

## Session Report

Let me start, as always, with an update on the congregational roll at Sandyhills Parish Church.

We started 2018 with 229 members on the Communicant Roll, 2 members were added by certificate, we removed 9 by death and 1 by certificate, thereby taking the roll to 221 members at the start of 2018.

As you are aware, we continue to support both of our selected charities, Glasgow City Mission and Comfort International. A number of our congregation supported Glasgow City Mission night shelter during February and we also have a couple of people in the congregation who volunteer year-round to assist with the work carried out in the community by GCM, you will see an update on this in the April copy of vision.

As always, we continue our fundraising for both charities and 2018 saw a team from Sandyhills take part in the Kilt walk, raising money for Comfort International. Our annual Carols by Candlelight Supper was again well supported with the proceeds from the night going to Glasgow City Mission.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are supporting the work that is going on in our church for our two charities. I know that both Glasgow City Mission and Comfort International appreciate all that we are continuing to do here in Sandyhills, and I know that we can rely on your support as we continue to raise funds for those less fortunate than ourselves.

During our vacancy we were blessed with John Nicolson (COS Reader) and his wife Alison joining with us and I know many people were sad to see them go, John's sound teaching Sunday by Sunday and his pastoral work, along with Alison, was warmly welcomed by all whom they visited. But at the end of the year, we were delighted to welcome our new minister, Norman Afrin, his wife Becca and their son Joel to our church family. God has truly blessed us with this family, for their willingness to do God's work here in the East End of Glasgow is infectious. Norman joined us in October and had to hit the ground running as he was immediately faced with Communion, Remembrance and then the start of the Advent Season, it was a baptism of fire, not only was he a brand new Minister but in a matter of weeks he had to learn how to carry out all the tasks before him. Nothing seems to faze this young man, as he took all of this in his stride. I am sure we are all excited to see what the future holds for our congregation under Norman's ministry, and if his sermons over the last couple of months are anything to go by, we are in for something amazing.

It was once again a delight to have our Junior Choir join with us for our Carols by Candlelight supper and our Advent praise service. The junior choir also sang once again in Rustico, our local coffee house, on Christmas Eve, this was very much appreciated by the owners and by the local residents who came along to hear them giving Sandyhills Church an opportunity for outreach. I want to take this opportunity to thank the children for their hard work and for the parents who brought them along every week for rehearsal.

Thank you to our X Group leaders continue to work very hard through the session, and to those of our congregation who continue to help with the groups. I cannot miss out Mary Lindsay in my thanks, since Mary took over as Elder to the Sunday Schools, we

have seen an amazing change to the groups, not only is Mary encouraging the youngsters, she also is very supportive of the teachers and helpers and I know that our young folks are in good hands and receiving sound biblical teaching Sunday by Sunday. Thanks also to all those involved in the Summer Sunday School, it is very important to continue to spiritually feed the minds of our youngsters and at Sandyhills we are blessed with people willing to do just that.

As always, there are number of folks who work away quietly in the background here in Sandyhills, doing jobs that people don't know about, they just know things get done, I want to thank each and every one of them for their faithfulness to serve God in this place in whichever capacity they can.

John and Alison Nicolson are not here to receive my thanks for their time here, but they both left Sandyhills knowing how much they meant to us, we were truly blessed to have him preaching Gods word every Sunday and again, thanks to Rev Murdo MacLean, our Interim Moderator during the vacancy, Murdo was a tremendous support to me during that time. As always, I thank God for his hand of protection upon me, for bringing me to Sandyhills Church and for my Church family and for all the kind words of encouragement I have received over the last year.

Blessings to all

Maureen Sharp  
Session Clerk

## FABRIC REPORT

### Manse Expenses

Supply and fit white goods to kitchen and utility room Two sink units, oven and hob, tumble dryer, fridge freezer and washing machine.	£1524.00
Supply and fit carpets to all rooms	£3013.64
Supply blinds to all rooms	£1260.00
Inside painting and decorating	£730.00
Outside painting	£1230.00
Cooker, sink and splashback	£350.00
Repair two boundary walls	£330.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£6,913.64</u></b>

Our thanks go to Bill West and Alec Lyndsay who spent many hours working in the Manse. This saved the Church a considerable amount of money.

