

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland)

Annual Report

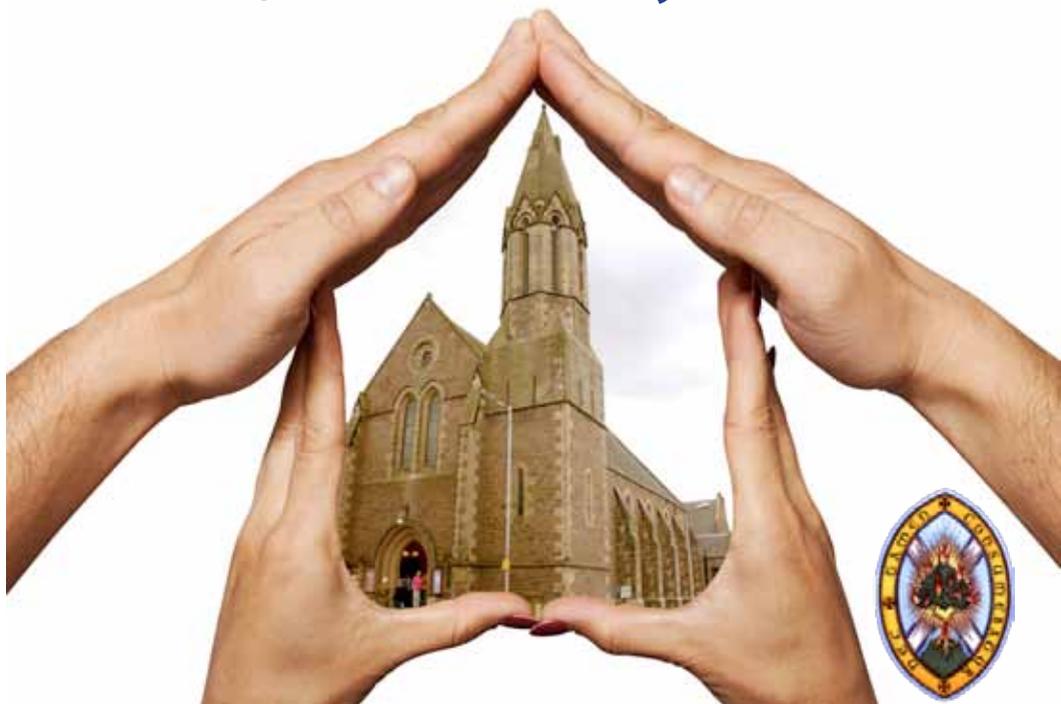
for year ending 31st December 2014

Charity Number: SC016504

Congregational Number: 130728

LOOKING
OUT ...

... BEYOND
THE CHURCH



The trustees present the annual report and accounts for Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark for the year ended 31st December 2014

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	Ross Hyslop (from 30/11/14)	Keith Prentice
Dorothy Barclay (to 10/11/14)	Ian Ivison	Leslie Reid
Alan Boyd (from 30/11/14)	Liz Ivison	Elsbeth Riddet
Kirsty Burns (from 30/11/14)	Nancy Kenny (from 30/11/14)	Dale Robb
Catherine Chapman	Bryan Kerr	Diane Sloan
Graham Chapman	Pauline Kerr	Alistair Stewart
Sue Crofton (from 30/11/14)	Sybil Kerr (from 30/11/14)	Loraine Swan
John Dickman	Anna Lumsden	Lilias Tennant
May Dickman	John Lumsden	William Tennant
Ewan Easton (from 10/03/14)	Willie McAlpine	Anne Thompson (from 30/11/14)
Bill Flemington (to 21/12/14)	Elizabeth McCartney	David Thompson
Chris Fitch (from 30/11/14)	Marcella McLennan	Miller Thomson (to 6/06/14)
Philip Fox	Bethene McMillan	Sheena Thomson
Janella Glover	Robert McMillan	Gershon Walker
Agnes Gold	Avril Mitchell	Jim Wallace
Carolyn Graham	Helen Paget (from 30/11/14)	Margaret Wallace
Senga Hamilton	Scott Paget (from 30/11/14)	Marlene Waugh
Kenneth Hutchison	Helen Plenderleith	Anne White (to 10/03/14)

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister: Rev. Bryan Kerr

Session Clerk: Graham Chapman

Church Treasurer: Anne Gibson (to 31/12/14)
John Lumsden (from 1/1/15)

Resources Convener: John 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 AND 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 AND PERFORMANCE

Archbishop William Temple once remarked that “the Church is the only society on earth that exists for the benefit of non-members.”

