

SANDYFORD HENDERSON MEMORIAL  
CHURCH of SCOTLAND  
13, Kelvinhaugh Street  
GLASGOW G3 8NU  
Scottish Charity Number SC002155



PARISH PROFILE 2017

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# Introduction

Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, situated at 13, Kelvinhaugh Street, Glasgow houses an active congregation of the Church of Scotland. It was established in 1855 as a church-plant from the Barony Church and united with Henderson Memorial in 1938.

A great deal has changed since those far-off days.

The congregation of today has its roots in the late 1950s when a Bible-teaching ministry began in a poorly maintained building in a run-down, post-industrial parish.

Attracted by the emphasis on Scriptural teaching, people from a wide area in and around Glasgow came together to regenerate the congregation.



This 'gathered' congregation, since that time, has had to change. With the extensive refurbishment of the building and an increased emphasis on local outreach, more people from the local parish area have come in.

The parish, itself, has changed very rapidly and quite dramatically. In the 1970s and 80s Glasgow City Council designated Sandyford as an 'Area for Priority Treatment', (APT), in which there was serious social deprivation. They encouraged the building of new, high amenity flats, while Glasgow University began to promote a programme of student residence building which, in itself, has opened up an extensive international mission field, literally on our doorstep.

Local shops and businesses have prospered with the influx of new residents and the whole area has become more vibrant than it was even a decade ago.



# Our Mission

We seek to be an all-age church where all are made welcome. Expository preaching, prayer and pastoral care are foundational to our ministry.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and that He is revealed to us through His inerrant Word. We believe that the whole of the Bible, therefore, speaks to the whole of our lives.

We believe that the Holy Spirit dwells within all believers to sanctify and empower them, and to glorify the Father through them.

Our mission is to take part, as living stones of Christ's Church, in God's great kingdom building project: offering Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as Lord and Saviour, and serving a suffering world with love.



Sandyford exists

To honour and enjoy GOD

To strengthen spiritual life through the systematic exposition of the Scriptures and Worldwide intercession

To offer Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour

To serve and influence our world in a Christian way



# Our Situation

We are in a position of real opportunity, but our present situation is also challenging. The present vacancy has arisen out of current controversy within the Church of Scotland.

The previous Minister, Rev. Jonathan de Groot, did not feel that he could, in conscience, continue in this ministry after recent developments in the General Assembly. Some of the congregation have left in sympathy with his views and they will be sorely missed.

The Kirk Session fully acknowledges the pressures from some sectors of the national church to lay aside the authority of the Bible. We are particularly distressed about the report of the Theological Forum at the Assembly of 2017 and the approach to Scripture contained in it. However, we

believe that God is still sovereign over His Church, that under that sovereignty there is a future for the Church of Scotland and that He is still at work in Sandyford, as He is in congregations, small and large, up and down the country. We note that nothing in church law regarding same-sex marriage was actually changed by the latest Assembly. In this matter we commend the statement of Covenant Fellowship Scotland

<http://www.covenantfellowshipscotland.com>

The Kirk Session therefore continues to affirm the position previously taken whereby we stated that, “We will remain in the Church of Scotland for the foreseeable future and contend for the faith by actively engaging in the preaching of God’s Word, in prayer, in faithful lives and in witness to the gospel, while the freedom to do this is open to us”.



Help us fill this space

# The Parish

The Sandyford Parish lies in the West End of Glasgow and is within the G3 Postal District, although that extends beyond the Parish boundaries, particularly towards the North and East.



The church building is strategically placed on the corner of Argyle Street and Kelvinhaugh Street towards the North-East of the parish boundary and in the heart of local activity.

The Parish includes the Kelvingrove Art Gallery, the Kelvin Hall, which now houses part of the National Library of Scotland and elements of the Hunterian Museum, as well as other public amenities, and the Yorkhill hospital complex currently in use as an out-patient facility of the NHS.

The extensive facilities of the SEC Campus, the Riverside Museum and a part of Kelvingrove Park, are also within the parish.

Detailed statistics, based on the 2011 National Census, were compiled by the Church of Scotland Statistics for Mission Group and

these are well presented on the Statistics for Mission website.

