



**Sandyhills Parish Church**  
Locum Mr John Nicolson

# Annual Reports

## March 2018

Abbott  
3/1/2018

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## Session Report

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

We started 2017 with 238 members on the Communicant Roll, we removed 6 members by death, 2 by Certificate and 4 members were removed from the roll by Resolution of the Kirk Session, 3 members were added by certificate thereby taking the roll to 229 members at the start of 2017.

As a church we continue to support both of our selected charities, namely Glasgow City Mission and Comfort Rwanda/Congo (now known as Comfort International). We were privileged to have Pastor Ben Kayumba from Good News International in Rwanda, speak at our Easter Day Service and later on a number of the team had a time of fellowship with him, Ben is truly grateful for all we are doing in Sandyhills Church to try and improve the lives of some of the poorest people in Rwanda.

We again had some really successful fundraising events for both of our charities and a number of our congregation (who previously supported our housebuilding project) continue to give on a monthly basis. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are supporting the work that is going on in the 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 Church and I trust that you will continue in this support in any way that you can.

As you are all too aware, our Minister, Graham, felt a calling to move away from Sandyhills in July 2017, and we do indeed wish him well, but we were truly blessed to have him recommend John Nicolson, a Church of Scotland reader, lead us in this time of vacancy, John and his wife Alison joined us in August and it seemed they instantly became one of our Church Family, we give thanks to our loving and caring God for the provision that he has made for us here in Sandyhills.

We were again blessed 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 and to meet Santa and it was a good 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.

Our X Group leaders continue to work very hard through the session, and it is encouraging to see a number of our congregation continue to help with the groups, I know that this has been really appreciated by the leaders and from speaking to some of those brought in to help, I know that they are enjoying being involved with the young folks so a big thank you goes to them, as without their hard work and dedication we would be at a loss. Thanks also to all those who were 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 parents who are eager to continue that spiritual teachings.

The list of all those who work away diligently for our Church is large, and I am sure that I will miss someone out if I try to list them so just let me say a huge thanks to all who work tirelessly for the Lord here in our Church, and let me especially thank our Locum, John Nicolson, we are truly blessed to have him preaching Gods word every Sunday and Rev Murdo MacLean, our Interim Moderator. as he continues to guide us in our search for a new Minister here at Sandyhills and lastly, I give thanks for this Church and my church family.

Maureen Sharp

Session Clerk

## Fabric Report

There were no major works carried out this year in our Church buildings, although there were a variety of repairs as follows: -

Plumbing Repairs at a cost of	£312.00
Roof repairs at a cost of	£155.00
Annual Gutter cleaning at a cost of	<u>£250.00</u>
<b>Total expenditure for Church Buildings =</b>	<b><u>£717.00</u></b>

With the Manse being vacated by the Minister and his family, we took the opportunity to completely re-decorate and make a variety of repairs at this time as follows: -

Total re-decorating at a cost of	£5,080.00
Plumbing repairs at a cost of	£192.00
Clearing fungal growth in Utility room toilet at a cost of	£230.00
Variety of outside Building work at a cost of	£420.00
Annual Gutter cleaning at a cost of	<u>£150.00</u>
<b>Total expenditure for Manse =</b>	<b><u>£6,072.00</u></b>

Finally, I would like to thank all the people who have helped with a variety of jobs over the past year.

Danny McQuillan

Fabric Convenor

March 2018

## Landscaping Report

The gardens are showing an emergence into spring with daffodils showing their heads above the cold and sometimes frozen ground. I added over 100 new bulbs around the front of the church at end of 2017.

The east side of the church is still work in progress – a bit of a struggle in the last year with rather damp conditions and the need to remove more of the old bushes.

Thanks to Helen Kerr, Archie Malcolm and Alistair Mackenzie who are always to hand 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, i.e. 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 myself get them ready each week. Thanks, must also go to John in his use of the screens for his sermons and children's addresses.

The additional monitor screen was added on the east side of the church and an additional monitor in the choir room fitted.

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

Michael Abbott/Walter Russell

## Website/Vision Magazine

The website has not been down during the last year for the first time so perhaps the Theme security add-on may be doing its job.

I would draw the congregation to the website address **sandyhillschurch.com** or **co.uk** here you will 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.

## Statistics

Busiest month in 2017 was October with over 11000-page views. The average for the year was 28000 per month.

Now that we are into the vacancy period we have a secure area on the website which the Nomination Committee can access with a number of resources available to the committee.

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

## Vision Magazine

Firstly, thanks to Alison Crawford and Elaine Torry for editing and collating the magazine over a number of years.

We have leased a new colour printer/Copier which has enabled us to re brand and relaunch the VISION in an A5 format which is easier to read. The magazine is also available on the church website.

The design is very much along a Newspaper format and a magazine style as well but importantly printed in a larger and eligible format. By the time you read this report we will have produced 3 months copies and will continue to change things over the coming months till we arrive at a consensus of style.

Mike Abbott  
March 2018

## Safeguarding

All information relating to Safeguarding is now contained in the fireproof safe in the church. Issues that have arisen during the year have been duly dealt with.

I would like to remind all volunteers who have not yet attended Part 1 of Safeguarding training, which is mandatory, that the list of training dates is available on the information areas around the church. Anyone who wishes to attend should let me know and I will let the presbytery representative know.

One of our Safeguarding Panel members has now completed the required training and the other will attend a full day in May, when she will also be trained.

One 'Protection of Voluntary Groups' application form is on its way to Edinburgh, an interview with the applicant having taken place. Could anyone who is no longer involved in the work for which they were 'PVGd', please let me know and I will inform the office in Edinburgh

Finally, now that everything is organised, I would be happy to hand over the job of co-ordinator to someone else in the church.

Sandra West,

Safeguarding Co-ordinator.

## Youth Worker

Throughout the year there has been various and continuous workings carried out to bring the introduction of our Scripture Union Youth Worker for the Church closer to completion.

This has resulted in the application our Charitable Trust Status which will, upon registration, be a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and will be known as:-

Sandyhills Kenmuir Christian East End Youth Trust or **SKCEETY** as our acronym name.

The documentation for charitable status is in progress and we have a case officer appointed who is our point of contact and will liaise with us should there be any points which need clarification with our application. The time scale is for a minimum of 90 days to completion and at the date of the AGM we are over 50% of the way through and have given some other information to SCIO.

Achieving the Charitable status will all us to move forward in a much more proactive manner is gaining further sponsorship. The hopes of getting sponsorship prior to being registered was ambitious and through the guidance and expertise of others, we have reigned back until approved. This has not stopped in sourcing companies and organisation which could be supportive. For this we thank members of the congregation who have been helpful in putting forward names.

One funding source approached, was through Go For It, through the Church of Scotland. Our initial approach was rejected however we had positive guidance in the response. Briefly our request was very favourable in our explanation and working with the Local Churches, however less so in our explanations for the progress of younger people in the East End and we need to provide more details in quantative terms make expansions on this. CoS have advised there is funding available to work on this analysis without impacting another application for major funding.

To assist on this we will be engaging the support of Scripture Union Scotland to develop more detail.

This covers our update and will provide more through the year on the intimations resources.

Youth Worker Team