The church has always been commanded to ‘Go’. It was the desire of Jesus that his disciples would ‘Go and make new disciples, of all people and in all places’. With the command to go, also comes the promise of God’s love and constant companionship in the journey and tasks that lie ahead.

The members of the Kirk Session in Greyfriars, seek to ensure that the community understands, and recognises that ‘our’ church is ‘their’ church. It is not enough for members of Greyfriars to meet each Sunday in worship and to go home, never thinking again about their faith, or service to the community. Rather, we are compelled to ‘go’ and make a difference in our community, to demonstrate the love of God in action.

Members of Greyfriars are continually encouraged to look out beyond the church. The Kirk Session endeavours to ascertain, and meet, the needs of those who live within the parish and wider community of Lanark.

Whether through food banks, social events, school chaplaincy, pastoral care, friendship or prayer, members of Greyfriars church family seek to look beyond the church to the needs, desires, and challenges that exist in the community in which we live and serve.



LOOKING OUT ...

... through faith & worship

The members of the church family of Greyfriars feel it is of paramount importance that any work or activity begins with faith. Every activity undertaken in Greyfriars is underpinned with our beliefs, our faith and our worship. For many years Greyfriars has sought to be a welcoming and inclusive church where all can find a home.

Each week members of the church family meet together for worship. On a Sunday, a service takes place at 11am which is suitable for people of all ages and stages, and activities are provided for children and young people. On the last Sunday of each month a traditional early morning communion service is held at 9:30am.

Throughout the year other opportunities for worship are offered. A 'last supper' style of communion was held in Holy Week which proved very thought provoking and meaningful for all who attended. In 2014 Greyfriars held our first 'Blue Christmas' service, for those who struggled with the run up to the festivities. Our family carol service was based around the Disney movie 'Frozen' with the sanctuary turned into a frozen wonderland for the evening.

It has been a long held understanding of the Kirk Session that not everyone can attend church on a Sunday as they once did. Work patterns, family commitments and illness can offer challenges to most people's attendance at worship from time to time. It is the desire of the Kirk Session that as many people as possible experience and participate in our worship. Utilising technology we offer a live broadcast and an ondemand recording of our Sunday service. In 2014 Greyfriars developed a short, ten minute online reflection called 'Beyond Sunday' that offers listeners a chance, in the middle of the week to take time and worship.

To look out from the church in service to others demands that we are properly resourced and nourished in our faith.



LOOKING OUT ...

... to a new generation

One of the desires of Greyfriars Church is to ensure that, as a church, a welcome is provided for everyone in the community. The Kirk Session feels that a strength of this desire is within the work undertaken with the younger generations within our community.

In April, a week long Holiday Club from Primary school aged children, 'Zefi's Zoo' was written and delivered by a dedicated team of over 30 volunteers from the church. A mix of games, drama, singing, puppets, crafts and discussion on key biblical and moral themes saw over 130 children register for the event. With an average daily attendance of around 100 children the Kirk Session gave thanks for its success. The Kirk Session believes that no-one should be excluded from activities within the church due to financial constraints, and as a result the Holiday Club is provided free of charge to everyone who attends.

A continual challenge within Christian communities throughout the world is how to keep the message relevant to a modern generation. As part of this ongoing challenge, Greyfriars continues to provide new ways for people to access the church. Throughout the course of the year, two very successful 'Onesie Discos' were held, with around 200-250 children in attendance. The community cinema run in Greyfriars, on an ad hoc basis in 2014, continued to bring hundreds of people, mainly families, through the church door.

During Sunday worship a Sunday School and Youth Group are provided for the children and young people who join us in Greyfriars. The children and young people listen to the same bible story as the adults in church, in the hope that people can speak to each other about the story, and other matters of faith when they return home.