### Church Expenses

Roof repairs	£940.00
Blocked drains	£211.20
Outside painting	£1400.00
Clear gutters (twice yearly).	£240.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2,791.20</u></b>

This being my last report as Building Convener I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who assisted me in my term of office.

Danny McQuillan  
Fabric Convener

## Landscaping Report

A glorious summer saw the church gardens at their best with many plants brought from The Guild growing project plant sale.

The east side of the church has had more bushes removed and supplementary planting of two Magnolia trees which should add some early colour in years to come. A selection of daffodils and tulips which are now just flowering.

I am hopeful after a milder than normal winter to begin with the replanting earlier than normal.

Thanks to Helen Kerr, Archie Malcolm and Alistair Mackenzie who are always ready with a helping hand.

Michael Abbott

## Audio/visual Report

We have continued to provide CD's on a weekly basis.

It is important that the congregation let the audio team know of any issues that affect their enjoyment of the church services, ie buzzing noises or not being able to hear through their hearing aids etc.

The screens continue to be used well and thanks to Maureen Sharp who with me get them ready each week.

Thanks to Brian Thompson for his help each week and stepping to man the audio desk when Walter and I are away.

Michael Abbott/Walter Russell

## Website

The website is functioning well with a new security package utilised to good effect with no downtime in the last year

I would draw the congregation to the website address [sandyhillschurch.com](http://sandyhillschurch.com) or [.co.uk](http://sandyhillschurch.co.uk) here you find the Vision magazine and prayer focus in a PDF format that you could forward to other members of your family. Remember that when the vision stops in May the website will be an additional resource for information.

Please note that the services are there every week as are the sermons for you to listen to, these can also be forwarded to friends and family.

Thanks to Hazel Berryman for uploading services over the Christmas Period whilst I was on holiday.

## Statistics

Busiest months in 2018 were May (8221 page views) December (7128 Page views) with the average for the year was 5753 per month.

Month	Hits	Files	Sessions	Page views	Kilobytes sent	
March 2019		7250	4970	2313	1400	4702355
February 2019		28973	19741	8835	5536	27119922
January 2019		33621	24125	11397	6918	13747999
December 2018		37984	25816	11876	7128	23924728
November 2018		40253	29464	11711	6465	33854369
October 2018		47641	35198	13633	6527	46009407
September 2018		32980	23459	99326	5032	2061618
August 2018		41133	30379	11591	6589	39340085
July 2018		33305	24493	10113	5251	29521087
June 2018		38397	29333	16391	5539	22670788
May 2018		31056	22648	94185	8221	4060670
April 2018		31034	23534	99645	3699	313152
Total		403627	293160	127174	6904	7286326176
Average		33635	24430	10597	5753	23860515

Note March 2018 not include in above

	37586	26609	11713	5897	14049176
--	-------	-------	-------	------	----------

The stats do show that the site is being accessed fairly regularly and being used over a number of locations in USA and in the UK. We get occasional hits from a play in the Netherlands called appropriately Sandyhills, but I have so far failed to locate it.

I hope that you find the website a useful resource for information about our church.

Michael Abbott ([admin@sandyhillchurch.com](mailto:admin@sandyhillchurch.com))

## SAFEGUARDING REPORT 17/03/19

Since October 2018, eleven members of the congregation have gone through the PVG process and further administration is on-going. I have supplied some of them with the official key information booklet and will continue to hand these out in the next few weeks.

Both our Safeguarding Panel members, Alistair MacKenzie and May Stead, have now completed the required training. As the eleven new volunteers will require to attend Part 1 of Safeguarding Training, I will ask that this takes place in our church at a suitable date and time.

All the Safeguarding Handbooks have been up-dated, so we require to print the new ones, which will replace those in the three areas of the church building where they are on display. Copies of the new handbooks will also be supplied to all relevant members of Session.

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that, if you have any concerns about the safety of anyone in our congregation, you should pass these concerns to the Safeguarding Co-Ordinator, that is me, at present, and I will take the appropriate action, based on the guidance in the aforementioned handbooks.

If you are interested in taking over this post, please have a word with me or any member of Session. I would happily work alongside my successor, before handing over to him/her.

Sandra West,  
Safeguarding Co-Ordinator.