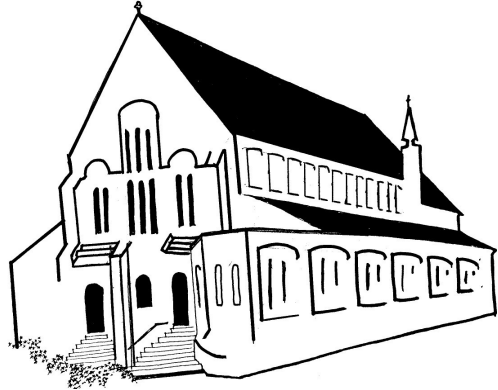


ST PATRICK'S PARISH, COATBRIDGE



REPORT ON RESTORATION AND RENOVATION WORK AT ST PATRICK'S, 2006

As far back as 2003, plans were being formed to renovate the church, the roof being the main concern. In 2005 these plans were firmly set in place. Richmond Architects were appointed to guide the work on the exterior. The following report details that work:

Richmond Architects

RIAS Accreditation in Building Conservation

CONSERVATION ROOF WORKS ST PATRICK'S R.C. CHURCH, COATBRIDGE Project Summary Sheet

The above project consisted of conservation repairs to the existing "B" Listed church building including, full external scaffolding, stripping existing Scottish slates, carrying out sarking and rot repairs to roof timbers, re-felting roof, renewing all lead flashings to roofs, re-slating roofs with new Burlington slate, installation of roof anchors, repairs and renewal of roof lantern above Sacristy, renewal of gutters, hoppers and down pipes in cast iron, minor stone repairs and re-pointing, installation of lightning conductor, repairs to upper level clerestory leaded glass windows, internal rot and plaster repairs in Sacristy area and external paint work on completion of the works.

Following receipt of the statutory consents, the preparation of tender documents and obtaining competitive tenders, the main contractor for the project, R & R Construction (Scotland) Ltd was appointed. The works commenced on site on 16 January 2006 and were completed on 14 July 2006.

INTERIOR

The following is a report on the work that was carried out within the church. While the exterior work was driven and directed by the Architect, it fell to me to keep all the inside work on track. Some of this work was dictated by a Disability Discrimination Act Survey carried out in St Patrick's on 17 August 2005. The duty to make reasonable adjustments to the physical features of premises came into force in October 2004. The following points were made in reference to St Patrick's.

- 1 Work to be carried out to disabled entrance – concrete pavements of entrance door cracked.
- 2 Handrail to be provided on stair to organ loft.
- 3 Hearing enhancement inducted loop to be fitted (already fitted)
- 4 Sanitary accommodation (disabled toilet) to be arranged for the disabled.
- 5 Emergency Exits to be provided with emergency exit lighted signs.

The above have been taken into the work.

NB. It also recommended that 2 parking bays for disabled should be provided within the Church Yard. This would involve providing a space of 4.8 m x 6.8 m. It is not physically possible to do this as basically it is a private parking area and does not provide this accommodation, none the less, we are happy that disabled people are driven into the yard, provided vehicles do not block our exit.

WORK CARRIED OUT

TOILETS: Both toilet areas were completely restored. The toilet at the main entrance for public use was developed to provide access for wheelchairs/disabled people. In front, a glazed screen was erected to provide privacy to the toilet entrance.

DISABLED ENTRANCE: Apart from disabled people, hundreds of others use this entrance every weekend. This has often been referred to as the "Side Entrance". The plan for this area was to give it the features and dignity of a proper church entrance. The entrance was given a new glazed screen to exclude the draughts, new ceiling and lighting, tiled walls and floor, security doors leading to the Sacristy, an old Baptismal Font was restored and became the Holy Water Font and of course, a restored statue of Our Blessed Lady was placed at the entrance which has been given a new name "Mary's Gate", a name which is artistically placed on the wall with the inscription (from the Litany of the Rosary), "Porta Coeli, Ora Pro Nobis" (Gate of Heaven, pray for us).

VESTRY AND SACRISTY: In addition to painting, the vestry got new drawers and cabinets to compensate for drawers, etc lost in the entrance area, and also new carpets and lighting.

