

Cornerstone

THE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF STRATHBLANE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
SCOTTISH CHARITY NO: SC007261



MESSAGE

Rev John Wilson, Locum Minister

Dear Friends

We are approaching one of our most exciting seasons in the Christian calendar, Holy Week: and we look forward to the services that will take place that will enable us to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In recent weeks we have had Edicts read, Electoral Registers, made up, voting has taken place and results announced. At the time of writing the answers are, as yet, unknown. We will then await the decision by Presbytery.

Foremost in our minds might well be the question; what does the future hold for us? What is our hope for the future? God is always aware of our situation, and we must seek what it is that God wants from us.

Can I thank and acknowledge the support of the Interim Moderator Peter Murdoch as he has moderated the Kirk Session. I also appreciated his graciousness in helping the Kirk Session through this whole procedure.

Over the time of Lent, we are preparing for a time to think and reflect upon the future. The disciples had to do that because Jesus told them that He was leaving them, and they were to continue sharing all that they had learned from Him. We know



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others continued to share the gospel in their preaching, in reaching out to others through evangelism. Some we might name would be Peter, then there was Paul and Silas, Barnabas and many others all accepted that task. Even today our missionaries are doing the same as we see in our magazine in reports from them. That is also true of the ministers of the gospel who faithfully proclaim the word of God throughout our denomination.

Through the Presbytery Plan we will have the mission field that we have always had – so that has not changed. We will have the opportunity to have additional support from another congregation. United by a pastoral link we will become encouraged in sharing thoughts, ideas and working together.

We must not always be reluctant to change and embrace this boldly and with confidence. We can continue to be an effective witness in our community. Let us not be distracted from our vision and hope for the future.

*I do not know what lies ahead,
They way I cannot see;
Yet one stands near to be my guide,
He'll show the way to me.
I know who holds the future,
And He'll guide me with His hand,
With God things don't just happen,
Ev'rything by Him is planned.
So I face tomorrow
With its problems large and small,
I'll trust the God of miracles,
Give to Him my all.*

Yes, there is a great deal that has been happening in recent weeks. Our hope is in the future and in the way in which God will guide this congregation into the future. Let me close with the words of the Psalmist who said:

*Be strong and take heart, all you who
hope in the Lord.*

The Lord, bless you all.

Jahn



LETTER FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Peter Murdoch

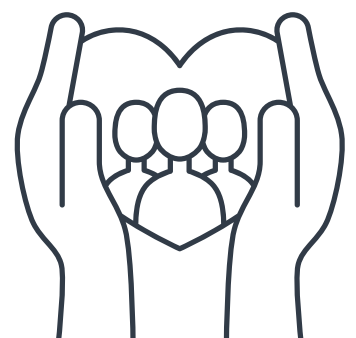
I am writing this just after our congregational vote on Sunday 25th which showed overwhelming support for the Presbytery proposal for the linkage of Killearn and Strathblane Church of Scotland congregations with Rev Stuart Sharp being the first minister of the new linked charges. It is therefore likely that my time as Interim Moderator will come to an end within the next month. It has been a privilege to share in the worship and life of your congregation since August. The locum ministry of Rev John Wilson through his preaching and pastoral care has been a great blessing to us all.

I have been very impressed by the commitment and diligent stewardship of your office-bearers, elders and members. The attendance at the recent prayer initiative and the increasing engagement with the primary school, Scripture Union and Strathendrick Teens are very encouraging: and will be welcomed by our new minister. I must also pay tribute to Lynne James, not only for making my job so easy by her session clerk duties but also for her invaluable work with the youngsters and for her memorable children's talks which inspire all ages. Thank you all for your fellowship and prayerful support.

