

Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH



A reminder of winter and a Toddler Group photo-shoot....see [page 7](#)

Contacts

Notices

Baptisms

Adam John Cordiner on Jan 14

Joshua McLean on Feb 11

Blessing of Frankie Cooper on Jan 28

Deaths

Jan 15 Ron Todd, Lower Quarry Lane

Feb 7 William Steven, 10 Polbae Cres

Feb 15 Ian Fraser, 52 Riverside Road

Team Convenors

Music and worship - Wendy Armstrong

Outreach - Giles Blair

Admin - Maureen Hunter

Pastoral Care - Sandy Robertson

Youth Strategy - Tom Mann

Faith Development - Gillian Norval

Keep in touch with church activities

- Website.....www.eagleshamparishchurch.co.uk
- Facebook.....Eaglesham Parish Church @Heartofvillage

Parish news is published by Eaglesham Parish Church

Scottish Charity Number SC006377

Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to macintyre74@btinternet.com



From the Manse

On television a British prime minister was put on the spot when it appeared he was contradicting the findings of an “influential think tank” on the subject of the economy and its hoped for recovery. He was asked, in the light of the evidence presented, if he was prepared to change to an alternative direction. He rather proudly, (some might suggest arrogantly) stated there is no alternative.

We arrive at Easter this year on the first of April, Why does the date change every year – wouldn't it be simpler if we just set a date in the calendar and called it Easter - or set a date when the weather is better – or isn't it only symbolic anyway and set on a pagan feast day? I have been asked questions of that type many times. At the heart of the matter lies a very simple explanation. The early church fathers wished to keep the observance of Easter in correlation to the Jewish Passover. Because the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Passover, they wanted Easter to always be celebrated following Passover. And, since the Jewish holiday calendar is based on solar and lunar cycles, each feast day is movable, with dates shifting from year to year.

Easter is determined really by the Jewish Passover. This recounts the famous Exodus of the people of Israel from Egypt. You can read the account in Exodus 12 -13. Each year the Jewish people throughout the world are encouraged to celebrate this event with a meal. Jesus and his disciples did this in the famous last supper. In the Jewish tradition each year the children asked questions related to the meal. And each year the answers are the same. Nothing changes, there is no alternative answer to the questions. The story remains the same. There is no alternative answer. despite people seeking one. Like the Jewish Passover meal, the Easter story is a bitter sweet experience. It was for the

first disciples, and it is for Christians today. The Jewish people can rejoice that because of the Passover, they were led out of slavery into freedom into the promised land. All mankind can rejoice that because of Good Friday and Easter we too can be led out of slavery into the promised land God has waiting for us prepared by the Saviour of the World - Jesus Christ.

Rev Andrew Robertson

Plant Sale and Afternoon Tea

The date of the Plant Sale and Tea has been changed to Saturday 12th May. This is due to the fact that a certain Royal Wedding has been scheduled to take place on our original date of the 19th May. The House of Windsor failed to check with me that the 19th was acceptable but, at risk of lese-majesty and caution being the better part of valour.....I've conceded the date.

So, the afternoon of the 12th of May it is and, there being no other conflicting events taking place I would be delighted to see all our gardeners queuing up to buy their bedding plants and enjoying a refreshing cup of tea and some baking afterwards to celebrate their purchases.

Just to remind you that the Plant Sale and the Bridge Night scheduled for Friday evening the 11th May, have both been arranged to help finance the building of a garage at the Carswell Centre required to house the new BB minibus, shortly to be purchased.

Your generous support at both those forthcoming events will be very much appreciated.

Craig Wishart

Session Notes

As you know from your Elder's visit around the time of the February Communion, the Session wanted to gather the views of the Congregation on how you perceived the role of the Elder - what you thought was good, what might be improved, what did you think was the purpose of your Elder's visits etc. You were asked to complete and return a questionnaire concerning this. I would like to thank all of you for your replies - in terms of the usual expected return rate for questionnaires, there was a much greater percentage response rate, which is very encouraging, as it makes me think that this is an area where you very much wanted your views known and taken account of. The results have now been analysed (Gillian Norval and Maureen Hunter, fellow Elders, helped me with this), and these will be discussed by Session and fully communicated to yourselves in due course. I would also like to thank our Elders for their work in distributing and returning the questionnaires.

