

SCT

**Sustaining
Scotland's
Places of Worship**



Fabric Repair and Maintenance Newsletter July 2020

An extraordinary wealth of knowledge

SCT's trustees serve a term of 4 years which can be extended to 8 if they wish. Trustees are asked to serve on one or more of the SCT committees to both lend their skill and learn more of what SCT does. In preparing this Newsletter I asked for comments from trustees serving on the Fabric Grants Committee -

"When I became a Trustee of Scotland's Churches Trust, I was asked if I would also be a member of a committee. One of

those I joined was the Grants Committee. As I was, and still am, a Trustee of another Trust, which also provides funding for repairs and maintenance of churches, there was a certain amount of logic to that.

At my first meeting, it was apparent to me that my fellow members on the Grants Committee were far more qualified than I was to sit on it. Their knowledge of places of worship in Scotland was extraordinary, and their views on what

was required to repair them including the materials to be used, which architects were the best ones to use and their detailed examination and discussion of the applications left me way behind. The current make up of the Committee is still highly professional and its members continue to scrutinise bids in detail before awarding grants. The Committee also provides advice to applicants when necessary. The overarching point is that any grant awarded by the Grants

Committee is only offered if the application meets certain standards and I know that other similar grant giving bodies take SCT's highly professional endorsement into account when they make grants. Being a member of the committee is hugely rewarding and, since I have been on it, I have learnt so much about Scotland's Places of Worship, the importance of maintaining them and above all the pivotal role SCT plays in that."

Location, location, location...

The nameplate to the right was fixed on the front door of the Free Church building on The Mound in central Edinburgh. SCT has had office space here since the 1970's when it was Scotland's Churches Architectural Heritage Trust, and before it merged in 2012 with Scotland's Churches

Scheme to become SCT. Supporting Scotland's Places of Worship had been the thrust of both Founding Trusts with SCAHT supporting fabric repair and SCS encouraging visitors to enjoy these historically and culturally important buildings. SCT continues the excellent work started by its Founding Trusts.



Free Church Building and nameplate from the front door.

Just ask the locals!

Scotland is a unique Nation within the United Kingdom and It is important to retain a grants committee in Scotland within Scotland's Churches Trust. The situation in Scotland is complex. It is very different in many ways from that in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. The advantage of a locally based committee with expertise is therefore invaluable.

There are over 4000 places of worship in Scotland with a very great variability in size, age, construction and location, and if they are still in use for worship, all eligible to apply to SCT for grant support for their buildings. Several different Christian denominations are represented, synagogues too have been able to apply for SCT grant funding which is open to all places of worship. Over the years a considerable body of expertise and knowledge of these places of worship has been built up by SCT.

England has a population approximately ten times greater than Scotland, with its own variety of denominations, very much dominated in number of buildings, by the Church of England, whose structure is completely different from that of most of Scotland's churches. The Church of Scotland which has by far the largest number of church buildings in Scotland, is a Presbyterian organisation, with decision making about spending



Italian Chapel on Lamb Holm, Orkney, Scotland

on buildings taken at presbytery level. There is very little representation South of the border, where its methods do not need to be followed. The way the costs of altering, extending and maintaining any individual place of worship are borne is dictated to a large extent by the rules of whatever denomination it is a part of. Some few will be independent congregations, but most are within a larger organisation.

Building practices and methods vary throughout the UK. Scotland has some very individual building types and methods, and it must be remembered the buildings generally have to contend with a more challenging climate including higher windspeed and lower temperatures than most regions south of the border. Building trades and contractors have grown in this environment and from this background, also responding to a slightly

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different legal framework with Building Standards and Planning legislation that is similar but not always identical.

The very significant differences between England and Scotland not only in climate, but also in the make up of the denominations, the density of the population, the age and history of the buildings the underlying culture and law, mean that applications for funding will of necessity be different. An understanding of why this is and how this affects places of worship is fundamental to being able to assess

the need and take good decisions about grants.

The grants committee of the SCT is very well placed to understand the applications and to provide the appropriate scrutiny, as it has representatives from a wide geographical area of Scotland and of many denominations on the committee who are able to bring knowledge and understanding to the role. Decisions taken at local level are able to take account of all the important and relevant factors in a way that is not possible if the committee is distant.



