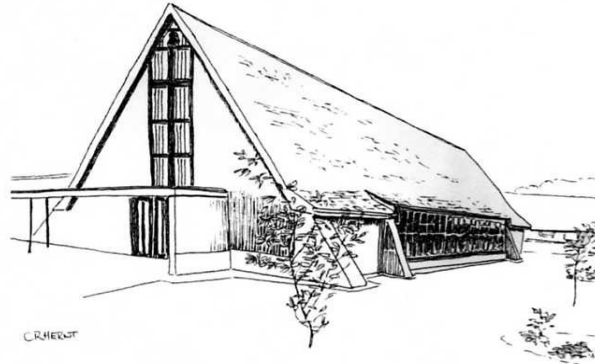


KIRK OF THE HOLY ROOD

KIRK MESSENGER



*MAY YOU ALWAYS BE JOYFUL IN YOUR UNION WITH THE LORD, I SAY IT AGAIN —
REJOICE. (PHILIPPIANS 4 V4)*

MARCH 2017

2	Parish Register/Nearly New Shop
3	Women's Association
4	Prayer Promoter
5	Gift Aid/Community Kitchen
6	Minister's Message
7-10	Treasurer's Report
11	Diary Dates

Parish Register

Deaths

Mr John Petrie, 4 Cruachan Place, Grangemouth d. 16.11.16

Mrs Sarah (Sally) Wylie, 4 Newbiggin Road, Grangemouth d. 23.11.16

Mr William McCallum, 74 Bowhouse Road, Grangemouth d. 28.11.16

Mrs Mary Grant, 14 Morar Court, Grangemouth d. 2.12.16

Mr John (Ian) Brown, 9 Bute Place, Grangemouth d. 17.12.16

Mrs. Agnes Young, 43 Scoughall Street, Grangemouth d. 14.1.17

The Nearly New Shop

I would firstly like to thank Elspeth Irvine and Ann Trevis for all their hard work and excellent organisational skills in running the KHR charity shop in the town. They ran the shop very well for many years. I would also like to thank, on behalf of the congregation, everyone that has donated goods, worked in the shop, priced items, carried stuff or transported stuff in their car. You have raised significant amounts of funds for KHR, well done everyone. Now it is my turn to do my bit and organise the shop, but I can't do it without your help.

The shop will be open from **Monday August 7th to Saturday August 12th** this year. Each day 10am to 4pm. I will need volunteers to work in the shop, to transport stock from the church to the shop and to set up the shop and close it at the end of the week. I know that the "still getting wired in team" will do their best to help but the more help we can get the better. With regard to providing stock for the shop your on-going assistance is vital and this year we are also selling clothes and shoes. Can you please bring in any items for the shop on the following **Sundays: 23rd April, 14th May, 11th June, and 16th July**. I can't manage on a Wednesday morning and it ensures I know what goods we are getting in. If collection times increase I will keep you posted via the church intimations and magazine.

Thanks for you continued support.

Allyson Black

Women's Association

We met for the beginning of the New Year on Wednesday 11th January when we enjoyed a Board Games Night.

On January 18th we welcomed Jess Smith who as an acclaimed author shared her stories of her life with her family who were travelling people from Perthshire.

We tried something different on 25th January when we held a Jean Armour Night. Our guests were Cathy Peattie and Allyson Black. Cathy entertained us with the toast to Jean Armour and sang some old Scot's songs. Allyson gave us the toast to the laddies which was very humorous and also meaningful. Thank you to everyone who made this a very enjoyable evening.

Now into February, on the 1st we were joined by Susan and Bryan Dick who gave us an in-depth report on the ongoing work of the Gideon's International.

We are looking forward now to 8th February when we will be joined by a representative from the Carers Centre, Falkirk and on 15th February a demonstration of Glass Jewellery making by Ann Kilpatrick.

On Thursday 16th February we are invited to join in an evening of fellowship with the ladies of Christ the King for their Hospitality Evening.

Wednesday 22nd February we look forward to welcoming the ladies from all the Grangemouth Churches to share in our Hospitality Night when we will be joined by the Muiravonside Choral Society.