From December to March/April is always a very busy time for our Finance Team, as they pull together Budgets and Accounts in preparation for our Stated Annual Meeting (this year on 25th March). This is a complex task, and I am very grateful for the expertise and commitment of Elspeth Napier, our Treasurer, and Maureen Hunter and David Reid who, together with Elspeth, make up our Finance Team. Elspeth, in addition, prepares separate accounts for OSCR (the Charities Regulator for Scotland). There are also others who work away in the background, modestly hiding their talents. Step forward, for instance, Ronnie MacIntyre who deals with our Gift Aid claims from HMRC, and Ian Gray who manages our Free Will Offering scheme.

As well as looking after the FWO Scheme, Ian has been our Congregational Roll Keeper for the past 13 years. His role has involved not only keeping the Roll up to date, but also

looking at Elder's District allocations. He also prepares a 'Docquet of Annual Revision' for our annual Inspection of Records for Glasgow Presbytery. I don't know what that means either, but Ian would be able to tell you. Ian has decided to retire as Roll Keeper, and reluctantly Session has accepted this. Ian efficiently steered the management and documentation of our Roll into the ICT era, no mean feat. Thank you, Ian.

Wendy Armstrong, Session Clerk
12.3.2018

Foodbank

East Renfrewshire's Barrhead based foodbank service has been in greater demand than ever with a growing number of families struggling to make ends meet. Recently six tons of supplies were handed out in one month; 28 tons during the course of 2017 to a total of over 1400 people. With continuing financial hardship this demand is likely to continue during 2018. Eaglesham Parish Church has been supporting the foodbank since 2014 - approximately 750kg of goods in 2017. The collection point is at the entrance to the Carswell Centre. Donations of any non-perishable items are welcome.

Litter free Eaglesham?

The annual Orry tidy took place on Feb 18th. Again around 12 bags of litter were collected by a team of environment enthusiasts. Could this be extended to the whole village? Litter is a well recognised national problem. But could Eaglesham become a litter free zone? The start is probably at home, each tidying the area next our own house.....

Iona 2018

The Iona Community accommodation at Iona Abbey and the associated MacLeod Centre is not available during this year. There is an urgent need for refurbishment of parts of the Abbey living quarters. This will include reconfiguration of the bedrooms and the kitchen, improved lighting and insulation, an extended welcome centre for visitors and installation of a lift for disabled access. This work is being done in association with Historic Environment Scotland but requires a major fund-raising exercise by the Community. More detail can be seen at iona.org.uk

The Carswell Centre

Final Report of the Buildings Group - March 2018

The Carswell Buildings Group has reported that all work on the project has been completed.....

The full re-development of the Carswell building, as originally planned, has been carried out in one phase, on time and within budget. In addition, we have been able to include some "wish-list" items (eg. windows, stone-cleaning) which have further enhanced the Centre.

Some work in the forecourt of the building is currently being completed. This relates to the Eaglesham Heritage Trail - a plinth/cairn, to match those in The Orry, which will give information on the Centre, the Statues and the Eaglesham Quilt. This is the responsibility of East Renfrewshire Council and the Council will bear the costs. We have a contractual agreement with ERC for an annual rental payment to the Church for housing the Statues. The current rental of £2500 pa will continue in perpetuity with index-linked increases every 5 years.

The overall costs of the project are as originally estimated, with a total expenditure of £699,690. The total funds raised amounted to £703,589, leaving a positive balance of £3,899. The figures below detail the various sources of income. We have been delighted with the incredible response (c.£200k !) from the congregation, community, church organisations and individuals in raising the funds required for a one-phase, fully developed project. This influenced the decisions of grant-awarding bodies when reviewing our applications. The General Trustees of the Church of Scotland gave enthusiastic support to our vision for the Centre, both in word and in cash, which again influenced others. Glasgow Presbytery was strongly encouraging (and declared itself "excited" by the plans!).

Our original vision was for the creation of a community - orientated church facility which would strengthen our increased focus on mission and outreach. The vision, of course, does not end here and the way in which it is taken forward will no doubt be the subject of ongoing consideration by the Kirk Session and its teams.

