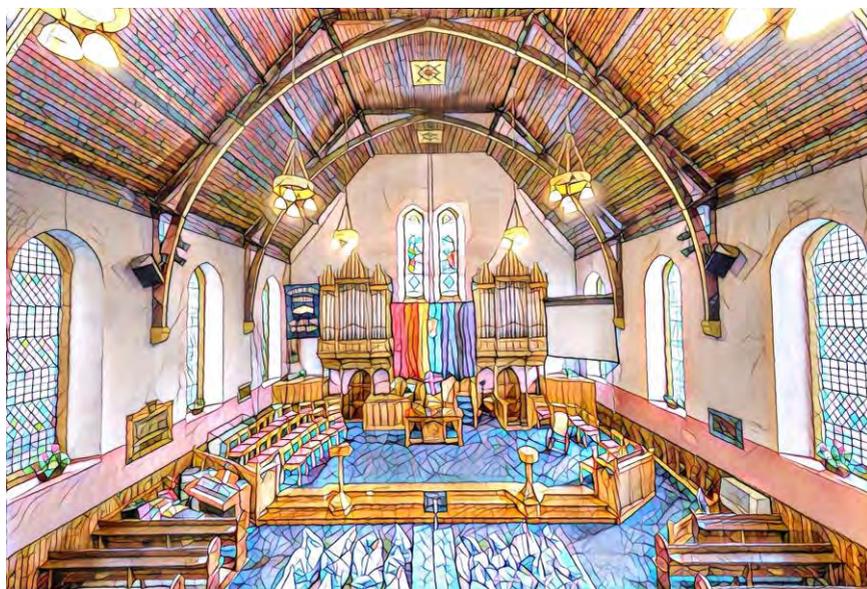


Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland)

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com



Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2016



Charity Number: SC016504

Congregational Number: 130728

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.

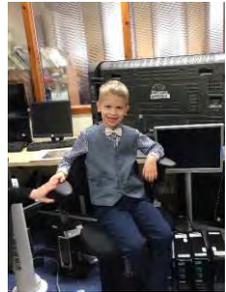
In 2006 the Kirk Session set out a vision statement for the congregation as it sought to find a new minister. This vision read:

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

In our endeavours to keep moving forward as a Church, the members of the Kirk Session in Greyfriars continue to involve and reach out to the local community so that everyone knows Greyfriars church is ‘their’ church as well as ‘our’ church. Sunday worship is where church members’ and Session’s faith is strengthened, encouraging us to go into the community demonstrating the love of God, and making a difference.



Throughout this year Greyfriars continued to face challenges with our minister Bryan returning from illness in June 2016 on a phased return and only returning ‘full time’ in October 2016. The church family are delighted that Bryan has returned to lead us and guide us, and continue to support him. However, it should be celebrated that so many members of Greyfriars Church Family have helped to continue its work both during Bryan’s absence and upon his return.

Faith and Worship

The members of the church family of Greyfriars feel it is crucial that any work or activity begins with faith, which is why we strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church where all can feel at home.

Each Sunday members of the church family worship together at 11.00am. Our choir, although small in number, continues to lead us in our musical praise. During the 11.00 am Sunday worship the Sunday School and Youth Group also meet to tackle issues. 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. We continued to meet with our brother and sisters in other churches around Lanark for our Holy Week Services. Easter Sunday celebrations began at 8.45am with an outdoor service at Lanark Loch, followed by breakfast in our neighbouring church and further worship at 11.00am. At Christmas time the Sunday School and Youth Group delighted us with a Nativity Service, while the Watchnight Service was a special candlelit service which was shared with friends from St. Nicholas Church and a large number of people from the community. Prior to the Watchnight Service our minister led the community in a pub quiz and carol singing in the Clydesdale Inn, next door to our church.

Greyfriars Church Family is aware that not everyone can attend church on a Sunday, and so we share our worship using technology to broadcast live, and provide on demand recordings.

Outreach

In April a week long Holiday Club for primary school age children was written and delivered by a dedicated team of around 30 volunteers from the church. 120 children registered for 'Angel Airways' Holiday Club and had lots of fun. Special thanks are due to Scott Paget who co-ordinated the club in the absence of our minister. Many also attended the films screened each afternoon in the



church. In December twenty five church volunteers assisted by sixth year Lanark Grammar students again took the Christmas Story to the almost 400 children of Robert Owen Memorial Primary School and New Lanark Primary School.

Serving the Community

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



the church as a venue for their activities. Wrigglers toddler group, drama group, yoga, camera club, powerhooping, community cafes and more, all call Greyfriars “their church”

The members of the church family are continually challenged to think of other people. As well as collecting for the local food bank, the members give very generously at

Christmas time, sending presents to both Families Outside and New Beginnings (Clydesdale). As a congregation Greyfriars also sought to help new mums who did not have enough money to afford basic supplies for themselves through a handbag project for the Lanarkshire Baby Bank.

Serving the World

Greyfriars members also embarked on a project to ‘twin’ one of our toilets in the building with a toilet in Africa. Such was the generosity of gifts given, all four toilets in the church were able to be twinned, three with blocks of toilets in African schools.



One of our elders, Sue Crofton, embarked on a mission adventure to Uganda to work with children in the country for two weeks. As part of her trip Sue invited members of the church family to give donations of craft materials, small toys and pants and sanitary products for teenage girls. Again, such was the generosity of the church family that extra baggage had to be purchased to allow all of the donated items to be taken and distributed.

Clerk to the Presbytery of Lanark

It was with great pleasure that our minister Bryan was appointed as Clerk to the Presbytery of Lanark. He has served as Depute Clerk for a number of years. This appointment will continue to ensure that Greyfriars Church plays an active part in the Presbytery and the wider Clydesdale area.