Our Fundraising Night is on Wednesday 8th March and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone from the church & community who can come along to enjoy the music & songs of the famous Alastair MacDonald. This will be held in the Church at 7.30pm. Tickets priced £1 will be on sale soon on either a Wednesday night or by contacting me.

There are lots more interesting & informative nights to come so please join us on a Wednesday Evening, you will be made most welcome.

Mary Wood

President

(01324 870520)

Prayer Promoter KHR

Heavenly Father thank you for giving us Courage,
Courage can be many things in many circumstances we find our self in.
To face a new day with hospital appointments for ourselves or for friends and family,
Courage gives us strength but can be quiet as a prayer.
It goes along with friendships and all working together for support.
Softly when the heart asks God for help Courage always comes. Amen

A day by the Presbytery Prayer Promoters will be held in Zetland Parish Church,
Saturday 25th February, Rev Alison Meikle is leading.
Starting 10am to 2pm and stopping for lunch. Please can you bring your own.
Alison has a really interesting programme ready with time to think?
There is no charge but please come along and you won't miss God's blessing.
If you feel you can't join us for the whole day you are welcome to come in am or pm!

**Prayer Promoter
Eleanor Neilson**

Scottish Blessing

May there always be work for your hands to do
May your purse always hold a coin or two
May the sun always shine upon your window pane
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain
May the hand of a friend always be near to you and
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Gift Aid

From April this year I am standing down as Gift Aid Convenor. Stuart Blackwood, for his sins, will be taking over the work.

Last year January to December we received £7450.86 in recovered tax.

There may be members in the congregation who pay tax and have not taken out Gift Aid. All you have to do is sign a declaration form - that's all - no information needed about your finances or personal details.

You can make your offerings either with your envelope or monthly, three monthly, six monthly or yearly through a Direct Debit - take your choice of whatever is suitable to you. Forms from Stuart.

Under Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme, charities can claim on donations up to £20. This means that for members who are not taxpayers, their offerings and donations can be included in claims to HMRC without having to complete a declaration form. This will cover offerings, open plate, small donations and giving day. If you have a change of circumstances i.e. change of address/name/no longer a taxpayer, please let me know - keeps my records up to date.

Elsbeth Irvine

Gift Aid Convenor

Community Kitchen KHR hall

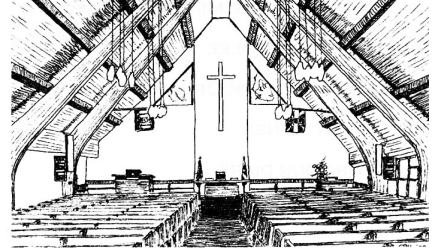
Friday 12noon - 1.30pm

Please come along for a Bowl of Soup and enjoy a chat!



Minister's Message

The world has changed since the last newsletter. A new President in America, Brexit being contested in the courts (at least who makes the decision to activate clause 50) and much talk of another IndyRef.



People are on edge because of all the division and hatred that seems to be amplified by a media that is certainly not neutral in their reporting.

I spoke at the Holocaust Memorial assembly in the High School after someone whose parents had endured that dreadful event. It was humbling and moving to hear her family story, one that was replicated many times over. Not to mention the many other groups who were caught up in the awful genocide of the Second World War. The world seems to have learned nothing in the passing of years. Srebrenica, Rwanda, Darfur, and many other incidents, have shown the ability of hatred to cause destruction almost unheard of in history. The news headlines seem to begin each bulletin with the latest development in this saga. There is a danger in being desensitised to the news and to let it wash over us. That would be wrong.

If you look at almost any of the Old Testament prophets and the Psalmist, time and again there is a call to stand with the marginalised, to oppose oppression and to speak out against injustice. As Christ followers, it is right that we call it like it is, rather than falling for the redefinition of words, to fall for the “alternative facts”.

If you believe the news, you might think that there is nothing but evil triumphing around the world, and that would be wrong. There is good going on. On our own doorstep, your monthly response to the food bank shows that you care, and other churches and groups do so as well. The Breakfast Club has shown that there is a need to offer a safe space for children to gather together, eat together, and play together, and that is with two different schools represented and it is wonderful to witness.

The work of the wider Church of Scotland continues. The work of CrossReach with all the support given to people with drug dependencies and with mental health concerns continues.

Internationally, groups like MAF, Christian Aid, CAFOD and many others look to help people to help themselves.

