



Strathaven

# Avendale and Drumclog Church

## 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

### SUMMARY

The Trustees rejoice in presenting the Annual Report and Accounts for Strathaven: Avendale and Drumclog Church of Scotland for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Our objective is to seek to inspire the people of Avendale and Drumclog and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.

In the life of our congregation, we aim in all that we do to exhibit the five purposes of the church, namely, worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism and to promote these in a healthy balance.

This year has seen the beginning of a new era of ministry in our church and the start of a number of new things. These all key directly into the five purposes of the church. Prime amongst the new initiatives is the "Haven Community Hub". This presently comprises: Haven Coffee, Haven Buglets, Haven Heat and Haven Hangout and will include new strands in 2023.

During 2022, we celebrated the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the present church building at Avendale. This allowed us an opportunity to give thanks for the past and the present. However, it also gave us an important chance to take stock and look to the future. And it gave us an opportunity to individually welcome and invite folks into our church community.

We continue our focus on congregational prayer life through weekly virtual prayer meetings. That prayer life has been enriched in 2022 by the introduction of ACORN prayer groups and also by regular congregational prayer meetings hosted by the Kirk Session.

When reflecting on 2022, we celebrate a year of rich blessings in the life and work of Avendale and Drumclog. We also look to the future with keen anticipation, waiting patiently for what God has in store for us in 2023 and beyond.

We invite you to have a look on our website at: <https://www.avendale-drumclog.org.uk/>





## UPDATES FROM WORK GROUPS

Each aspect of our church’s ministry is addressed by our Work Groups. Each Group now reports .....

### WORSHIP & PRAYER (LEADERS: HUGH CAMPBELL, ANDY MEIKLE)

Avendale Church meets for worship each Sunday at 11.00 am and Drumclog Kirk meets at 9.30 am. From time to time, both congregations meet in the one place, e.g. on the first and last Sundays of the year. Normally, Communion is celebrated at both churches on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December.

Our Wednesday evening prayer meeting continues with excellent attendance. Meetings are arranged mainly online (by Zoom), but recently, members have also joined together in person.

There is an expanding list of volunteers willing to participate in weekly worship by reading, offering prayers or talking to our young people at Drumclog or Avendale. This is a very useful resource for our Minister and blessing to us all. New volunteers are always welcome.

As society and The Church of Scotland began to open up after two years of restrictions, our Work Group was pleased to support and organise a number of initiatives in 2022.

There was a special Palm Sunday service on 10 April involving young people and distribution of Palm Crosses. Also, there was a Good Friday day of prayer on 15 April. This included spoken prayers and readings throughout the day by members of the congregation, opportunities for symbolic acts of worship, provision of prayer and reading materials and confidential pastoral support if required.

The informal worship style of our monthly “**Ignite**” services are welcoming to all, and provided an accessible format for the annual Gala service. A group of volunteers gathered at the Strathaven Park for Gala Day to host a stall. This provided crafts for children and an opportunity to meet members of the community and convey information about Worship Services and events which we provide. This was a valuable undertaking. Also, for the first time we had similar outreach activity at Strathaven Balloon Festival Day and also on the Allison Green for Strathaven Reindeer Day.

Other highlights included:

- A “Lessons and Carols” on 21 December in Avendale.
- A newly introduced “Christingle” service on 24 December at Avendale.

- The “Christmas in the Country” service on 24 December at Avendale.
- TakeTime meditation sessions in Avendale Sanctuary on second Sunday evening of the month and in Strathaven Community Wing on Tuesday afternoons.

The pre- and post-service prayer meetings are valuable to many on a Sunday morning. Prayer is held in the East Chancel before and after worship in Avendale. Some have been moved to seek prayer in those quiet moments after worship. But we are also finding that, even if no one comes over to ask for prayer, the Holy Spirit guides us to pray for a number of different people as we serve in this way after worship.

ACORN is an exciting new development in terms of prayer outreach which began in 2022. ACORN prayer began with a number of members of the group meeting online with Dr Michael Harvey for training over a three-week period in March 2022, with a view to encouraging others to take part in this expansive project. We are hopeful that this initiative takes hold and develops during 2023.

Finally, in terms of technology, there is a very active prayer WhatsApp group that has been used throughout the year. This ensures that all aspects of congregational life continue to be prayed for.



### **MISSION & DISCIPESHIP (LEADERS: MURRAY AND ANNE HERBERT, IAN GIBSON)**

The Mission and Discipleship Work Group was established as a proactive group seeking to nurture faith and growth in existing members, equipping them to be a missional force in the community. It has a long history of bringing exciting and innovative activities to the town, such as concerts of contemporary Christian musicians, prayer rooms, camel processions at Christmas, bag drops of gifts and tracts at Easter and Christmas etc.

