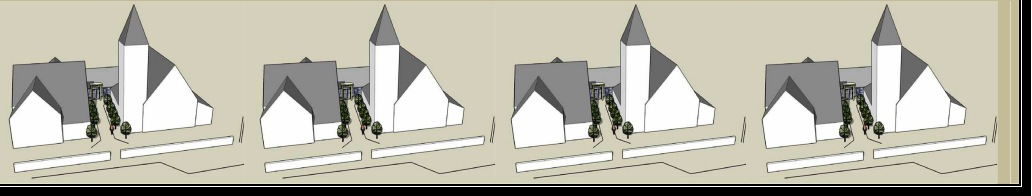


Project Notes



MARCH 2009

RENEWAL PROJECT - CONGREGATION REVIEW

Concerned to ensure that they remain in touch with the Church, the LPC Renewal Project team invited the congregation to a meeting in the Church on the evening of Wednesday, 18th February 2009, to find out what's been done and what's planned.

Our Work To Date

Following Hilda's welcome Ian spoke to a series of illustrated slides which reminded us of the scope of the planned project and how he saw the management of a phased approach to the project, the scheduling of the key elements of the construction work and latterly, confirmed the formal appointment of Campbell Morris Associates as our project architects.

Sandy then set out details of progress made in terms of our early fundraising, reflecting on events and initiatives such as our JoLoMo mugs, before Roddy confirmed the Project's financial position, reporting the monies held in our "HBOS Account" (£10,767) and "Church of Scotland Investment Account" (£4,338.12).

The Year Ahead!

Sandy then spoke to the planned work, focus of our planned fundraising and significant challenges to be met in 2009.

a. Challenges

Sandy reported on the much reduced Lottery funds which will be available to charities and voluntary groups in Scotland over the next four years, due to the diversion of lottery monies to fund the Olympic Games in London and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The effect of which will see a 70% reduction in this funding: with the Big Lottery Fund the hardest hit!

The impact of the UK recession on the Project could also not be avoided as we look to the future, when we might see reduced corporate giving, and maybe reduced giving from members of the congregation. This uncertainty is reflected in our current situation, where Church of Scotland Trustees' have issued a qualified response to our request for their support. Whilst welcoming our proposals as a valued development of the Church, the Trustees are concerned that in this financial climate and with reduced lottery funds, we may struggle to raise the substantial funds required for our project.

b. Our Plan 2009

Sandy outlined the key features of our Plan, which would see the congregation manage a much developed, comprehensive fundraising programme in 2009; which would be made up of a mix of Grants and Award Applications, Commercial Sales,

Community Fundraising and Congregation Giving.

Developing members understanding of commercial sales, Sandy drew attention to the emerging importance of things that we might sell to generate income in the year ahead.

- i. More JoLoMo Mugs, and soon JoLoMo Cards
- ii. A limited number of Donnie MacVean prints and a Limited Edition JoLoMo print of Lochgilphead (100 copies), as seen on our mugs.
- iii. More jewellery
- iv. "In Memoria" Stars. Sandy spoke of the idea to sell stars to be fixed to the underside of the church roof, which would reflect cherished memories of the dear departed (... next time you are in the Church look for some stars to be found there at present), and
- v. Commercial lets of both the Hall and Church.

c. Community Support and Congregation Giving

In all that we do, it is important that we engage the support of the local community. It is after all the parish church.

In our efforts to fundraise, it will be important to win the widest possible support for this, our community project. We will, therefore, soon write to all local residents, businesses, organisations and those who have moved away but would have "links" to the Church, inviting their financial support. These letters will give Notice of a planned Community Information and "Gift Day", to be held on 28 March 2009, which will feature our display boards, refreshments and project team members, who will provide information about the ways in which people can support our fundraising appeal.

Opportunities to support the appeal will include the **making of a gift**, the **pledge of a gift** (by an agreed date), by **regular contribution/subscription**, and more specifically for the congregation, **"additional" giving** (using a separate envelope) and an **occasional donation(s)** (using change bags/boxes, such as those used by Mary's Meals and other charities). Sandy reported that Joyce Munro and friends are to produce 200 change bags for distribution to the congregation.

d. Church Events Programme

The following programme is in the early stages of being organised and will be published again in the weeks to come, as we fix dates and maybe even venues. The Programme is meant to be more than simply fundraising, but to give us opportunities to come together in fellowship, and get to know one another.

February	Coffee Morning
March	Coffee Morning & Gift Day
April	Coffee Morning
May	Spring Fayre
	Coffee Morning
	Sponsored events ... walk plus!
June	Barbecue Evening
July	Safari Supper
August	Coffee Morning
	Floral Art Show
September	Brass Band Concert
	Autumn Fete
	Prize Raffle
October	Coffee Morning
	Choir Concert
	American Supper / "Mr & Mrs"
November	Church Sale of Work
	Fiddlers Rally
	Chef Demonstration Night
December	Coffee Morning
	Christmas Lunch
	Watchnight Service

Note: Suggested Gardeners Question Time At the Spring Fayre (Invitation to the Beechgrove Garden team, maybe even for the Church grounds)

e. Other Things We Need To Do?

Amongst other things planned by the Project Group but which will be kept for next year would be a Community or Town Fayre, a Celebrity Auction and a Christmas Tree Festival.

Beyond these plans, the Team recognise the need to re-invigorate the Snowball Tea.

Over To You!

Having taken the time to read this report, think!

Have you any questions?

Have you any other ideas for fundraising, suggested things we should be doing? Could you help

- a. ... to contact former members of the church or residents of Lochgilphead who might want to contribute to our appeal
- b. ... by selling the next order of JoLoMo mugs and cards, or
- c. ... organising or work at one of our fundraising events?

If you would like any more information, to volunteer or make a suggestion, please have a word with myself (Sandy) or any of the team.

“Church Hall Appeal”

Drawing the evening to a close Hilda thanked all for coming, their contributions and continued support. She suggested that we would better focus the wider community’s focus on our Project if we were to encourage their giving to a “Church Hall Appeal” rather than the Renewal project, an idea which will feature in a banner to be erected on the Church in the near future, as we look to win the support of residents and visitors to Lochgilphead.

Renewal Project Team:

Edna Armstrong, Hilda Smith (Rev.), Ian Davidson, Mary MacDonald, Roddy Morrison, Sandy Taylor and Tom Stevenson.