

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

**Annual Report
for year ended
31st December 2010**



The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark for the year ended 31st December 2010

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name:	Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland)
Charity Registration Number:	SCO16504
Congregation Reference No:	130728
Contact Address:	Greyfriars Parish Church, Bloomgate, Lanark, ML11 9HX
Website:	www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

Trustees

Elma Barr	Pauline Kerr (from 18/4/10)	Dale Robb
Dorothy Barclay	Scott Ledingham	Diane Sloan
Catherine Chapman	Anna Lumsden	Alistair Stewart
Graham Chapman	Jack Lumsden	Alex Sutherland
John Dickman	Willie McAlpine (from 18/4/10)	Lorraine Swan
May Dickman	Elizabeth McCartney	Lilias Tennant
Bill Flemington	Marcella McLennan	William Tennant
Philip Fox (from 18/4/10)	Robert McMillan	David Thompson
Agnes Gold	Avril Mitchell	Miller Thomson
Carolyn Graham	Helen Plenderleith	Sheena Thomson
Senga Hamilton	Keith Prentice	Gershom Walker
Kenneth Hutchison	Leslie Reid	Jim Wallace
Ian Ivison	Elsbeth Riddet	Margaret Wallace
Liz Ivison		Marlene Waugh
Bryan Kerr		Anne White

Office Bearers

Minister:	Rev. Bryan Kerr
Church Treasurer:	Karen Brown & Anne Gibson
Session Clerk:	Marcella McLennan (to 22/2/10) Graham Chapman (from 22/2/10)
Independent Examiner:	F. C. Marks
Bankers:	Royal Bank of Scotland, High Street, Lanark.

In 2006 the Kirk Session set out a vision statement for the congregation as it sought to find a new minister. This vision read:

Ten years from now we hope to have increased our impact on the local community, to have increased regular attendance at worship, and to have increased the activity and involvement of members in the life and work of the church. We hope to have a greater proportion of young people involved in the church.

In the future, we see a busy, vibrant and caring church: recognised as somewhere to come and celebrate and worship God. It will be a place where one is assured of a warm welcome and comforting fellowship, where one's needs can be addressed with compassion, and where one can feel the love of God in action - shining out into the community.

With the development of a strategic plan for the congregation the Kirk Session, in order to help achieve that vision, defined why Greyfriars Church exists:

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark seeks to serve the community and provide friendship, care and unconditional acceptance for all people.

We belong together in a diverse family united in the love of God who share in worship and the service of God while examining, nurturing and sharing our faith to become better disciples of Christ.

We therefore declare ourselves to be an "open and affirming" congregation made up of and welcoming all people into full participation in the life of the church, regardless of race, colour, gender, age, nationality, economic circumstance, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability or emotional condition.



To the church family in Greyfriars the growth that is seen is important, not only in numbers attending but also in the faith development of those who are a part of the family.

Growing in Worship

At the heart of everything that Greyfriars Church undertakes is the belief that worship should be at the core. Worship allows members of the church family to meet together, offer thanks to God and grow in faith and understanding. Each Sunday at 11am members of the church family meet for worship with a shorter, more traditional service being held at 9:30am on the last Sunday of each month. Communion is celebrated 5 times a year at the 11am service, typically on the first Sundays of March, June, September and December as well as on Easter Sunday and every month at the 9:30am service. All who are part of the church family, regardless of age are welcome to share in the sacrament.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning Greyfriars offers quiet, reflective and meditative worship on the second Sunday of each month at 6:30pm. On approximately five Sunday evenings in the year church family members of all ages gather for Messy Church, a new expression of church with crafts, discussion, food and worship with the emphasis very much on fun.

Greyfriars Church believes that the church is there for all people, regardless of who they are and that there will be an unconditional welcome for them when they come along. At all services of worship throughout this year Greyfriars Church has seen significant growth with a large number of young families joining together in worship.