I am reminded of the story in Genesis of Abraham and Sarah who went on a journey into the unknown trusting in God's promises. Despite many challenges in the ensuing years he was upheld and blessed by God who is faithful in all his promises. As you enter the next chapter of your congregational life, I pray that you will continue to be blessed as you love, trust and serve others and I look forward to hearing of your future achievements. In the words of the last verse of a hymn-

*Look forward in faith,
God gives us life each day.
Go onward with Christ.
His Spirit guides our way.
Now God lets us live,
within the sphere of grace.
Trust ever in him,
he rules o'er earth and space!*

-
Kind Regards
Peter



SESSION REPORT

Lynne James, Session Clerk

After what may have felt like an interminable period of time, filled with church edicts, pages of information, and many anxious weeks of waiting, Sunday morning, 25th February, saw the congregational votes regarding the basis of linkage, the acceptance of Stuart Sharp as minister of the joint congregations, and a final vote on agreement to the Basis of Reviewable Charge.

The votes were held after the morning service, and we are indebted to Peter Murdoch, our interim moderator, and Nigel Orr, as Perth Presbytery Representative, for overseeing the voting count and ably explaining the procedure.

The votes were counted immediately and the results were given to the congregation at the end of the service.

Both congregations returned an overwhelming majority in favour of all three proposals and these votes are being taken forward to Presbytery for their approval.

As two separate, but linked, church families we can now look forward in faith to see what God would have us do together.

We are very happy that we can now welcome Stuart Sharp as our teaching elder and are sure that we will much enjoy learning from one another over the next few weeks and months. I am very happy to report that already our two churches are joining one another for various events. In the first instance, we will be changing our time of holding our service from 11 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. from Easter onwards and Killlearn will move their service from 10.30 to 10.00 a.m.. This will give Stuart time to move between churches. This may be reviewed at a later date.

Stuart will be set in place as minister of both churches at a service of ordination, overseen by members of the Presbytery; more details will be available nearer the time.

At this time, our very dedicated and faithful Interim Moderator, Peter Murdoch, will be able to lay aside his responsibilities for our congregation. We have been very blessed to have had such a patient and thoughtful Interim Moderator taking us through the maze that has been the journey to linkage. We would like to record our thanks to him and express the hope that he will stay in touch and may even feel able to return to preach to us should the occasion arise. As we look forward, we also glance back as we realise that we must bid farewell to our excellent, and much loved, locum, John Wilson, who has proved a caring and diligent pastor to our congregation over the months from June '23 to March '24. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his leading us through what could have been a very difficult time with his thoughtful and inspiring preaching. We hope that he, and his wife Elizabeth, who have both become very dear to us will remain very much in touch and will know, how welcome they will be made any time they wish to visit us.

We now set out on a new journey together with Killlearn, always knowing that we are guided and led by the loving Hand of God, unchangeable in His love for us through all the changes we may see in the coming months.

NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT

Lynne James, Session Clerk

As you can see from this edition of Cornerstone, we are now in the capable hands of a new Admin Assistant.

Since mid December, Lindis Kipp has been learning the ropes of her post and has proved herself more than equal to the challenges set before her.

Lindis and her husband David, together with their two children, Frank and Hilda, have been very much a part of church life for some time, whether in Messy Church, or week by week on a Sunday morning.

How blessed we have been to find such an able replacement for Traci, we wish her every blessing as she carries out her new duties and very much hope she will enjoy getting to know us better as we, also get to find out more about her.



CHURCH FAMILY

Sent with our prayers:

by certificate of transfer

Mrs Caroline Bamford 28.01.2024

Mr Robert Bamford 28.01. 2024

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin. 1 John 1: 7



MISSIONARY NEWS

Wednesday Prayer Group

Yvonne Mildred.

The past month has been a different month for me. I had Strategic meetings in Singapore for a week mid-January, then visited Ethiopian friends in Addis Ababa on my way back to Ghana. Their encouragement was lovely, as you can imagine.

However, for the past couple of months my Asthma became increasingly uncontrollable, and oxygen level dropped. So, since returning to Ghana, I have been resting in Accra. Now, at the end of February, with Asthma manageable again, I am ready to head north and resume relationships and work there.

Yesterday, I was strongly impressed by Revelation 3:7&8, and am going through the open door.

Please, if you know of anyone who wants to join or replace me in Catering production with widows, or organic farming, please email me Yvonne.mildred@sim.org - especially if they are younger than myself (70). God is God of all generations.

