

LIVING OUR



FAITH

**Greyfriars Parish Church,
Lanark
(Church of Scotland)**

**Annual Report
for year ending
31st December 2013**

Charity Number: SC016504
Congregational Number: 130728



The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark for the year ended 31st December 2013

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland)

Charity Registration Number: SC016504

Congregation Reference No: 130728

Contact Address: Greyfriars Parish Church, Bloomgate, Lanark, ML11 9ET

Website: www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

TRUSTEES

KIRK SESSION - ACTIVE ELDERS

Elma Barr	Bryan Kerr	Diane Sloan
Dorothy Barclay	Pauline Kerr	Alistair Stewart
Catherine Chapman	Anna Lumsden	Alex Sutherland (to 6/5/13)
Graham Chapman	Jack Lumsden	Loraine Swan
John Dickman	Willie McAlpine	Lilias Tennant
May Dickman	Elizabeth McCartney	William Tennant
Bill Flemington	Marcella McLennan	David Thompson
Philip Fox	Bethene McMillan	Miller Thomson
Janella Glover (from 12/11/13)	Robert McMillan	Sheena Thomson
Agnes Gold	Avril Mitchell	Gershom Walker
Carolyn Graham	Helen Plenderleith	Jim Wallace
Senga Hamilton	Keith Prentice	Margaret Wallace
Kenneth Hutchison	Leslie Reid	Marlene Waugh
Ian Ivison	Elsbeth Riddet	Anne White
Liz Ivison	Dale Robb	

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister: Rev. Bryan Kerr

Session Clerk: Graham Chapman

Church Treasurer: Anne Gibson

Resources Convener: Jack Lumsden

Independent Examiner: Alan M Kerr, Chartered Accountant, I. A. Stewart & Co.
The Mechanics Workshop, New Lanark, ML11 9DB

A full set of examined accounts are available for download at www.lanarkgreyfriars.com/inform/finance or from the church office

OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry.

It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond. The parish of Greyfriars extends to cover the eastern side of Lanark as well as the village of Cartland.

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.

Every activity that the congregation undertakes is measured against our purpose in order that our vision can be realised and that as a congregation we move forward and feel God's love in action, shining out into our community.

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Throughout the year the congregation has engaged in a number of specific activities to both develop the life of Greyfriars and



enhance the ministry in which it is engaged within the wider community.

Within the bible, the image of a rock, or a stone, appears time and time again. For many, the rock symbolises a sign of the constancy of God, or the constancy of faith, for example Jesus tells Peter that he was the rock on whom the church would be built. For others, the image of a rock in the bible brings some surprising results for example, Moses struck a rock with his staff and provided drinking water for his people, the tomb in which Jesus was buried was sealed with a very large rock and yet, the story tells us that the rock was rolled away.

In church life there can be a sense of permanence and constancy for many. A church is somewhere they feel able to express their faith, able to experience the love of God, able to be nurtured to serve the community at large.

And yet, for others, the church can be a place of surprise and intrigue. A church can be somewhere in which the unexpected is experienced and realised. The story of the Christian faith is filled with the unexpected, not least in the story and example of Jesus Christ, born in humble beginnings and dying as a revolutionary in the eyes of the Roman government.

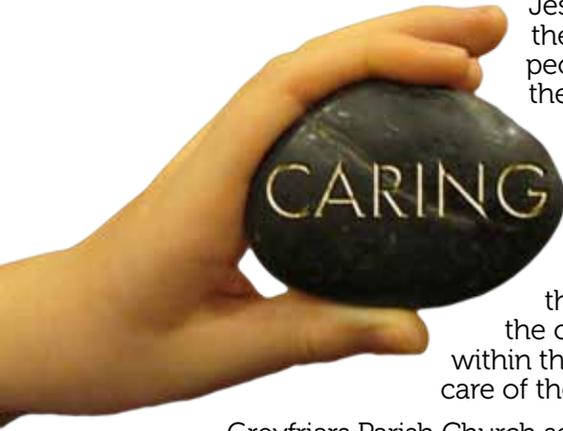
Greyfriars Church seeks to be a place of constancy and permanence, and at the same time, of surprise and intrigue for the members and the wider community. Members of Greyfriars Church seek to live their faith on a solid grounding whilst praying for the miraculous to occur.

Jesus tells his followers to ensure that they build their faith on solid ground, with strong foundations.