Our congregation, in a small way, has reached out to people in Romania, Nepal and Belarus. You have helped smaller charities continue and sometimes expand their work.

If you find yourself feeling depressed or downhearted with all the negative headlines in the Press, think again about the people that you have helped. Some of these people you will never know, but they, in their turn, will help other people and the support and care and generosity keeps being paid forward.

Some people you will know, but they will not know that it is you that is helping, and yet you can see the difference you have made because you have taken the time to care.

Keep on caring.

Every blessing,

David

Treasurer

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous 2017. I hope you all enjoyed your festive season.

As Treasurer, my first role of the year tends to be getting the previous year's accounts prepared, and this year is no different. I should have a summary of the accounts printed and available soon, which will be a little easier to follow than the accounts I have to present for audit. If you would like to see either this summary or indeed the full accounts, please let me know. It is a legal requirement that I must make the accounts available to anyone who wishes to see them, and I am also quite happy to answer any questions that you may have about the church finances.

The main headline from 2016 is that thanks to the generous assistance from both Falkirk Presbytery and the trustees at 121 George Street, we were able to pay in full the reduced level of congregational payments we were assigned for 2016. In addition, the money owed from previous years has been written off, and we therefore have a clean slate, as it were, for 2017 and beyond. I am very grateful to both presbytery and the trustees at 121 for their help this year. I think both have recognised the efforts we have made to increase our funds this year. Hopefully we can stand on our own again in the years to come.

As far as 2017 is concerned, we will have some extra expense to complete the rewiring, and there will be some remedial work required to address some of the items reported by the quinquennial inspection of the manse. I am hopeful that the Fabric Fund will have the capacity to cover these, and still have enough left over to serve as our Reserve Fund. I don't think we have many alternatives though, so I will need to monitor this closely as the year progresses.

Having reviewed the Income and Expenditure from 2016, and compared to 2015, I have attempted to forecast how we will manage to balance the books in 2017. The impression I get is that we have a reasonable chance of breaking even, should each of the income streams match the levels from 2016. While this is by no means guaranteed, I am hopeful that our members will be as generous as usual with Offerings, Giving Day, Fund-Raising, etc. With the infectious enthusiasm of the fund-raising committee, I am optimistic that we can match, or indeed better, our totals from 2016, and we will continue to "Get Wired In".

I have listed below the main elements of our income and expenditure for 2016, along with the figures from 2015 and 2014 for comparison. Where there are significant changes, I have tried to explain the reasons for them.

In closing, may I thank you all for your help in 2016, and I look forward to working together with you all in 2017.

<u>Income</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	
WFO - Book 1	15,429.70	13,969.65	15,417.15	
WFO - Book 2	6,311.60	10,228.00	10,467.36	
WFO - Direct Debits	8,299.00	6,394.00	5,332.00	
WFO – Cheques	902.50	0.00	0.00	
Fabric - (Book 3)	4,040.67	4,296.14	4,452.92	
Boxes	0.00	11.24	35.71	
Open Plate	3,297.92	3,395.43	3,245.11	note 1
HMRC - Gift Aid Claims	7,450.86	7,569.53	12,092.57	
Donation-Women’s Assoc	1,500.00	1,400.00	1,200.00	
Donation-Sen. Members	0.00	200.00	200.00	
Donation-Drop In Club	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous Donations	1,877.03	1,720.51	1,732.99	
Weddings	200.00	200.00	400.00	
Funerals	630.00	100.00	326.00	
Hall Lets	4,585.00	4,082.50	2,820.00	note 2
Life & Work	448.00	504.00	461.80	
Shop	1,967.37	1,820.03	1,808.28	
Fundraising				
Valentine Coffee Morning	0.00	0.00	582.89	
Pamper Day	0.00	0.00	550.00	
Christmas Sparkle	0.00	867.63	1,064.37	
Get Wired In	3,320.63	0.00	0.00	note 3
Giving Day	2,163.19	2,557.34	2,688.20	note 4
Pulpit Supply Refund	0.00	335.50	0.00	
Donation - Baptisms	0.00	100.00	20.00	
Easter Service	104.20	0.00	0.00	
Chubb Refund	64.94	0.00	0.00	

