

# Taynuilt answers church's prayers

THE COMMUNITY of Taynuilt has come to the rescue of Muckairn Parish Church with a phenomenal fundraising effort after it learned the church was in desperate need of repair.

A fabric committee within the church organised a £45,000 renovation and alteration which was officially unveiled last month.

The church, built in 1829, needed repairs to a leaky roof and had to be brought up to standard with disabled accessibility.

There was also a refurbishment of the vestry, toilets and utility room. The whole church was redecorated top to bottom.

This would have been a more arduous task had it not been for efficient workmen and a generous community.

Upon hearing the committee would have to replace their single side doors with a central double door, Taynuilt craftsman Terry Spooner also pitched in to help.

Terry gave the church a unique gift by making the new double doors from old pews.



*The church has been redecorated top to bottom. t38mck02*



*Rev Margaret Millar, left, fabric convenor Peter Henderson and session clerk Mary Nicolson outside Muckairn Parish Church. t38mck03*

Church session clerk Mary Nicolson said: 'We sent out letters to the community asking for donations and on Mothering Sunday gifts were taken in.

'We collected £17,000 from members of the community and friends of the church. It shows the importance the church has in the community and the gifts came from all denominations. We even got gifts from Spain.

'We got great help from our link church, the parish of Kilchrenan and Dalavich which gave us £5,000.

'We received grants from the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh through the Baird and Renfield trusts.'

Rev Millar praised the work of the committee and said: 'It is poignant at a time when the Church of Scotland is trying to get people in and this shows how people can support the church. They may not come every Sunday but when the church needs them, they are there for us.'

One of the oldest members of the congregation, Annie MacAulay, said the changes were great for the church which has become a feature in the village. She said she was pleased to see the repairs made as many of her ancestors were buried in the church graveyard.

Mrs MacAulay continued: 'It's light and airy and everything is beautifully done. They have

made a very good job of it and everyone is very pleased.

'It was damp and needing a lot of repair and it had just been patched up over the years.'

Fabric committee convenor Peter Henderson said the committee wanted to use tradesmen from Lorn for the work. He added: 'Neil McGougan, Taynuilt, was the main contractor but every craftsman gave his best and the work was finished in six weeks.

'There were two occasions within that time when we needed them to stop and tidy up so we could use the church but they were very co-operative. I have never worked with contractors like them; they were fantastic.' Peter wished to thank Andrew Rose from Kilchrenan, vice convenor of the property committee of the Presbytery of Argyll, for his advice.

The church's fabric committee consists: Peter Henderson, Dugie Carswell, Eleanor McBain, Jenifer Mofat, Donald Henderson and Doreen Penswick. It was supported by Rev Margaret Millar, session clerk Mary Nicolson and treasurer Sandy McBain.



*Muckairn Parish Church fabric committee convenor Peter Henderson shows the new double doors crafted by Terry Spooner from and old pew. t38mck01*