

Greyfriars Gazette

The newsletter of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

www.lanarkgreyfriars.com

February 2019



From the minister ...

Dear friends,

No-one likes talking about money. After all we are both Scottish and Presbyterian which is a poor combination for lighthearted financial discussions.

However, as part of our faith it is vital that we do speak about money. Not because it is something the Church of Scotland have dreamed up to make us squirm, but because we are commanded in Scripture to give, to give generously, joyfully and sacrificially to God.

Why do we come to church? I hope it is because we can offer our thanksgiving to God for all that he has done for us. Yes we might enjoy it. We might even get something from being close to friends in the church family. Ultimately though we come to church because we know the blessing of God in our life.

When we know God, and experience God at work in our lives then we simply cannot (or at least should not) stay quiet. We should be shouting from the rooftops, up and down Lanark High Street 'God is good. God loves me. God loves you.' Now granted we may get a few strange looks, and might even get escorted down by the local constabulary but the sentiment is real. We know God, and therefore we need to share God.

The great news is that to share that message doesn't involve embarrassing moves like shouting from rooftops ... well not every day anyway. As part of our response to God in our life, as a way of saying 'thank you' to him we give what we are able to the work of God in our community and beyond. Through the gifts that we give to the work of the Church, the work of building the Kingdom of God in our community moves forward and we can not only

tell people, but show them that God loves them.

It has been a genuine privilege to have walked alongside you in our common journey of faith over these last 12 years, and I hope there are many more years ahead of us. I have been so fortunate to see God at work in our church, and through our church family, at work in the community as well.

To have been able to share the Good News of Jesus' story with thousands, yes thousands of children and young people has been truly humbling.

To have been able to go into people's homes and lives at times of real joy and profound sadness has had a major effect on my ministry.

To have been called upon to help those who have sometimes been forgotten by the community and need practical and demonstrable help has been challenging.

To have been called to proclaim week after week the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community has been a genuine privilege.

I could go on and on but the thing that has made all of these things so special is the fact that I have been surrounded by people like you. Women and men of faith who have challenged me in my faith and worked tirelessly to make Greyfriars the church it is today ... a church where all can find a welcome, all are loved and the church family can share God's inclusive love.

We talk about sacrificial giving within the Church of Scotland and many of you have given so much over the years, not only in financial

Catch the

VISION
of Greyfriars

terms but also in your time and talents as well.

However, this month we ask you to prayerfully consider your response to our Stewardship Initiative. Will you 'Catch the Vision of Greyfriars'? Contained within this magazine is information that I pray will allow you to reflect on the work we do as a church family. As you reflect, give thanks to God and ask what Micah the prophet urged, 'What do you require of me Lord'?

We have spoken much of the financial needs of Greyfriars over many years. Today I ask you to pray, reflect and respond to God's goodness in your life with reviewing your regular giving to God's church, or beginning to make a regular gift to his church.

God has called each of us into his service. He asks us to give of ourselves. That means all of us, money included. Please don't be embarrassed or uncomfortable thinking about your financial response to God. It is part of all of our faith. Giving to God through his church should be as natural as brushing our teeth or combing our hair. I pray that it is so.

God bless you as you consider your response to God.

From the Stewardship Convener ...

I invite you to cast your mind back to the November edition of Greyfriars Gazette. You may recall I wrote about our forthcoming Stewardship Initiative. The time has now arrived to put our plans into action.

Over the last few months the very dedicated Stewardship team aided by our minister Bryan and Margot Robertson, a Stewardship advisor from the Church of Scotland, has worked tirelessly to come up with a plan and a strategy that will see Greyfriars continue to stand firmly at the centre of our family and community for many more years to come.

Over the next few weeks you will begin to notice small changes around the church in terms of things happening. So please don't be alarmed if someone (most likely myself) comes to you before the service and asks you a few questions about your involvement within the church and what Greyfriars means to you. This is a key part of our strategy and will help other people within the church know what everyone else thinks and does within and out-with the 4 walls of a Sunday morning.

Features of this initiative will seem familiar - leaflets, magazine and themed sermons. Stewardship is about more than just money; it brings in time and talent as well. Our future plan is to keep Stewardship firmly in our minds for many years to come, with the themes of the next few years talking about time and talents. This year our theme is, as you might expect, money.

Every year prices increase - a pint of milk, your morning paper, gym membership, or kids activity club fees. If you are

anything like me, you simply pay these extra prices, often without thinking. Like all other aspects of life, the church is not immune to price increases and so our costs increase as well - our heating and lighting, our staff, and our contribution to Ministries and Mission of the Church of Scotland (more on this later in the magazine). To put this into an everyday value without attaching an exact figure - the amount of money my partner and I pay jointly to run our house for a year (pay the rent, heating and lighting, council tax, food, and all other associated bills with running a house) would not cover Greyfriars for a week.

As with all organisations, religious or not, our membership is reducing and getting older. We have fewer members than we did 20 years ago and the proportion of those on fixed income, for example a pension, has increased. The challenge for all members of Greyfriars Church family must be to consider our offering to God, through the church, in an effort to help ensure the work of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ within our community can continue. Put very simply, we would like to focus your attention on reviewing your financial giving to the church. When I professed my faith and became a member of our church I, like you, promised to give a fitting proportion of my time, talents and money to the Church to enable the love that I felt from God could be felt and known by others. During this Stewardship Initiative, I urge you to recall that promise you made to God.

With the delivery of this magazine you will have received a 'Catch the Vision of Greyfriars Pledge Card'. It is vital that every

member of our church family, after reading the contents of this magazine and joining us at worship in late February and early March, completes and returns the card. More details of the process can be found on the back page of the magazine.