To access this use the link:

[http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics\\_for\\_mission/parish/profiles/161020.pdf](http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish/profiles/161020.pdf)

(if this fails use

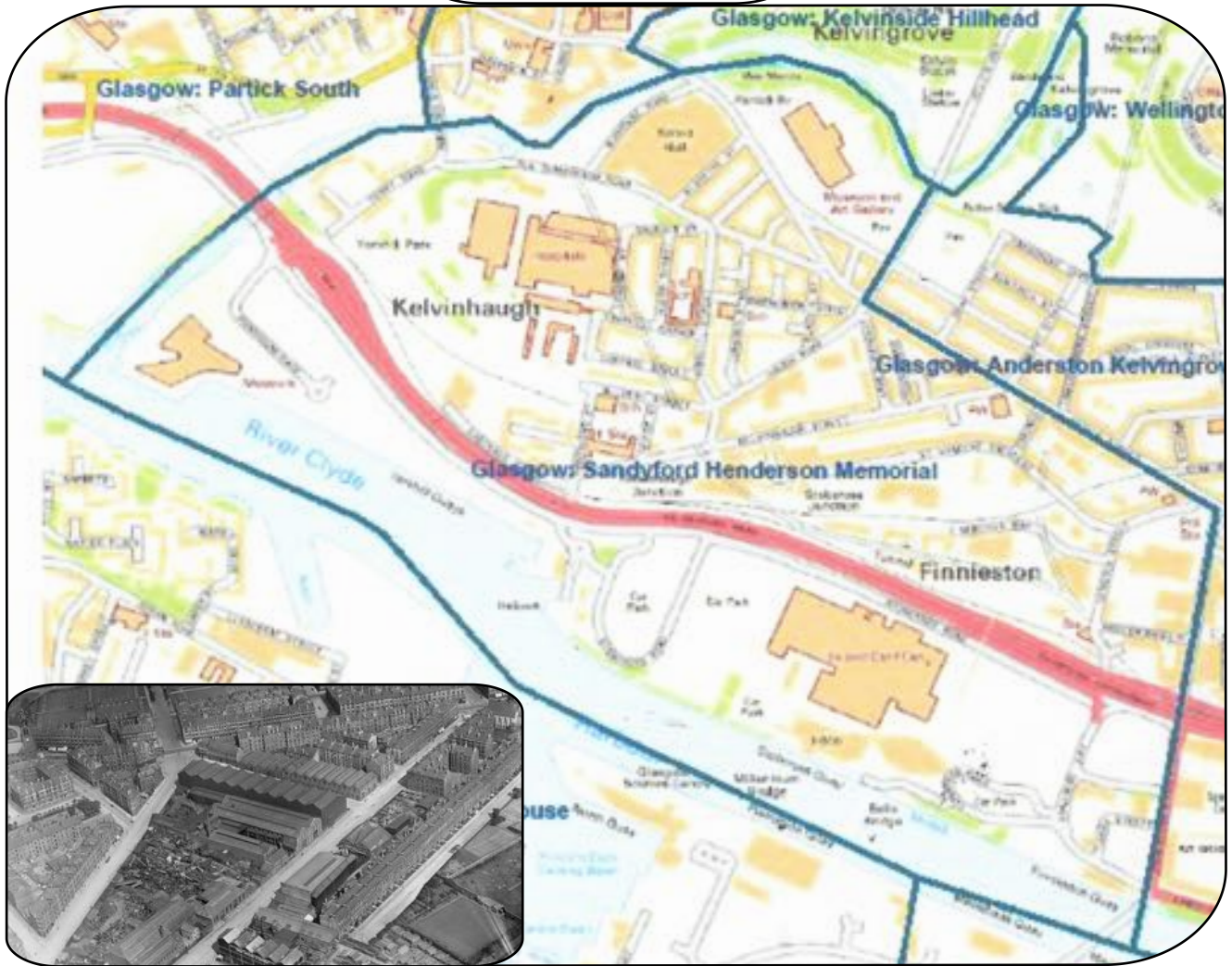
<http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk>

and using the 'Church Finder' link for G3 8NU click on 'parish statistics'. )

This includes a street map indicating the Parish boundaries and gives a very useful snapshot of the population structure.