Killarow Parish Church, Bowmore

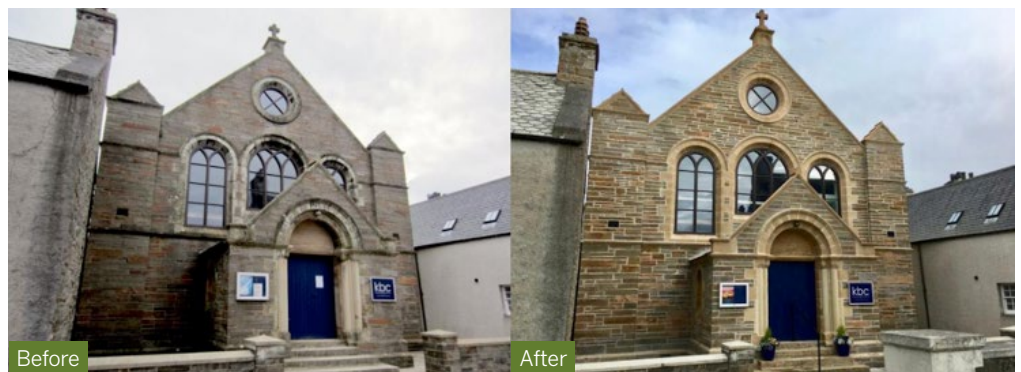
The first of many

SCAHT's first grant was awarded in June 1979 to Killarow Parish Church (Bowmore), and was for £2000 – a goodly amount in 1979! And since then have awarded 1281 grants. Some are returning applicants, some have since closed but all were, or are, important to their communities or those who worshipped in them. Scotland has more denominations than other UK countries and SCT is pleased to support all and those of no denomination. We have awarded grants to Synagogues, and Greek Orthodox buildings with each and every applicant given our full attention.

We are also very keen to reduce capital works through "good Housekeeping" and routine maintenance. We know that it's not always easy to get willing volunteers, and that health and safety often make housekeeping almost impossible but SCT can perhaps help? We have introduced Micro Grants to help with the costs of routine and preventative maintenance where weed growth in gutters and valleys can cause water penetration inside the building or unattractive staining on outer walls. Do be in touch if you would like more information – or see our [website](#).

Lead by example

Some examples of grants provided are shown below – across the length and breadth of Scotland, in cities and less populated areas, applicants from many denominations, for small and large projects of huge variety! These are just a small sample of hundreds of projects funded over several decades.



Kirkwall Baptist Church, Kirkwall

Christ Church, Morningside, Edinburgh
Episcopal
Pulpit cleaning and repair

Shettleston New, Glasgow
Church of Scotland
Steeple and roof repair

St Bride's, Sanquhar
Church of Scotland
Major roofing work

Straiton Church, Ayr
Church of Scotland
Roof and stonework repair

Holy Cross Davidsons Mains, Edinburgh
Episcopal
Stonework damp repair

Clark Memorial, Largs
Episcopal
Exterior and interior conservation

Kirkwall Baptist Church, Kirkwall
Baptist
Stonework repair and cleaning

Govan & Linthouse Parish Church, Glasgow
Church of Scotland
Interior renovation

Click on the church name for details and pictures.

Be part of the SCT family

During these difficult times we are continuing to send newsletters even when membership may have lapsed. SCT is helping maintain and preserve buildings that are a part of Scotland's rich religious and cultural heritage and a vital part of our communities.

The subscription of £50 for 12 months from the date you join gives you benefits such as:

- A profile page for your church on SCT's website that has a searchable database. A high ranking for SCT on Google searches means better exposure for your church. It shows a description of your church, pictures, service

times, amenities, a link to your main website and a contact form meaning that enquiries come direct to your email address. This essentially provides both publicity and allows those interested to easily get in touch. Have a look at this **example**.

- Advice and expertise on how best to care for your building through regular newsletters and seminars

- Assistance on preparing guide material to enhance the visitor experience

- Eligibility to apply for a fabric grant for building repair, preventative maintenance grants like clearing rainwater goods, grants for concerts and organ recitals

- Priority invitations to free regular events in various regions such as "The Gathering" which is attended by our patron HRH The Princess Royal



L-R: HRH The Princess Royal at the Gathering; SCT's Fabric Repair Seminar in Feb 2020

Don't get left out!

Please circulate this to your congregation and friends. You may also want to check that we have your current contact email address for future newsletters and your membership account. If the address we hold is no longer valid your Annual Membership may lapse and your Place of Worship may lose out.

To check your membership account status, update your church information and explore how you can apply for a fabric grant click on the link to log in, using your email address as the user name. If your log in does not work the account contact may be different from the newsletter contact or you may have to go to **Lost Your Password** at the foot of the SCT home page

To find out more of what we do, or to join as a Church or Friend please contact us or visit our web site. Church Membership is £50 a year and becoming a Friend starts at £20.

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SCOTLAND'S CHURCHES TRUST