Much love

Yvonne



James, Kirsty, Deborah, Susanna

After much thought with their colleagues they have come up with a new name, namely Returnee Focus, and a new vision statement: through God's grace we want to see churches and mission movements in East Asia strengthened and enriched by the followers of Christ from around the world. They find their days full of online calls with team members around the world and have a busy schedule of speaking/ preaching engagements and travelling, most recently to France. They are grateful for financial provision for 2023 and are now praying about finances for 2024.



Deborah and friend!



Lorna is concluding her present term of leadership in the autumn and is preparing to handover to her successor her various roles:

- leadership team of eight members whose vision statement is, "we aim by God's grace to provide a vibrant church impacting every community";
- personnel - sometimes helping in conflict situations (it does occur!);
- candidates - Lorna oversees a busy application process requiring wisdom to know whom to choose;
- TCK (third culture kids, i.e. missionary children), helping families in decisions relating to children;
- Serve Japan - Lorna oversees a team of three who provide opportunities from two weeks to twelve months for short-term workers who are keen to come to Japan;
- social media - she oversees a team of four who design and produce posts to raise awareness of spiritual needs in Japan;
- child safety person.



Carolyn Kemp's new role with OMF has many prongs, but her overall focus is supporting her colleagues as

they develop in Christian leadership. American colleagues have a fruitful sport outreach with professional Japanese athletes, most recently at the 4Hills international skiing tournament in Austria. Carolyn continues to have a positive attitude to life and rejoices in all God has done and is doing - but her eyesight presents difficulties. She asks that she will know peace and that her doctors will have wisdom and new ideas.





Changing Lives Malawi

Sarah Black



Thank you to everyone who bought our lovely fundraising cards and who have made financial donations. It is very much appreciated. We have also had some beautiful knitting of baby clothes, hats and blankets. The new mums will be delighted to receive these gifts for their babies and we look forward to seeing photos when the boxes are taken to the maternity ward at the local health centre.

It's the rainy season in Malawi and, whilst they welcome the rain for their crops, it is hugely disruptive and makes a difficult life even harder. Children cannot cross swollen rivers to get to school as it's too dangerous (bridges are on our list) and food is even more scarce and prices keep rising. We are very glad of the prayer support we receive from Strathblane Kirk. I thought you would like to read two essays recently written by Daniel. He won class prize for the first one and shed tears when he won a small monetary prize equivalent to £2.50. He is 23 years old and desperate for this chance of an education. He has worked for years for a pittance to feed himself. He is grasping this opportunity with both hands. But as you will read, life is still so hard for him and his peers. Who else would walk 6 hours a day for education? (dormitories are also on our list) One meal a day - school lunch. No time to study. Exhaustion. But education is the way out of poverty and the young people are trying their best.

Secondary Education needs to be paid for in Malawi. None of the students at Bright Futures Secondary School would be there without a sponsor. There are lots more young people in their last year of primary school who won't get a secondary education unless they have a sponsor to help them. It's only £25 p/m. You can be a sponsor as an individual, a family or two friends can share the cost! contact_us@changinglivesmalawi.com Thank you again and enjoy Daniel's essays. Sarah Black, Changing Lives Malawi.



What I like about Bright Futures Secondary School

Daniel Chombe

I would like to explain what I like about BFSS. My name is Daniel Chombe. I am in form 3 at Bright Futures Secondary School. I have 23 years. I am a boy.

I like BFSS because everything are for free. For instance, school fees, school uniform, food, notebooks etc. I like to learn science subjects eg Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agriculture an then English and Chichewa as the compulsory subjects. Also I like the activities that we are doing at BFSS eg football, netball, volleyball and rugby.

My hope that I want is this. I want to be a good student at all subject. My dream for 2024 is this. want to take position 1 when I will enter form 4 and it will happen, I swear.

My life was very hard before BFSS was built because I failed to learn. My parents failed to pay school fees. Even to buy school uniform. I passed my primary school exams to go at secondary

level in 2016 – but now I am in form 3 because of the problem that I have. I learned form 1 to form 2 (note - at a previous school) by working a part-time job for school fees and stopped my school for 5 years (note - earning a pittance doing piece work for farmers) but now I am in school. I thank God to make the donors and director to allow me to be a student of BFSS.