## Parish Boundaries



Sandyford in the 1930s

From the 2011 statistics it is very revealing to learn that,

*"If Sandyford Henderson Memorial Parish were a village of 100 people:-*

*2 would be in primary School:*

*1 would be in Secondary.*

*40 would be between 25 and 44*

*4 would be aged 65 Or over*

*92 would be of working age (16-74)*

*8 would have no educational qualification;*

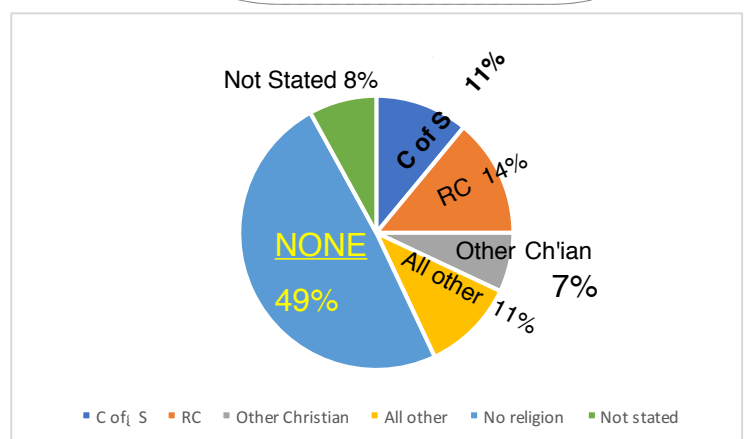
*54 would have a university degree."*

In the course of time since 2011 when these figures were compiled the student population will have skewed even these figures and it is clear that we are working in a situation unlike most, if not any other parish in Scotland.

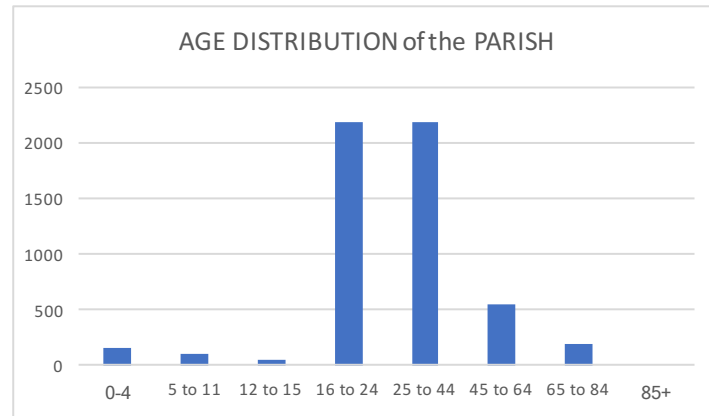
Of more immediate concern is the statistic regarding religious affiliation within the parish.

**49% of those to whom we are sent have no awareness of God.**

## Religious Affiliation



The age distribution of the Parish population in 2011 is shown in the following bar chart taken from the 'Statistics for Mission' figures



Since these statistics were compiled in 2011, however, major changes have taken place which have transformed the parish and the ministry of the church itself.

Around 30 student developments have been built or are under construction in Glasgow over the past five years; 9,000 places in total. Of these an estimated 4,000 to 4,500 are situated in the immediate vicinity of Sandyford, many in the parish itself.

In addition to the student accommodation, there has been a good deal of new housing development mainly comprising luxury flats aimed at the young professional market.

The West end of Argyle Street has also become much more active commercially with the rapid proliferation of restaurants and fast food outlets. Around 100 small to medium enterprises are now located in the parish. This has made the area much busier and it also offers considerable opportunity for outreach.

There is no school within the parish since the closure of the single primary school and, as the statistics reveal, the number of school-age children is very small. This is not a 'family' parish; when children are born the family moves to an area with 'family' housing. Nor is it an 'old age' parish. The figures drop off after the 25-44 age group.





# The Minister

We are looking for an experienced minister who is:

- an expository Bible teacher;
- committed to personal and corporate prayer;
- a conservative evangelical;
- able to engage pastorally with young and old;
- able to envision, lead and empower an active congregation.
- able and willing to delegate and empower others and to work in harmony with Kirk Session and Congregational Board.
- ready and willing to accept the challenges and opportunities of our situation.