The Minister and Kirk Session of Greyfriars Parish Church seek to inspire the members of the congregation to live our their faith in a living, caring and relevant way, building it on the solid rocks that have underpinned the church for generations.



LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH CARING



Jesus told his disciples that the way in which other people would recognise them as his followers is through their love for one another. A key component in the life of any church is the way in which it cares for those who call themselves members of the church family, and those, within the parish who seek the care of the church.

Greyfriars Parish Church seeks to provide that care in different ways. A large group of volunteers, comprising of members of the Kirk Session and other gifted people, pay regular visits to members of the church family, offering care and support at times of trial and sorrow, joy and laughter.

In the course of 2013 the minister undertook 50 funerals for members of the church family, or those who lived within the parish. This is compared to a total of 21 the previous year.

Within Lanark there are a number of care homes and sheltered housing complexes. The minister and many church members pay regular visits to those who have moved from their own home into supported accommodation. With the other churches in the town, members of Greyfriars on a rota basis, provide a regular monthly service of worship to those in care homes and the local hospital.

During the course of the year Greyfriars Church acted as a satellite location for the Clydesdale Food Bank, providing food and personal care packs to those who required assistance. Members and friends of Greyfriars hold regular collections for food to assist this valuable community work. Many who have received the support of the food bank have commented on how appreciative they are of the care the churches provide for them when, it seems to them, as if other agencies have deserted them.

At Christmas time, Greyfriars church family provided Christmas presents to be distributed to children of prisoners throughout Scotland. Working with the charity, Families Outside, Greyfriars provided enough presents for every child with a parent in the prison system to receive a gift at Christmas.

The minister and Kirk Session count it a privilege to be in a position to offer care to people when they need it most and continue to encourage all members of Greyfriars church family to live out their faith by caring for others.

LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH WORSHIP

It is because of devotion to God, and thankfulness for all that we have in life that worship is at the centre of everything within Greyfriars Church. Meeting together each Sunday at 11am and once a month at 9:30am and 6:30pm for worship allows members of the church family and beyond to gather together and express their faith, their gratitude, their praise to God. In a worship environment members of Greyfriars Church family learn from one another and seek fellowship and support from friends.

Greyfriars Church seeks to be inclusive of all people in its worship. Recognising external pressures such as work and family commitments, each Sunday morning service is webcast live and a recording placed on the church website to allow people the opportunity to worship whenever and wherever they are able. The Kirk Session is aware that people from Lanark, elsewhere in Scotland and across the world regularly join Greyfriars for worship in this way.

Our Minister, Bryan, continues to be a part of a small writing team of new material for worship and children's activities called 'Spill the Beans' (www.spillbeans.org.uk) This material provides ideas for all aspects of creative worship, as well as activities for children and young people from 3 to 18 and is now used by over 200 churches throughout Scotland and beyond.

The Kirk Session continues to develop opportunities for worship and in 2013 developed traditional forms of worship, reflective and meditative worship, Messy Church suitable for families, an outdoor barbeque service with friends from Christ Church, Lanark and even celebrated the start of summer with an ice cream sundae Sunday.

Towards the end of the year, the Minister, Kirk Session and church family were saddened to hear of the resignations of Greyfriars' Directors of Music, Shena and Philip Fox. Shena and Philip contributed a great deal to the worship of the congregation over a 9 year period.

The Minister and Kirk Session seek to encourage all members of Greyfriars church family to join together and live out their faith through worship.



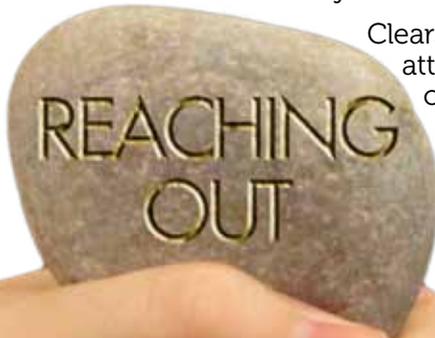
LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH REACHING OUT

Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world and reach out to people with the love of God. A large focus of the work in which Greyfriars Church is engaged is reaching out to the community. For many years, Greyfriars Church has had the reputation of being a church that is involved across and throughout the Royal Burgh of Lanark.

The annual Holiday Club continues to go from strength to strength. In April, over 120 children were a part of 'Stan Star's Studio Tour', a week long activity programme devised and written by a group of members from Greyfriars Church. The week focussed on key moral and faith based themes and stories and encouraged the children to think about their relationships with other people, and with God.