Greyfriars will continue to discover new ways and provide new opportunities for a new generation to engage with the church.



LOOKING OUT ...

... to serve our community

It is the belief of all within the Kirk Session of Greyfriars that the church exists to offer the community somewhere to encounter God, to worship, to gather and to grow closer as a community.

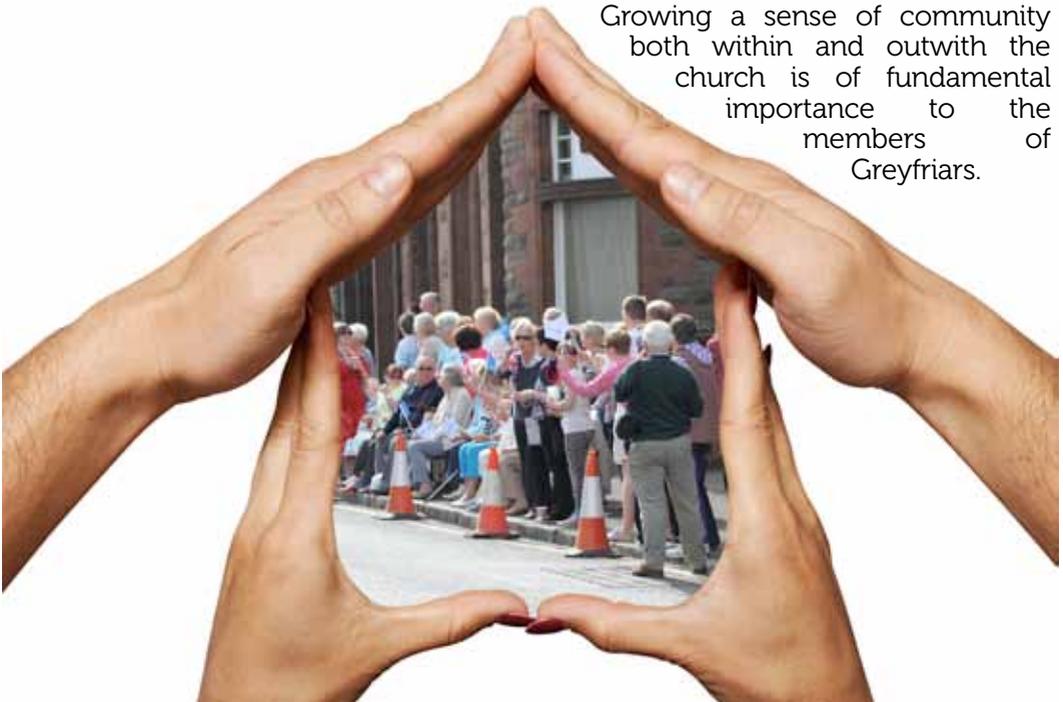
During the last few years, Greyfriars has been used by a growing number of community groups as a venue for their activities. From keep fit to yoga, a drama group to a community cafe, many within the community call Greyfriars 'their' church.

The Wiggler's Toddler Group runs twice a week and offers a place for children to play and grow and, equally as important, a place for parents, grandparents and carers to meet together for conversation and support.

Clearspace Cinema continues to meet a need within the community with around 1,000 people gathering to watch a movie throughout the year. All movies are offered free of charge and are shown to a variety of groups. Several people have commented that coming to Clearspace Cinema allows them the opportunity not simply to watch a movie, but to gather with people they may not know in the community and get to know them around tables and over a glass of wine or bag of popcorn.

It is important that Greyfriars moves outwith the church building to offer activities as well. The minister runs a carol service and pub quiz in the local pub on Christmas Eve, and the congregation offers the opportunity for the community to have 'Breakfast with Santa' in the lead up to Christmas, again in the local pub.

Growing a sense of community both within and outwith the church is of fundamental importance to the members of Greyfriars.



LOOKING OUT ...

... in partnership with others

In everything we do as a church family within Lanark we always appreciate when it is possible to work with others. Within the community we are blessed with good relationships between Greyfriars and the other mainline denominational churches. Our minister meets with colleagues every month to plan joint events and initiatives.