During this time we must not lose focus on what it means to be a church. God's work in our lives, church and community goes on. We must continue to come together as a family to offer him our worship and to hear about the incredible ways God is working within our church family and in our local and wider community. We need to be reminded how we are still able to make a difference.

Our 'Catch the Vision of Greyfriars' Stewardship initiative will benefit each and every one of us whether you come to church every week or on a more infrequent basis. Perhaps most importantly, it will benefit those in our community who need help and support at challenging times in their lives. Your offering makes a real and tangible difference in our community and beyond.

Over the next few weeks and months I invite you to pray for our church, our community, but most importantly yourself as a member of Greyfriars Church family. I will continue to pray that God will guide, inspire, and influence you, and me, during this key and crucial chapter in the life and story of Greyfriars Parish Church.

May the blessing of the Lord our God guide and guard you in all your decisions in life.



Alan Boyd
Stewardship Convener

Greyfriars Guild

Well friends, here we are again, a new session of our Guild started on Wednesday 7th January with supper and a quiz night. The quiz went very well with one of our teams getting full marks, 20 out of 20, which I'm sure you will agree, was an excellent outcome, well done ladies.

Our next night is on 20th February at 7.30pm, when Richard Paterson will be speaking about Lunch with the Queen, to which anyone can come and join us, if it takes your fancy, indeed any night we are meeting, you will be made very welcome.

We have some great speakers coming this session. Bob Copland will be coming to tell us about is Travels in Tuscany & Umbria and we will be holding our AGM, Easter Egg and Supper evening on the 20th March followed by our Daffodil tea at 10am on Saturday 30th March.

It's all very exciting, the World Day of Prayer is in St Nicholas Church this year on Friday 1st March at 10.00am.

As promised in the last church newsletter, I would like to tell you a wee bit about our Guild Projects.

Our Guild supports two projects each year, and this year we will

be supporting, Crossreach Join up the Dots, which is a collaborative partnership to tackle the problems of loneliness and social isolation in Scotland. Also, the Sailor's Society a Chaplain for our Ports which is an international Christian Society working in ports around the world.

Next year the Guild will be supporting, Malawi Fruits, which is a Scottish Christian Society committed to supporting young farmers in the north of that country and also World Mission which is about empowering teenage mothers in Zambia.

The following year our projects will be, The Free to Live Trusts which hopes to build a rehabilitation centre in India for abandoned children, and The Boys Brigade which I am sure we know all about.

I have told you previously about our new roles this year, with us all doing different things, so far it's going well, but it's early days, so watch this space !! As I've already said, anyone wishing to come any night, will be very welcome.

Vianne



Greyfriars Worship

Worship is at the heart of all that we do in Greyfriars. There are many opportunities to come together for worship and we hope to be able to welcome you to some or all of our services.

February

17 th	11am	Morning Worship
24 th	9.30am	Traditional Communion
	11am	All Age Cafe Worship

March

3 rd	11am	Communion
10 th	11am	Morning Worship
17 th	11am	Morning Worship at Beechgrove Care Home (for transport meet at church at 10:30am)
24 th	11am	Morning Worship
31 st	9.30am	Traditional Communion
	11am	All Age Cafe Worship

April

7 th	11am	Morning Worship
14 th	11am	Morning Worship
15 th	7pm	Holy Week Service (venue tbc)
16 th	7pm	Holy Week Service (venue tbc)
17 th	7pm	The People's Passion ... a Holy Week Passion Play
18 th	7pm	Communion in St. Nicholas
19 th	7pm	Good Friday Worship in Greyfriars
21 st	11am	Easter Celebration
28 th	9.30am	Traditional Communion
	11am	All Age Cafe Worship

May

5 th	11am	Morning Worship
12 th	11am	Morning Worship
19 th	11am	Morning Worship
26 th	11am	Communion

At Greyfriars we offer different types of worship services. Why? Firstly, we are a family comprising of individuals who all appreciate different styles. Secondly, we seek to share God's love with our community, where many have no experience of what 'church' might be, and so we understand the need to offer new ideas and experiences to allow people to experience God.

We broadcast our worship online at greyfriars.church/live and those who join us there speak of how connected they feel with those physically inside the church.

You are welcome to join us at any of our services in person or online.



SOUPER ENTERTAINMENT
A lunch with entertainment to enjoy
After worship on Sunday 28th April
Buy your tickets soon.

2018 Kirk Session Annual Report

2018 has been an exciting year within Greyfriars Church. Following the refurbishment of the sanctuary in 2017 the church leadership and church family have been exploring new ways of what it means to be a church in the heart of the community.

Offering Worship

At the core of everything we do in Greyfriars is the desire to come together as a family of faith to offer our worship to God. 2018 saw a number of deaths within the church family and our membership reduced by 24 leaving a communicant membership roll of 493 people.

Each week the family of Greyfriars come together at 11am for worship. This service is presented as a livestream on our website for those who cannot get to church for whatever reason. We have spoken with people who have joined us in worship from their hospital bed and others from their front room as they care for their young children. A number of people join Greyfriars online from across the world, as well as people appreciating our 'on demand' worship that enables them to join in an act of worship when their work and family commitments mean an inability to join on a Sunday morning.

On the last Sunday of August to April a smaller group of Greyfriars members join together for a traditional service of Holy Communion. This service allows those who wish a quieter, more formal structure of worship to express their faith.

