

New life for Glasgow church

Jeremy Balfour, manager of SCHA's property project, reflects on a long gestation...

If a week in politics is a long time, building new homes from an old church building is the definition of eternity!



Anniesland Methodist before

In May 2010 I received a phone call from the minister at Anniesland Methodist Church. They had a building that was no longer fit for purpose with a small congregation who needed to do something with the site. I visited the church and discussed different possibilities with them.



Anniesland Methodist completed

It was agreed that I should approach a housing association to see if they were interested in the site.

The congregation wanted a small building for Sunday worship and other activities alongside any new housing.

After an initial conversation, Sanctuary Housing Association were interested. They visited the site and started a discussion with the Methodist Church. The congregation were able to find lawyers and architects to help with the work, so our involvement came to an end.

After lots of negotiations everyone got what they wanted!

The church got a new building which is modern, warm and fit for purpose. The housing association got 24 new flats, which are being used by people who are aged 55 and over. The new site was officially opened in February.

This development shows what can be done with vision and patience. Not every church site will work, but congregations need to see this as a good and positive option rather than the last option they come to out of desperation! If you would like to know more contact me – jeremy@churches-housing.org, or 0131 477 4500.

Reach for the stars... *Continued from page 1*

training and make sure that good ideas are passed round the network.

Stars will be offered induction and training on what's expected, and will be invited to networking events to share information and experiences. Links will be established between stars in the same area, and there will be a supply of materials on fundraising, work with children and young people and the like.

"We have already identified some of the stars," says Alastair. "They'll be getting individual invitations to take part. But if you're interested, please get in touch, and we'll sign you up."