Our minister is also involved in a number of schools, acting as chaplain. He is chaplain to Robert Owen Memorial Primary and New Lanark Primary schools, and is a key organiser of the chaplaincy team in Lanark Grammar School and Stanmore House School. Through the joint working of other churches, Greyfriars and Christ Church were once again able to host a Christmas Activity Day for both Robert Owen and New Lanark Primary Schools. Volunteers from the churches and Lanark Grammar School, led by our minister, held a day of workshops and activities for around 400 children based around the Christmas story.

There are many members of the Greyfriars Church family involved in events and organisations within our community. Our minister is a Community Councillor and also ensures that the voice of the church is heard in different groups throughout Lanark.

Greyfriars is also heavily involved in the work of the wider Church of Scotland. Our minister is Depute Presbytery Clerk and two of our elders act as Resources Convenor and Ministries Convenor within the Presbytery of Lanark. Another elder acts as an assessor elder within another congregation.

To work in isolation does not benefit the community as much as working in partnership undoubtedly does.

To share our skills, expertise and passion with others is a key ideal within Greyfriars.



LOOKING OUT ... as a church family

It is vitally important that a church family not only worships together but grows together. In Greyfriars, the church family is encouraged to commit a portion of its week to prayer and faith development through, amongst other things, the provision of regular Bible readings.

The Kirk Session endeavours to provide care and support to each member of the church family when it is required. With the aim of visiting every member at least three times a year, elders and church visitors, are encouraged to raise any issues of concern raised with members to the minister and/ or session clerk.

The minister provides as much care as is possible, whilst meeting the other demands placed upon him by the community, congregation, Presbytery and National Church. In 2014 the minister conducted 37 funerals, 4 weddings and 6 baptisms, alongside other ministerial duties.

At the end of 2014 Greyfriars church family had 559 members (down from 571 in 2013) and 34 adherents (those who associate with the church family but who are not yet members) and had 50 children and young people playing a regular part in worship, with many more children (around 180) involved in the life of Greyfriars.

The church family was delighted to welcome 11 new elders to the Kirk Session during the course of the year, as well as formally welcoming another who joined in the previous year. Three of those elders were previously ordained in other congregations, but nine were ordained during a special service in November. The members of the Kirk Session hope and pray that the strengthening of the membership of the Kirk Session will

lead to a renewed sense of vision and purpose within the church family, as new voices play their part in shaping the direction of Greyfriars in the years to come.



LOOKING OUT ...

... for 21 years as Greyfriars

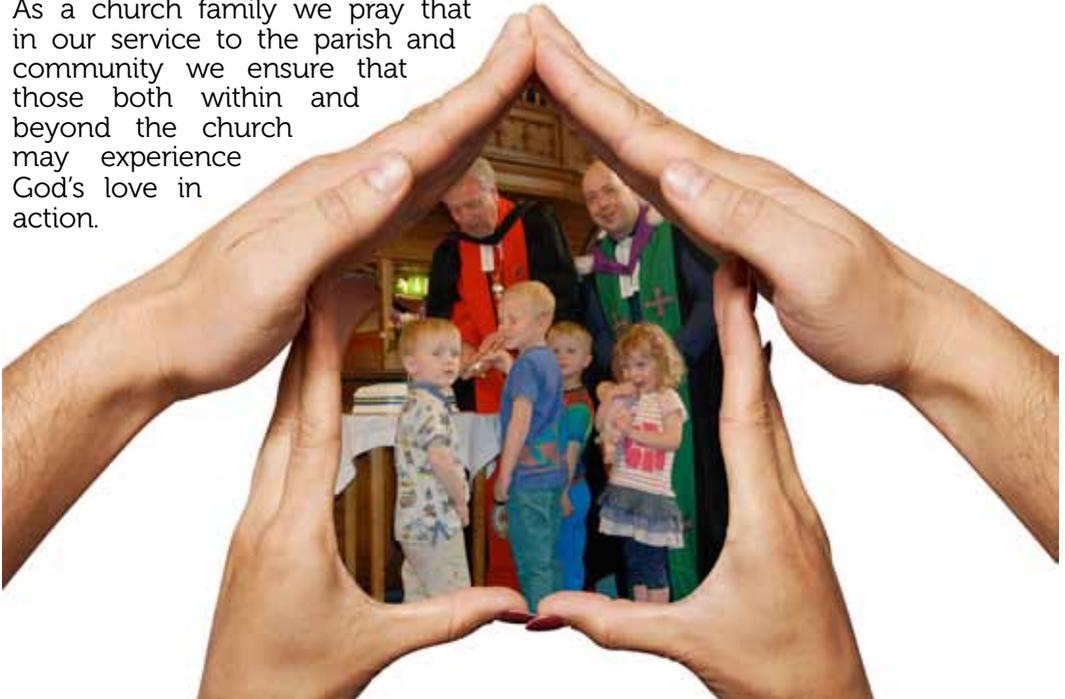
In May 1993, the Presbytery of Lanark held a special service of Union to mark the formation of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark. The former members of St. Kentigern's and Cairns came together and committed to working together to give service God within the newly united parish.

