

Edenshead Parish Church Newsletter – October 2020



Back to Church - Update on progress so far.....

It has been very good to be back in church, albeit with the necessary precautions in place.

Attendance on the first Sunday was 31 - which was almost full capacity! However, since then, we have been able to make more socially distanced seating available and we can now welcome 44 people.

As well as opening 'Muchty Church, we have made arrangements to enable **Strathmiglo Church** to be open for **Private Prayer** on the **last Wednesday of each month between 12noon and 3pm**. The area just inside the sanctuary will be available for a maximum of four people at any one time and all the same rules apply as for Auchtermuchty. Sanitising will be required, as will distancing and registering of contact details.

There will be a welcome team to help you through the process and to show you to a suitable place to sit.

Following each use of any building and before the next use, there is a necessary routine of cleaning and sanitising.

Our teams of trained stewards are doing everything possible to make sure that everyone can worship safely.

We do appreciate the commitment shown by everyone involved.

**Auchtermuchty worship every 2 weeks - October 11 & 25,
November 8 & 22, December 6 & 20**

Strathmiglo - October 28, November 25, December 30

Some not so good news.....

While all our buildings were empty, to comply with insurance requirements, they had to be checked every week and a log kept.

On one of these visits, a problem was noticed with the plaster on the hall wall on the west side. There was a large crack and it appeared to be bulging out.

We immediately phoned Mike Hogan who came straight down – on a Sunday afternoon. It was agreed that he would arrange for his men to remove the loose plaster which was threatening to fall off.

Once this was done, it was clear that the cause of the problem was in fact, dry rot.

Since this discovery, we have had visits and quotes from three preservation companies. Because it is such a huge responsibility, we have engaged an Architect to oversee the work and to advise on the way to proceed.

We contracted a firm to undertake an invasive survey to find out the extent of the problem and we now know that the whole wall is affected as well as some roof timbers. The rot has probably been quietly spreading through the wall for 20 years or more and it is not possible to know what started it.

Now that the full scale of the task is known, the three companies who previously quoted will now re-quote for treating the rot and reinstating the wall etc..

Obviously, this will be a costly process and although we can try to find sources of funding, there is probably little chance of securing funds in the current financial climate. Any suggestions welcome!

It's "just one of those things" with old buildings, unfortunately.

Edenshead Manse

By the end of 2019 the refurbishment and extension work on the manse was completed, with just little snagging jobs to be done. These were completed and it was ready to let.

Agreement from the Kirk Session to do this would be required and then what happened? Well we found ourselves in Lockdown and unable to hold a meeting! However, we have since held a meeting by Zoom and unanimously agreed to relet.

We advertised through Rollo's and within a few days suitable tenants were found. The necessary legalities were completed by the General Trustees and the new people moved in at the end of September.

The manse was previously let out – in its original state – between 2016 and 2018. At that time, we were told that before we could advertise for a new minister, we needed to upgrade the toilet facilities. The requirement is that there should be a bathroom and also a cloakroom/toilet. This house only had one bathroom. In the end, we made significant changes which means that we now have a very impressive manse to offer a new minister.

Previously the rather rickety rear porch, took visitors into the house right through the kitchen. Now you enter through a new porch and corridor leading to the hallway.

The old kitchen and separate dining room are now combined creating a spacious newly fitted dining kitchen. There is also a separate, fitted utility room and the required cloakroom/toilet.

Because we "lost" the separate dining room, we were actually a room short! So, we added an extension at the west end of the building providing a new bedroom with en-suite shower room. This en-suite is a "Jack and Jill" facility which is also accessible from the adjacent bedroom.

Now we have a superb, fully compliant manse which is giving us a good rental income. A Powerpoint slideshow has been made showing the work completed and will be available for viewing after worship one Sunday.

Session Clerk: Rod McCall. Tel 01337 827001

Interim Moderator: Rev Margaret Rose. Tel 01333 312838