As part of the ongoing development of Greyfriars Church a new project called Clearspace was launched. Clearspace, the old Cumbric word for Lanark, is a project which originated in Greyfriars Church to provide opportunities for people within the community to gather together.

The first part of the Clearspace project to be launched was a community cinema, operating out of Greyfriars premises. Between April and December over 1,400 people have been to watch a movie, for free. The aim of Clearspace is to build a sense of community within the residents of Lanark.



Clearspace has already attracted over £13,000 of grants from the Church of Scotland Go for it fund, the Rank Foundation and Border Biscuits Community Support Fund.

The Minister and Kirk Session seek to encourage every member of Greyfriars church family to live out their faith by reaching out to others within the community in real and practical ways to show the love of God in action.

LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH SERVING

Jesus said to his disciples that one of the cornerstones of their life together is serving one another. Jesus himself conducted his ministry in a spirit of servanthood, ensuring that he met the needs of those around him.

Service is one of the rocks on which Greyfriars is built. There has always been a strong emphasis on striving to meet the needs of the community and serving in whatever way is necessary.

As part of the local school's Religious Observance programme, our minister, Bryan, is chaplain to Robert Owen Memorial Primary School, New Lanark Primary School, Stanmore House School and Lanark Grammar School. The Kirk Session counts it a privilege for their minister to be involved in this work.

In December a large group of volunteers from both Greyfriars Church and Christ Church, along with senior pupils and staff from Lanark Grammar School, ran a Christmas activity day for almost 400 pupils of Robert Owen and New Lanark Primary Schools. The day was a wonderful experience for all involved and enabled the churches to share the Christmas story with the children.

Bryan is also the Lanark Churches representative on the Royal Burgh of Lanark Community Council, as well as holding the position of Depute Presbytery Clerk within the Presbytery of Lanark.

With the re-opening of Lanark's Memorial Hall, 2013 saw the end of the theatre project within Greyfriars. For almost five years Greyfriars provided a temporary home for groups keen to put on an amateur production. Whilst the project has benefited Greyfriars financially, it has ensured that a generation of children and young people see Greyfriars as 'their' church.

The Minister and Kirk Session encourage every member of Greyfriars Church family to identify ways in which they can live out their faith by serving their neighbours.



LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH WELCOMING

Throughout Jesus ministry on earth he encountered many people from different backgrounds. From prostitutes to lawyers, children to royalty, outcasts to friends, Jesus provided a welcome and acceptance for all and encouraged his disciples to do likewise.

Greyfriars has always tried to live out that command of Jesus and seeks to provide an unconditional acceptance and welcome for all. In Greyfriars all of the services of worship, our events, our groups are open to everyone.

Through different social events Greyfriars strives to offer a Christ like welcome to people, regardless of their membership status. In December Greyfriars worked with the Clydesdale Inn to bring Santa to Lanark in order that families could have breakfast with Santa. On Christmas Eve members of Greyfriars went into the Clydesdale Inn to sing and lead carol singing and a pub quiz.

Greyfriars Church does not seek to be welcoming on its own. It is heavily involved with the other churches in the town (Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic Church, Congregational Church and Episcopalian Church) with its minister, Bryan, meeting every month with the other clergy.

In September, Greyfriars was instrumental in offering the community a chance to 'Come to Church' in an ecumenical initiative to invite people to come to church, any church, and experience the welcome.

People visited the churches for worship and for tours which culminated in a joint Songs of Praise service in St. Mary's Church.

The Minister and Kirk Session encourage every member of Greyfriars church family to show a Christ like welcome and acceptance to all.



LIVING OUR FAITH THROUGH DEVELOPING

During his ministry, Jesus continually encouraged the disciples to develop both their understanding of God and their faith. Greyfriars Church has sought to do likewise since its creation twenty years ago.

Throughout that period there have been major alterations to the church with a large raised chancel area replacing a small, cramped area. At the time of redevelopment many were unsure of the value of such work, however now, over fifteen years later it would be difficult to find anyone who felt that the development had not been worthwhile.