MAIN BODY OF CHURCH

PAINTING AND DECORATING throughout the entire church was the biggest contract, apart from the Roof. Included in this was the varnishing of all woodwork including seats. Painting also included the restoration of much Gold Leaf work in the roof of the Sanctuary area where 2 gold leaf artists worked for 3 weeks. They also added various inscriptions and symbols. On the arch over the main altar “Laudate Dominum Omnes Gentes” – (Praise the Lord all Nations). We felt this was a fitting and suitable inscription. The symbols in that area are of Christ the Redeemer (left) and of the Cosmos, the world safely and securely in the hands of the Lord (on the right). This symbol represented by the Globe continues the theme “All Nations”. Over the Sacred Heart Altar the inscription “Sweet Heart of Jesus, Fount of Love and Mercy” and over Our Lady’s Altar “My Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour”, from the Magnificat. The monograms of St Patrick (the intertwined S & P) with the Shamrock in the background, appear in the central arches near the lecterns, in Gold Leaf. I have already described the art work of Mary’s Gate.

HEATING: The Heating System has been overhauled and upgraded to provide more efficient use of the boiler. New ventilation has been introduced to the boiler room.

ELECTRICS: a completely new lighting system has been installed throughout. A safety inspection has been completed with a 5 year certificate.

GLASS WORK: The leaded window over the organ loft has been replaced (restored). This was part of the original roof contract, but the sub contractor proved unreliable and so it became part of the interior work which I arranged – see Architect’s Report on upper clerestory.

FLOORING: A product called Marmoleum was used to sheet the entire floor. It is a durable, hard wearing product and should be good for years and years. We requested that designs or motifs be built into the surface. In front of the main Altar, the symbol of the Trinity, overlapping circles, with the Hand (Father), Lamb (Son) and the Dove (Holy Spirit). There is also a triangle built into the design. Around the circular design is the inscription “Christ be beside me” in English, Gaelic and Latin. This is a sentiment that I like and I thought it was especially appropriate as it comes from the Breastplate of St Patrick. In the circle there are three further symbols – the Fish – early Christian Symbol; the Iona Cross – representing our country, Scotland, the Shamrock – representing St Patrick..

Latin Text: CHRISTUS MECUM SIT (the international language of the church)

Gaelic Text: CRIOST LE MO THAOBH – to recognise the early Irish influence in our parish. It is pronounced “KREEST LAY MUH HEAVE”

In front of the Centenary Chapel, there is a design depicting the Nativity Scene with the inscription “GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH”. No explanation needed there.

SEATS have been repaired where needed and all kneelers have been re-upholstered.

IN THE ORGAN LOFT: there is a new carpet, new chairs, new lights and the organ has been cleaned and tuned.

THE SANTUARY LAMP has been returned to the centre of the Sanctuary, where I believe it draws focus to the tabernacle and the ever present Blessed Sacrament.

Work was completed on 14 December 2006, one day ahead of schedule.

STILL TO COME

FIVE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS are being prepared for the Centenary Chapel, representing the 5 Mysteries of Light of the Rosary. These will be installed about the end of March, but the design which we are happy with is complete.

FLOOD LIGHTING of St Patrick’s (2003) has never been effective or successful. North Lanarkshire Council have met with me and have agreed an elaborate flood lighting design that will really highlight the church as a building of historic interest in the town centre. It is proposed that this work will commence in February.

FINANCE: While we know that the external work cost £343,654, of which £51,181 VAT has already been reclaimed through the Listed Places of Worship Scheme. A 2½% Retention Fee of £7,499 is due at the end of defects period, 14 July 2007. The design team’s fees, i.e. Architect, Quantity Surveyor and Planning Supervisor, amounted to £55,742, VAT could not be reclaimed on fees, we still have to finalise the bills for some of the interior work. A complete statement will be given when it is available. The floor designs cost £780 each (one was donated by a family) and the Stained Glass Windows cost £1,975 each (one is already donated in memory of a loved one).

FINALLY – while I am pleased with the entire contract and the quality of the work, I must sincerely acknowledge the response of the community. Firstly, the outstanding financial support that we have received to enable us to proceed with such an ambitious project, without any help from the Heritage Lottery Fund, or Historic Scotland. Secondly, I must sincerely thank all the voluntary workers who put the shoulder to the wheel (or is it the hand to the plough) many of whom helped to drive on the work doing work in the background. Also, the wonderful team of church cleaners and those who prepared the Iona Suite for Mass during our time in exile.

I thank all of you for bearing patiently with the inconvenience experienced for the duration of the work and lastly, I thank our Pastoral Assistant, Sr Moira, for her support throughout and for being involved in much of the decision making.

