

## Session Report

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

We started 2019 with 221 members on the Communicant Roll, 2 members were added by certificate and 6 by profession of faith. We removed 9 by death and 3 by certificate, thereby taking the roll to 217 members at the start of 2020.

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.

As always, we continue our fundraising for both charities and 2019 saw 2 of the Sandyhills team, once again take part in the Kilt walk, raising money for Comfort International.

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 Norman's first year with us, we have seen the introduction of the Elders 'Vision Day' a time where the Kirk Session of Sandyhills get together to look at the life of the church and what we would like to see happen. A lot of what we were looking for, at our meeting in February 19, has already happened, we are seeing an increase in our X-Groups, we have our Wednesday morning prayer meeting and our Tiny Tumbles group started in October. Not only that, but we had a very successful mission followed by a family fun day which brought in quite a number of people from our Community.

The face of our monthly Sunday Evening service has also changed as we now hear testimonies from members of our Congregation, and this year has seen the start of our Revival Praise and Prayer on the last Friday of the month.

February this year saw the start of our first ever Alpha Course, which runs each Wednesday for 12 weeks and I give thanks for all those who have felt called to attend. It is testimony to the way God is working in the people of Sandyhills, there is such a thirst to know more of Jesus in this place and I thank God bringing Norman Afrin to this place and for Norman's faithfulness to the word and to God.

Our Christmas season also had a few changes this year, with the introduction of a family Service on Christmas Eve, which was extremely well attended and lets not forget our family Ceilidh! It was once again a delight to have our Junior Choir join with us for our Carols by Candlelight service and our Advent Praise. 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, but let's not forget the work of the Church Choir and their year round leading us in praise and worship, thank you all, and our Praise Leader Ian Sharp, for all your hard work and dedication.

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, 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.

And once again, I give thanks God for his hand of protection upon me, for bringing me to Sandyhills Church, for my Church family and for all the kind words of encouragement I continue to receive as I seek to serve Him in Sandyhills.

Blessings to all

Maureen Sharp  
Session Clerk