Also on those last Sunday's of the month the 11am service has become a place for innovation and exploration. The church family are exploring ways to remain relevant to those within and outwith the existing church family. A café style service is held to allow people to gather together in worship, to talk to each other about faith, and to eat and drink together around tables within the sanctuary. The Kirk Session are delighted to see more families joining in that particular service.

It is always a time of celebration when the congregation gather around the font to welcome people into the family of the church through Baptism. During 2018 6 people were baptised into the family of faith in Greyfriars, including one family of four where a mother and her three children were baptised during the same act of worship.

Our minister, along with the other ministers of the town, provides regular worship to local care facilities. He often

comments on one person who always says at the end of the service "thank you for coming, it helps us remember we are not forgotten by the community." This is an incredibly valuable service of worship for those who come along.

Offering Community

Greyfriars seeks to develop a sense of community within Lanark. It is the desire of the Kirk Session that community is not simply a quirk of postcode and people living alongside each other physically, but should also be a place where people can grow closer in friendship, faith, support and care. All of the activities that are offered by Greyfriars during the year have the aim of building community on the foundations of the Kingdom of God ... peace, justice, joy and love.

The Kirk Session is aware of the need to support those who are most vulnerable within our community. The church family are exceptionally generous when asked to help and the season of Advent in 2018 became known as #givingadvent. Each week the church family were asked to support a different initiative giving something to those who needed it most. A collection for the food bank each day in November culminated on the first Sunday, followed by gifts and toys to support the work of Families Outside who work to offer care and support to the families of those spending time in prison. The third Sunday of Advent allowed the church family to support Save the Children through the Christmas Jumper Day and finally, on the last Sunday of Advent the church family were invited to take a specially produced Christmas Gospel to those who might appreciate reading the Christmas Story and the exploring the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Greyfriars continues to support



What is Greyfriars?



a number of groups that seek to gather individuals together in community. Our Guild gathers people in an evening where members might otherwise be alone within their homes. The Wrigglers toddler group allows parents and carers to join together with the children, to play and talk together and offer mutual support. The Kirk Session have also supported a young man within our church family to establish a mental wellbeing support group for those who have been particularly affected by suicide or suicidal thoughts. An appeal to the wider community enabled funding to be in place to produce signs with support numbers and unique messages reminding people they are loved and valued, to be mounted on a bridge with a sad history of individuals within our community

who have ended their lives.

Pastoral Support is vital within Greyfriars. Through a large network of members people are visited in the name of the church. The minister participates in this visiting, especially when members are in hospital or facing life altering situations. It is always a challenge for a church to ensure that everyone is cared for at every opportunity and there are times when people don't get the support they seek and, as a Kirk Session, we seek forgiveness for those times. The Kirk Session is always grateful for the messages of thanks received from families who have appreciated the care given to them, particularly during bereavements. During 2018 our minister had the privilege of journeying with 31 families facing the loss of a loved one.

Our minister, Rev Bryan Kerr, along with Rev Louise MacKay from St. Nicholas Parish Church has established the 'Listening Ear' project within the local secondary school. This allows young people to be listened to in a supportive manner should they have any challenges or issues at school, home or within themselves. The project grew from a need within the school to open up more avenues of support to young people due to the waiting lists young people were experiencing to see other professionals. This project has been a great success and is greatly appreciated by the school.

Offering Challenge

For a number of years the Kirk Session have been trying ways to encourage the church family and the wider community to support the work of Greyfriars in a



sustained manner to enable the work of the church to flourish and grow. It became clear that in the second half of the year a major financial crisis required urgent action. A challenge was sent to every member of Greyfriars Church family inviting them to give a special gift for the work of the church to allow our vital community efforts to continue. A sum of over £13,000 (including tax recovered on Gift Aid donations) was raised. The Kirk Session are planning for a major stewardship initiative in the early part of 2019 to encourage people to give to Greyfriars on a regular basis.

The Kirk Session have also been working with the Stewardship and Finance Department in the Church of Scotland Offices to become the first Church in the denomination to trial electronic giving. As part of the pilot project individuals are able to give by way of contactless cards and paypal to maximise the opportunity for people to give a gift to our work.

Offering Facilities

Greyfriars Church continues to be used as a vital resource within Lanark. A number of different organisations make use of the facilities each day ranging from Lanark Choral to children's Taekwondo. The refurbished

sanctuary space has brought a much more pleasant and useable space for groups looking for a warm and well maintained space in which to meet.

The trustees have ensured that the cost of hiring the different rooms within Greyfriars covers the cost incurred by the charity but also provides a cost-effective solution for small to medium sized community groups. Costs are kept under review and the trustees feel it is part of the mission of Greyfriars Church to invite people into the building whether for church or community event, and therefore it is important that cost of using Greyfriars does not become unachievable for these groups.

Offering Good News

The Kirk Session have been continuing their efforts to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with those outwith our church family. As part of this endeavour we seek to demonstrate the Good News as well as speak the stories of our faith. Within the community we offer opportunities to experience God through the church family, whether it be in a pub on Christmas Eve leading carol singing and a pub quiz, or participating in a Walk of Witness around our town during Holy Week.

The church family have also been encouraging the children within our community to engage with the story of faith. In Robert Owen Memorial Primary School where our minister is chaplain

a number of members lead a Christmas Activity Day where the children can experience the Christmas story through words, music, craft and discussion. This is a valued part of the school's RME curriculum.

During the school Easter break around 25 volunteers gave a week of their time to run our annual Holiday Club, Base Station: U. During this week over 130 children were encouraged to think about who they were, their faith, their understanding of God and how they could make a difference in the world simply by being who they were. The Kirk Session feel humbled that parents feel able to entrust their children to Greyfriars for this week. One parent remarked that they appreciate Greyfriars helping to give their child a solid grounding in morals and understanding the Christian faith.

