

**K
I
R
K**

Outlook

Granton Parish Church

*Special Issue
August 1996*

CHRISTIAN GIVING '96

- ***Sharing our Faith***
- ***Sharing our Concern
and....***
- ***Sharing our Resources***

This is a special issue of Kirk Outlook devoted to explaining to members why we are asking for renewed financial commitment to the Church. It will take about 10 minutes to read.



CHRISTIAN GIVING '96

Are we just asking
for money again?
The answer is
YES, but for good
reason!

Hello, you don't normally get a summer issue of Kirk Outlook, but this one comes to you, and every member of the congregation, for a very important reason.

Back in 1989, the Christian Giving Plan was introduced to all our members - everyone was visited and encouraged to review their Christian giving. The campaign reaped dividends and in many cases members just needed a wee reminder that as costs go up then so does the church's spending.

Can You Step Up?

Unlike the Council Tax, electricity bills and the weekly shopping, the Church doesn't demand that you pay more every year. The purpose of this newsletter is just to ask everyone if they could manage to think about what they give to the church and to assure you that it really is needed and will be well spent. By reviewing what you give now and comparing it to, say, last year, you might decide that you could Step Up.

A couple of
? questions

Question 1:

What gets first call on your time and your money?

Question 2:

Where does Jesus Christ and his Church fit in?

We usually manage to find money for the things that are really important to us, and Christian giving really must be more than an offering of what is left over, of the loose change.

Please do consider seriously whether you can increase your giving to the church. We could certainly use it for good!

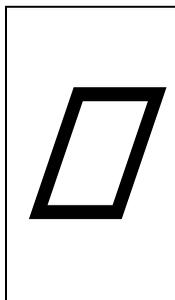
**Using your offerings
for GOOD**

Just a little bit more!

Are you a regular giver?
The church is a regular spender!

It has to pay the minister, rates, electricity and gas plus a hundred and one other necessary expenses. Without paying for these there would be no church.

Regular giving by each member through the Freewill Offering envelopes is the best way to help the treasurer make these payments.



However there is one way of making your Freewill Offering even more effective. Have you ever thought about a Deed of Covenant? It's not difficult, it's not painful and it's not expensive, but it is effective. This is a way of increasing your giving without paying more money. If you pay tax on your income somewhere (and most of us are) then the church could be reclaiming the money that you have already paid in tax.....AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU.

All you have to do is promise to give a certain amount each year (most of you are doing that already in the Freewill Offering Scheme.) and sign a form so that the church can recover the tax.

If you wish you can arrange to give to the church by Standing Order. Lots of people arrange their finances in this way. It is a good way of being sure of the amount that you are giving each week. A standing order direct from your bank account to the church's bank account is an easy way of giving particularly if you are not able to worship every Sunday.

Come on, you know you can do something so why not try now?

We'll be asking soon to see if our church income can be increased so why not give it a go and let us know.



“Each one should give, then, as he has decided”

verse 7

Look up and read the passage in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 9, versus 6-15.

In it Paul makes a very strong appeal for money, and sets us a pattern for all our giving. Reading these verses you can see that Paul had discovered that giving is not a chore to be undertaken unwillingly, grudgingly or legalistically, but is a joyful demonstration of love to God.

He wanted everyone to share his experience not only so that other folks' needs would be met, but that the giver himself would receive blessings in doing so.



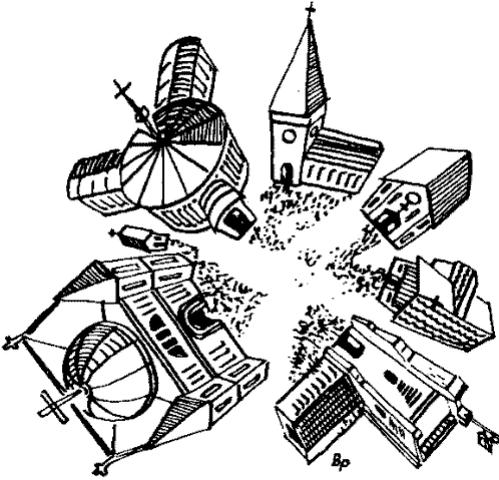
GRANTON PARISH CHURCH

Minister	Rev Elizabeth Henderson	551 2159
Deaconess.....	Maureen Hutchison.....	332 8020
Session Clerk	Audrey Mitchell.....	551 1613
Clerk to the Board.....	Norah Stephen	552 2108
Treasurer.....	Jim Sinclair.....	552 9061
Property Convener	Bill King.....	552 1669
Hall Convener	Irene MacPherson	552 4543
Deed of Covenant	Stewart Greig	552 4427
Magazine editor.....	Charles Macintosh.....	552 2240
Roll Keeper	Lesley Webster.....	539 5033
Freewill Offering Convener.....	Gordon Waddell	552 8051

