

## Glencairn Church

A milestone in the life of the Glencairn Church building was reached last year, 2017. It may be of interest to readers to see a brief record of the Congregation's responsibilities and decisions leading to the disposal of the building.

- a. The Congregational Board (the 'Board') appointed a sub-group in May 2014 to consider the Church's finances, assets and buildings. These factors were to be reviewed in relation to the deficit in resources, both known and anticipated.
- b. A short list of options was discussed with the Board in the following months. These included a change to shared ministry, closure of buildings, shared community use.
- c. The sub-group reported fully to the Board in November 2014. The report's considerations included:
  - The financial Deficit
  - Repairs and restoration of Glencairn
  - Closure options for one or more buildings
  - Initiatives to increase income
  - Long-term changes to the type of ministry.
- a. The Board corresponded and had several meetings with the General Trustees for advice and guidance on the best course of action. In particular, it was recommended for the Board to have a professional assessment made of the Glencairn Church roof and its general condition.
- b. A Condition Report was obtained in January 2015. This identified that extensive slating renewals were required, along with associated leadwork, gutters, timber and stone repairs. These works were in addition to renewal of windows.
- c. A letter from the Board dated 12 February 2016 was circulated to the whole Congregation to explain the future of the church buildings and finances. The pending and considerable cost of the work at Glencairn, upwards of £470,000, was described.
- d. The letter also set out, in some detail, seven possible options identified by the Board for the best stewardship of the limited resources. A meeting was intimated for informal discussion by the Congregation during March 2016.
- e. This Congregational meeting took place after morning service on 13 March 2016, at which these possible options were discussed. Approximately 32 persons attended. The views expressed about Glencairn Church confirmed the wish to take up the closure option.
- f. The Board resolved on 7 June 2016 to proceed with disposal, and on 14 June 2016 the Kirk Session agreed to recommend disposal.
- g. The Presbytery was informed of these decisions and endorsed same.
- h. A meeting of the Congregation was held on 6 November 2016 in accordance with General Assembly legislation. Notice of the meeting had been given on two preceding Sundays, in addition to appearing in the church family notices and on the church website. The vote taken by members to dispose of Glencairn Church was 26 in favour, 2 against and no abstentions.
- i. For those not attending, this decision was subsequently reported in the church family notices, the church website, and also to the Congregation and wider community in *The Blessed Thing* issued in November 2016.
- j. The General Trustees authorised the sale of Glencairn Church in a letter to the Board dated 3 February 2017.
- k. At the present time, the Law Department of the Church of Scotland is responsible for the marketing and sale of Glencairn Church. The local Congregation will not be directly involved in this sale process.

- I. Following earlier advice from the General Trustees, the Board commissioned a Feasibility Study in February 2017 to provide some detailed guidance to potential new owners.
- m. The scope of this Feasibility document was outlined at a public meeting held in Moniaive on 20 March 2018. It contains various ideas that organisations or developers might use for the future of the building, in the context of planning and other constraints. Such information in this Study can be made available to parties interested in these and other uses that they may wish to consider.

Update - June 2018