The Kirk Session and congregation of Greyfriars Parish Church continue to seek new ways of sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ with the community of Lanark. Throughout the forthcoming year, it is hoped, that with God’s help, Greyfriars will continue to move forward as one family.

Financial Review

In 2016 we showed a small surplus of £5,204 (2015: deficit £2,412) of income over expenditure in the Unrestricted Fund while the Restricted Fund utilised funds brought forward to cover this year's net payments of £2,643 (2015: nil). Reserves at 31st December 2016 amounted to £28,246 (2015: £29,372) and in addition there was £15,661 (2015 : £10,698) in the Endowment Fund.

It should be noted that the deficit shown in the year on the Endowment Fund of £3,687 was caused by this amount coming out of cash and going in to investment in the Church of Scotland Growth Fund.

Income

Our voluntary income into Unrestricted Funds increased in the year from £71,531 to £75,723. The 2016 income was boosted by £11,000 raised from the Gift Day in November .

The normal regular givings therefore declined once again.

In addition we received £9,446 (2015: £5,300) this year from donations given for restricted purposes namely a new boiler for the hall and lead work repairs on the box gutter in the roof.

Income from the use of premises and printing services increased to £20,313 (2015: £15,179) and fundraising activities also made a useful contribution.

Expenditure

Total expenditure increased to £124,727 (2015 : £122,429). This included £12,089 of Restricted expenditure.

The Challenge Ahead

Although it is encouraging that we had a small surplus in 2016 it should be noted that without the Gift Day donations of £11,000 it would again have been a deficit.

We were also once again very dependent on income from the Use of Premises, printing services and fundraising events

While all these sources of income are most welcome the decline in regular givings is of concern. To ensure a sound financial position for the future we must see regular voluntary givings increase. With this in mind the Kirk Session are arranging for a Stewardship Campaign to take place in the Autumn of this year.

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 allows the church to recover an additional 25% of tax at no cost to the donor.

The Session remains committed to ensure that Greyfriars continues to provide a vital service within the Church and in the wider community but this can only be done if we are able to secure a sound financial base.

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

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 £26,505 (2015: £21,301) of which £5,611 (2015: £8,488) were for congregational organisations. This level is below the trustee's policy but they plan to restore reserves to the required level in future years.

The Church also holds restricted funds of £1,741 (2015: £4,384) and has invested £15,661 in Endowment Funds (2015: £10,698) for the purposes specified in note 2 of the main accounts.

Greyfriars Funds

	At 1 Jan 2016	At 31 Dec 2016
	£	£
Endowment funds	3,687	-
Restricted Funds		
Clearspace	2,700	-
School Chaplaincy	684	377
School Uniform Fund	1,000	1,000
Special Repair Fund		364
	<u>4,384</u>	<u>1,741</u>
Unrestricted Funds		
Designated Guild Fund	945	888
Designated Wrigglers Fund	1,671	1,339
Designated Sunday School Fund	139	-
Designated Puppet Ministry	357	357
Designated Holiday Club	991	868
Designated IT Fund	1,043	1,043
Designated School Chaplaincy	900	900
Designated Clearspace	2,442	216
General Fund	12,813	20,894
	<u>21,301</u>	<u>26,505</u>

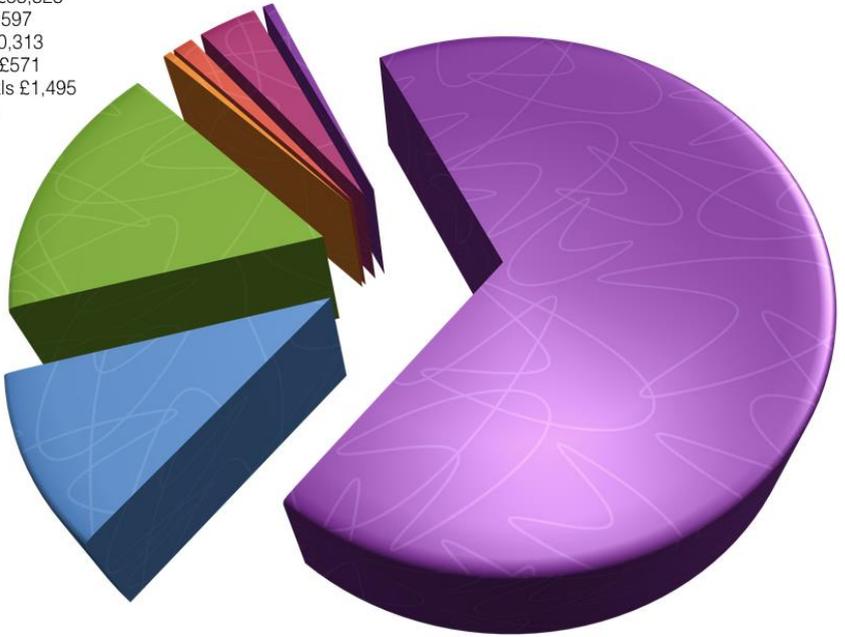
Greyfriars Funds

If you would like to find out any more information about Greyfriars Parish Church then please visit our website or contact our church office on telephone 01555 437050.

A full set of accounts are available online at www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

Where our money came from ...

- Offerings & Grants £83,323
- Tax Recovered £12,597
- Use of Premises £20,313
- Investment Income £571
- Weddings & Funerals £1,495
- Fundraising £4,330
- Grants £771



How our money was spent ...

- Ministries, Mission & Central Costs £56,041
- Local Salaries £13,695
- Fabric Repairs & Maintenance £12,154
- Building Costs £13,661
- Office Expenses £11,984
- Church Organisations £3,858
- Other Expenses £4,426
- Purchase of Investments £8,548

