

QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH

# SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



## Finance Report to Congregation 2017

We are pleased to report that, due to your generous support, 2017 shows a surplus of income over expenditure.

**2017 SURPLUS of £6,546**

### Receipts

After a fall in donations during 2015 and 2016, Offerings and Donations increased by £4,500 (5%) in 2017 over the level of 2016. Our Special Appeal in September raised over £8,400, split between the cost of masonry work to the North Wall of the church and Mission International's project in Haiti. Income from use of premises raised a record £18,900 in 2017, boosted by several groups from Dalmeny church who moved to The Loan while Dalmeny halls were being renovated.

### Payments

We spent almost £33,000 on fabric repairs and maintenance, continuing our long term plans to improve the overall condition of our premises. There was some good news on Insurance premiums which reduced following a thorough professional review of sums assured. A renegotiated contract for Gas and Electricity supply reduced our energy costs by almost £1,500. We continue to invest in our Children and Young People programmes and the direct costs of these rose from £2,000 to almost £3,000. In addition, we are pleased to receive support from Edinburgh Presbytery for a new post of Children and Families worker, ably carried out by Jill Meek. Administration costs were again well controlled showing a small reduction on the previous year.

### Reserves

As a charity we must maintain a good level of reserves – for cash flow, to keep our properties in good condition and to develop and grow. At the end of 2017, unrestricted cash reserves are equal to around eight months' costs, which is within the recommended level set by the Office of the Scottish Charities' regulator. This is important as we continue to invest for the future, Growing Wider, Growing Deeper and Growing Closer.

### FUTURE

We are aiming to keep our total costs in 2018 at the same level or less than 2017. But we are also looking to fulfil our objective of reaching more people in our town with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES 2017

We paid National Church & Presbytery for ministers and the church's mission programme	£ 65,267
Cost of generating funds	£ 4,292
Local staffing	£ 21,202
Property & Premises	£ 43,664
Other Local costs	<u>£ 7,952</u>
	<u>£142,377</u>

## WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM 2017

83% of our income comes from you as voluntary donations and offerings. Hillstop contributes over £1,900. (Another record – thanks to all who support Hillstop and are rewarded with coffee and chat.) The remainder comes mainly from organisations which use our premises on The Loan and at The Vennel. So, we rely heavily on our congregation : regular giving helps us to plan and budget and now 129 individuals and families give each month by standing order direct to the church bank account. Please read our special section on GIVING!

### GIVING

We rely heavily on support from our Congregation. Towards the end of 2017, the Treasurer wrote to thank everyone who gives regularly by bank standing order or freewill offering envelope. If you gave by putting cash in the Open Plate, then we thank you also and, even although we don't know who you are, we'll try to thank you personally over the coming weeks. If we miss you, thank you very much, anyway!

### DID YOU KNOW.....?

that we now receive Gift Aid (money for nothing from the Government) on over 80% of all your offerings and donations. Do you think we could get this up to 90% ? Now that we have no bank in Queensferry, why not give to the church the same way you pay your bills – by standing order?. You decide the amount and you have full control over when it is paid and when you want to stop. It really is that simple! Please speak to Eric Proven, Catherine Lambe or Jim Gaw or pick up a form from the vestibule.

Our challenge to you is:

- If you last reviewed your offerings some time ago, could you please think about increasing what you give, even by a small amount?
- If you don't already give regularly by standing order or freewill offering envelope, could you please consider these? Regular Giving helps the church to plan ahead and reminds us all to spread the Good News.

Queensferry Parish Church of Scotland is a Registered Scottish Charity SC002329

