

SHAPING THE FUTURE – UPDATE NOVEMBER 2016

The recent Congregational and Session meetings agreed, independently, the same order of preference for the Shaping the Future work: 1. Toilets, 2. Hall 1, 3. External Access, 4. Church Vestibule, 5. Back of Hall 1, 6. Sanctuary. The Project Group has since consulted the architect and builder to come up with a plan which will allow this to happen. The project has already started with the under stage storage, in Hall 1, having been created but the first part of the main work will take place as follows (the dates given are provisional):

1. To maintain a step free access to all areas of the Church buildings during the refurbishment, some external access work will be required ahead of the preferred order. Consequently, the ramped access at the front and east side of the Church will be built. December.
2. The toilet refurbishment. This area will be sealed off for around three weeks with limited access and a reduced number of toilets in the building. The windows in Hall 1 will be replaced and the heating for the new toilets will be brought through Hall 1 at the same time. Early January.
3. The rest of the external access will be started as soon as the builders are sure that there is safe access available to all of the building given the work being carried out in 1 & 2 above. Late January.
4. Drainage and water routes will be investigated/installed for the Church Vestibule toilet. February.

This is as far as the plan goes at present but further Updates in the future will keep you informed.

Andrew Watson on behalf of the Project Group

TREASURER'S UPDATE on the PROJECT FUNDING

The sale of the church house having been concluded has provided additional funds to the Shaping the Future Project. There is presently approximately £370,000 set aside to complete the work. Unfortunately, the estimated expenditure remaining is now expected to be in the region of £480,000 so there is still much work to be done to raise the necessary funds to reach our target. We shall continue to ask sympathetic charitable trusts for donations and we may have to increase the amount we can transfer from our funds held by the General Trustees. However, it will not be our intention to use any of our investments unless it is absolutely essential as we will still need to keep a certain amount of funds for any unexpected expenditure in the years ahead. We particularly have to thank those members and non-members who have donated very generous amounts during the last few months. These donations have amounted to £11,500 and with Gift Aid added the total donations so far are almost £14,000. Our target for donations (including Gift Aid), however, is £42,500 so there is quite a long way to go. Your help in reaching this target would be much appreciated and make our funding of the entire project a realistic one.

Douglas Buchanan