Music plays an important part in worship at Greyfriars and through the exceptional talents of the Directors of Music, Philip and Shena Fox, music to suit all tastes, from traditional organ to modern praise band, can be heard and enjoyed. The Junior and Senior Choirs exist to lead people in praise.



Technology continues to be developed by the AV team throughout the year with the culmination of this being the live webcasting of the 11am Sunday morning worship and the production of DVD's of the service for the housebound, local nursing homes and those who cannot attend worship for whatever reason.

Growing strong relationships

In 2010 Greyfriars Church instigated a new system of caring for the church family, drawing upon a much wider group than the elders, which had traditionally been the case. It is the aim of the Kirk Session that every member of the church family be visited on a regular basis. The minister has undertaken to visit every member of the church family throughout 2011 and 2012 to help enhance this aim.

Fellowship and friendship are important to members of the church family with events taking place every week to help develop new and existing relationships. Each week a very enjoyable fellowship time is held after worship, with occasional meals being organised. 2010 saw the third annual Burns Lunch enjoyed by almost 80 people.



There are a number of organisations that encourage people to come together and develop their faith and friendship. A sewing group meets fortnightly for fellowship and sewing activities. A knitting group has been established to facilitate the provision of prayer shawls for the elderly. Greyfriars Guild, affiliated to the national Church of Scotland Guild, meets fortnightly between September and March and each year has a varied programme of speakers and entertainment on offer for their members. With 35 members and around 30 on average attending each meeting the Guild meets a need within the congregation for fellowship, worship and service.

Faith development is a key feature of many activities of Greyfriars Church. A new house group has been established to allow people the opportunity to discuss issues of faith, life and the bible in a small group setting. Another small discussion group meets fortnightly in the local pub with people coming together for Beer 'n' Bible.

Growing with children and young people

In Greyfriars Church a high stress is placed on the involvement of children and young people within the life of the church family. Through a Sunday morning crèche, Sunday School and Youth Group it is hoped to provide the young people of the church family with a strong grounding in faith and understanding. The Sunday School and crèche are an integrated part of worship in Greyfriars. To symbolise this belief each week the Sunday School follows the same stories to which the overall theme is linked.

Greyfriars Church is fortunate to have a small, but active group of young people within the church family. They are encouraged to play an active part in the life of the church, from the puppet ministry team to running the audio visual provision, from maintaining a church library to taking part in worship services. A youth group meets on a Sunday morning for teenagers along with a new Thursday evening

group, Open Space, which is a place for teenagers to relax, eat together and hold discussions after the school day.



Each week Greyfriars Church provides a carer and toddler group on a Friday morning. Wrigglers is under the jurisdiction of the Kirk Session however weekly organisation is the responsibility of the adults who attend. 2010 saw the establishment of a waiting list due to the popularity of the group.

All of our activities which are provided for children and young people are carried out in accordance with the Church of Scotland's policy on the protection of children and young people.

Growing in outreach

Greyfriars Church has always placed great importance on being a resource to the community. Many members of the church family play active roles in the community and its many groups, ensuring that the ways of God are represented beyond the doors of the church. Our minister, for example, is a member of the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council and represents the views and interests of all the church communities in Lanark. He also acts a school chaplain to two primary schools, one secondary school and a school for children and young people with additional support needs.

Over the past few years Greyfriars Church has opened its doors to provide a place of welcome for groups who require premises for their activities. Members of the church family count it as a privilege to provide opportunities for members of the community to gather. From musical recitals to pantomimes, Greyfriars Church has become a major venue within the community, with 2010 providing opportunity to host many of the annual Lanimer Celebrations within the church. It is a hope and prayer of the Kirk Session that this valuable work within our community continues to develop and grow to ensure that Greyfriars remains at the heart of the community.

As part of the outreach of the church, the Kirk Session encourages the development of skills within individual church members. To help achieve this a part time, Ministries Development Worker, Scott Paget, was employed in the summer of 2010. His remit is to allow members of the church family to become involved in the various ministries and activities provided by Greyfriars Church and to look at new ways of reaching out to the community.