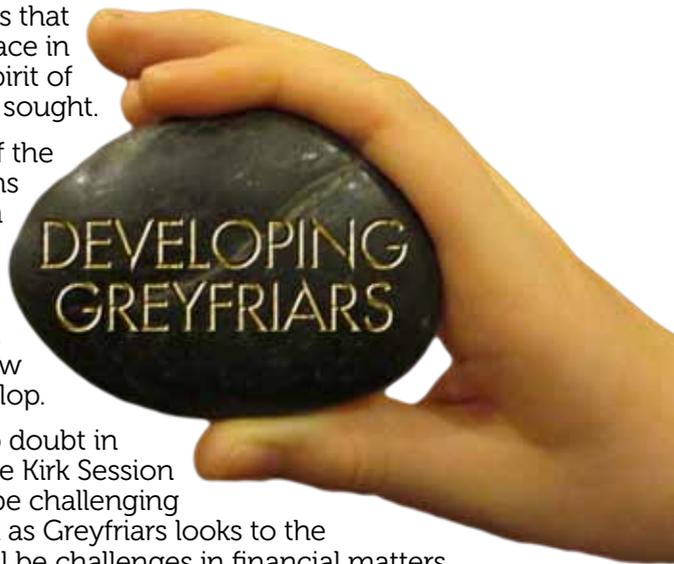
There has been much development in the life of Greyfriars. The style of worship, the use of technology, the place of children and the emphasis on inclusion are but some of the developments. Greyfriars is still very much a work in progress. The church family is still learning, still exploring, still discerning the will of God for Greyfriars.

Development in churches may not always be immediately accepted and appreciated by everyone, however, the Kirk Session ensures that in all the developments that have taken place in Greyfriars, the spirit of God has been sought.

It is because of the solid foundations which have been built upon for generations that the church family in Greyfriars can continue to grow and develop.

There is no doubt in the mind of the Kirk Session that there will be challenging times ahead as Greyfriars looks to the future. There will be challenges in financial matters as Greyfriars seeks to reach out to the community in more new and innovative ways, provide care and support in real and practical ways, offer worship in innovative and meaningful ways, seek to serve whatever way is needed, and provide a true and unconditional welcome to all.

It is through the rock of faith, the example of Jesus, and the commitment of the church family that Greyfriars will continue to develop and grow into the future.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2013 we earned a small surplus of income over expenditure which amounted to £2,697 (2012: Deficit £6,231). This result was however boosted by substantial grant income in connection with the Clearspace Project.

Reserves at 31st December 2013 amounted to £52,708 (2012: £50,011). Excluding the Endowment Fund of £13,217 (from which only income is available to spend) the Reserves at year end were £39,4941.

INCOME

Our voluntary income increased from £85,147 last year to £103,727 but this included £15,890 of grant monies which were mainly for the cinema project Clearspace. It also included an exceptional donation.

Normal regular givings declined by around 4%.

There was also a decline in income from the use of our premises as the Memorial Hall reopened during the year and income from our printing services also reduced slightly.

EXPENDITURE

Although total expenditure increased from £119,820 in 2012 to £122,328 this was due to the spending by organisations mainly Clearspace who received grants specifically for the cinema project referred to above.

Savings of around 3% were made on our normal expenditure items.

THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

The members of the Kirk Session as Trustees are very aware that we urgently need to eliminate the financial deficits of recent years. We are continuing to reduce costs where appropriate and have recently formed a Fundraising Committee which has been actively planning events for the year ahead and we would ask you all to give them your full support.

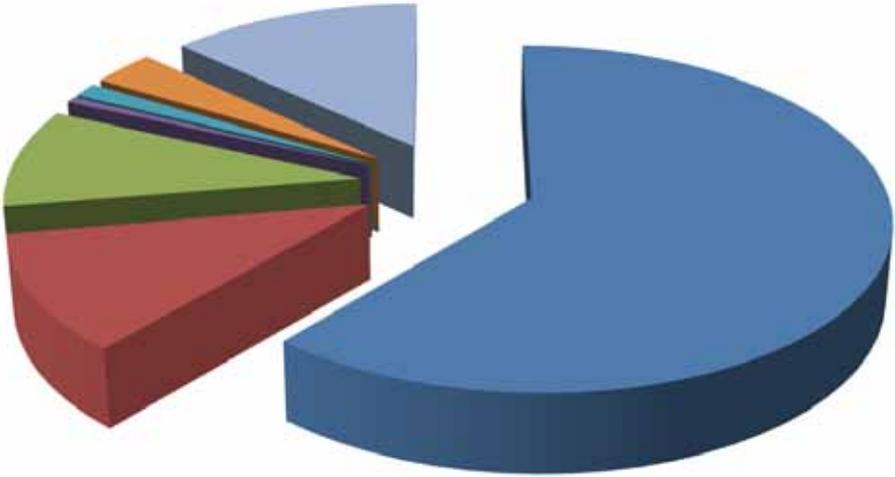
We will also be appealing to every member to review their level of givings this year and where possible to make an increase. This review should include some thought on where the church stands in members priorities.