We depend, however, upon the Holy Spirit to guide us to the person who will respond to our real desire, expressed in John 12: v 21,

“Sir, we would like to see Jesus”

# The Church

Sandyford remains a vibrant and constantly evolving congregation still gathered from across Greater Glasgow. During the vacancy, we look to maintain

our normal focus on expository ministry and we are grateful to those visiting ministers who are so willingly assisting us in this respect.

We meet to worship in the church building at

13 Kelvinhaugh Street,  
Glasgow, G3 8NU



The exterior of the building was cleaned, and repaired in the late 1990s.

The Sanctuary and Halls were extensively re-furbished in 2000 - 2004 to make them fit for use in the 21st Century.



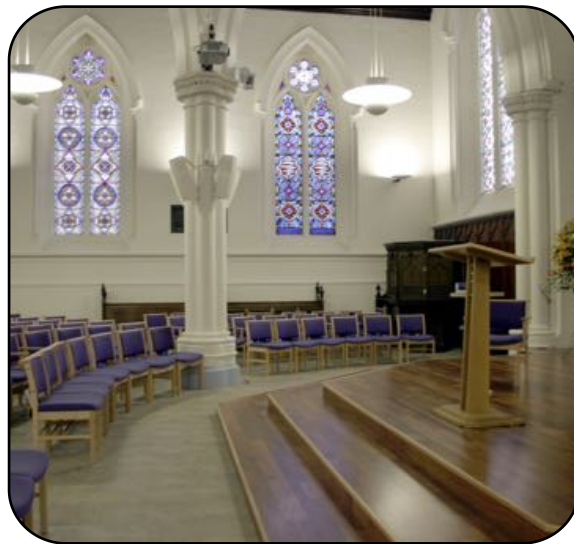
Sandyford church in the 1990s



After refurbishment



Tea-bar and Platform



Main Hall



The kitchen areas were also upgraded to a very good standard and this has allowed our own members, as well as outside caterers, to provide meals in a good environment.



The catering areas are fully compliant with safety and hygiene requirements and the building is provided with lift, ramp and toilet facilities for people with mobility problems.



## Meetings and Focus

Our three main weekly meetings are:

- Sunday morning worship: 11 am.-12.30 pm.
- Sunday evening worship: 6.30 pm.-7.45pm.
- Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting: 7.30 pm.-9.15 pm.

These services of worship are designed to be accessible to all ages with four central elements:

Scripture

Prayer



Songs - balancing the old and the new.

Fellowship







During the vacancy instrumental and vocal praise is led by musicians drawn from the Congregation.

Provision for children during the morning service includes a 'Children's Time' in the service as well as Sunday school and crèche.



Communion is celebrated monthly, alternating between Morning and Evening services.

## Communication and Media

The Sandyford Church website is to be found at :

[<sandyfordhenderson.net>](http://sandyfordhenderson.net)

It is designed to answer the immediate questions of the first-time visitor, but also to be useful to the congregation.

Our Sunday sermons are made available as mp3 recordings and are accessed 50-100 times per week.

We are also accessible on 'Twitter', 'Facebook' and 'Instagram'

Weekly Prayer news sheet and

Monthly Congregational Record –

These contain news from the congregation and information for the congregation as well as national and international concerns.

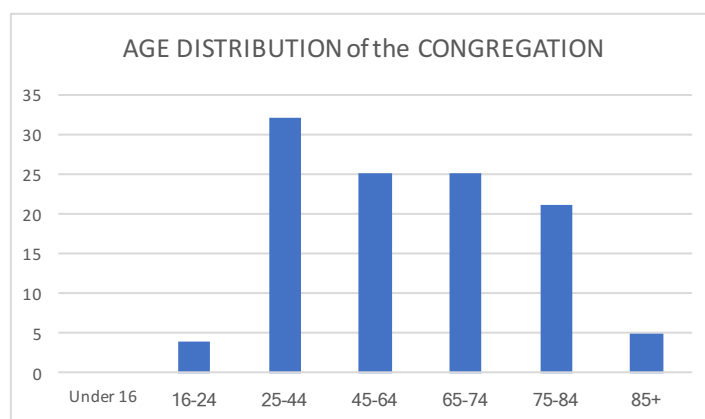
The prayer news is circulated to our members by email every week, and is used at our Wednesday prayer meeting.

The monthly Congregational Record is distributed locally, and posted to some 300 addresses.



