

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

Fabric Report

Sandyhills March 2019 – March 2020

1) 11/ March - 2 x PVC windows to manse	£816
2) 3/June - Repair to exit door Lower Hall	£180
3) 17/6 – Intruder Alarm serviced. Annual clearing of Gutters.	£348/yr
4) 19/7 – Fire equipment checked – 1 new unit	£258
5) 1/8 – Fire Detection system checked – 2 x New Battery	£200
6) 27/ Jan – Cover heating pipes bottom hall	£595
7) 17/ Feb – ADT service Fire Alarm	
8) 25/Feb – ADT service Intruder Alarm	
9) 25/Feb – Thompson Plumbing – pressure clear drain	£150

Manse –

1) Repair to roof due to water ingress resulting in water dripping from Light Fitting.	£480
2) Replace main radiator in hall	£900
3) Replace dishwasher (Church Own)	£285
4) Fit Curtain to inside of inside door	£85

There is to be a new gas meter fitted at the Church on 9th March – this is through a scheme from the Church of Scotland (No cost to us).

Thanks to Alex Lindsay Junior we have acquired a variety of storage furniture which is being used to improve our storage space and to make store rooms more accessible.

During this period, we have moved on a number of chairs and mugs to the Lodging House Mission, Bibles to LHM and Kirkintilloch Hillhead and also taken the opportunity of disposing of clutter gathered over the years.

The Office is currently going through a refurbishment and again this office furnishing has been acquired via Alex junior and the fitting out of this room is being carried out by Alex senior and Bill West.

Danny McQuillan continues to look after the lighting and heating for all the activities we have using the halls and sanctuary.

Archie Malcolm continues to do the wee jobs no one else thinks of – putting out the bins and bring them back in after collection for example.

We are in need to create more storage for the food bank which continues to be a necessary part of our service to the folks in the surrounding communities and a plan

is in place to increase this store which will result in a reduction of the space available on the stage area.

Thanks are due to all those mentioned who assist with the maintenance of our property and this year we particularly thank Alex Lindsay Junior for keeping his eye open for anything that may be of assistance to us as he clears out his employer's property.

Alistair MacKenzie

Landscaping report

The recent details on the news that February 2020 was the wettest on record. This was also noted that combining February, March, April 2019 was also extremely wet. The summer last year was a wash out as well. The gardens did come in to their own following the excellent Plant sale run by The Guild with some needed colour that lasted well into the autumn. I am not sure how well the Magnolia trees are doing other than reporting some growth. Thanks, must go to all who help during the year but especially Mary Lindsay who seemed to be up on many occasions weeding.

Mike Abbott

Audio/Visual Report

This has been a good year with very few interruptions providing the church services on all media. There have been a few occasions when the audio laptop has let us down but thankfully, we have managed to reboot and get the majority of the service available for the CD's and the website. The screens are working well, there have been a few times when we have not been as proactive as we would have liked, again behind the scenes this is done in our time by Maureen Sharp and myself. Thanks to the team for stepping in to cover Walter and myself when we are not available Brian Thompson and David Stead.

Over the next few months we will be looking to provide additional access to the church facilities within the sanctuary to allow us to do more with the systems that we have.

Mike Abbott/Walter Russell

Sandyhills Parish Church website

Note the address is
sandyhillschurch.com and sandyhillschurch.co.uk

We had no down time this year due to hackers or virus infections – we use a package call WordFence on our WordPress platform which has proved to be quite robust in filtering out some undesirable logons from various parts of the world.

At the end of 2019 we decided to change our Internet service provider (ISP) from Strato based in Germany to Hostpapa based in the UK. The main reason was that Strato provided us with a limited bandwidth of 4GB of data whereas the new ISP is unlimited on our new setup and for a three-year period.

Sandyhills Parish Church owns two domains sandyhillschurch.com and sandyhillschurch.co.uk. The .com was quite straight forward to transfer registration to us but the co.uk was a problem as Graham Atkinson was on the paperwork and it took over three months to sort.

This last year we started a new service online based on the Podbean platform our very own PodCast. We will move to a premium package shortly which will be able to provide some more statistical information. I will provide a report when the premium service is established.

You will find the Podcast link on the front page of the website or on iTunes under category 'Christian and Spirituality: Christianity'.

Also @ <https://sandyhillschurch.podbean.com/>

Mike Abbott

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

07/03/2020

Members of the congregation, who have been accepted by the PVG process, now have their key information booklet and know to refer to it when necessary.

All eleven of those who required to attend Part I of Safeguarding Training have now done so. It wasn't possible for this to take place in our own church, so we chose the nearest one to Mount Vernon, which was Rutherglen United Reform Church. As this is evening training, we arranged car sharing, which worked out very well. The feedback on the training was very positive, and I am confident that they know when to refer to me, any situation causing them concern. Mary Lindsay and I also attended the training event to keep us up to date with the latest information.

Since then I have been asked to arrange for two more people to go through the PVG process. One application is already away to headquarters in Edinburgh, and the other should follow in the next week.

I am very grateful for the new notice boards you will have seen around the church premises. They make it so much easier to display important information.

Once again, I would appeal to members of the congregation, who are interested in taking over the post of Safeguarding Co-ordinator, to speak to me or any member of Session, and I re-iterate my willingness to work alongside him/her before handing over this post.

Sandra West,

Safeguarding Co-ordinator.