My life is better since BFSS was built because I start again my school to learning and things that I failed to do now am doing all these because of BFSS. Without BFSS my future would be hard.

My family are thanking the donors who help the students that are learning at BFSS. I thanks God to give me the chance. God bless. Daniel Chombe, S3, Bright Futures Secondary School.

My way from my home to my school

Daniel Chombe

My name is Daniel Chombe. I have 23 years, form 3 student. I write this essay to explain about my way from my home to school and back.

I take 3 hours from my home to school which is Bright Futures Secondary School and 3 hours back. I see many things. These include hills, two rivers, people etc.

On my way I meet the learners going to primary school, the people going to farm and the people doing their business. I pass through the way by foot. Some days a person who has a motorcycle were carrying me in order to help me.

I don't like about my journey because each and every day I get tired and I do not study well because I feel pain in my body. My journey is very difficult but I don't absent from school because I don't have another chance to learn apart from this chance.

I thanks our donors and director to have this chance. God bless you.



Cuppa Time

Georgina Walsh

Despite the wild and stormy weather recently Cuppa Time has still had a reasonable turn out every week . We had a lovely time at our Christmas special and hope to arrange an Easter special in the near future . Special thanks to John’s wife Elizabeth for playing piano for us at the Christmas special . We are still on every Thursday at 2pm and all are welcome to come and join us . We have jigsaws , scrabble , dominoes etc. There is also an art table where you can try your hand at watercolour or acrylic painting. If you have any craft ideas that you would like to share with us we would love to see you.



The Guild

Emily Brown

As we approach Spring in our guild, we are pleased to say all our meetings were well attended. Thanks to our committee putting together a varied excellent syllabus for 2023/24 with “musical afternoons”, “Travel Talk and Slides of America”, “A Burns Afternoon”, “Chair Aerobics”, “As well as Two of our Projects” and more. We were very happy to welcome a few members of Killearn guild, who came along to spend time with us on one occasion. We still have a lot to look forward to, ie our AGM on the 18th of March with local photographer Stevie Jackson, and our Spring Fayre on Saturday the 11th of May. Finally we would like to thank everyone who comes along supporting us in all we do.

Flower Ministry

Christine Cresswell

I am very grateful to all who are helping in this valuable work by arranging and delivering the flowers, especially as my time is limited. Thank you for adding your names to the Flower Board, and for all the generous

donations. Thank you for your prayers.



Upcoming Event

Ella Hyam

Fellowship Group Convener

THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP is arranging a MUSICAL EVENING in STRATHBLANE PARISH CHURCH on FRIDAY 5th APRIL starting at 7pm.

TICKETS costing £8 (including tea/coffee and cakes) will be available soon from any member of the Fellowship Group - Alma, Christine, Georgina, Isabel, Susan or Ella. All money raised is being donated to STRATHCARRON HOSPICE for their invaluable work.



Why?

Christine Cresswell

O Father God, of cloud and sky
Why did you send your son to die?

Creator God, of earth and stone,
what made Him suffer all alone?

Powerful God, of wind and rain,
why mocking insults, piercing pain?

Mighty God, of storm and sea,
what made Him bear such agony?

Holy God, of snow and hail,
why the Cross, the thorn, the nail?

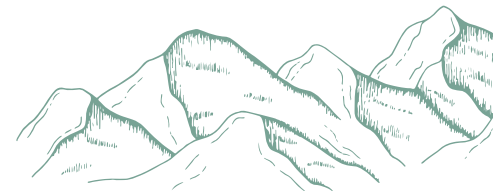
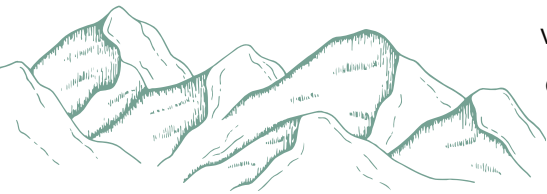
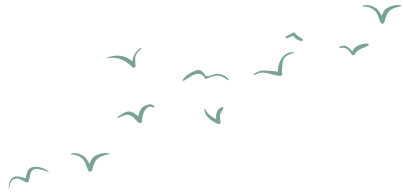
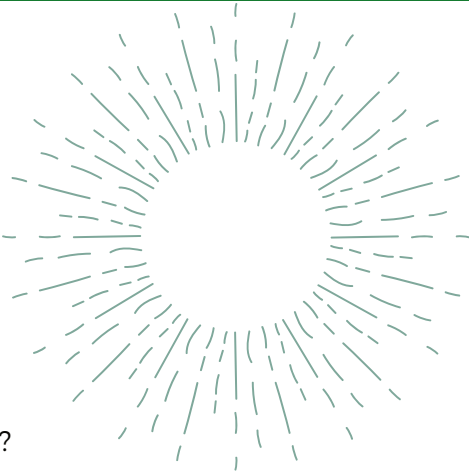
Victorious God, of field and glen,
reaching to the hearts of men.