Church Groups and Organisations

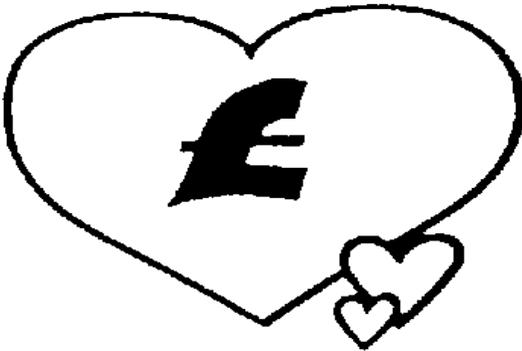
	West Hall	East Hall	CHOIR RM.
Monday to Friday			
Playgroup		9.30am - noon	
Monday			
Drama Group	8.00pm - 10.00pm		
Dog Training Club		7.45pm - 9.45pm	
Tuesday			
Men's Club		2.00pm - 4.00pm	
		7.00pm - 9.00pm	
Woman's Guild	7.30pm - 9.30pm		
Wednesday			
Lunch Club	noon - 1.30pm		
Rainbows	4.00pm - 5.00pm		
St. Andrew's Ambulance	6.00pm - 10.00pm		
Thursday			
Kirsty's Coffee	10.00am - 11.30am		
Prayer Group			10.15am
Arthritis Care	2.00pm - 4.00pm		
Brownies		6.00pm - 7.30pm	
Guides	7.30pm - 9.30pm		
Dog Training Club		7.45pm - 9.45pm	
Friday			
Granton School After School Club	1.30pm - 3.30pm	1.30pm - 3.30pm	
Brownies	6.00pm - 7.30pm		
Guides	7.30pm - 9.30pm		
Boys' Brigade Company		7.30pm - 10.00pm	
Saturday			
Dancing Class	10.00am - 12.30pm		
Sunday			
Sunday School	10.30am - 12.30pm	10.30am - 12.30pm	
	also Choir Room and Office		
Youth Group		6.30pm - 8.30pm	

For further information about any of these organisations contact the minister on 551 2159



THE CHURCH IS ALWAYS ASKING FOR MONEY!

How often have you said this or heard it said? It's absolutely right! The church IS always asking for money.



But who or what exactly IS the "Church"? Is it "121"? Is it the Congregational Board? Is it the Treasurer? The Minister? No the "Church" is the people who have responded to the gospel message - by committing themselves to our Lord Jesus Christ in front of other like-minded people. That's you! You are the Church!

"Always asking for money"?

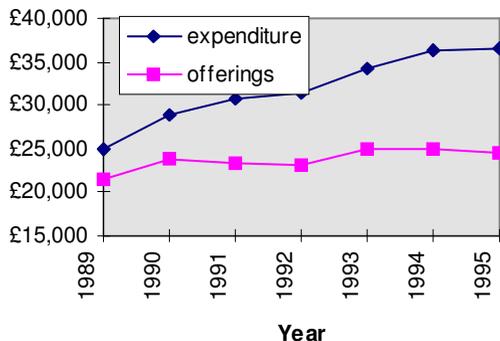
What the Church IS always asking for here in Granton is for response and commitment to Jesus Christ and his way.

So yes - the Church IS always asking for money - but only as part of our response and commitment to our faith.

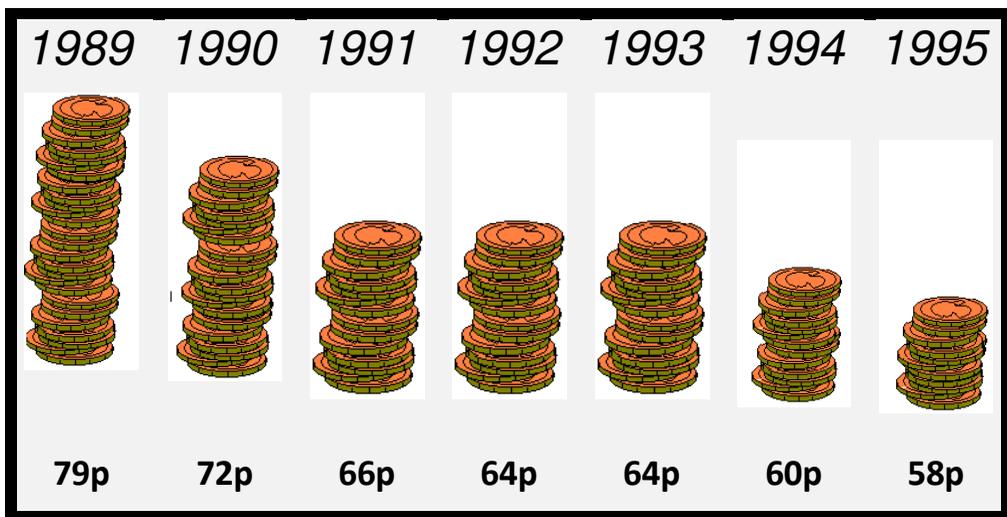
ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!

A look at the accounts

ARE OFFERINGS KEEPING PACE WITH EXPENDITURE?



Although our total income is more or less keeping pace with our expenditure, the worrying thing is that we are becoming more reliant on extra fund raising events to offset lower offerings. Take a look at the illustration below. It compares the number of pence per pound of our income that has come from congregational offerings over the period 1989 to 1985. In 1989 almost 80% of our income was from offerings, but this has gone down to under 60% last year.



Thank you for reading this far. The next step is for each of us to consider our own personal giving to the church and respond as we see fit.

You are invited to step up.....

The Step Up way *of Giving*