Jim Alexander Brian Fraser Hugh Green Stuart McGill Craig Wishart

Final income detail for the Carswell Project

Local Fundraising		Grants	
Donations / standing orders	143,048	Viridor grant	179,556
Tax recovered - gift aid	30,197	Whitelee windfarm	70,000
Auction	8,800	Robertson Trust	20,000
Yoga	2,000	Garfield Weston Trust	20,000
Fun day	1,513	Church of Scotland grant	15,000
Plant sale	1,446	Hugh Fraser Foundation	5,000
Churchbuilders	1,192	All Churches Trust	6,500
Recipe books / tea towels	1,080	Mactaggart and Mickel	5,000
Junior badminton	1,000	Ardoch / Over Enoch Windfarm	4,000
Bridge	932	Scotland's Churches Trust	2,500
Donated painting	861	ERC payments re statues	5,000
Sponsored cycles	810	Interest	2,718
Dave Marshall night	710		
BB sponsored walk	650	Cash b/fwd 2012/3 inc sale of	
Quilt committee donation	634	lesser hall.....	170,115
Guides	627	Total grants	335,274
Guild concert	600	Total Fundraising	198,119
Funeral donation	559	Total income	703,589
Choir concert	520		
Garden party	500		
Candles [Debbie Blair]	285		
WRVS	100		
Coffee fund	100		
Ladies badminton	35		

The BB Jumble Sale on March 10th raised £2700.....



From Greg Cunningham...The company section session has continued in full swing. Attendance on Friday nights is good and the night is packed and the boys are having a great time. I'd like to continue my thanks to parents and guardians for your support. Our jumble sale was an excellent success and our interim total is £2,700.00 with some ticket money and donations still to come in. The effort put in by boys, staff and friends was enormous over the 3 days.

Some upcoming dates for your diaries:- Our Annual Display - Saturday evening 19th May;
Our Annual Sponsored Walk - Sunday afternoon 20th May; Annual Camp Friday 13th to Sunday 22nd July. Sure and steadfast.

Where am I?...the Sandy Robertson puzzle

My journey begins in an ancient town with an outstanding defensive site. Bede, writing in the 8th century, believed its name meant 'a strongly fortified British city'. Its more recent growth is associated with an industry and with one family firm famous for its innovations. Its most famous product can be seen in Greenwich : a less fortunate product ended at the bottom of the Irish Sea in January 1953. A statue of one member of the family sits in front of the town's municipal buildings. A museum commemorates the family name. The town's football team was once significant, being one of a clutch of teams who won the Scottish Cup before the 'Old Firm' came to prominence. Not much chance of a repeat now! leave the town and travel westwards, pausing briefly to visit a garden donated to The National Trust for Scotland, and open to the public since 1998. A few miles further on, I come to a town named after a lady. She was not particularly famous, but her husband was the major landowner in the area. Substantial mansions were built in the town, many designed by William Leiper. Its most famous dwelling, though, was built by a better-known architect, originally for a publishing family. It too is open to the public, and its tearoom marks the end of my journey.

1 What was the family firm? 2 What is the famous dwelling?

Polnoon Estate and Eaglesham Toddler Group

see photo on front page

The Polnoon Estate at the top of the village is still increasing in size. New houses continue to be occupied since the first residents arrived over three years ago. There is a healthy group of toddlers and children enjoying the family-friendly development. But not all residents have moved from elsewhere. Ten babies have been born to families living here over the past 12 months alone! And this has been a real boost to the Eaglesham toddlers' group which meets three mornings a week in the Laird Halls. A number of the Polnoon mums who attend the group recently gathered for a group picture with some of the new babies and toddlers who have been born while living here.

Would you like to join the choir?

When the choir resumed after their New Year break, we welcomed a NEW member to our ranks Mrs Flo MacIntyre. Flo has boosted our Alto section and she's stayed and enjoying singing with the choir (We must be doing something right)

By the time you read this the Choir will have sung for the Guild on Wednesday 21st March (indeed a great honour). A programme of both religious and Secular music, interspersed with a selection of solos - clarinet from Brenda Bain, song from Stewart MacGill, and a Piano Medley by Alan Gillon. A good night for all.

We still have vacancies in Soprano and Alto sections. And I put out a special appeal to any men who would like to join us. At present we have 3 men who between them manage to sing both Tenor and Bass lines, no mean feat.

Reading of music is not essential. The Choir meets on a Thursday night from 7.30 - 9:15pm in the Carswell Hall. Why not come and give us a go. You will receive a warm welcome from all.

Alan Gillon, Organist and Choirmaster

FROM LIFE AND WORK

Saints of Scotland.

The February issue used the excuse of Valentine's day to wonder about what or who are saints? 'The Church of Scotland has a difficult relationship with saints....we would be horrified at the idea of St John Knox!' But we remember places by reference to ancient saints.