Forgiving God, of hill and brae,
taking all our sins away.

Gentle God, of grass and reed,
touch us in our deepest need.

Father God, of stars so high,
why did you send your Son to die?

O Saviour God, of flower and tree,
it was for love - for love of me.



A Heavenly TMO

Ian Mills

I have no idea how many people in the congregation follow the fortunes (or more likely the misfortunes) of the Scotland men's rugby team. Even if you do not follow rugby, you would not have failed to notice the media reports of the anger generated (at least amongst the Scots) at the recent Scotland v France international at Murrayfield where Scotland were denied a last minute try which would have won them the game.

The try was disallowed following an exchange between the referee and the TMO. The acronym stands for Television Match Official who is someone watching the game on TV screens usually from a truck outside the ground. One example of where the TMO becomes involved is when the referee requests further information as to whether a try is scored, especially when the referee's view of play was restricted (as was the case at the recent Scotland v France game). Another situation involving the TMO is when they draw the referee's attention to an incident of foul play which had not been seen by the referee. Whilst many rugby supporters query

whether the involvement of a TMO is a good thing for the game, as Christians, we have the benefit of accessing our 'heavenly TMO' at all times.

There will be times in our lives when we require to seek guidance from our TMO in order to arrive at the correct decision on a particular matter. Also, there will be occasions when we receive a prompt from our TMO to deal with a situation which we have hitherto ignored. God guides us in reaching decisions in a completely different way from a rugby TMO who is analysing a series of images on the bank of television monitors. Some decisions are already in place in scriptures eg the ten commandments, where certain actions are prescribed. Another, and possibly the most commonly used means of communicating with God and seeking guidance, is through prayer - something which a number of the congregation have been considering in their current programme of meetings. There are several verses in the bible which relate to the importance of seeking God's guidance eg Psalm 25 v4 'Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths'.

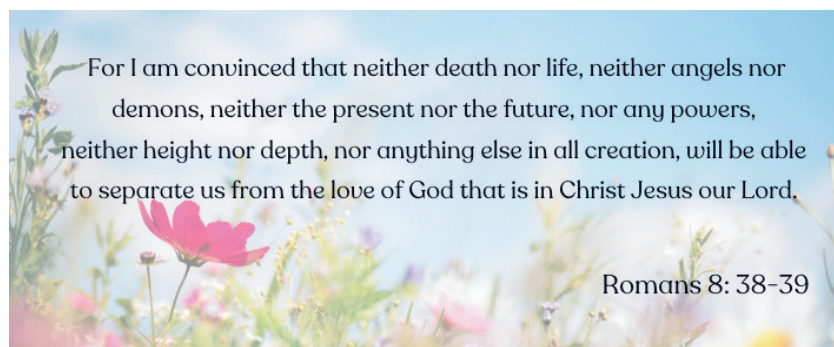
Whilst a rugby TMO prompts the referee on unseen incidents in the game by speaking into their earpiece, how do we become aware of 'spiritual promptings'? Some commentators have suggested that those experiences can occur in various ways such as having a sudden idea like 'I must make contact with a friend I have not seen for some time' or it may be we sense a feeling of trouble or unease about a particular situation. No matter how these promptings are conveyed, it is important we respond and act as God would wish.