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	
Minister's Expenses	720.00	1,904.25	2,522.85	note 5
Presbytery Dues	936.00	788.00	942.00	
Council Tax	2488.39	2,475.88	2,465.08	
Organist – Cheque	2,290.00	3,090.00	3,230.00	
Cleaners	2,964.56	3,129.54	3,026.79	
Cleaning Materials	139.15	152.35	162.63	
Electricity	792.00	792.00	792.00	
Gas	2,652.00	2,652.00	2,652.00	
Insurance	1,977.34	2,022.42	1,992.18	
Telephone - Manse	295.05	277.08	287.84	
Photocopier Maintenance	1,528.60	1,528.60	1,528.60	
Copyright	467.92	462.60	454.36	
Grasscutting	260.17	350.19	332.29	
Garden	45.48	120.13	81.49	
Maintenance	10,105.78	9,563.87	1,517.41	
Stationery	930.65	1,011.00	1,118.87	
Postage	20.45	10.80	17.93	
Window Cleaning	108.00	180.00	180.00	
Life & Work	504.50	572.22	550.80	
Grmth Council of Churches	0.00	220.00	220.00	
Grangemth Community Care	304.20	0.00	0.00	
Pulpit Supply	165.00	665.50	399.13	
Gifts	42.85	130.00	100.00	
Training	50.00	50.00	50.00	
Congregational Payments	23,288.00	28,000.00	37,500.00	note 6
Janitor	1,137.24	1,137.24	1,137.24	
Easter – Expenses	25.64	70.50	38.53	
Buskit – Expenses	23.90	0.00	0.00	
Fundraising – Expenses	50.27	0.00	0.00	
Church Officer Duties	20.00	0.00	0.00	
Maintenance – Organ	0.00	119.00	0.00	
Christmas – Expenses	29.00	29.00	29.00	
Church Equipment	0.00	40.00	123.00	
Donation (Poppy Scotland)	100.00	0.00	0.00	
Security	15.00	0.00	0.00	

Notes

1. Offerings are slightly down, but with congregation numbers on the decline, this is as expected. Our members continue to be generous.
2. We are managing to let the hall to outside groups very well indeed. We may have to increase the cost by a little, and hope that this does not reduce the number of lets.
3. The Get Wired In campaign has been a magnificent success. Many thanks to everybody involved for their enthusiasm, inspiration and sheer hard work.
4. Giving Day totals are down again on 2015, but I suspect this is in line with offerings, and the increase in fund raising. Our members are still giving, but in different ways.
5. The total for minister's expenses is slightly reduced from 2015 as there is an outstanding claim. This will appear in 2017 accounts.
6. We met our target payment in full (23,288). This was greatly reduced by presbytery and the trustees at 121 to help us this year. Next year's target payment is back to "normal" at £34,000 but without the additional expense of rewiring this year, we have a much better chance of meeting this target.

Stuart Blackwood
Treasurer

Fundraising

We have full hospitality for 4 at Falkirk kindly donated by Falkirk Football Club, for a home game this season.

The fundraising team think that a Silent Auction would be the best method of raising the most money from this, rather than a "prize draw" or similar.

Sealed bids are invited for this prize, worth £400, along with contact details, to one of the fundraising team (Stuart Blackwood, Allyson Black, Elspeth Irvine, etc.) and the highest bidder will win this fabulous experience.

Closing dates for bids: 7th March 2017

DIARY DATES

Friday 3rd March
World Day of Prayer
Service at Zetland Parish Church
7.30pm

Sunday 5th March
Communion
11.00am & 6.15pm

10th - 14th April
Holy Week Services
Monday 10th April at either Christ The King or Sacred Heart T.B.C.
Tuesday 11th April at St. Mary's
Wednesday 12th April at Abbotsgrange
Maunday Thursday 13th April at Kirk of the Holy Rood
Friday 14th April at Zetland
All services begin at 7pm

Sunday 16th April
Easter Communion
11.00am

Sunday 4th June
Communion
11.00am & 6.15pm

Fundraising Dates

Prize Bingo	28th February - Scott's - 7.00 p.m.
Floral Tea	29th April - Church - 10.00am -12 noon
Giving Day	4 th June
Nearly New Shop	7 th – 12 th August