

Trustees' Annual Report, continued...

Year ended 31 December 2025

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The Treasurer's position is still being very proficiently filled by Mrs Chislaine Grier as Treasurer and Bookkeeper. The Session Clerk, Mr Tom Rintoul, continues in this office.

The Communicant Roll despite its regular decrease due to the death of several elderly members has taken a very healthy upturn due to an influx of new members, two of which were baptised and professed faith with a further seven also being admitted by Profession of Faith and two more by Resolution of the Kirk Session. This was following a very successful Alpha Course run in conjunction with the morning worship services over a period of ten weeks. We were also encouraged by the need to provide again a Children's Ministry in the form of "Kids Zone" having an area set aside in the church where they can play, learn and interact with the worshipping congregation and if required can move to facilities for their use in the small hall. The locum minister and congregation have continued to offer ministry to the Bonnybridge community and 14 funerals took place and baptism and the sacrament of marriage were both offered. Community activities are continuing and the Tuesday Morning Fellowship group of around 20 meet in the local Community Centre and many of our members attend a Thursday friendship Group also in the local Community Centre with many of the ladies attending The Rural, meeting monthly within the Church Hall. There has been regular visiting to local care homes and the nearby Forth Valley Royal hospital for members and non-members in care or in hospital. Throughout the year we engaged in regular school assemblies with the local Bonnybridge Primary and Antonine Primary schools and they reciprocated by holding their Easter, End of Summer Term, Harvest and Christmas services in the Church. We again hosted the Annual Service of Remembrance and our locum conducted the service at the local war memorial. The year ended with a Christmas Fayre being held in early December and for a third year a packed church enjoyed our "Carols by Candlelight" raising funds for both the church and local charity. Our regular Friday Prayer Group meeting has gone well with numbers increasing and prayer requests being submitted by the congregation. New Audio Visual equipment has now been installed in the sanctuary and used weekly with a move toward service recording being made available to our housebound and elderly members. Local Community Groups including Brownies and Guides and toddler music therapy use our halls and new lets are anticipated in the New Year.

Financial Review

During 2025 the principal source of income has again been the weekly offerings, which is decreasing due to declining membership (deaths) with gift-aided and non-gift aided contributions. Tax recovered on Gift Aid donations however has remained constant. The Giving to Grow Allocation, which covers the stipend for the minister, has been reduced during the period of vacancy. However the Giving to Grow amount for 2025 has once again been fully met.