The Kirk Session is aware of the immense challenges that face the Church of Scotland over the coming years. Greyfriars is committed to exploring new ways of being church, of supporting and nurturing faith and understanding what it means to be a church in a changing world. The Kirk Session is mindful of the privileged position it currently has in being a church with a full time minister, and, through his leadership, is working with the minister to begin to explore about what it might mean to offer the services of our minister, as a support, to other congregations. There can be no doubt of the magnitude of the challenge ahead to grow new disciples, reach new people with the Good News and continue to support a church in the widest sense. It is hoped that Greyfriars will continue to offer community, worship and hope for many generations to come.

Wrigglers

Parent/ Carer Baby and Toddler Group



Fridays from 9:45 - 11:45am
Greyfriars Church Hall
(Bloomgate, Lanark)

For more details call 01555 437050
or visit fb.me/langreyfriars

Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland) a charity, registered in Scotland, SC016504

Greyfriars Annual Holiday Club is back and bigger than ever!

Freedom Resort

A Holiday Club for
those in Primary 1-7

**FREE
entry**



1st - 5th April 2019 • 10am - 12:15pm • Greyfriars Church, Lanark
Places are free and open to any child in Lanark and beyond.
To register your child visit www.lanarkgreyfriars.com/freedom

How is the money we send to the Church of Scotland spent?

For every £10 that you give to Greyfriars about £4.20 is kept locally for all sorts of costs including maintaining the building, mission, worship and supporting church groups.

About £4.88 ensures we have ministries in every part of the country.

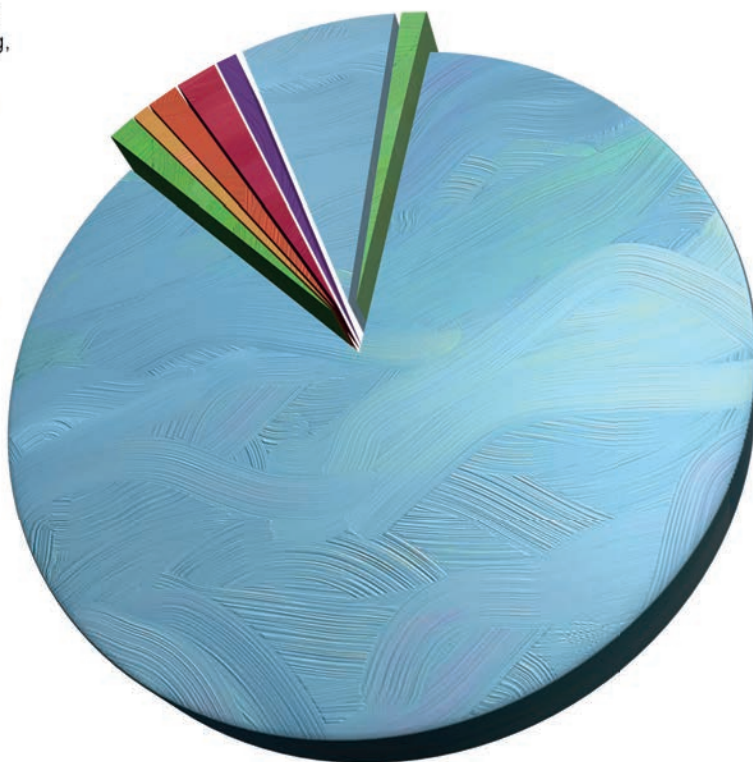
About 92p supports congregations with services such as Safeguarding, Law Department, General Trustees, Stewardship & Finance and mission work.

We are privileged to contribute this money to ensure that it provides a powerful ministry, locally, nationally and globally.

In 2018 the money Greyfriars contributed to the Church of Scotland provided the following support:

- Ministries Staffing Fund £45,951*
- Mission & Discipleship £754
- Church & Society £471
- Crossreach £848
- World Mission £1,131
- General Assembly & Moderator £565
- Support Services (Law, Safeguarding etc) £4,240
- Special Contributions £660

**Please note this is not what our minister is paid but the amount we contribute to the Stipend Fund for all ministries across Scotland.*



Stewardship or Gift Day ... what's the difference?

What is the difference between a Gift Day and our Catch the Vision of Greyfriars Stewardship Initiative?

"The only time I hear from the church is when they want money."

We certainly hope this is not true. This is more than just asking for money. This is about giving money, sacrificially and without apology, but also bringing people together to reenergize our interest and enthusiasm towards God and his work for the future and for the future generations. Let us explain...

You may remember back in September time Greyfriars ran a Gift Day. This is not the first time we have had one. This was a great success and raised a staggering £13000. However, Gift Days tend to happen when desperation sets in. When the

panic button is pressed. It's more a fundraising venture - a cash injection and a benefit for now rather than for the future.

As has been highlighted many times, not just in recent months but for the past decade, the financial health of the congregation is not good. We need to remember at this point that Greyfriars is not alone in this predicament. There are churches up and down the country having similar or worse times than us. This is why we need to focus our minds on Stewardship.

Stewardship is not a cash injection. It is a venture taken by everyone in the church, who is given the opportunity to review their financial giving to the church and, if they are able, to increase it by their own margins. Nobody tells you how much to increase your giving by;

it is entirely your choice. If you feel you cannot increase at this time that is also not a problem.

This is not just another gift day. This is a conscious decision made by people for the future, to allow Greyfriars to remain the spiritual home of our church family and the hub of our community.

