

Repair and Restoration of St Conan's Kirk

Summer 2019 Update

This update gives a flavour of the current and planned work required to save and improve St Conan's Kirk, showing **how much your donations matter.**

Work in 2019

"Phase 2 -Urgent Repairs to Major Roof Leaks and Water Ingress".

This important phase of works started on 17th June 2019. Works include replacing leaking roof gutters, renewal of leaking copes (the joints between the stones on top of the walls), skews (the interface between the roof and walls) and iron downpipes. The works were majority funded by Historic Environment Scotland and also the Heritage Lottery Fund along with the support of the Baird Trust, the Scottish Churches Trust, the Jill Franklin Trust, the Dalrymple Donaldson Fund and the All Churches Trust. We are very grateful for all their support and the donations towards this project.

St Conval's and St Bride's Chapel Gates Conservation

Thanks to the support of the Idlewild Trust, the Ironmongers Company and the Green Power Carraig Gheal Windfarm Community Benefit Fund we are able to repair and restore the historically important gates of both Chapels.



The Gates were removed on 8 July 2019 for restoration and will be back in situ in September. This is a significant milestone in the conservation of the interior of the Kirk.

Interior Lighting: Nave and South Aisle

In June 2019 we were successful in securing funding of £21492 from Leader EU Rural Development Fund for Interior Lighting in the Nave and the South Aisle. Match funding was provided by the Friends of St Conan's Kirk funded by support from the local and wider community through our events and tours. We hope to start work late autumn 2019.

Bruce Chapel – Conservation of the Effigy of King Robert the Bruce

With support of the Lochy Hydro Community Benefit Company and visitor donations we are able to carry out conservation of the Wood and Alabaster sculpture of Robert the Bruce in the Bruce Chapel. The specialist sculpture conservator arrived in the Kirk on 15th July to carry out the restoration of the Bruce Effigy to restore it to its original glory, ready for another 100 years.



Gardens Improvements



Regular visitors to the Kirk will have noticed a number of changes in the gardens including new benches, the removal of rhododendrons up by the Celtic Cross and new planting.

This has been supported by the generous help of the Tesco Bags for Life scheme and also very many hours of work by a number of individuals. Dalmally Primary School children helped in the planting and also installing birdboxes.

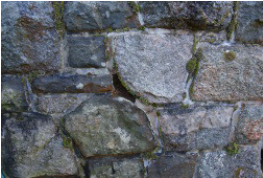
2020 Onwards: Repairs and Conservation Plans

As you can see, we are making progress. However we still have a long way to go! You can find out more about our plans below. It is important to highlight that although all the grant funders who have supported us have been a great help, it is also essential that we have our own funds in place to provide match funding, to cope with contingency costs and also to cover insurance, electricity and ongoing maintenance. **Your support is vital!**

Phase 3 Repairs: Watertight and Sound Building *Estimated £230,000*

This includes a number of smaller roof leaks, repointing of the kirk walls in lime mortar and repairs to windows. In addition, the roofs of the Kirk's four towers need repairs.

Phase 4 Repairs: Interior Building Repairs *Estimated Cost £240,000*



With the building exterior watertight we will be able to move to the interior! There are a number of areas of stonework including the floors, chapel walls and crypt which require repairs. Once repaired and access provided, the crypt will be a fascinating area for people to visit. In this phase we will also address lighting beyond the Nave and South Aisle (mentioned above). We are also aiming to reinstate background heating for events (not available since the 1970s).

Phase 5: Garden and Grounds *Estimated Cost £72,000*



The gardens need 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 £33,000*

We have been making progress repairing some of the fixtures and fittings of the Kirk (e.g. Iron Gates, Bruce Effigy and Choirstalls) but are still working to raise the funds needed to conserve a number of statues, some decorative stonework carvings, wooden furniture and more.

Phase 6: A Kirk, an Arts and Culture Venue, a Community Resource and a Visitor Attraction : A Sustainable Responsive Building

The kirk is used by various different groups including the local community, church and school groups, and those attending the Friends' program of arts, culture and heritage events. The kirk is also one of Argyll's most popular tourist attractions. A number of improvements are needed to develop the experience of visitors to the kirk, including for example provision of visitor toilets and development of the Bruce Chapel Basement into an education room and audio-visual display area.

How to Support St Conan's Kirk?

Donate when you visit (or online). There is still no charge for individuals visiting the Kirk but we do ask that those who can, give a donation. If donations were in line with entry fees at similar buildings (£6 per person) it would take only 6 years to raise all the monies needed to fund our repairs! Many grant funders require that a significant proportion of the money needed for a project is provided by St Conan's. You can donate in the kirk or online. If you are thinking of making a significant donation or would like to fund a specific piece of work, please contact us. Contact us on enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk.

Join the Friends of St Conan's Kirk. For only £10 per year you can help us show funders that people care! You will receive newsletters, invites to events, discounted tickets and the knowledge that you are making a difference!



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

Attend one of the musical, theatre and other events held in the kirk each year. This year we have been sponsored by 3 local organisations; Lochs and Glens Holidays, a local estate (Castles Estate) and Ardkinglas Estate. Culture and Business Fund Scotland have also matched their sponsorship £ for £. All their support is very much appreciated.

Volunteer. There are always things needing done either in the background, at events, in the garden or with work parties in the kirk. The first step is to get in touch via: enquiries@stconanskirk.org.uk



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.

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