# Membership and Attendance

The age distribution of the current membership of 112 is shown in the following table.



These membership figures represent the core of the Congregation but it should be noted that there is a significantly younger mix in the attendance at services, especially at the morning worship.

Many of those who come in the morning have not committed themselves to membership and this applies particularly to the student population whose expectation of stay in the Parish is relatively short.

We are very aware that we have a very short window of opportunity to reach this group of people and our ability to do so is determined by the resources of the smaller more stable membership .

Attendance is around 80 to 100 at the morning service and 50 to 80 at our evening service.

The mid-week prayer meeting attracts 30 to 40 people each Wednesday.

## Leadership

The Kirk Session currently meets nine times per year and, at present, has sixteen active elders.

The Congregational Board meets at least four times per year and has eleven members in addition to the elders who are ex-officio members of the Board.

We observe the 'Model Constitution'.

The additional committees in the church are:

- Finance Committee
- Fabric Committee
- Outreach Committee

## Staff

We currently employ two members of staff:

Student worker

Cleaner

A Church Officer is currently being sought.

## Finance

Sandyford members have a long-standing commitment to liberal financial support of the work and witness of the Church.

We have consistently met our central funding obligations (Ministries and Mission Allocation and Presbytery Dues) for many years and are continuing to do so throughout the vacancy.

In addition we are directly financing one full time equivalent outreach worker through 'Restricted Funds', as well as a part-time Cleaner; neither of these posts has any financial support from grants or sponsorships outwith the congregation.

Fabric expenditure has been significant in the last decade, reflecting not only the age of the building but also our pro-active approach to the maintenance and improvement of the church building and manse.

In addition to the normal congregational giving, there is a well-established history of support of missionary members and friends through our Missionary Fund, by designated one-off collections through the year, and by personal giving by specific members to missionaries and agencies with whom they have a relationship.

Accounts for 2016 and earlier can be accessed on the church website.



# The Manse

The manse is located at:

66 Woodend Drive, Jordanhill, Glasgow, G13 1TG



It is situated in a good neighbourhood, near to excellent schooling, and to a good range of shops at Anniesland Cross.

Accommodation comprises:

- Ground floor: living room, study, dining kitchen & WC
- 1st floor: 4 bedrooms (1 en-suite), & bathroom
- Gardens to the front and rear
- Garage to the rear

The accommodation, recently refurbished to a high standard of amenity, fully meets the Church of Scotland requirements for a Manse.

# Our Work

## PERSONAL EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP

Built upon preaching, prayer and pastoral care, our primary work is personal evangelism and discipleship. To this end, as a congregation, we provide these resources to further our vision:

### Prayer-

Prayer is central to this congregation. We meet weekly and engage in prayer at the meeting which is recognised as the powerhouse of our worship and witness.

We also took part in the denomination's Day of Prayer and in the 12 hour period designated a high proportion of the membership took part in the programme.

A small group of the congregation meets to pray before both Sunday services.

### Pastoral care team -

In addition to the natural support and friendship found within the fellowship, and the support of elders' visits, we have an organised support network of members who are engaged in regular pastoral visits.

### Groups –

Small prayer groups meet after the study session at the weekly Prayer meeting.

The Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship meets fortnightly at the church.

For students and 20s & 30s there are additional groups at the church during the week, and a small number of self-led home-groups also operate.

## PARISH OUTREACH

We believe that the Church exists to bear witness to the saving power of the Lord Jesus Christ and is there for those who have not heard His 'GOOD NEWS'. We reach out from the building and from the membership to welcome them in to the fellowship and to the Kingdom of God.

To this end we use : -

**Guest events** – Church lunches; Guest services; Cafés; Ceilidhs; Musical evenings; Christmas outreach events; and Easter outreach events.



### **Gospel introductory courses –**

*Christianity*  
**EXPLORED**



Annually we mount five continuously developing outreach programmes to our Parish

#### **1, Christmas Outreach Programme**

- Delivering Christmas cards to the parish, inviting all to our services.
- Meeting people passing by and offering mince pies, non-alcoholic mulled wine and conversation.
- Carol singing around the streets of the parish
- Hosting Christmas guest services



#### **2, Easter Outreach Programme**

- Offering hot-cross-buns to passers-by as we meet them on the street corner and engaging them in conversation
- Hosting Easter Day guest services



### **3 . Local Community Engagement**

We seek to engage with the people and community in our local area. The Drop In Café on Wednesday mornings is held in the Fellowship Area of the church, where local residents and visitors can feel comfortable. A low key Bible study is sometimes held in a corner of the area. The regulars are also invited to Sunday lunches, and some have been attending the service before the lunch.