When we joined the Church of Scotland, be it in Greyfriars, Cairns, St. Kentigern's or elsewhere, we all made a promise to God to give a fitting proportion of our time, our talents, and our money to the work of the Church. Stewardship reminds us that we made that promise, and invites us to renew it.

We pray that you will not think of the church only ever asking for money, but inviting you to renew your relationship with God.

Christian giving is sacrificial giving

We encourage you to read the following passages of Scripture and reflect on how they do, or might, impact your giving to God...

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus tells a story of a rich man who stored up all his wealth for his own use. When he died, he could not take it with him. *How could this man have become rich in the sight of God?*

Luke 18:18-25

Jesus realises that the rich young man's possessions stand in the way of him becoming a disciple. Jesus challenges the rich young man to give up his possessions. *Why did Jesus demand so much from the young man?*

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus visits Jericho and encounters Zacchaeus, the tax collector who had cheated the people by collecting more taxes than were required by the Roman

authorities. *When Zacchaeus experienced the grace of God in Jesus, what effect did this have on his lifestyle?*

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus watches the people presenting their gifts at the temple. Some rich people give large sums of money. A poor widow offers two small coins. *What was Jesus praising when he commended the widow's offering?*

Our giving is ...

A response to God's sacrificial giving in Christ

The motivation for all our Christian Giving should be our appreciation of God's giving to us - especially God's sacrificial giving through the life and death of Jesus. (John 3: 16)

A measure of our desire to spread the gospel

Everything we have is from

God and for God. This means that all our giving should be an act of praise to God. Giving to share and spread the good news of God's saving grace should be especially important to us. This is the work of the Church. (Matthew 28: 16-20)

A priority in our personal spending

Our giving for the work of God's Church should be a priority in our personal spending, as it was for the Israelites who were expected to bring the 'first fruits' to God. (Deuteronomy 26: 1-11)

A generous proportion of our income

As some of us have much larger incomes than others, our offering should be a proportion of our income, rather than a fixed sum of money. If our offering is truly a response to God's giving to us, it will be a generous, even sacrificial, proportion of our income. (Psalm 116: 12)

Monthly Offerings to Greyfriars

129 members contribute a monthly offering to Greyfriars with either a Bank Standing Order or Freewill Offering Envelopes. Each person standing on a column in our chart represents one member of our Greyfriars church family.

Although greatly appreciated, we have no way to understand how many people give with cash on a Sunday morning.

As you reflect on your offering to the Greyfriars, might you consider giving via Standing Order?

Would you be able to take a step to the next level, or even one beyond that?


Imagine the difference it would make to our work in the community.



What might the offering you give to Greyfriars each month get you elsewhere?

- 
 Paperback Book
- 
 One Coffee per week
- 
 Fast Lunch (family of 4)
- 
 Weekly 'Club' Fees
- 
 Gym Membership
- 
 Theatre Trip (for 1)
- 
 Nice Meal & Drinks for 2

Join us this Lent ...

 The Church of Scotland
in Lanark



**A WEEKLY LENT STUDY GROUP
BASED ON THE ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY'S LENT BOOK 2019**

**6TH, 14TH, 20TH, 28TH MARCH, 3RD & 11TH APRIL
7:30PM IN ST. NICHOLAS HALL (CASTLEGATE)**

**BOOK (£7.50) CAN BE PURCHASED ONLINE OR BY
PLACING AN ORDER WITH EITHER CHURCH**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CHECK OUT [FB.ME/LANARKSTNICHOLAS](https://fb.me/LANARKSTNICHOLAS)
OR [FB.ME/LANGREYFRIARS](https://fb.me/LANGREYFRIARS)**

 The Church of Scotland
in Lanark

FROM Now ON

A LENT STUDY GROUP ON
HOPE AND REDEMPTION IN

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

**SUNDAYS 10TH, 17TH, 24TH & 31ST MARCH AND 7TH APRIL
6:30 - 8:30PM IN GREYFRIARS CHURCH HALL (BLOOMGATE)**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
[FB.ME/LANGREYFRIARS](https://fb.me/LANGREYFRIARS) OR [FB.ME/LANARKSTNICHOLAS](https://fb.me/LANARKSTNICHOLAS)



Your Legacy

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
Timothy 4:7

Making or updating a Will makes us stop and think. It focuses attention on our priorities in life. One of these priorities might be to consider how your assets are used for the things you care about. You may wish to help provide for the future of family, friends, or causes closest to your heart.

The diverse work of the Church of Scotland is greatly enhanced by the generosity of people who leave legacies. Leaving a gift to Greyfriars will ensure that your legacy continues to make a difference for years to come.

We touch the earth lightly while we are here. We are privileged if we can leave a mark of our passing to be remembered by those people and causes we've cared for in life.

A legacy can be small or large. A legacy can be money, property, shares or other assets.

Every gift left to the Church is valued and used carefully for its intended purpose. Your legacy can offer encouragement to those who will continue work that you think is important, or help provide a resource to develop new work. The gift you leave will always make a difference to the Church.

By leaving a legacy to a registered charity like Greyfriars you can reduce any potential inheritance tax on your estate. Your solicitor can advise you on this.

Please think about leaving a gift to Greyfriars in your Will to further God's work in Scotland and beyond. Thank you.

Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship.

Do I have to increase my giving?

No, you do not have to increase your giving. Your own personal finances are paramount to you and we would not wish any personal financial strain on you. If you are unable to increase your giving, please do not feel you have to.

I'm embarrassed as to how much I currently give.

