

## St. Columba's, SEC, Largs

### Necessary Building Works.

Dear Friends,

I am writing to you all to inform you about work to the fabric of our building which requires restoration, renovation and overhaul.

The Vestry Committee wants to make sure that everyone is as fully informed as possible about what is being done. There is a small Property working party including, Chris Evans, Gib Fitzgibbon, Mark Yeomans and me. So please do ask as many questions of us as you need so that you are fully apprised of what is planned.

We have approached the Diocesan Buildings Committee to acquire all the permissions we need to move on the three works that need completed as swiftly as possible.

These are

1. **Dry rot in the Vestry.** The northeast corner of the Church has dry rot. We have had this inspected and are working now to strip out affected walls and fittings and making good and refitting the vestry.
2. **Church Electrics.** The Church recently underwent an EICR inspection which checks to see if our electrics are up to code. In short, the report failed us on a number of areas which are vital to our safe and continued use of the system. This means that we will need to rewire the whole building. We are currently making sure that the basic things we need, such as the organ and lighting can be made safe. The heating, though, will be off until the rewiring is complete.

Whilst this presents us with a problem, it also presents us with a real opportunity. This will allow us to source a more heat-effective and cost-effective heating system. We are already exploring alternatives. It means that the expensive, oddly placed system we have now will be removed. This will allow more flexibility within the church.

We will also be exploring a new and more effective lighting system for St. Columba's. What we have is not really effective on a number of levels and there is much of the internal church architecture that is currently lost to view. New lighting could enhance the whole experience of being in St. Columba's.

3. **Roof Repair.** Where the roof of the Nave meets the roof of the Chancel needs making good. We have had water coming into the building when the wind is in the right direction. We have a contractor for this work already and are seeking permission to go ahead. We are hoping that this repair will see a considerable drying out of the stonework in church. If this does happen, then we hope (in the long term) to extend this work to similar areas on the roof.

What is listed above are the practical steps that we are taking to make the Church sound and safe. However, the point of doing all this is that the ministry and worship at St. Columba's continues effectively. What works we do will simply carry on alongside our worship and ministry.

We will, of course, update you at every step. If you do have any comments on the plans laid out here, please do let a member of the Vestry know by the beginning of July and these can be considered at the Vestry meeting on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

With every blessing

Mark