In the early church saints were those who had suffered martyrdom or persecution. Later those who were remembered for their piety or devotion. This led to the recognition of saints associated with particular localities. Thus in Scotland we have Serf, Mungo, Kessog, Ninian, Blane, Fillan. And Columba and Andrew. Columba was effectively the patron saint of Gaeldom but with the shift eastward of Scotland's religious centre in the Middle Ages he was superseded by Andrew. What all this diverse and interesting group of people had in common was a strong influence which was felt not only locally but often throughout and beyond Scotland.

And so five individuals were asked by Life and Work to nominate their favourite saint. The answers varied. Andrew as our patron saint who was present at many pivotal moments in Christ's ministry. Peter for his 'spectacular ordinariness'. Christopher as the patron saint of travel. Columba, but also 7th century Adomnan who wrote the life of Columba and who also introduced a 'Law of the Innocents' protecting women and children. But there was also recognition of 'all the saints who from their labours rest' - unsung heroes both past and present.

The Holy Land

The Moderator, Derek Browning, and Youth Moderator, Robin Downie, visited Israel and Palestine in January. Robin met young folk in communities where hope is in short supply. Of one group of 30 only four were hopeful of a better future. But in Gaza where youth unemployment is around 70% and where power for only six hours a day means, for example, no effective sewage control, they were still given a warm welcome. And there are still those working for peace between the communities. The team met Rabbi Melchior of the Middle East Religious Peace Initiative and the Nasser family at Tent of Nations, a peace-building environmental farm near Bethlehem. Dr Browning's overall message was of the need for all sides to listen to each other.

The laugh shall be the first.

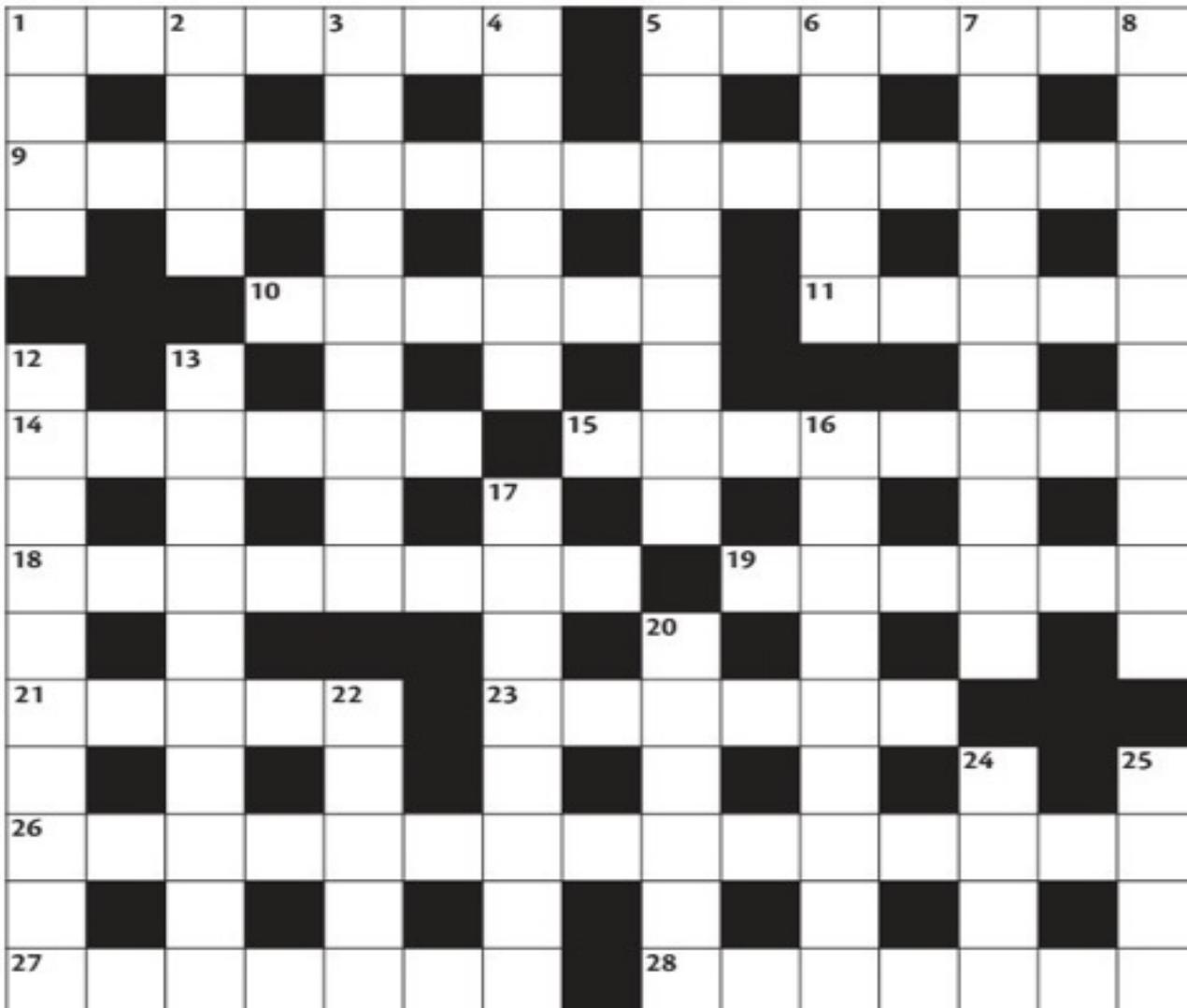
This was the title of a book by James Simpson, golfer, comic, writer, parish minister and ex-Moderator - in no particular sequence. In March L and W he reflected again on the importance of humour. Dornoch parishioner - 'I'm glad to see you away to enjoy yourself on the golf course'. Simpson - 'If she had seen the way I played that morning, she might have concluded that I knew no joy in life whatsoever'. But he sees ministry as having a lighter, humorous as well as serious side. In church and in political life a light-hearted remark can achieve more than criticism. Senator George Mitchell during the Good Friday peace negotiations proposed a session when over a coffee participants talked about anything other than politics. Conversation turned to opera. 'I love opera. When I put on La Boheme I know Rodolfo is going to sing the same words every time. That prepares me for the return to Belfast - the one thing I know is that I'm going to sit here and listen to you guys saying the same thing over and over again'