Our heavenly TMO has a quite different relationship with us compared to the glare of publicity surrounding the recent discussions between the referee and TMO at Murrayfield, so unlike the rugby TMO, there will be no criticism or confusion when we respond to the guidance delivered by our heavenly TMO.

❖

Thank you!
Traci Leven

Thank you so much to everyone for their kind words and the most generous farewell gift and beautiful flowers I received at the service in January. It was very unexpected, but so kind of the congregation. Martin and I are going on a Western USA road trip in March and I have used your generous donation for a new pair of hiking boots and some appropriate attire for the trip. While I am enjoying, and getting more involved in, life at my new church in Torrance, I will continue to keep in touch and make visits to Strathblane. Traci



CHURCH ACCOUNTS

Jean Strachan, Treasurer

Strathblane Parish Church of Scotland

Abbreviated Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2023

Scottish Charity No SC007261

Jean Strachan, Treasurer

Strathblane Parish Church

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 31 December 2023 and Budget for the year ending 31 December 2024

The official accounts for 2023 were approved by the Kirk Session and are available to all members who require a full set. Please contact the Church Office and a printed copy or email can be sent to you. The abbreviated accounts, set out on this and the following pages, highlight the important details of the accounts in a compact format.

The Church is administered under a Unitary Constitution. This means that the Session has responsibility for the whole life and service of the Church within the Parish and has oversight of the affairs both spiritual and temporal of the congregation.

This year we have lost our minister, Murdo Campbell, as he stepped into retirement. We will miss his gentle leadership. We have, however, been blessed by a dedicated locum John Wilson, a great friend to the church, and our interim moderator, Peter Murdoch who has been of great help to us in our dealings with Presbytery over the Mission Plan and steps to linkage.

For those unable to attend, the service is recorded on CD and this recording can be accessed online via the church website.

Communion is celebrated six times a year and we meet every Sunday for morning worship together with the younger members of the congregation, before they leave for their own time in the Kirkrooms. Session members have worked on the basis of linkage together with Killearn Session members and a congregational vote will take place at the end of February.

Wednesday evening prayer meetings have resumed in the Kirkrooms, as have Session meetings. Bible Study Groups meet weekly on various days of the week. A prayer course run by the Mission and Discipleship Group began on Tuesday nights from early January 2024 and several people are attending.

In terms of community outreach, Christmas presents were collected for Glasgow City Mission and the Salvation Army. Many Samaritan's Purse shoe boxes were donated and Harvest food donations were collected for Start Up Stirling.

The Charity Card sale was organised by the Fellowship group and many people from the community attended. After a lapse of three years, the church supported a Tearfund soup and sandwich lunch.

The 30 strong membership of the Guild resumed their meetings every other Monday afternoon. They held a plant sale in May and together with the Fellowship group, organised a very successful concert.

Cuppa Time has resumed its weekly sessions and provides a happy haven for many in the community.

Sunday Club is well supported and the children's art decorated this year's Christmas card. An Easter and Christmas Messy Church was held this year, and a church member helps lead S.U. in the local primary school.

The Church supports a number of Missionaries serving overseas with prayer and financial support.

Members of the congregation have been kept abreast of the situation regarding the Presbytery Mission Plan through the quarterly magazine which continues to be available online and also as e-copies for distribution by elders. Paper copies are also available for those unable to access online material. The magazine has also been another informal method of keeping the wider congregation up to date with activities in the church.

The church family has been very supportive of all events held as part of our fellowship, whether by giving out tea and coffee at the end of the service, or arranging a farewell lunch for our minister, or supplying home baking for other events.