Some of the initiatives of this group appear elsewhere in this report as there is a crossover with all the other Work Groups. For example, Messy Church is largely an initiative of this Group but falls also within the remit of Child and Family Ministry. However, it is helpful to group these activities together here. This is the reason that the core meeting of Work Group leaders is so fruitful and important.

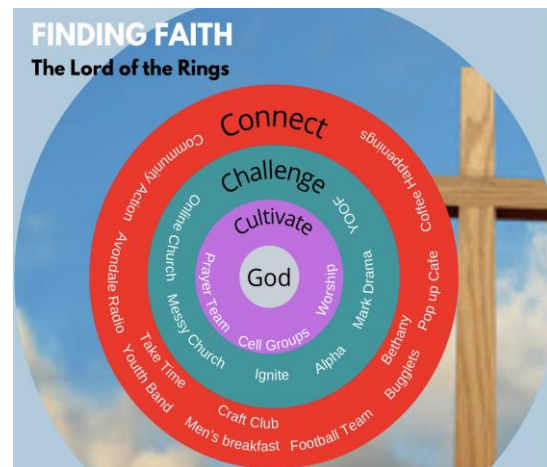
The year since the induction of Rev Calum Stark as minister has seen an explosion of activity, new ideas and the re-ignition and expansion of existing works after the quiescence and restrictions of COVID. Calum, rather than hitting the ground running, hit the ground at a full

sprint when he came in December 2021. He has been inspirational and motivational in a fresh missional approach.

Numerous activities are in place in preparation and delivery of mission and personal faith development. Some of these are listed below:

**Pioneer Ministry Course** - Eight members of the congregation undertook the introduction to Pioneer Ministry course run by Richard Tiplady, of Pioneer Ministries, looking at new expressions of worship and faith. This was an inspiring resource and builds on our **path of renewal** approach. The course covered new contact strategies through sport, out of church connections, Messy Church - meeting people where they are rather than expecting them to come to us. This has informed some of our strategic planning and activity.

**Mission Statement (the Rings Strategy)** - At the beginning of the new ministry it was important to review where we are, who we are, and where we are going. The Group developed the Mission Statement document which outlines the many planned activities, but also the overarching 'Ring Strategy' for personal growth and missional thrust. This is seen as three rings **Connecting/Challenging/Cultivating**. The diagram helps us understand how we are moving in our own faith and in bringing others to faith as we move towards the centre'. Some of the activities seen here are expanded further below.



**Bible Study** - A group of thirty women met to undertake a six-week Bible study series entitled "Stuck". This was an important point in re-establishing post-COVID the opportunity for learning more informally together.

**Men's Breakfast** - Around twenty men meet monthly in a local cafe for Saturday morning breakfast, fellowship, a spiritual thought and challenge. This builds connections within and outside the church.

**Avondale Radio** - Initially two of our elders - but now a team of six from the congregation - produce a two-hour weekly program on our local community radio station. This program explores and show cases contemporary Christian music, the themes and stories of the songs and is a huge opportunity for discussing these topics publicly.

**Haven** - We have established a centre for community interaction over coffee and bakes every Monday morning with at least fifty or more coming every week. Over the winter we extended Haven to **Haven Heat** on Monday afternoons. We are registered with Warm Welcome to allow people to stay warm and have time together. See: <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/>

**Messy Church** - This forms a central part of our 'New Expression'- Seventy to eighty attend monthly. Our approach seeks both to build family strengths as well as spread the Gospel. We now have numerous new families contacted and engaging with other parts of our weekly ministries.

**Ignite** - This is our monthly cafe style worship service with milk shakes and bakes and contemporary Christian worship.

**Avendale Football Team** - Connection with the 'church football team' maintains links with lads who might not be attenders at church.

**Specific Courses** - Twenty to thirty people attended our Hope Explored series in October 2022. We plan to run other series including Pioneer ministries in the next year.

This represents a snapshot of the role of the Mission and Discipleship Work Group as we pursue our aim of continuing **mission not maintenance**. There is a lot going on at a personal level as folk are enthused, encouraged and enabled by the various ministries. Church attendance is rising dramatically. Numerous new people and families are connected with the church. Messy Church and His Kids are growing. In short, we are seeing renewal!



**PASTORAL CARE (LEADERS: IAN DOUGLAS, EDITH SCOTT)**

The has been considering how pastoral care might be offered to the congregation in the future, taking account of necessary changes that occurred during the Covid 19 pandemic.

As a first step, the roll was revisited and new pastoral visitors/elders were allocated to districts to allow better coverage of the congregation. We know that those who undertake the role of pastoral visitor, whether elder or not, have adapted significantly to maintain contact with their respective districts both during the pandemic and since, and our congregation thanks them for their service in this regard.