The Westminster Confession and the wheels of the Church of Scotland

The pages of Life and Work continue to reflect debate on the meaning of our faith and the essence of the gospel. In February cri de coeur came from ex-moderator Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald. Cromwell, King Charles, Calvin and all that. Our 'principal subordinate standard' or what as a church we claim to believe dates from the 17th century and its conflict, both military and ecclesiastical. Should it be reviewed? 'Yes' is probably the unanimous answer. 50 years ago along with agreeing to admit women to the ministry, the General Assembly agreed to do just that. Over the next 6 years modest changes to wording were proposed but rejected while awaiting a new Statement of Faith. Dr Macdonald laments that when the question of re-visiting the issue has been raised it has usually met by a much used phrase in church affairs that 'the time is not yet ripe'. He suggests that 50 years on might be the time to grasp this particular nettle.

Have a look at Life and Work, the Church of Scotland's monthly magazine. £12 for an initial 6 issues - see the website; or contact Parish News editor or Alan Macbair if you would like to subscribe via the church.

And a Crossword from Life and Work



Across

- 1** Beggar at the rich man's gate (7)
5 Mother of Esau and Jacob (7)
9 '_____, You have come to us' (4,5,6)
10 Noah's great-grandson, a hunter (6)
11 Freer (anag.) (5)
14 Of Moses (6)
15 Sixth son of Jacob (Genesis 30:8) (8)
18 Relaxing (8)
19 Middle Eastern language (6)
21 Small wood (5)
23 Recluse (6)
26 '_____, risen, conquering Son' (5,2,3,5)
27 Contributed (7)
28 ___ Monroe, actress (7)

Down

- 1** Easter flower (4)
2 Zilch (4)
3 Feeling great joy (9)
4 Captain of Jabin's army (Judges 4:7) (6)
5 Left-over (8)
6 State in northeast India (5)
7 Jewish leader (5,5)
8 Work of art above and behind holy table (10)
12 Involved (10)
13 ___ of the Virgin, August 15th (10)
16 Forerunner (9)
17 After all (2,3,3)
20 Billy ___, US evangelist (6)
22 Leave of absence (5)
24 Book preceding Amos (4)

Admin Notes

The General Fund accounts for the last two years and the budget for 2018 are shown on the opposite page. The 2018 budget has been approved by Session. As the budget is compiled in January it is based on estimated figures to the end of 2017. Our estimated income for 2017 is slightly above the budgeted figure for the year so the budget income for 2018 has been adjusted accordingly. On expenditure, figures have been increased in line with estimated spend for 2017 plus a factor for inflation. The exception is the Ministries and Mission allocation set by the Church of Scotland which has been reduced slightly. This figure is based on average income over the last 3 years and our income is down, mainly due to the spend from the Buildings Fund. The budget shows a predicted deficit of £1525 for 2018.

