

Fullarton ConneXions

After over a decade of wrestling over the future of our buildings, the congregation of Fullarton Parish Church in Irvine realised their "Vision for Fullarton" when they moved into newly refurbished and extended buildings at the end of February.

We are grateful for God's guidance, leading us to create a modern suite of multi-purpose facilities which will serve the needs of our congregation and help us reach out to serve the wider community.

It was away back before the Millennium that we began to consider the future development of our buildings. The initial response to some minor improvements was that it was not enough and we should have a bigger vision.

During the process we engaged architects and considered various options including the full demolition and redevelopment of our buildings. Historic Scotland expressed their opposition to this – the Church and Fullarton Hall (formerly the Parish School) are listed category C(s) buildings – so alternative proposals were drawn up by architects : Angus Design Associates.

Adopting the name 'Fullarton ConneXions' we pray that our new buildings will become a warm and hospitable thoroughfare for church and community, which in God's strength, we aspire it to be.

"Church" is 'people' and not an accurate description of buildings. Our 'Fullarton ConneXions' suggests much more:

A new link building provides an inspiring 'connection' between the past (Our church Sanctuary built in 1838, and Fullarton Hall – the Parish School in 1840), present and future.

This new building will provide a Fellowship Area for informal gatherings before and after worship and a week-day café.

A Soft Play facility is located adjacent the café. There is a "state-of-the-art" fully equipped kitchen. A Meeting Room and Reception Office to the rear completes the new build link.

The ground floor within the existing Church sanctuary has been completely refurbished. Pews, pulpit and organ pipes have been removed, and the timber floor uplifted. A new concrete floor – with underfloor heating - has been laid, with a stage/platform at one end.

The area, decorated in light colours with new lighting and audio-visual facilities, provides an attractive multi-purpose space offering both church-going people, and those who wouldn't normally darken the door of a church, a range of activities through which they can make connections with others, themselves, community, caring causes and ultimately Jesus Christ.

Within the former Parish School, the main hall has been retained and refurbished while the remainder of the building has been altered to provide a small meeting room.

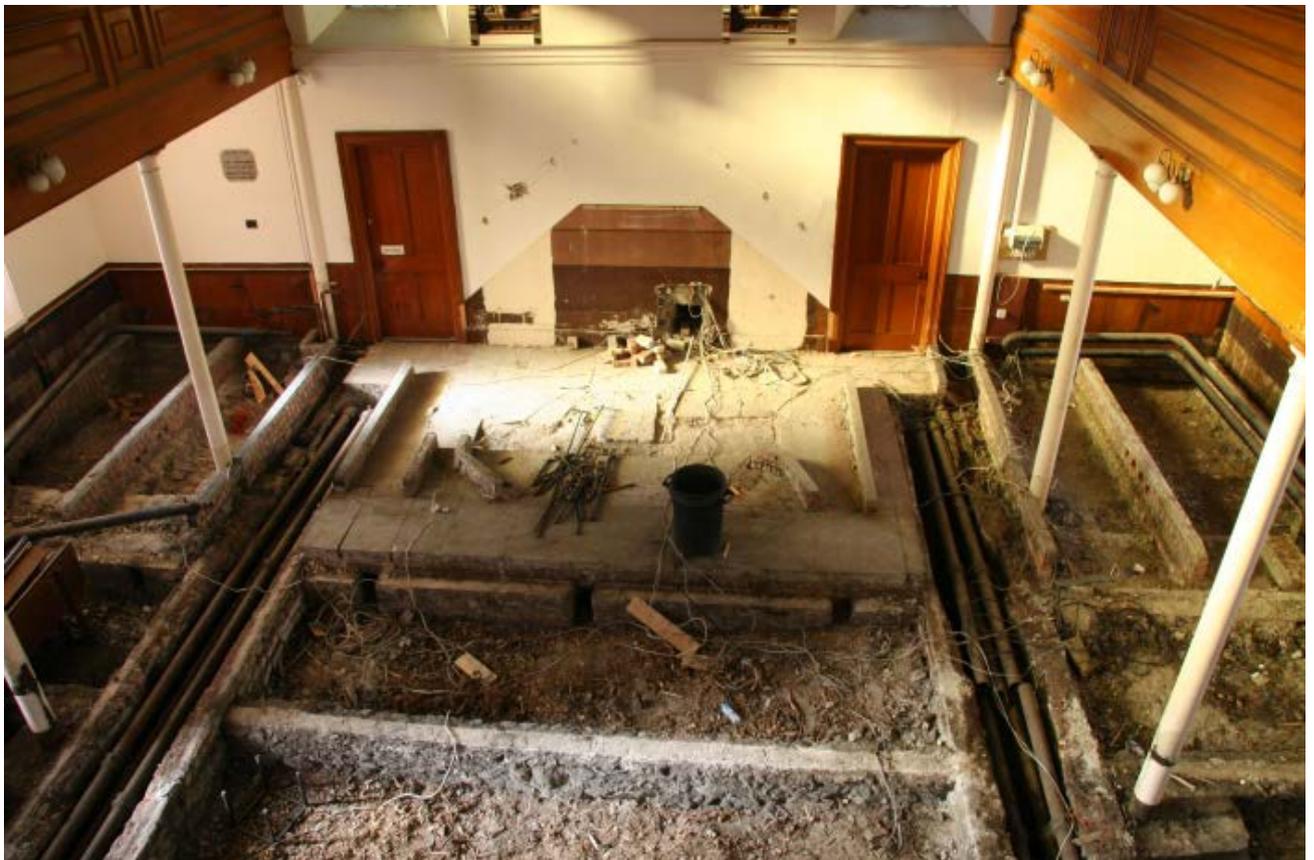
Part of Fullarton Parish is designated as an area of multiple deprivation. The church stands at a pivotable point embracing the Fullarton and Harbourside areas of Irvine with the Rivergate Shopping Centre, a retail park and offices nearby bringing many people into the area every day. The National Cycle Route 7 also runs past the church.

The red cross in our 'ConneXions' logo is designed to point to the centrality of Jesus dying and rising for us and our commitment to take up our cross of sacrificial service to follow Jesus wherever he leads.

Through our development we pray that we will learn to better connect with the people who live, work and journey by our buildings.

The final building cost is expected to be around £970,000 and with audio-visual equipment, furnishings and fittings the overall project will cost over £1M. We are extremely grateful for the encouragement and support of the General Trustees over many years and for the financial assistance that they and other Trusts have provided.

With 178 years of history we are challenged to set a fresh direction for future generations to share. In a day and age when there is so much bad news here we have some good news to tell as we remember that Irvine's motto reads 'The Good Cause Always Wins in The End'.



The ground floor of the church sanctuary with the original floor removed



The new multipurpose sanctuary with modern lighting and AV facilities



Preparing the link area



The new link under construction



The new connection between the new sanctuary and the refurbished hall



The new link in operation



Connecting the Church and the Community through Jesus.