On Sunday 1st June 2014, the congregation of Greyfriars welcomed The Right Reverend John P. Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for 2014-2015 to lead a special service of thanksgiving to mark the 21st anniversary of Greyfriars. Members of Greyfriars were especially encouraged that friends from St. Nicholas Parish Church in Lanark joined them for the occasion.

The service, and the anniversary, was more than an excuse to have a party. The event marked the 'coming of age' of the congregation of Greyfriars. Over a period of 21 years, Greyfriars has seen remarkable change. A rationalisation of buildings, a new manse, one of the first 'job share' ministries in the Church of Scotland, a redevelopment of the chancel area of the sanctuary, the formation of a church office and a new audio visual system within the sanctuary are only some of the landmarks that have been witnessed by members of the church family.

The members of the Kirk Session, and the wider church family, are grateful to all who has laid the foundation for the next 21 years. Many of those who live in the community talk of Greyfriars as being a 'church at the very heart of the community', and it is the desire of all those involved within the leadership of Greyfriars to ensure that they provide a heartbeat for many years to come.

As a church family we pray that in our service to the parish and community we ensure that those both within and beyond the church may experience God's love in action.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2014 we earned a small surplus of income over expenditure which amounted to £5,162 (2013: £2,697).

Reserves at 31st December 2014 amounted to £57,870 (2013: £52,708). Excluding the Endowment Fund of £14,273 (from which only income is available to spend) the Reserves at year end were £43,597.

Income

Our voluntary income reduced from £103,727 in 2013 to £90,562. Last year's figure however included £15,890 of grant monies which were mainly for the cinema project Clearspace. This year included a very generous anonymous donation of £7,000.

Normal regular givings declined slightly. There was however a substantial increase in income from the use of our premises and income from our printing services also increased. In addition we boosted our income from fundraising events.

Expenditure

Total expenditure reduced from £122,328 in 2013 to £116,485 as we continue to control costs.

The Challenge Ahead

Although it is encouraging that we have shown small surpluses in the last two years this has been achieved through exceptional donations and income generated from the use of our premises and facilities and fundraising events.

To ensure a sound financial position going forward we need to see regular voluntary givings increase as this is the most reliable source of income for our church.

It is appreciated that these are still very difficult economic times for some of our members but we appeal to those who are able to review their level of givings after giving thought to where the church stands in their priorities.

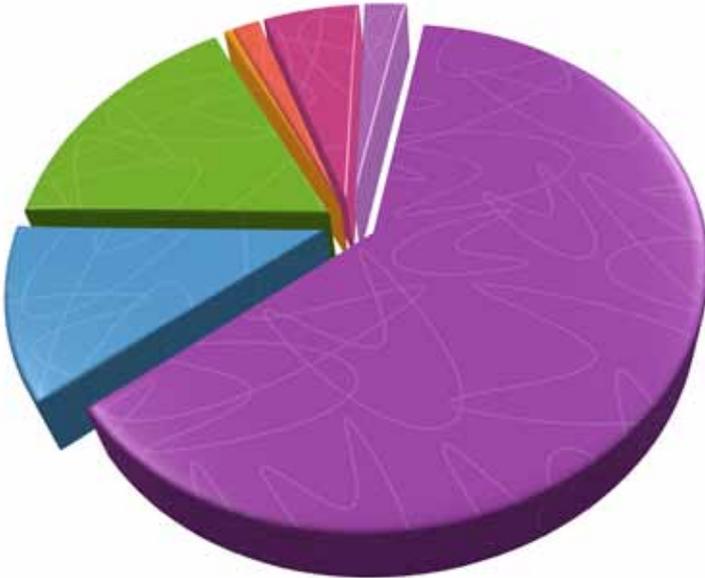
We would also ask everyone who pays tax to use the Gift Aid scheme as this enables the church to recover an additional 25% of tax at no extra cost to the donor.

