

Notes to the Accounts 2016

This year's figures show a surplus of £5,712. This figure includes Sheila Shearer Fund interest (£68) and a surplus of £2,356 in the organisations and restricted funds (organ fund, Christmas tree fund, extension fund and café kirk fund). Unrestricted income, which is what we can influence, showed a surplus of £3,288.

Income

(Page 14/15 of accounts) Income from giving fell by £523 (3.1%) on 2015's figures, which were £763 (4.3%) down 2014's figures, which were £213 (1.2%) down on 2013's figures which were £1,500 (8.5%) down on 2012's figures. This shows a fall of £3,000 on offering income in the last 4 years. It is fortunate that we received income from other areas this year, including £1,500 in hall hire from Portlethen childminders and another great fundraising effort from the fundraising team; otherwise we would not be in such a positive position. We do need to look at this as a congregation. Donations from organisations were £230, down by £11 on 2015. Coin-a-day boxes brought in £273, down by £140 on 2015. One off donations (gifts) of £415 were gratefully received. Gift Aid Tax Reclaim was £4,410, a drop of £300 on 2015's figures.

Income from Charitable Resources (page 15), which includes, but is not limited to, fundraising activities, brought in an £5,033, down £1,261 on 2015, but that was an exceptional year and this is still a brilliant amount. This figure includes £180 tea & Coffee, and £132 Life & Work (although there is the cost of Life & Work (£168) to be deducted from this amount, so Life & Work actually cost us £36 last year). Wendy's cards raised an amazing £127. We also received £300 funeral donation. Fundraising in itself raised £4,021, well above its £3,000 budget with an increase of over 33%.

External hall hire brought in £1630 in 2016 which is a very valuable sum. The cost of heating and lighting in the church as a whole rose by less than £150 last year so the increase in rent is well worth the extra cost.

Overall, unrestricted income has fallen by £1,816 on 2015 (6.1%). We still need to try and make a forward budget on expenditure so that large outlays can be budgeted for. Gift Aid Tax Reclaim continues to be a huge part of our income bringing in £4,410 in 2016, 15.6% of our unrestricted income. I cannot overstate the importance of Gift Aid giving to our church. Please do it if you can.

Expenditure

Expenditure (page 16) fell by £853 in 2016 compared to 2015. Ministries and Mission allocation fell by £222 in 2016. Using the unrestricted funds total (the only total we really have control over) 73.7% of our expenditure is ministerial (Ministries & Mission, manse council tax, phone bill, Minister's travel expenses, pulpit supply, presbytery dues. Other expenditure (utilities, organist, insurance etc) account for 18.7% and the remaining 7.6% is maintenance, office expenses etc.

General

We continue to do well in fundraising for others with a figure of £2,811 (page 20). £519 for Christian Aid, £68 for Earl Haig, £389 for Cyrenians at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Our Christmas celebrations raised £501 for Multiple Sclerosis UK and we raised an amazing £1,335 for the Church of Scotland's Build a house in Nepal Appeal, enough for over 2 ½ houses. I think we can be proud of the fundraising we do for outside organisations.

The Organ Fund is sitting at £143, the Christmas Tree Fund has £10 in it for future Christmas Trees, the Café Kirk Fund has £2,723, the Fabric Fund has £1,000 and the Manse Fund is at £1,281, leaving £29,641 in the general fund, around 14 months expenditure. Although this is a significant amount, there has been a new en-suite installed in the manse which will be paid for out of these reserves. Sheila Shearer Fund is sitting at £10,055, of which £5,055 is available for general use. The remaining £5,000 is for future church building.