We would also ask everyone who pays tax to use the Gift Aid scheme as this enables the church to recover a further 25% of tax at no extra cost to the donor.

The Session is acutely aware of the continuing difficult economic situation facing many people but it is committed to ensuring that Greyfriars continues to provide a vital service both within the church and also in the wider community.

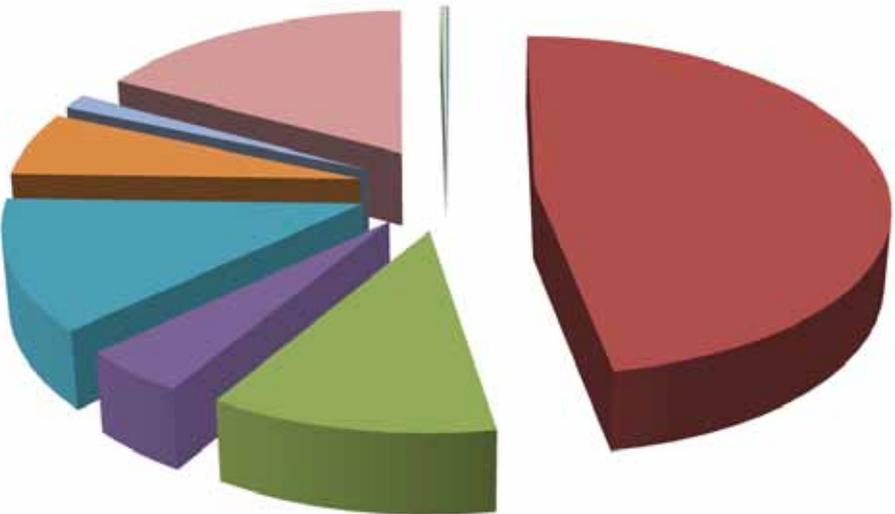
We are confident that with the wholehearted support of all our members we will be able to continue to pursue our vision of furthering God's work.

Where our money comes from



- Offerings £74,422
- Tax Recovered £13,415
- Use of Premises £11,335
- Investment Income £704
- Weddings & Funerals £3,565
- Fundraising £4,026
- Grants £15,890

Where our money goes



- Envelopes £130
- Ministries, Mission & Central Costs £61,170
- Local Salaries £16,706
- Fabric, Repairs & Maintenance £5,008
- Building Costs (inc. Council Tax) £16,185
- Office Expenses £7,939
- Worship, Music & AV £2,714
- Church Organisations £9,859
- Depreciation £2,617

RESERVES POLICY

It is the Trustees policy to hold reserves including designated funds of approximately six months expenditure. At the year end the Church held unrestricted funds of £39,491 (2012: £37,425) of which £7,683 (2012: £5,663) were for congregational organisations.

Of the remaining balance of £31,808, £10,724 is tied to fixed assets leaving £21,084, representing about two months of normal expenditure.

The Church also held £13,217 in Endowment Funds (2012 £12,081) for the purposes specified in note 13 of the main accounts.

GREYFRIARS FUNDS

At the 31st December 2013, the funds of Greyfriars Church were held as follows:

	At 1 Jan 2013	At 31 Dec 2013
Endowment funds	£12,081	£13,217
Restricted Legacy not for fabric	£505	-
Bequest Fund	£13,187	-
General Fund	£18,575	£31,808
Designated Clearspace Fund	-	£1,552
Designated Guild Fund	£875	£930
Designated Holiday Club	£656	£835
Designated IT Fund	-	£1,043
Designated Open Space	£199	£199
Designated Puppet Ministry	£647	£57
Designated School Chaplaincy	£541	£789
Designated Sunday School Fund	£547	£332
Designated Wrigglers Fund	£2,176	£1,946
Designated Youth Choir	£22	-
Total funds	£50,011	£52,708

GREYFRIARS PARISH CHURCH, LANARK

**A FAMILY WITH
A LIVING FAITH,
BUILT ON STRONG
FOUNDATIONS**



**Greyfriars Parish Church • Bloomgate • Lanark • ML11 9ET • Tel: 01555 661510
Registered in Scotland as a charity, SC016504**

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