	Budget Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Restricted Funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income					
Non-gift aid envelopes	200	210		210	610
Gift Aid	37,000	36,920		36,920	40,648
Open Plate	3,700	3,694		3,694	3,615
Other donations	3,000	2,967	2,854	5,821	4,785
Gift Day	2,000			-	2,720
Tax recovered on Gift Aid	11,500	10,811		10,811	11,829
Legacies	-	5,000		5,000	15,989
Contributions from Church Organisations	700	1,148		1,148	179
Total voluntary income	58,100	60,750	2,854	63,604	80,375
Rental Income	2,500	3,989		3,989	9,267
Deposit interest	2,000	2,210	1,118	3,328	874
Dividends received	4,500	4,445	2,248	6,693	5,846
Weddings and Funerals	500	640		640	565
Income of Organisations			4,982	4,982	5,240
	67,600	72,034	11,202	83,236	102,167
Expenditure					
Giving to Grow	27,655	36,265		36,265	38,775
Presbytery Dues	1,200	1,105		1,105	708
Minister's Expenses	0	834		834	1,304
Locum	10,000	3,871		3,871	
Pulpit Supply	300	490		490	254
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	3,500	2,627		2,627	1,841
Council Tax	0	2,266		2,266	3,481
Heat and Light	12,000	8,057		8,057	6,777
Insurance	3,400	2,976		2,976	3,397
Other Fabric Costs	32,184	8,676	447	9,123	11,321
Administration	6,400	6,213	500	6,713	5,708
Organ & Music	4,300	4,299		4,299	4,055
Youth Work	400	337		337	907
Outreach	1,000	1,010		1,010	(199)
Ground Maintenance	4,500	2,017		2,017	1,938
Other expenses	2,000	2,007	272	2,279	1,677
Expenditure of Organisations			5,477	5,477	5,026
Charitable Donations		5,000	2,030	7,030	965
	108,839	88,050	8,726	96,776	87,935
(Deficit)/Surplus	(41,239)	(16,016)	2,476	(13,540)	14,232
Unrealised (Loss)/Gain in Investments		7,926	4,009	11,935	(29,230)
Net movement in funds		(8,090)	6,485	(1,605)	(14,998)
Total funds brought forward		216,795	112,993	329,788	344,786
Total funds carried forward		208,705	119,478	328,183	329,788

Notes on Income and Expenditure

Our total income for 2023 is £82,326 (2022: £102,167). £10,989 of the decrease in income is because we receive legacies amounting to £15,989 in 2022 and £5000 in 2023. Open plate giving increased by 2%. Unfortunately, the giving received under gift aid has declined further this year from £40,648 to £36,920. Our rental income decreased from £9,267 to £3,989 mainly due to the Library moving from the Kirkrooms to its new building.

The costs of running the church continued and were £96,776 (2022: £87,935). The main cost, Giving to Grow, amounted to £36,265 (2022: £38,775). It is lower this year because a vacancy allowance has been deducted. However, we now have the cost of employing a locum (£3,871). We now have no employees. Cleaning, music and administration services are provided by local businesses and are now included under those headings in the Accounts. Fabric expenditure was £9,123 (2022: £11,321). This includes roof repairs on the church, roof repairs at the manse and electrical work at the manse. A donation of £5,000 was made to Tearfund Earthquake Appeal. The fixed rate contract that we had for the supply of electricity expired at the end of September. The new contract is expected to result in a doubling of the electricity cost. The gas contract expires on 31 March 2024 and the new contract will approximately double the cost of gas. The Guild expenditure was £5,477(2022: £5,026).

Overall, we have made a deficit of £13,540 (2022: surplus of £14,232) before unrealised losses on investments.

Our investments have increased in value this year by £11,935.

The Budget

The 2024 budget shows a projected deficit of £40,239 in unrestricted funds.

Giving has been kept at 2023 levels.

The expenses budget has been prepared on the basis of the church being vacant. The outcome of the vote on linkage may affect the budget.

The largest expense is again the Giving to Grow. This figure is already fixed and is therefore actual. The fixed contract for electricity ended on 30 September 2023 while the contract for gas continues to 31 March 2024. The new contract for both is expected to lead to a doubling of the cost.

The expenditure under the control of the Property Committee is budgeted to be £45,300. £5,116 of this is covered by amounts held in restricted funds. The major work required at the Church in 2024 relates to roof and stonework repairs, creation of Fellowship area and new carpet and installation

of the floodlights. The Kirk Rooms requires repair work on external timber and some internal decoration and repairs. The main work required at the Manse is roughcasting and redecoration.

