

The Church of Scotland

Paisley Stow Brae Kirk

Annual Report and Accounts 2017

Congregation No: 140781

Charity No: SC 006437

**Paisley Stow Brae Kirk Church of Scotland
Trustees' Report
Year ended 31 December 2017**

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the General Assembly Regulations for Congregational Finance, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

Objectives and Activities

The Church of Scotland is Trinitarian in doctrine, Reformed in tradition and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in every parish of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

Our Services of Worship are held every Sunday at 11:00am with 4 Communion and 8 informal Communion per year, we provide home communion for those members who are housebound and unable to attend public worship. We also enjoy special services to mark the times and seasons, such as Harvest and Dedication Services, Christmas Services including Watchnight and Christmas day. During the year our Sunday School lead at least two Services and the Guild conduct a service during their Special Effort week. Our services are enhanced by our Choir and occasionally by our praise band.

The minister takes an active part in the chaplaincy of, the Primary School in the parish and is supported by the congregation in the services. The minister also provides a chaplaincy role in the life of the town's university. The Guild Presbyterian Council use the church for meetings and conduct their Carol Service in Stow Brae Kirk.

We have a healthy Sunday School and Teen Spirit youth group and energetic and robust Boys Brigade and Guiding Movements with every section from Anchor Boys to Company Section and Rainbows to Guides. Our Adult groups also have large numbers with every age group represented, Friendly Hour, and Guild. Other organisations using the halls are the Badminton, Mother's & Toddlers, Diabetes U.K, and Sewing Clubs.

Various Social events are held throughout the year ranging from dances, bowling evening, quiz nights, and bus trips.

Out in the community, we are dedicated to supporting local Renfrewshire Charities - Accord, Paisley Children's Centre and Renfrewshire Women's Aid. Further afield we support wholeheartedly Christian Aid. We also arrange for opportunities to give towards the work of selected charities- CHAS and Erskine.

Achievements and Performance

Paisley Stow Brae Kirk has continued to uphold its commitment to regular worship and service. We have supported our various congregational activities and are always looking for new avenues to explore.

Financial Review

The principal sources of income are offerings and tax recovered under Gift Aid. The combined income from these sources in 2017 was £90,685 compared with £95,277 in 2016. This is a 5% reduction following the 8% reduction in 2016.

Income from hall lets reduced significantly as one regular weekly let left but the other did increase hall use and revenue. The Trustees have decided these sums should be designated to the stonework repair project. This work commenced during 2016 with £204,273 spent to year end including professional fees. This leaves 2.5% retention to be settled in 2018.

Taking out the sums around the Stonework Repair contract and Manse removal there was a surplus on regular activities of £7,852 but £14,490 came from Hall Lets. Hall lets is a significant additional revenue stream for the benefit of building maintenance but the effect of the 2014 Stewardship programme is not being sustained and our surplus on regular activities continues to be eroded.

During the year the manse in John Neilson Avenue was sold and another purchased in Glasgow Road. To aid these transactions a loan was supplied by the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh. After deducting the proceeds of sale of the old manse and purchase/sale costs the balance of the loan is £116,586. This amount has been paid back during 2018.

Risk Management

The Trustees periodically review and discuss the risks to which the Trust is exposed and undertake measures to minimise such risk.

Risks identified and measures undertaken.

1. Ageing congregation and falling attendance incorporating loss of revenue.
Stewardship Campaign organised and Back to Church programme organised.

2. Use of Hall Lets.

The Church Halls are now being effectively let and income from lets will help revenue for the Church. This will be reviewed annually to ensure continuance of lets and the use of the halls.

3. The maintenance of Church Buildings.

The Property Committee meet regularly to review and undertake the appropriate measures to repair and maintain the buildings. The Trustees are regularly updated and when required, approval sought for any works to be carried out.

A Stonework Project Team was tasked to ensure major repairs to the stonework and roof were undertaken in accordance with Presbytery and Church of Scotland approval and relevant Acts and Regulations.

