

ST MARY'S PARISH CHURCH
HERITAGE LOTTERY BID
UPDATE – MAY 2017

Dear All,

In an ongoing 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 time.

We would first of all, like to thank everyone for their help and support in ensuring that the restrictions that were placed on the use of the car park were adhered to. This has made it so much easier for those undertaking the work on our roof and stonework to access the site safely. I would, however, ask that at Wednesday Welcome only those with disabled badges use the car park, as too many cars can make access for and the manoeuvring of, contractors vehicles very difficult.

As you will have already seen, the erection of the scaffolding has been completed and all of the appropriate contractors have been appointed and have started work.

The old vestry roof and also the roof over the corridor to the rear of the church have been stripped back, sarking has been replaced as appropriate and these areas have now been re-slating.

Work has also commenced on the main church roof and, to date, that work is ongoing on the Cowgate side transept roof, where considerable rotten sarking has been found and is being replaced before re-slating takes place. This is to be expected in a building that is over 100 years old and is part of the planned roof refurbishment process. We have however been lucky to date, in that we have found very little rot in any of the 'beam ends' of our roof. Let's hope that our luck holds in this respect.

Lead works have also commenced and have been completed in some areas. All lead being used is being marked with 'Smart Water' as this will mean that should we have to make an insurance claim in respect of the loss of any lead, our insurance company should pay for all costs and not just 50% of costs!

We did have ingress of water on the weekend of communion, however the main contractors sent roofers out within 1 hour to resolve this issue. That to your committee's mind was excellent service.

The soffits and fascias on the high level roofs were also rotten, have now been replaced and are currently being painted. New cast iron rainwater goods have been ordered which will tie in with the age and design of the building and will be installed at an appropriate time. These will include water hoppers at the top of each of the downpipes and the reinstatement of four, rather than three, downpipes on each side of the main body of the church.

This week for the first time, we have stonemasons on site beginning the work of re-pointing areas of the stonework as required. They have indicated that, to date, most of the actual stonework is in remarkably good condition for its age and very little should need to be cut out or refaced. This too is a bonus for us, although we are awaiting an engineers' report regarding the condition of one of the church chimneystacks.

As is to be expected with a project of this scale, there will be some dust in the sanctuary, and whilst we and the contractors are doing everything we can to clean this before each service, we would advise everyone that their clothes might get a wee bit dusty.

Should you feel that you might want to dust the seat where you wish to sit, please feel reassured that those who are responsible for cleaning will not feel offended, however we don't have any money in the budget for cleaning bills!

Generally, work is proceeding well, although overall the work is slightly behind schedule due to the heavy rain earlier this month. The contractors are now working hard to make up for any time lost because of this.

As always, we would like to thank everyone who has helped us in whatever way to reach this stage of the project and we look forward to your continuing support.

The Restoration Group - May 2017