

**ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH**  
**HERITAGE LOTTERY BID**  
**UPDATE - FEBRUARY 2017**

Dear All,

In an effort to keep everyone in the congregation informed, as this project involves all of us, we are again writing a newsletter to let you know where we are in the process at this moment in time.

Subsequent to a successful submission of our Second Stage Application, the sum of £220,000 that had been set aside for us by HLF, including Historic Environment Scotland, has now been confirmed. We have recently applied for, and been granted, permission to start. Subsequently we met with our architects and our chosen contractors on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 to agree the contract and to discuss the impact that it will have on our church environs over the period of this contract.

Simpson and Brown, our retained architects will project manage the works and the on site work is scheduled to start on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and be completed by October 2017.

There are of course implications for us as a congregation, as our church grounds will effectively be a work site.

The church building, probably excluding the balcony but more information regarding that to follow in our next newsletter, and also 2/3rds of the organ will be able to be used throughout the contract, with the proviso that should there be any unexpected works requiring to be undertaken this could be reconsidered for a short period of time.

As there will be scaffold around sections of the church excluding, we understand, the front of the church where the works can be carried out using a different platform, this will mean that the car parking at the church will be considerably reduced and we will need to use alternatives both during the week and on Sundays for the period of the contract.

During the period of the contract there will also be a permanent site foreman on site at all times, but we would ask that you do not stray onto the work site at any time as strict Health and Safety measures are in operation.

One or two particular issues worth mentioning individually are that:  
- when the scaffold is erected on the street side of the church, we will

be particularly sensitive in how we manage our 'Garden of Remembrance' and are currently looking at ways of doing this in conjunction with our contractors,

- Wednesday welcome will continue as usual and work will stop during that service
- Weddings and funerals will not be affected.

Obviously we are all interested in what is going on and how the works are progressing and naturally there is a lot more information regarding the contract out there than we can include in a newsletter, so we would ask that, if you want to know how things are going or have any suggestions, you talk to Hugh, David or I as we will be more closely in contact with the contractors during the course of the project and we will be only too happy to help.

The Community Engagement element of our bid, which has been designed to help us to further engage with the wider community and to broaden access to the heritage of our church, is also progressing well. The writing subgroup has written the text for our story- boards which they are about to present to the full working group for discussion and ratification; then we will consider the art and photographic work for these storyboards.

Emma, our consultant has created worksheets for visiting Primary school pupils to encourage young people in our community to come into our building and learn what we are about. She has ensured that the worksheets are in the format of 'Curriculum for Excellence' which is what both pupils and their teachers are used to and thus relevant to their needs. We are now considering how best to involve our local schools both in the project itself and in using our building as a resource.

The committee that has been set up to review and revise our website is also progressing with its work.

The £220,000 from HLF and HES is in addition to the monies raised by you the congregation of St Mary's and your project committee would like to thank everyone who has helped in whatever way to enable us to reach this stage of the project and we look forward to your continuing support.

***The Restoration Project Group – February 2017***