



HILTON PARISH CHURCH

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LETTER FROM CONGREGATIONAL BOARD OCTOBER 2020

Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well and coping with the increasing restrictions on our lives. It looks like we are going to be facing these limitations on our lives for some time yet.

At our stated annual meeting in early March, we committed to giving you a regular update on the congregation's finances. We could never have imagined just how complex and challenging the times ahead were going to be. The lockdown on 23rd March, led to the loss of most of our rental income, and all the offerings given through the open plate on Sundays. We were facing a very perilous financial situation. We are so grateful for all the generosity shown by the congregation since these early days. At the beginning of October, we had a surplus balance of £2,610.

We thought we should let you know about some of the ways in which your offerings have been spent around the buildings during these past months. Over the summer, the wooden floors in both the large hall and the sanctuary were completely refinished with an oil coating and look absolutely fabulous. We are



grateful to Laurence Clod and his team of volunteers who worked on these projects over a period of 2 weeks. Laurence also completed a mural of acoustic tiles in the large hall which we hope will improve the sound within that space. We look forward to the day when we can all be together again within our buildings which are looking so fine.



The Lighthouse has also undergone a major refurbishment during this year. The floorings within the cafe have been completely replaced, and all the rooms downstairs have been repainted. We are very grateful to Eddie Morrison for laying the flooring, to Craig Munro for the painting & decorating, and to Dot Walker for advising us on new colour schemes. The café looks superb. During



the spring and summer, Joe and Hannah were able to use the kitchens to prepare up to 100 meals every Friday for delivery locally as part of the Meals Project. The latest good news is that Joe and Hannah plan to launch the Anchor Café at the Lighthouse in early November. We are obviously in very uncertain times with restrictions, but they hope to be open for both sit in and takeaway. We wish them well in this new venture and look forward to working together with them in the years ahead.

In the Lighthouse garden, we are currently completing the replacement of part of the perimeter fence which fell down due to a combination of rotting fence posts and high winds! Before the end of the year, we also have plans to do major repairs to the disabled accesses at both the front and the rear of the buildings.

All these expenditures have been budgeted for and are reflected in our surplus figure at the beginning of October. In the nature of operating church buildings, there is always the potential for an issue to arise unexpectedly. For us this year, it has been an essential replacement of major parts to the Large Hall boiler. This requires to be done as a matter of urgency given the falling temperatures as winter approaches, and will cost around £7000. We don't propose to make any major funding appeals for this repair. We can use our surplus to cover part of it, and draw down some of the reserves we hold to cover the rest.

We hope that you will agree that despite the challenging times, we have and are making substantial progress in terms of developing and improving our buildings. As a Congregation, we have also been able to make all our payments for Mission & Ministry to the Church of Scotland. When we look back on the challenges we were facing in the spring, this is something worthy of celebration. We want to thank you for your generous support, and in closing outline the ways you can continue to support the work of Hilton Parish Church.

The most beneficial way of giving would be through a monthly standing order which would enable the congregation to have a regular and predictable monthly income.

Sort Code: 80-91-26

Account No: 00444375

Account Name: HILTON CHURCH

You can also give through the Give.net link <https://www.give.net/20098435>

If you would like to give offerings through cheque, these can be made payable to Hilton Church and posted to: Hilton Parish Church, 4 Tomatin Road, Inverness, IV2 4UA

Please note that if you are a tax payer Gift Aid is applicable for all of the above and this can increase our income by 25%. If possible, please complete a Gift Aid declaration (available from our website or from the church office) and return it to the church office.

We thank you for your support of the ministry of Hilton Church.

Iain

Iain Ross
Board Chairperson

Christine

Christine MacDonald
Treasurer