



# Repair and Restoration of St Conan's Kirk Summer 2018 Update

This newsletter aims to give a flavour of the current and planned work required to save St Conan's Kirk, showing how much your donations matter.

## Some Achievements to Date

### The Library Roof, Library and Vestry Refurbishments (2016 to 2018)



In 2016 we were successful in applying for funding from the Listed Place of Worship Scheme. This was for the worst area of leaks in the Kirk and from October 2017 to April 2018 the roof was successfully repaired. To fund the roof works over £30,000 from the Kirk's own funds were needed and this was over half the money built up over 8 years of saving. After repairing the roof we obtained some funding from the local Lochy Hydro scheme via Dalmally Community Company to allow the library to be outfitted as community room and the vestry toilet to be repaired. Along with many hours of volunteer time, contributions of £4000 each from the Friends of St Conan's Kirk and the St Conan's Kirk Trust were needed to allow the library and vestry to be completed.

### 2016-2018 Other Successful Conservation and Repairs

With the support of £7000 from Carraig na Gayle (Green Power) Windfarm and a significant donation from the Metheun family we commissioned the restoration of the Heraldic Shields in the choirstalls. This cost a total of over £20,000 including £4000 donated by the Friends of St Conan's Kirk, however they are now ready for another 100 years! The Friends of St Conan's Kirk also funded, from membership fees, fundraising and some very generous volunteer time the new kneelers and upholstering of cushions for the Choirstalls.

## Grant Application Success in 2018

The trust applied to a number of funders for help with the costs of “Phase 2 - Urgent Repairs to Major Roof Leaks and Water Ingress “. This includes 4 leaking roof gutters, renewal of leaking copes (the joints between the stones on top of the walls), skewes (the interface between the roof and walls) and iron downpipes. In July 2018 we were successful in an application to the “Our Heritage Scheme” for £100,000 towards a total cost of £133,500. Historic Environment Scotland and Heritage Lottery both support this scheme. We have also applied to the Baird Trust, Scottish Churches Trust and All Churches Trust for the remaining £33,500 and hope to hear from them soon.

## Further Repairs and Conservation Needed



### **Phase 3 Repairs “Watertight and Sound Building” Estimated Cost £230,000**

As well as the repairs in Phase 2, a number of smaller roof leaks, repointing of the walls in lime mortar and repairs to windows are all need required to achieve a watertight building. In addition the roofs of the Kirk’s four towers need repairs. These jobs are larger and more expensive as scaffolding will be needed to safely access the towers and walls.



### **Phase 4 Repairs “Interior Building Repairs” Estimated Cost £240,000**

With the building exterior watertight and fixed we can now move to the interior! There are a number of areas of stonework including the floors, chapel walls and crypt which require repairs. Once repaired, the crypt will be an amazing place for people to visit. In this phase we can also address the lack of lighting in some areas of the kirk and can use light to highlight its amazing features. We are also aiming to reinstate background heating (which has not been present since the 1970s). This will make a difference to our events program over the autumn, winter and spring as well as for all visitors.

## Phase 5 - Garden and Grounds (Repairs and Upgrades)

Estimated Cost £72,000



The garden needs repairs to a number of areas of stonework, paths to enable better access for wheelchair users and also for those who have mobility issues.

### Unphased Works – Internal Conservation Works - Estimated Costs £63,000

We have been slowly repairing some of the fixtures and fittings of the kirk but are still working to raise funds we need to conserve the Bruce sculpture, a number of statues, the chapel gates and more. In 2018 we successfully applied for £5,000 towards the £17,000 cost to conserve and repair the Chapel gates.

## Making the Kirk an even better Place for Visit & Worship

### Phase 6 – Kirk, Venue, Community and Visitor Development- A Sustainable Responsive Building for Needs (Estimated costs £200,000)

Alongside the essential repairs and minor improvements above, the kirk is a working church used by a number of congregations. It is also an amazing resource for the local community and one of Argyll's most popular attractions, often referred to as a "Hidden Gem".

There are a number of areas that could improve the experience of visitors to the kirk: provision of guided tours, facilitated by a glass partition and heating the exhibition area; provision of toilets for visitors, expanding the gatehouse to provide a bigger tearoom/venue, converting the plant room to an audio visual guide to the local area and enabling access to more of the grounds.

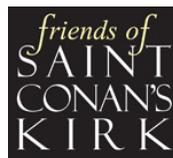
**December 2018 : A unique chance.** We are planning to apply to the LEADER Rural fund in December 2018. This is an EU program that will end shortly because of Brexit however may fund up to 50% of costs related to projects improving the visitor experience. There is more info about supporting the kirk below, however to access this fund we may need to raise £100,000 to unlock this EU money before it is gone.

**If you are considering a major donation to help the kirk please contact us.**

## How to Support?

**Please donate**, although every little helps we have over 30,000 visitors every year. If they gave £2 per person we would take 20 years to fund our repairs! If donations were in line with entry fees at similar buildings (£6 per person) it would only take 6 years! Many grant funders need the kirk to have raised a proportion of the money. With only a small church congregation in our rural parish your help is needed. You can donate in the kirk or online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofstconanskirk>. If you are thinking of making a significant donation or would like to fund a specific piece of work please contact us. We can also arrange advice if needed on how to remember the kirk in your will. Contact us on [enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk).

**Join The Friends of St Conan's Kirk.** For only £5 per year you can help us show funders that people care! You will receive newsletters, invites to events, discounted tickets and a warm feeling inside!



<http://www.stconanskirk.org.uk/give-and-support/become-a-friend/>

**Enjoy one of the** musical, theatre and other events held in the kirk each year. **Volunteer.** There is always things needing done either in the background, at events or even work parties in the kirk. The first step is to get in touch via: [enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk)



tripadvisor

**Give us a 5 Star Review.** Many visitors find us via Trip Advisor, Google or Facebook and 5 star reviews and recommendations are important for people to find out about the kirk.

**Keep in touch.** You can sign up for our newsletter at the top of the webpage at <http://www.stconanskirk.org.uk/> You can also follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/stconanskirkofficial/>

## Our Recent Grant Funding Supporters – Thank You.



Supported by

**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



Carraig Gheal Wind Farm  
Community Benefit Fund

River Lochy Hydro Scheme  
Community Benefit Fund

*The*  
**Baird Trust**