Firstly, please do not feel that way. Any financial giving to the church is a blessing. However, if you wish that your current giving stays undisclosed then simply do not fill it in. Only tell us how much your new amount will be.

Do I need to fill in how much I am going to give on the pledge card?

It would help us enormously to be able to plan and budget if we knew how much you were pledging to give. Any detail you give will be held in confidence by the financial office bearers and no-one will mention it to you. If however you still feel you don't want to write the information down then leave it blank.

I don't want anyone to know how much I give.

In line with charity governance your information is held in confidence. You can rest assured that all details, including personal and financial, given by you will remain completely confidential and will only be seen by the appropriate people concerned with the finances of the church.

I don't currently give regularly to the church. How do I start?

It's very easy to start giving a regular gift to Greyfriars. There are a number of options.

- You can set up a standing order (see page 14 for more details).
- You can ask for offering envelopes that allow you to put a gift in the offering bag on a Sunday.
- You can set up a regular credit or debit card payment online at www.lanarkgreyfriars.com/donate

However you set up a gift to Greyfriars it will be used wisely and appreciated.

Can't I just put some cash in the offering bag on a Sunday?

Of course you can but we would urge you to consider that as an extra to your regular giving. The Kirk Session need to know how much money will be coming in each month in order to budget and plan the work of the church and whilst cash in the offering bag is always welcome it can make that job challenging. Also, we cannot claim Gift Aid on any money that you place into the offering bags that is not in an envelope. In other words, if you are a tax payer in the UK for every pound you put in the bag we lost the chance to claim back an extra 25p from the UK government.

Do the Kirk Session really look after my gift and use it wisely?

We can assure you that every item of expenditure is scrutinised by our Resources Action Group before it is brought to the Kirk Session. The individuals concerned constantly balance the need to be both economical and missional within our community. Yes, we can promise that your gift is not only looked after and wisely used, but also will make a lasting difference in our church and community.

giftaid it

Give more by doing nothing!

If you are a UK taxpayer then any gift you give could be worth more to Greyfriars ... and it won't cost you an extra penny.

You can boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate through Gift Aid.

Please consider Gift Aid. Your signature on a simple form makes such a difference to our church.

For more details, or a Gift Aid Declaration form please contact the Church Office on 01555 437050 or email office@lanarkgreyfriars.com

Greyfriars Financial Challenge

Every year the Kirk Session share information about the health of our church finances with members of Greyfriars family. For a number of years the news has not been that positive.

Over that time, members of the church family have faithfully supported the different appeals for money, especially when things have been tight to say the least.

In 2018 the church family were incredibly generous and gave around £13,000 (including the Gift Aid) during our Gift Day and the church finances at the end of year virtually borken even. No surplus, no loss. However that was only due to that special Gift Day appeal. If that hadn't taken place we would have ended the year with a deficit of over £13,000 meaning that we would have been left with absolutely no money in reserves, making operating as a church virtually impossible.

As you have heard before, although our income has held up over the years, there are fewer members of the church and our expenses have increased significantly. These are not expenses we can do anything about. After was pay our assessed contribution to the Ministry and Mission Fund, pay for things like heat and light, insurance and repairs on the building we are left with around £6,000 in the budget with which we have any control over. That's just £6,000 for things like mission, worship, evangelism, social action, community care.

Some might still be thinking that Greyfriars obviously had lots of money as we refurbished our building. Again we remind people that the refurbishment was paid for from specific money donated by people or obtained in grants for only that purpose. We could not save it or change its use. If we hadn't completed the refurbishment when we did

the boiler would have needed replaced and the pews repaired as some were falling apart. We would not have been able to afford that and our church would not have been able to operate.

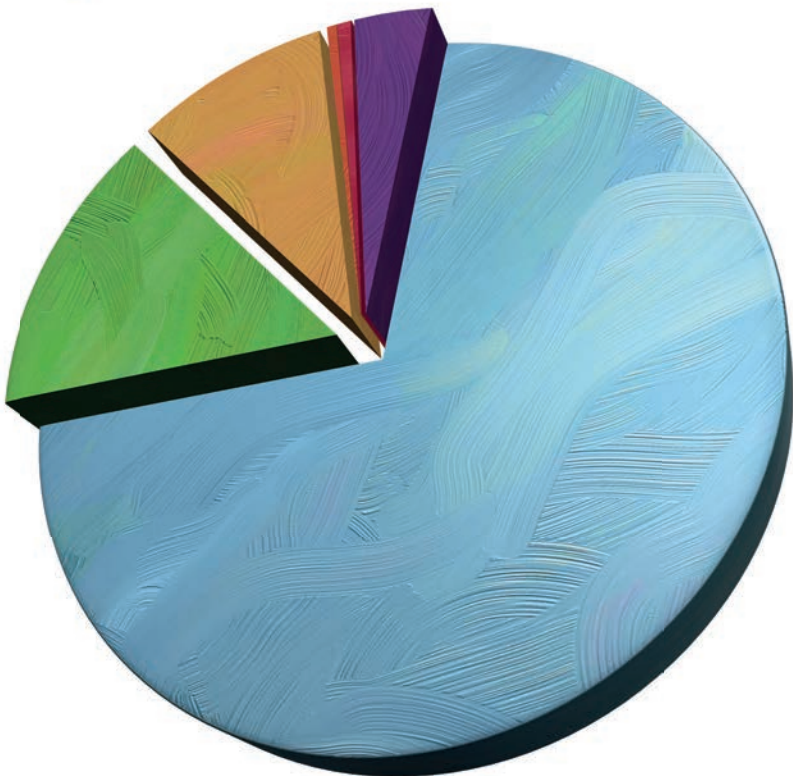
So the challenge is this. We need our total givings for the church to increase by around 20%. That's around £16,000. We know our church family are great at responding to the crisis appeals, but in order to plan for the future we need everyone to consider increasing their regular planned giving to the church.