The actual accounts for 2017 have been approved by Session and are presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on 25th March. They show a deficit of £671 - a great improvement on the deficit of £11336 for 2016 - but it still means we are using our reserves each year to cover losses. The full accounts with more detail of other church funds are available on the Church website - the password for access is 20EPC18.

Maureen Hunter

(Detail of Youth leader fund, special collections and Sunday coffee donations below..ed)

Youth leader fund [£]		Special collections [£]		Sunday coffee donations [£]	
Interest	2	Christian Aid	338	Tear Fund	250
Donations	17,560	Teenage Cancer Trust	201	Lodging House Mission	250
Gift Aid on donations	2,989	MS Support	338	CLIC Sargent	150
Expenditure	16,981	Open Doors	270	Alzheimers	200
Balance at 1/1/17	5,015				
Balance at 31/12/17	8,585				

Gift Aid and Congregational contributions

We are fortunate that the church is registered as a charity, and we are able to claim from HMRC 25 pence in every pound donated. This applies only to those who have signed a gift aid declaration and stated that they will pay tax at least equal to the total amount which the church will reclaim on their donations for each tax year.

During 2017, approximately £22500 was recovered from HMRC in respect of normal weekly, monthly or annual giving, by banker's orders, freewill offering envelopes, and annual cheques. This figure is a valuable contribution toward Eaglesham Church achieving its annual budget. It also does not include the very important donations made toward funding the salary for our youth ministry, on which we have also recovered gift aid. We are most grateful to all who enhance their giving in this way.

Perhaps it is worth noting that we welcome all to our church, members, and visitors alike. For those who may not wish to use banker's order, or freewill offering envelopes, but would like to gift aid their offerings from time to time, and are tax payers, we have a supply of single gift aid envelopes in the vestibule of the church. Please ask one of the duty team to let you have one.

Also, it is not necessary to be a church member to contribute on a regular basis to the work of Eaglesham church, so if you attend frequently and would like to use a bankers order, or freewill offering envelopes, please contact us on either of the numbers below.

Individual circumstances can change over time, and some members may no longer have a requirement to pay tax. If you know that you are no longer paying tax and believe that the church may still be making a gift aid claim on your behalf, please let us know.

Equally, we would be delighted to hear from anyone who is a tax payer, and would like to use gift aid to increase their contribution to the very valuable work of our church.

**Eaglesham Parish Church Accounts for 2017 / 2016
and budget estimate 2018**

INCOME [£]	2017	2016	Budget 2018
Congregational offerings	116,689	115,737	116,000
Tax on gift aid donations	22,439	22,555	22,500
Use of premises	17,415	16,796	16,000
From congregational orgs	2,990	2,760	3,000
Weddings and funerals	400	1,700	300
Other income	2,610	2,743	5,200
Total Ordinary Income	162,543	162,291	163,000
Expenditure	[163,214]	[173,627]	
Surplus / [Deficit]	[671]	[11,336]	
EXPENDITURE [£]	2017	2016	
Ministry and mission	88,454	89,307	86,367
Presbytery dues	4,777	4,936	4,798
Minister's travelling expenses	1,308	1,093	2,000
Pulpit salary	300	1,214	360
Other salaries / nat insurance	17,214	15,696	17,000
Fabric repairs / maintenance	21,090	26,110	22,000
Heating and lighting	11,098	11,609	11,800
Water charges	2,324	2,075	2,300
Insurance	5,091	5,573	6,200
Manse council tax	2,563	2,350	2,700
Cleaning materials / laundry	739	1,236	800
Office costs	3,458	3,594	2,600
General expenses	1,668	1,300	1,700
Pastoral care	257	181	400
Outreach	1,130	1,285	1,200
Music and worship	230	100	400
Youth	162	138	500
Faith development	124		200
Tearfund	1,200	1,200	1,200
Vacancy expenses		4,630	
TOTAL	163,214	173,627	164,525



Top left... Joshua McLean with parents Jenna and Peter

Top right... Frankie Cooper with big sister Olivia and parents Robyn and Darren

Bottom... Adam Cordiner, brothers Samuel and Lewis and parents Alison and Matthew