The Session remains committed to ensure that Greyfriars continues to provide a vital service within the church and also in the wider community.

We can only achieve this aim if we have a sound financial base.

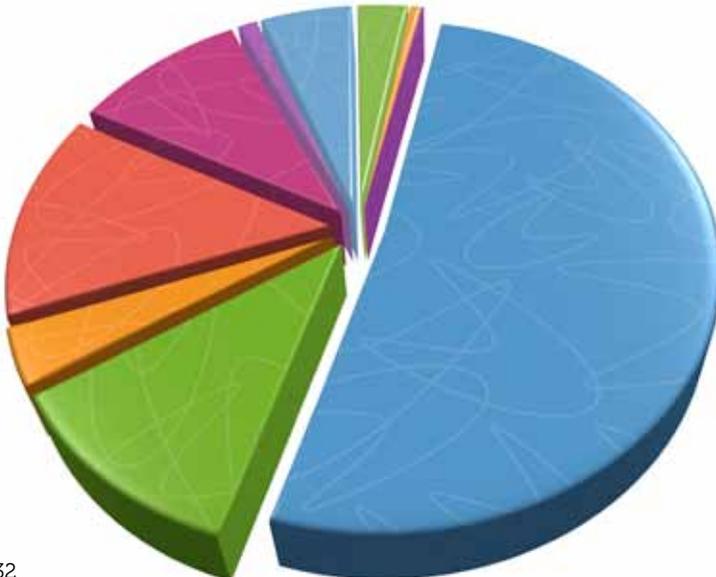
We are confident that with the wholehearted support of all our members we will be able to continue to pursue our vision of furthering God's work.

Where our money comes from



- Offerings £73,894
- Tax recovered £13,668
- Fundraising £6,857
- Investment Income £661
- Weddings £1,916
- Use of premises etc £19,595
- Grants £3,000

Where our money goes



- Envelopes £132
- Ministries, Mission & Central Costs £59,947
- Local Salaries £13,369
- Fabric repairs & Maintenance £4,281
- Building costs (inc. Council Tax) £15,598
- Office Expenses & General Costs £11,378
- Church Orgs £6,286
- Depreciation £3,463
- Governance £720
- Worship, Music & AV £1,311

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 £43,597 (2013: £39,491) of which £11,010 (2013: £7,683) were for congregational organisations.

The Church also held £14,273 in Endowment Funds (2013: £13,217) for the purposes specified in note 13 of the main accounts.

TRUSTEES THANKS

The Trustees would like to place on record their thanks and appreciation to Anne Gibson who acted as treasurer over the last few years. Anne has been a tremendous asset to Greyfriars and has now moved to another area of the country. The trustees wish her every blessing in the new chapter of her life.

GREYFRIARS FUNDS

At the 31st December 2014, the funds of Greyfriars Church were held as follows:

	At 1 Jan 2014	At 31 Dec 2014
Endowment funds	£13,217	£14,273
Restricted Legacy not for fabric	-	-
General Fund	£31,808	£32,587
Designated Clearspace Fund	£1,552	£4,567
Designated Guild Fund	£930	£1,051
Designated Holiday Club	£835	£780
Designated IT Fund	£1,043	£1,043
Designated Open Space	£199	£0
Designated Puppet Ministry	£57	£57
Designated School Chaplaincy	£789	£900
Designated Sunday School Fund	£332	£496
Designated Wrigglers Fund	£1,946	£2,116
Total funds	£52,708	£57,870

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

A family seeking to
serve others by being
a church that looks
beyond the church.

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