The Kirk Session realise this is a mammoth task, but with God's help we believe it can be achieved.

We all give for the same reason ... because we know the love of God in our life. The Kirk Session pray that you will hear God's call to support our church and Catch the Vision of Greyfriars all over again so that we can share his love with others.

Where our money came from in 2018

- Offerings £80,226
- Tax Recovered £16,273
- Use of Premises £10,915
- Investment Income £561
- Weddings & Funerals £750
- Fundraising £4,302

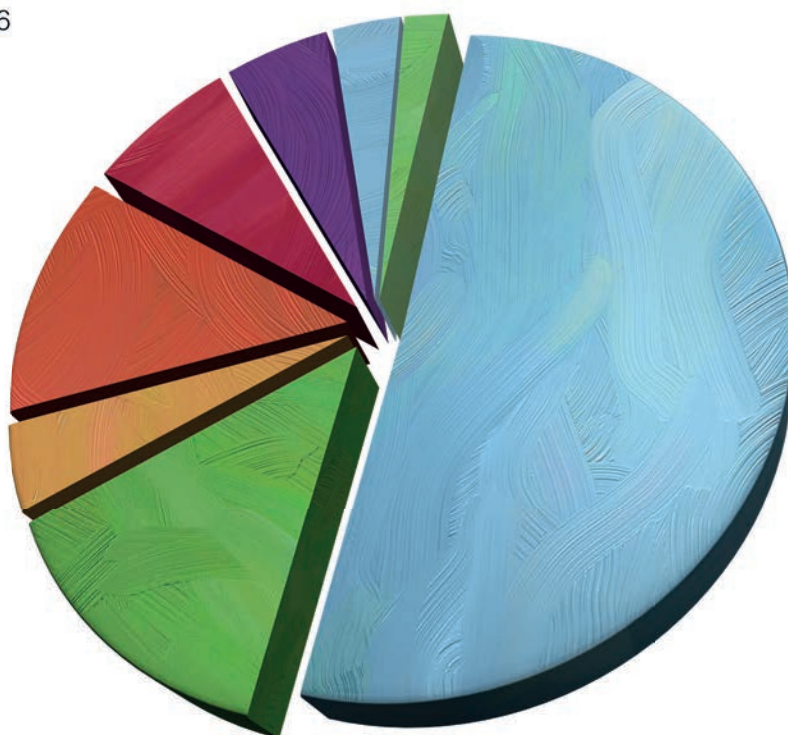


What Greyfriars means to me



How we spent our money in 2018

- Ministries, Mission & Central Costs £57,746
- Local Salaries £15,724
- Fabric Repairs & Maintenance £5,072
- Building Costs (inc. Council Tax) £14,203
- Office Expenses £8,600
- Other Expenses £5,986
- Church Organisations £3,944
- Purchase of Fixed Assets £2,492



A Personal Story

Alan Boyd - Stewardship Convener

As a baby I was baptised in Kirkton Church, Carlisle (I know, I know, I'm an incomer...) but my family was born and bred in Lanark and so was I. Sadly I had no choice about where I was christened as at the age of 3 months old my vocabulary hadn't quite got to an acceptable standard.

My parent's moved back to Lanark when I was 1 year old (I came with them! Don't worry, they didn't leave me in Carlisle, still not quite old enough to fend for myself), and ever since then I was raised with Greyfriars, or Cairns as it was back then, firmly at the centre of our family.

I grew up through all the Sunday Schools, my teachers being the teachers that are still there today (it's hard to believe they're that old!). Before I left the house my mum would always give me my £1 coin to put in the Sunday School collection bag when it came round at the start of class.

Before my 16th birthday my mum told me one thing, that I could make all my own choices in life but the one thing she wanted me to do was join the church. I acknowledged this and after my birthday we paid Bryan a visit (my life has never been the same since!) In October 2007 I received my Certificate of Admission to Holy Communion... I was a "member of the church."

Time went on and I dedicated myself to the work of the church. I became older and wiser, and sometimes found a grey hair or 2! Thanks Bryan! As time went on, I was asked to consider becoming an Elder. Then in 2014 I was ordained as an Elder. The grey hairs continued to appear.

Then at a Kirk Session meeting in August 2018 I gave a small speech as to what the church meant to me in the midst of a financial crisis. Then came the question, in that tone where you just can't say no, "Will you head up our Stewardship programme?" And that's what happened. Here I am, trying to secure the future of our church. "But I'm only 27, I'm way out of my depth here, I can't do this!" I said to myself as I left the church counting what few black hairs I had left on my head.

But then I said to myself, "This means I need to ask people for money, but I don't give any money to the church." The feeling of hypocrisy and sudden insignificance was overwhelming. The following week, after payday, I reviewed what I had left after I'd paid all my dues and bills. "There's enough there to give to the church." I told myself.

The laptop came out and I logged on to RBS (other high street banking services are available)

and I gave to the church. I gave money to the church. Not time

or talents. Money! The feeling that came over me was weird. I felt like I had genuinely made a difference, that what I'm giving to the church however small would still help them, as it's one more person giving than they had yesterday. My feelings of hypocrisy and insignificance complete disappeared, and I was left feeling almost refreshed. I felt closer to God. I don't know what renewing wedding vows feel like, but I can now imagine, as I felt like I'd renewed my membership and commitment to God and his church.