Assumptions for 2024 budget figures

1 Offerings budget is based on 2023 giving.

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £
2 Fabric Repairs & Maintenance		
General Repairs, maintenance agreements		<u>3,500</u>
3 Other Fabric Costs		
Church		
Plaster repairs and redecoration of affected area		4,000
Roof repairs including missing slates		6,000
Permanent installation of Floodlights	5,116	284
Stonework Repairs		4,000
Creation of Fellowship Area and Sanctuary Carpeting		5,000
Door & Window Repairs		1,000
	<u>5,116</u>	<u>20,284</u>
Kirk Rooms		
Annual roof maintenance		500
Fit new hatch to loft area		500
External Timber Repairs and redecoration		2,500
	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>
Manse		
Repairs to roughcast and redecoration		7,400
Repair pointing to joints in Fyfestone		500
Roof maintenance incl. downpipes and gutters		500
	<u>0</u>	<u>8,400</u>
	<u>5,116</u>	<u>32,184</u>
4 Ground Maintenance		
Annual soft landscaping		3,000
Repairs to walls and hard landscaping		1,000
Completion of fencing to east of Kirkrooms		500
	<u>0</u>	<u>4,500</u>

	2023		2022	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets		0		503
Investments at valuation (Cost £168,981)		209,744		197,809
Current Assets				
Stock	0		206	
Debtors	5,229		7,299	
Term Deposit				
Deposit with Church of Scotland	95,835		95,835	
Deposit Account	11,607			
Current Account	6,691		26,804	
Organisation Accounts	2,552		3,047	
Cash	225		154	
	122,139		133,345	
Creditors Falling due within one year	3,700		1,869	
Net Current Assets		118,439		131,476
Net Assets		328,183		329,788
Unrestricted Funds				
General funds	197,439		196,060	
Designated funds	11,266		20,735	
		208,705		216,795
Restricted Funds		119,478		112,993
Total Funds		328,183		329,788

The Balance Sheet shows the assets the congregation owns (Copier, Investments, Bank balances etc) and what we owe to others (the liabilities). The assets minus the liabilities represent our total funds.

One of the main assets is our investments. The Stock Market has recovered a little this year resulting in an unrealised gain of £11,935. The other significant asset is the money we hold in our bank accounts totalling £114,133.

The funds are either restricted (specified by the donor how they have to be used) or unrestricted for general use.

The Kirk Session can designate (lay aside) funds for specific purposes (fabric and session). The statement below shows the movements in the restricted and designated funds.

Movement in Restricted and designated Funds in the year ended 31 December 2023

	Restricted							Designated		
	Dev'tment Fund	Mission Fund	Outreach Fund	Window Fund	Flower Fund	Guild Fund	Total	Fabric Fund	Session Fund	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	40,587	6,988	59,536	2,549	286	3,047	112,993	11,669	9,066	20,735
Income										
Donations	134	2,574			146		2,854			
Legacies							0			
Deposit interest	414	71	607	26			1,118	119	92	211
Dividends received	832	144	1,220	52			2,248	239	186	425
Organisations						4,982	4,982			
Total Income	1,380	2,789	1,827	78	146	4,982	11,202	358	278	636
Expenditure										
Fabric expenses	447						447	9,516		9,516
Donations		2,030					2,030			
Outreach/Youth							0		1,347	1,347
Examiner's Fee		500					500			
Flower Fund					272		272			
Organisations						5,477	5,477			
Total Expenditure	447	2,530	0	0	272	5,477	8,726	9,516	1,347	10,863
Investment Gain										
unrealised	1,484	255	2,177	93			4,009	427	331	758
Balance carried forward	43,004	7,502	63,540	2,720	160	2,552	119,478	2,938	8,328	11,266

SERVICES AND EVENTS

Holy Week services to be announced - please keep an eye on the church Facebook page and website

Wednesday 27th of March Easter School Service 1:30 pm Everyone welcome!

REGULAR EVENTS

Every Sunday: 11am Sunday Worship, church & Sunday Club

IMPORTANT NOTICE: from Easter, Sunday Worship will be at 11:30

Every second Monday: 2pm Guild in the Kirk Rooms

Every Wednesday: 11am Bible Study, Lynne James
7pm Prayer Time, Kirk Rooms

Every Thursday: 2pm Cuppa Time
7pm Bible Study, Wylma Dunbar

KEY CONTACTS

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