from fundraising (all figures approximate). These contributions came from quite a low number of parishioners (less than 40).

We cannot expect the same parishioners to continue to bear the major burden of donations. Specific fund-raising is helpful but typically does not raise a great deal of money and it is also usually a narrow group of parishioners who support events.

We have also exhausted the body of grant funders for the 2016 renovation, although we hope to be able to obtain new grants for projects such as the cross (on top of the East wall) and for underfloor heating in the years ahead.

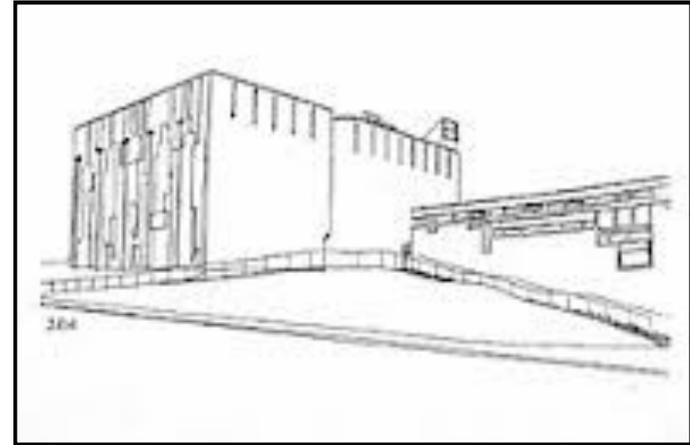
All ideas and help in this area are very welcome.

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 ask for your continued help and support in our parish at this time.

ST BRIDE'S CHURCH EAST KILBRIDE



REPORT ON REPAIR PROGRAMMES AND FUNDRAISING

September 2016

Background

We have produced this update on repair programmes to coincide with the Parish Meeting to be in the church at 2pm on Sunday 25 September.

Parish Centre

Work on the bar and kitchen extension is complete, so this project has ended. We are waiting for a completion certificate on the work. The bar area has been widened to make a safer working environment and a glass washer and new bottle fridges have been added. There is additional space in the kitchen, a new cooker and fridge, and new stainless steel units

The church

The renovation project is largely complete. The contractors largely moved off site in July, with the scaffolding taken down that month. There were finishing repairs externally - lightning conductors were fitted and there was ongoing work on the outside of the altar wall; there is still some guttering to be finished. The external roof structure is complicated. There were some initial leaks detected due to an unsealed copper panel; this was fixed. We believe we have identified and fixed another leak coming from the original window frames in one of the large light cannons. The roof cover is intact.

There is one remaining area of damp in the church behind the altar. This is mainly coming up through the sanctuary floor due to hydraulic pressure because the ground level outside is higher than the level of the sanctuary floor. This has been a persistent problem for many years; the carpet which covered the sanctuary hid the problem from view although the carpet in this area was regularly sodden. Leaving most of the sanctuary uncovered allows this area to be ventilated and monitored. The contract for renovation did not extend to resolving this problem, although the contractor did investigative work, and the new drains behind the altar wall should lessen the impact.

The contracted work in the major project included investigation and repair of the structure supporting the roof, a new roof covering, significant repair of copper-work on the light cannons, new glass in the roof panels, above the light chimneys on the east wall, at the top of the spiral staircase and behind the altar, new brighter LED lights, external brickwork replacement and repair and new carpeting on the sanctuary. We have still to do final snagging on the project, so the contractor may be seen at work from time to time.

Independently, we have also installed a new wireless sound system (one microphone yet to be installed) to avoid wires trailing across the sanctuary; these wires had previously been hidden under the carpet which covered the sanctuary floor. The audio loop has still to be re-fitted. We have arranged for the organ to be returned. The infrared gas heaters also need some repairs.

Church house

The boiler that heats the church house is about 30 years old and needs urgent replacement. We need to test the gas supply before installing the new boiler and hot water tank. There was a leak in the roof above the main corridor in the house but the roofing contractor on the church repaired that. Anyone walking around the church house will see the need for brickwork repair, as well as poor paintwork on window frames. We will need to undertake some painting and repairs on the house to prevent further deterioration. Brickwork repairs will need to wait until parish finances improve.

Funding the renovation

As expected, project costs have exceeded grant funding and VAT relief. This has left the balance of cost coming from a Diocesan loan. We received grants from Viridor (£1 million which included a £100,000 contribution from the parish needed to secure the loan), £250,000 from Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland, £40,000 from National Churches Trust, £15,000 from Allchurches Trust and £5,000 from Scotland's Churches Trust. We have also obtained VAT relief on most of the renovation cost from the government's Listed Places of Worship Church Repair VAT relief scheme. Nevertheless, this still leaves a funding gap of around £550,000 which has been covered by a loan from the Diocese. This needs to be repaid. We have agreed with the Diocese to pay £1,000 per week (£52,000 each year) to cover capital repayments and interest (at the rate of 2% pa). At this level, the loan will be repaid in around 12 years.

Parish finances

The state of parish finances in 2015 (most recent figures available) were:

Income (£thousands): £124.6 **Expenditure:** £101.5

This means that we had an excess of c £23,000 above expenditure. However, if we have to make additional annual payments of £52,000 to the Diocese to repay the loan, we will have a shortfall of £29,000 (based on 2015 figures).

Each parish pays a Diocesan levy equivalent to 20% of collection income, approximately £20,000 in 2015 for St Bride's. Parishes can offset their loan repayments from collection income before applying the levy, this means our Diocesan levy will drop by about £10,000 when we start repaying our loan. That would still leave an annual shortfall of £19,000.

What can we do? We are about to start Club 200. With 200 participants, we expect a return of £8,400 each year from Club 200. We have increased the number of members of the covenant scheme, but we could still do better. One suggestion includes a special second collection once a month specifically for loan repayments, but this would need an increase in the amounts paid.