Greyfriars has been a central part of my life, all my life. I would be heartbroken to see it close. I could go to another church tomorrow and worship God, but it wouldn't be MY church. So in this piece I ask you not as the Stewardship Convener, but as an elder, a member, and a fellow follower of Jesus Christ, please dig as deep as you can for the future of Greyfriars. This is not just another fundraising scheme. This is going to be a continuous feature of our worship and mission for years to come.



It's easy to do as Alan did and set up a Standing Order with your bank.

If you have access to online banking simply logon & set up, or amend, a Standing Order using the details below.

If you don't have access to online banking then take our account details to your bank and ask them to set it up for you. It will only take a few moments of your time to set up, or amend a Standing Order and it will have a lasting effect on our church and our community. Thank you.

Sort Code: : 80-17-02, Account No: 00172935



**Champagne
Afternoon Tea**

Saturday 18th May
2pm - 4pm

Greyfriars Parish Church
Bloomgate, Lanark

Tickets £7.50
available from
Liz Ivison 01555 661944 or
Church Office 01555 437050 or
online at tickets.greyfriars.church

organised by Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark SC016504
Tickets purchased online are subject to a small service fee

An evening with John Love and friends

**Join us as our church musician leads
an incredible night of entertainment
and musical talent.**

Thursday 21st March

7:30pm

Ticket £10

(includes glass of wine)

**Greyfriars Parish
Church, Lanark**

**Tickets available from
Greyfriars Church Office
or online at tickets.greyfriars.church**



Tickets purchased online are subject to a small service fee

Greyfriars Church Contacts

Minister:	Rev Bryan Kerr B.A., B.D.	437050
Greyfriars Manse, 3 Bellefield Way, Lanark, ML11 7NW		663363
Email: bkerr@churchofscotland.org.uk		
Administrator:	Helen Paget	437050
Email: hpaget@lanarkgreyfriars.com		
Session Clerk:	Graham Chapman	661385
Email: sessionclerk@lanarkgreyfriars.com		

For all other office bearers or enquiries, please contact the church office
Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark (Church of Scotland) is a charity registered in Scotland, SC016504

Making Your Response ...

Attached to the front of this magazine you will have found one pledge card for each member of the church that lives in your house.

The Kirk Session ask that when you have read the information contained in our special edition of the Greyfriars Gazette you spend time in prayer, asking God to speak to you and inspire you as you reflect upon your giving.

When you are at a point where you feel you have clarity in what you feel God is leading you to give to his church, we ask that you complete the pledge card. If each person in your household wishes they can complete their own pledge card or, if you would rather and view your giving to God as a 'household' gift, then feel free to complete one card.

You are invited to detach the perforated section and keep this as a reminder of what you have pledged to God. Place the completed card in the envelope provided and return it to Greyfriars. You can bring it to worship on any Sunday up to and including 10th March. You can also hand it in to the Church

Office (the office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9am - 1pm), put it through the office door (Friars Lane), or post it back to Greyfriars (although we remind you to put a stamp on your envelope!)

If you have not been able to return your pledge card by 10th March then a friendly visitor from the church will pay a short visit to see if there is anything we can do to assist you to return your card. They will also have spare pledge cards with them just in case you have misplaced yours.

We really value having you as a member of the Greyfriars Church family, and we hope and pray you value the work in which we are involved within our community. God's work to build his Kingdom ... and with your help and commitment we can continue to flourish and allow more people to experience the love of God in their life.

Thank you for your commitment and support.

God bless you.

Important Dates ...

There are a number of important dates with our Catch the Vision Initiative.

We would like to invite you to worship on **Sunday 24th February**. At both our 9:30am quiet communion and 11am Café Church we will be praying especially for the financial health of Greyfriars and asking God to bless our 'Catch the Vision' Stewardship initiative. We pray that your attendance at one of our services will allow you to understand the financial comings and goings of the church in order that you can prayerfully consider reviewing your offering to God.

The next weekend, **Sunday 3rd March** is our Communion service, but key to this initiative. On this day we would like you to return your pledge card. After the 11am service we will be holding a **special pancake lunch** to mark the start of Lent, to allow a time of fellowship. There will also be people on hand to offer any confidential advice you may be looking for in respect of both our church finances and how you can set up a regular gift to Greyfriars.

We hope that if you are unable to join us in worship on 3rd March that you will be with us on **Sunday 10th March** where again you can hand in your completed pledge card.

We look forward to welcoming you to our different 'Catch the Vision of Greyfriars' events.

Your Pledge Reminder
Please detach this section & keep

Catch the VISION of Greyfriars

Name: Mrs Any One
Address: 29 Accacia Road, Lanark

Confidential Pledge Card
Please complete and return to Greyfriars
(for more details of how to do so see the front page of your magazine)

☐ I have reviewed my giving and have decided to increase the amount I give to Greyfriars.

☐ I have decided to change the amount I give from £..... to £..... per week/ month/ quarter/ year (delete as applicable)

☐ I intend to give, or continue to give, in one or more of the following ways:

☐ Standing Order ☐ Freewill Offering Envelopes

☐ Open Plate ☐ Other

☐ I am a taxpayer and have signed, or plan to sign a Gift Aid declaration ☐ I regret that I am unable to give any more at this moment

Reminders to set up new or amended Standing Orders to Greyfriars online or by your bank
Online: 80-1702 Account No: 001729551
Bank: 80-1702 Account No: 001729551

Catch the VISION of Greyfriars