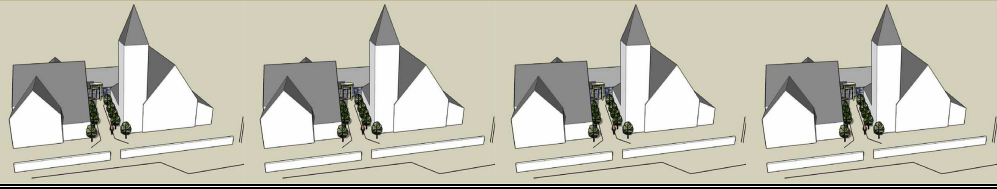


Project Notes



APRIL 2009

MUGS APLENTY

Delighted to say that we have received our new consignment of mugs. As previously reported these are priced at £10 each, or if you would like we'll pack and post them for you for a wee bit extra (with a wee note of thanks).

Same design, same superior quality.

EVERY LITTLE COUNTS

In developing our fund raising programme, the Project Group were keen to find ways to ensure that everyone could do what they could to support the fundraising effort, and our "Every Little Counts" money bags does just that.

Everyone has a copper or two in their change at the end of the day. Keeping these to one side, the value of these savings will soon grow. Mirroring the Renewal Project's fundraising with trusts and other funding bodies but on a smaller scale, taken together small sums of money will make an effective contribution to our new Hall.

Thanks to the sewing skills of Joyce Munro and Ishbel McArthur we now have a stock of many-coloured small change bags. These will be available at the Church and at coffee morning events or if you would like one to be sent to you, give Sandy Taylor a call on 606218.

It's as simple as that! When ready, pass your bag to an Elder or the Minister, or `phone Sandy to arrange its collection.

RENEWAL PROJECT - ONE YEAR ON

Beginning with our Congregation and Community Information days in March last year we are now one year into the Project. So SWOT!

A commonly used business analysis tool, a SWOT analysis is one way to review the status of a business or in the case a project. Undertaking a SWOT analysis involves the identification and recording of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in relation to a particular task or objective. It is normal for this analysis to take account of internal resources and capabilities (strengths and weakness) and also those factors outside the organisation (opportunities and threats). Here is my snapshot!

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The support and commitment of our Congregation • The hard work and enthusiasm of the Project Group • The very welcome commitment of Fundraising and Social committees, and The Guild to extend their programmes to raise funds in support of the Project. • The excellent Link and website www.lpchurch.co.uk • The Minister's resolute faith in the project and our ability to deliver it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notwithstanding the good efforts of all, the limited time which people can give to the Project, which in turn limits the speed of progress and maybe the types of fundraising which can be done • The limit in capacity of any congregation and its wider community to give in support of projects of this nature • The need for more people to "lead" elements of our fundraising • The condition of the Hall limits our ability to use the Hall meantime to generate revenue income
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To gain the support and involvement of the wider community: residents, businesses and organisations • To realise a more integrated congregation, through "our" focus on this common aim; working together, in lots of different ways towards one goal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The finite membership of the Church • The changing age profile of the Church • The economic recession and the impacts on the local community • The reduced availability of public funding for charitable causes in light of the Olympic and Commonwealth Games funding requirements

What use it this? Although normally done as a team exercise, for me it helps me focus on the things which work well, together with those which need to be addressed to make us work better and more importantly, to identify the challenges which we must take account of and hopefully overcome as we drive the Project forward.

FUNDRAISING FOR THE PROJECT – OUR GIFT DAY AND BEYOND

April will be an important time for our Renewal Project. Beginning in March with our Gift Day, the Church will write to all residents, businesses, and organisations in the area purposefully asking for their financial support for our Project.

Although an important element in the call for giving, the Gift Day will be the symbolic start to a month over which we hope many will contribute. It is important that we extend our call for support beyond the congregation as "we" are limited in number, and the extent to which we can support an extended call for financial support, not only this year, but in years to come.

This is particularly important as we make the formal applications to national funding bodies and charitable trusts who have basic expectations of a successful grant funding bid; that applicants:

- a. own the property in question, or have the consent of the owner
- b. can demonstrate capacity to generate or commit part of the funding, and
- c. can demonstrate the support of the community served by the facility to be provided through the desired funding.

Success in our community fundraising combined with the feedback from our "information days in March 2008 will address items b & c above. It will also allow us to assert our capacity to deliver the Project with the Church of Scotland which is meantime concerned that the reduction in public funding through the Lottery charities and the size of our community will make our task too difficult.

We hope to announce the total of gifts and pledges raised through community giving in the course April in the Church on Sunday 3rd May. Be there for the good news.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

You will have noticed the banner on the railings outside the Church of late. You will no doubt also have noticed that we are calling for support for our "Renovation Appeal". Not another appeal but perhaps a more user friendly name for our fundraising work, which helps people readily understand what the money will be used for, to repair and modernise our Hall and Church.

For us, however, the work to provide an improved, modern Hall and linked Church will provide far more, in terms of the chance to revitalise our Church, the Parish Church and to attract new members, to extend our impact and support for the community.

Simply put, the "Renovation Appeal" will win funding support from the community to support our "Renewal Project".