

**St. Stephen's R C Church Blairgowrie — A tale of conservation and renewal**

Parish website

<https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>



St. Stephen's, 1968.



The Gothic detailed renewed Interi-



Detailed stained glass windows

In October 1849, the Rev. John Carmont was appointed as a resident priest in Blairgowrie. Overcoming many difficulties, and with the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. Trotter of Woodhill, he was able to purchase further ground, on which St Stephen's Church was built. Designed and built by the famous architect Edward Welby Pugin in 1856 as a Gothic detailed, rectangular plan church with 5-bay nave and steeply pitched roof; adjoining 5-bay rectangular plan hall; tall, narrow nave with gallery, it is adorned with fixed timber pews manufactured from Japanese Oak, small arcaded aisles, and chapel to NW and adorned with Hammer beam-type roof. Mass was celebrated within the Church before the end of 1855, with the solemn opening taking place on 13th January 1856.

It was quite understandable that years of wear and tear necessitated urgent essential repairs and restoration work to the building and associated elements, to make the Church wind and watertight, improve safety and stop the building falling into further disrepair. We, therefore, salute the courage of the Parish Priest, Reverend Fr. Gregory Umunna Ph.D and his parishioners who took up this challenge, volunteered selflessly and generously gave countless hours to this restoration work. We thank many others who took up many initiatives, raised funds and made donations towards this project.

We wish to acknowledge and express our warmest gratitude to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland for assisting us with a substantial grant to embark on the project. We are also grateful to the Garfield Weston Foundation, All Churches Trust, Scotland Churches Trust, Jimmy Cairncross Trust, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, The Baird Trust, Dalrymple Donaldson Fund and the Diocese of Dunkeld for their generosity and support.

We welcome all our visitors to this historic and spectacular church building, and we hope that you will enjoy the views showing the conservation and renewal of the heritage assets of the church either on this visit or on any other visits. To facilitate such a visit, we would appreciate if you could complete the tear off section of this sheet and send back to our contact address.

**For more information** on the restoration and conservation of this building, there is a **booklet** on "*A Tale of Conservation and Renewal*" which is available for free. There is also a **seven minute Audio-Visio presentation of this restoration work** in the lower Hall in an atmosphere of hospitality. You may also wish to visit our parish website to see more of this conservation and renewal programme of the church at <https://www.st-stephens-blairgowrie.org.uk/>

Many thanks,

Parish Priest  
2018

**Contact:** St. Stephen's Hospitality Team  
St. Stephen's Parish  
8 Bank Street,  
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Edward Welby Pugin



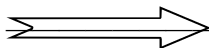
Ballustrade detail to organ gallery.



Columns and arches in the Gothic style.



Ornamental altar detail.



Name of Visitor(s): (1). Individual:  
(2). Group:

Visiting from:

Purpose (1) Leisure  
(2) Academic

Date of proposed visit:

Time of arrival:

Contact phone no.

Email:

**Please note:** Phone numbers or e-mail could be used to contact a prospective visitor and are not stored in our records after the visit of the individual. Please tick the box if you want the team to contact you to plan your visit.

Thanks,

St. Stephen's Hospitality Team

Served by: (1):

(2):

(3):

Date:.....