During the school spring break each year, Greyfriars Church provides a Holiday Club for children of primary school age. 2010 brought over 70 children to the club, Munchies Mega Menu, written in part by our minister. Members of the church family see this as an important way of sharing God's love with the young people of the community.



Growing as a church

The Kirk Session plays a key role in Greyfriars, providing strategic thinking and direction to the church family. With the minister, Rev Bryan Kerr, elders take time regularly to plan for the future.

In 2010 the church family was privileged to welcome Rev Dr Roger P Richardson and his family to Greyfriars as part of a ministerial exchange. Dr Richardson is pastor in Church of Palms, Delray Beach, Florida where our minister undertook duties. The church family enjoyed the experience of being able to share with a minister from a different country and tradition and appreciated his help and guidance during the six week visit.

In January 2010 the Kirk Session appointed Helen McCrindle as church administrator with the church office open three mornings each week. The opening and staffing of the church office has helped to provide a focal point for members of the church family and community to use the services of the church.

The Kirk Session appointed a new Session Clerk in February 2010 following the resignation of Marcella McLellan. Graham Chapman has developed the role and many in the Kirk Session are appreciative of his approach to the role as well as the valuable support he provides.

Greyfriars undertook a stewardship programme, Support Life, in the autumn of 2010 to encourage members of the church family to look at the support they give the church in many ways, especially financial. It is too early to measure the benefit to the church from this programme but as you can see from the financial statement in this Report there is an urgent need to increase our income from all sources. Without the commitment of the church family in giving Greyfriars Church will not be able to grow in the manner in which God is leading us.



There can be no doubt that Greyfriars Church looks to the future with hope and with a vision for reaching out to the community and providing a place of unconditional welcome and acceptance for all people. As with every organisation in these difficult economic times hard decisions will be required to be made however, the Kirk Session are certain that with the support and prayer of the church family and with the guidance of God, all things are possible and that as a church, Greyfriars will continue to grow.

Financial Review

In the year 2010 our income once again did not match our expenditure and we incurred a deficit of £26,513. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have had to use our Reserves to cover our outgoings.

Income

Our total income reduced by 14% but half of this was due to the fact that we had exceptional income from VAT recovery in 2009. Nevertheless our offerings and other income declined by more than 6% which is disappointing.

Expenditure

Our total expenditure reduced compared to last year mainly due to a major drop in Fabric Repairs and Maintenance as we only had one significant cost in resealing the hall floor and painting the walls. We also reduced our energy costs by improving our electricity tariff.

The salary costs are higher as we engaged an office secretary and a development worker during the year. Their costs were met by our Restricted Use Fund which is for non-fabric expenditure.

The challenge ahead

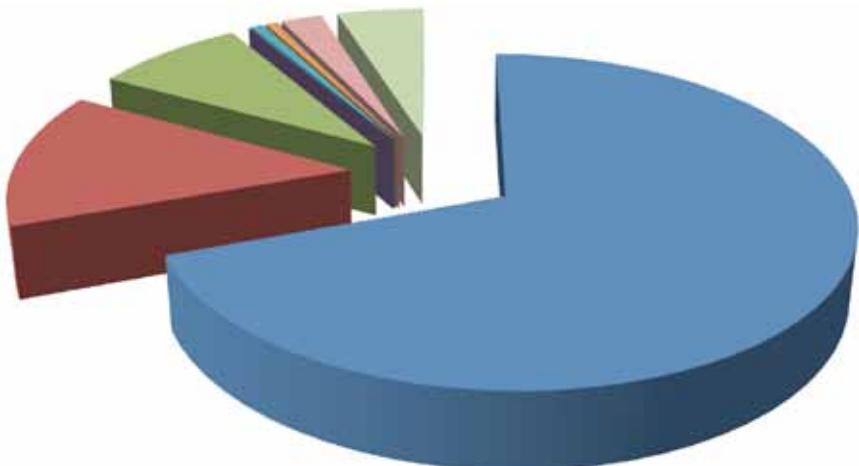
The Trustees have a responsibility on behalf of the congregation to sustain the Church's finances in a healthy position and to that end a stewardship campaign Support Life was carried out in October last year. It is too early to finally measure the financial benefits of Support Life but early indications are disappointing. It is evident that more needs to be done to preserve our funds which have been halved in the last four years and now represent the equivalent of only 4 months expenditure.



