

## **Peace 'n' Jam Project - St Luke's Glenrothes**

### **A Community Café. How did that happen?**

Our Church, St Luke's SEC sits in the heart of one of the most deprived areas of Glenrothes- Auchmuty. An area which was one of the first builds in the sixties of "The New Town Glenrothes". Nothing much had changed in appearance since then and everything was looking particularly dated and run down... including our Church. The Community, although poor were strong in spirit, again much like our Church!

In 2014 an invitation to attend a meeting about an interesting new local Project called 'Our Place Auchmuty' arrived through our letter box and so our journey began ...

The evening meeting took place at our local school facilitated by Dave from Community Enterprise and was extremely well attended and stirred up huge interest. Ideas and dreams were shared and before we knew it we were drawing a picture of our church on a piece of paper saying –“We are here, use us, we don't have much but a run down building but have passion and a willingness to help ...”

And so, St Luke's became part of what is known as the Community Connectors. A group of individuals living in the Community and representatives of organisations within the Community. As our network expanded group members began talking, sharing skills and knowledge, consulting with each other, with neighbours, with schools, organisations etc. What a wealth of knowledge skills and passion we discovered we had. From this a vision was created and a plan made to turn our dreams into a reality. We found friends and allies with so many of the Community around us. e.g. Friends of Warout, who were parents of our local School (FOW), Community, Learning and Development – CLD who were around the corner from us, The Bowling Club, The Scouts... New groups were formed such as The Men's Shed , Growing Auchmuty - a garden and Community Project run by SAMH, Clued Up - a youth project, The WASH, a homeless project run by the YMCA, The SHAPE project a school holiday and activity project to tackle Holiday Hunger run by CLD and FOW.

Our Co Connector meetings were held in what is known by all as number 58, our Parish Rooms across from the Church. From here groups were formed, activities were planned, and friendships formed. It wasn't long before our 'group' drifted over to see what the church building had to offer and we hosted open day events, workshops for the Community e.g. upholstery workshops, wreath making , Mindfulness and Yoga as well as continuing with our Scottish Country dance classes!

What was wonderful though was to see the community coming through the doors, to lessen the unease about Church, to be that building where things were happening...

One of the central ideas from The Auchmuty Vision and Plan we had all contributed towards was a Community Café. A Social Hub where people could come together, to eat low cost, nutritious meals, where the children could benefit from breakfast clubs during the holiday periods, where the young people could come together, where the old and those in isolation could meet and socialise..

It became apparent to all the Community Connectors that St Luke's was the ideal place to turn this vision into a reality, but a lot of work was needed. Our building was not fit for a Community Café purpose, needing upgraded in almost every way. It needed new heating, toilets, insulation, new ramps as well as a new kitchen. A big task but we had the help of our Co Connectors, our Congregation and God.

With a deep breath and prayers, we began the process of applying to the lottery and our Project Peace 'n' Jam was started. Yes, it was scary, yes it was daunting and yes it has been a long process. We have

learned so much along the way and thank the Diocese and Rev Kenny Rathband for his unfailing support and advice. We could not have done this without the help of our Co Connectors either who have also lifted us up and encouraged us through it all. This has been a Community effort.

We have now been awarded £375, 253 from the lottery to upgrade the building, Our church, St Luke the Evangelist Glenrothes.

This will pay for the staffing of a community café for three years and pay part of the upgrade of the building creating a new kitchen, toilets and ramp. Other funding sources (FET) Fife Environmental Trust are funding the heating and the building of two new Community rooms, costing £50,000 and we are awaiting the results of more funding streams coming in.

We are about to get started. Four years later, a lot wiser, a lot more tired but with a huge amount of friendships and Community Partnerships created too. Our doors are closing and sixty years of worship has been packed away as a new era beckons.

The scariest step was the first one, but we are so glad we had the courage and faith. Believe it, breathe deep and do it! Everyone has a skill and talent to contribute.

Peace 'n' Jam is now about to turn from a dream, a scribbled drawing on a page, to a reality.

Thank you

The Vestry of St Luke's

St Luke's church held their Harvest lunch on Sunday which was supported by the Our Place community chest. Great food, great people and fab entertainment from Sarah Hendry School of Dance.



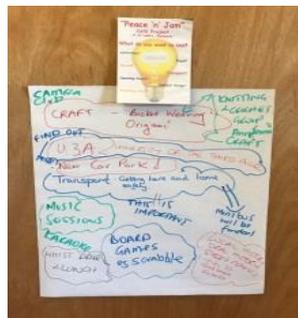
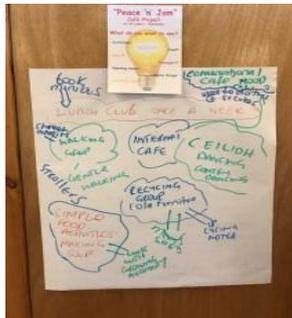


Community Garden Party

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Community Consultation and Ideas



Youth Group looking over our Plans



Packing Up

