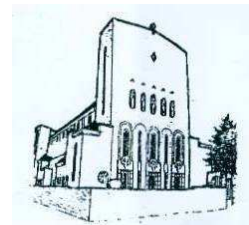


ST COLUMBKILLE'S RUTHERGLEN



PARISH INFORMATION SHEET

Side Chapel Ceilings : Restoration and Conservation

Introduction

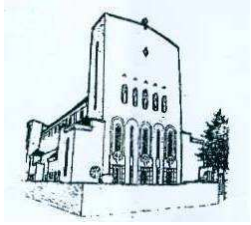
The Side Chapel ceilings, here in St Columbkille's, are both barrel roofed and are each covered in a fresco. The Lady Chapel fresco depicts eight aspects of Our Lady's Life and is by Walter Pritchard (circa 1951-52). The second fresco in the Sacred Heart Chapel depicts the agony, Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord, and is by William Crosbie at around the same time. Both were noteworthy artists. Neither ceiling has been cleaned since then, and both have experienced some damage due to water ingress.

Restoration and Conservation

Following comment to him from some parishioners, Father Mournian raised this issue with the Parish Finance Committee and work has been ongoing to seek advice on the work required, costs, and also to seek permission from the Diocese. The Diocesan Fabric and Planning Committee approved our application to undertake this project on the basis that the cost is met from the Parish funds – obtained through fundraising. The Committee also advised that we have an Ecclesiastical Exemption from the Listed Building Planning process. The Diocesan Finance Committee then gave its approval.

The Project

The Parish Finance Committee has agreed to obtain the services of Gerard M Tudhope, Conservator of Fine Art to undertake the work. Work will begin on **1st August 2019** and last for four months, finished in time for Christmas. In order to keep costs to a minimum, the contractor will live in the Presbytery over this period. Work will start in the Sacred Heart chapel, which will necessitate its closure, and will then move on to The Lady Chapel. This means that for four months one or other of the side chapels – and their votive candle stands – will be unavailable. We will ensure that there will always be access to one of the side chapels and votive stands. The work consists of sealing back areas of loose and brittle paint, any large fragments of loose plaster will be filled and then dirt and old varnish will be removed, before retouching the artwork and re-coating the entire ceiling for protection.



Although the work will be completed by the end of the year, we will be able to make payments beyond that date. In addition, details of the contractor's insurance have been examined by the Diocesan Estates manager who is content that there is appropriate cover.

Fundraising

While £18,000 is a lot of money, we are sure you will agree that conservation of the frescos is an important issue and will make all the difference to our newly renovated church. The Parish Finance Committee is committed, however, to ensuring that **this does not have a financial impact on other work due to be completed or undertaken in the Church**. The Committee has agreed to this project only on the basis that a separate fundraising effort is made, and that it will not require the reintroduction of a second collection.

Father Mournian has expressed his willingness to take the fundraising work forward. He has already obtained a donation of £2,000 towards the project costs and hopes that a number of ideas can be taken forward. For example, a Parish Dinner Dance – including an Auction. There has also been a suggestion that we take the opportunity of improving the Side Altars by using them to offer Mass and/or Prayers of remembrance – this could be for any issue e.g. for a whole family. A Remembrance Book could be opened for each week in which the details e.g. of the family could be recorded – the book to be held in the Side Altar. The family could then make a donation to the project if they wished. Much of this has still to be fully planned, but Father Mournian is sure that parishioners may have many ideas for fundraising and may also be willing to help. If you do, please speak to Father Mournian or one of the other members of the clergy.

Communication

The Parish Finance Committee wants to ensure that parishioners are kept fully informed, which is why we are issuing this Information Note before work begins. We will also keep a full record of funds raised and monies spent and let you know about this via the weekly bulletin. We will also, from time to time, let you know about the progress of the work on the ceilings.

We hope that you all find this Information Note to be helpful and of interest. If you have any comments or queries, please email the Parish on stcolumbkille@rcdom.org.uk or via the website at www.stcolumbkille.org.uk

Parish Finance Committee
July 2019