We also use the courtyard/garden area for "Afternoon Tea" for passers-by in the Summer months and make contact in this way with our

community. More people come to church for the first time in response to 'friendship evangelism', than do so in response to other forms of outreach.



### **4 International Student Outreach Programme**

This is a busy programme of welcome events mounted in September as the University term begins. It includes:

- Short Bible courses
- The International Student Fellowship
- English language classes
- Cafés

- Ceilidhs
- Organised hospitality
- Hill walks and rambles



## **5. Student Outreach Programme**

This, too, is a busy programme of welcome events in September as the University year opens.

- Weekly Bible study group.

- Organised hospitality.
- Links with local University Halls.
- Links with Glasgow University Christian Union.

Collaborative work with  
'Friends International'.

# World Mission

We support, by prayer and finance, our member missionaries working in Pakistan, with Interserve, and in the Far East, with OMF International. We have a wide interest in specific areas of overseas mission, where associated missionaries are based, including Uganda, South Africa, Northern Iraq, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, China, Taiwan and France. The main focus of the prayer support is the Wednesday Prayer meeting,

Overseas Mission has been an integral feature of the Fellowship over many years.

We regularly support a number of individuals and organisations who are engaged in reaching out beyond our own shores with the Living Word.

The principal elements of this support include:-

### **PRAYER:**

We believe that the principal benefit we can give to our missionary partners and to those to whom they have been sent, is to uphold them continually before God Who, alone, can make their work effective. A significant part of the weekly meeting for prayer consists in prayer for those who are involved in God's work overseas. We also have monthly home-based prayer groups, including some for OMF and UFM Worldwide.

### **GIVING:**

Regular giving to individuals and to missionary agencies is a feature of the church and in addition to the special collections taken up for specific needs, we make regular provision for those who have gone out from us in this way. Many in the congregation are also giving privately and often sacrificially.

### **SENDING:**

A member of the congregation is currently in training with OMF for service in the Far East. We have on-going contact with members and associates, serving in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Far East and the Indian sub-continent .

### **COMMUNICATING:**

Our overseas friends are in regular contact by email, letter and Skype, and concerns and items for prayer are shared at the weekly Prayer Meeting. Several people in the congregation are in regular contact on a personal level and home-based prayer groups are held in support of societies such as OMF and UFM Worldwide.

### **REFRESHING:**

Our interest in those who have served abroad does not come to an abrupt stop when they come 'home', whether of furlough, deputation or retirement. We are keen to give support in deputation work and in re-orientation in longer term situations.

# UK Mission

We support by prayer and finance, UK based mission organisations, including The Scottish Bible Society,

Scripture Union, Friends International, Rutherford House, Street Pastors, IFES and UCCF.

# Our Vision

Consideration of our vision for the future has been of particular importance in our current situation.

Rather than itemising all the varied aspects, an outline is given of the way we would hope over the next year to sustain and develop the vision which has underpinned the preceding narrative, building on existing strengths but at the same time seeking to respond creatively, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to the challenges we face.

Some 70 members of the congregation gathered from 10.00am to 1pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2017 to discuss our vision for the future. On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, the Kirk Session reflected on the areas discussed at the congregational meeting, seeking to identify the key, strategic issues that need to be addressed in taking our congregation forward.

A list of challenges that reflected our longing to see God at work in every area of our church life was set out.

Recognising that we would not be able to tackle all of the issues at once, we prayed over what we thought our priorities should be, and agreed the following:

1. Prayer
2. Discipleship & Leadership
3. Capacity & Resources
4. Worship
5. Outreach
6. Fellowship
7. Denomination

Having agreed on our priorities, we have begun to work on an 'Action Statement' for the #1 priority - Prayer.

A sub-group has been set up, drawing on elders and members of the congregation, with the remit of reporting back in February.

In addition, a series of meetings of the elders will be held on Saturday afternoons in 2018 in order to work on the other issues listed above.