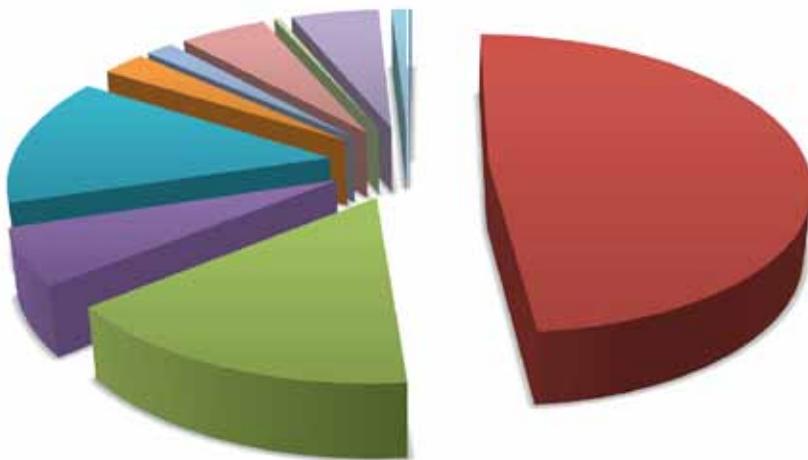
We need to closely monitor costs and continue to look to ways of increasing income through our offerings and fundraising events.

The Session recognises that these are very difficult economic times for most people but is committed to ensuring that Greyfriars has the resources to enable it to pursue its vision of furthering God's work here and in the wider world. It needs the full support of the congregation to meet this goal.

Where our money comes from



Where our money goes



Financial Facts

In 2010 Greyfriars Church income stood at £97,861 with £66,716 being raised from offerings (compared to £69,412 in 2009) and an extra £12,988 being realised from Gift Aid Tax recovery (compared to £13,304 in 2009).

In 2010 Greyfriars Church total expenditure was £124,336 a reduction of £13,990 from 2009.

£51,325 was contributed by Greyfriars Church towards to Ministries and Mission Budget of the Church of Scotland , which provided the full cost of our minister as well as approximatley £5,000 towards other ministries in the Church of Scotland, and a further £7,000 towards the mission and support work of the Church.

Of the total expenditure of Greyfriars Church £19,270 was spent on congregational salaries (excluding the minister), approximately £23,500 was spent on maintaining the building with around a further £15,000 on the worship, outreach and service of the church family.

In 2010 Greyfriars Church reported a deficit of £26,513.

Greyfriars Funds

At the 31st December 2010, the funds of Greyfriars Church were held as follows:

	At 1 Jan 2010	At 31 Dec 2010
Endowment funds	£11,125	£11,888
Restricted Legacy not for fabric	£20,000	£13,204
Designated Fabric Fund	£3,654	£0
Bequest Fund	£33,187	£34,187
Designated Guild Fund	£3,639	£1,869
Designated Wrigglers Fund	£902	£942
Designated Sunday School Fund	-£38	£303
Designated Puppet Ministry	£171	£647
Designated Youth Choir	£22	£22
General Fund	£20,436	£3,525
Total funds	£93,098	£66,585

**Greyfriars Parish Church
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Tel: 01555 661510

Registered in Scotland as a charity, SC016504

For more information, visit our website at www.lanarkgreyfriars.com