The distribution of church flowers remains an important ministry in extending pastoral care from the congregation as a whole, and we are grateful to those who provide flowers weekly and for those who administer the service.

A questionnaire has been developed and the contents reviewed and agreed. It will be distributed to members/adherents of the congregation shortly. The questionnaire aims to

- confirm/update roll information;
- update methods of written communication;
- take account of congregational preferences on how they wish to receive pastoral care;
- identify specific needs of individual households.

The congregation is enjoying a vibrant new ministry. This has resulted in new work and new people attending worship. The questionnaire will be made available for anyone who wishes

to complete it. But it also seeks to invite everyone to consider how they might wish to become involved in the many and varied activities happening weekly in our church.

The completed questionnaires will guide the work of this team for the foreseeable future.

## **YOUTH & FAMILY (LEADERS: SANDI ALLAN, MATTHEW CHAPMAN)**

**Buglets** (Lesley Steven) - Buglets was set up to provide a place for pre-school children and their carers to come and enjoy a time of friendship, singing and stories followed by the opportunity to have coffee and cake at Haven Coffee. So far, we have made around fifteen contacts with families and have a regular attendance.

**Messy Church** (Murray and Anne Herbert) – See Mission and Discipleship above.

**Haven Hangout** (Liz Stark) – Was set-up in the new academic year - September 2022. The reason was to build upon the positive work which had taken place with the two summer holiday clubs, especially the YOOF one for older kids.

We provide a safe place for children aged P6-S2 on a Friday evening. This is hugely appreciated by parents who are also getting a break and a free option for entertainment. Several of the children attending are autistic and this time does offer them some respite.

We meet on the first Friday of each month from 7pm to 9pm. The evening involves activities such as crafts, baking, general games, Wii, X-box, air hockey, table football, table tennis. There is a tuck shop, and the children are given hot chocolate. There is always a Christian talk, which has included some quizzes/general discussion.

We have built upon relationships which were originally established in the summer. We appear to have a big cohort of kids from P6 at Wester Overton, which was aided by sharing the information on a Parents WhatsApp group for the school. These children are coming regularly, and these relationships are being developed - not only with the children but with parents by giving them invitations to church events when they are picking-up.

The numbers attending vary from between twenty and thirty-five. We are also involving many new volunteers with the activities, giving them more involvement in the wider church life. Although there are demanding moments, it is interesting that when the talk is being delivered the kids are quiet and listen and are then asking questions. We are engaging with them on a spiritual level.

It is still early days but the potential for impact is big. We are connecting with a core group of children who are returning regularly, and this will enable us to build important relationships for the future. We have a core group (aged P6), with whom there is the potential to grow and evolve. Also, it is not just the children but also the parents - many of them have had church connections in their younger years but have lost touch. This gives us a connection to them and a way to keep them up to date with what is happening in church.

Calum was in Wester Overton Primary for a Christmas event and teachers were amazed to hear lots of the kids saying “Hi Calum” and high fiving him! It is an important and helpful bridge for him when he goes into schools.

**Holiday Club** (Hugh Campbell) - An extremely successful Summer Holiday Club was run from 1 to 5 August. This was followed by a special Family Service at Avendale on 7 August.

**His Kids - P1 to P7** (Sandi Allan) - From January His Kids restarted with the children coming into church in the morning following the COVID guidelines of that time. A rota was operating, and SU SUPA club material was used.

Over the summer we ran a summer 'Vegetales' holiday club which involved an episode of Vegetales being watched and a craft/activity to link in with the story. A team of leaders was brought together to run on a rota basis. We used SU Light Live material until the end of September. We are now using Heartshaper which is produced by David C Cook.

We started a four-week Christmas teaching programme in the run-up to Christmas. The children were involved in an informal nativity type part of the service on 18 December. On the register for this session so far there are twenty-two children who have attended His Kids at least once.

**YOOF - S1 and Above** (Matthew Chapman) - YOOF moved back from our online meetings to meetings in person. From January to the end of session the joint work with the SEC continued. We met almost every Sunday evening either at the SEC or Avendale. Over the summer Lesley Steven stepped forward to join with Matthew in leading and this has been a real blessing.

We ran a week 'Teen Summer Holiday Club' from 9 to 12 August. We were supported by a fantastic team of helpers to facilitate the teaching and food. We had over twenty teenagers engage with the week. It concluded with seventeen attending a day away at Gowanbank where we shared food, activities provided by the centre and concluded our week's teaching. We considered the evidence for Jesus' death, the empty tomb and his resurrection and saw how the facts help us to have confidence in this truth.

Since August we have been following Youth Alpha on Sunday nights. Interspersed throughout this term we have had a trip to Hollywood Bowl, a night at Angus and Sandi Allan's for a bonfire night, and we have also used Ignite as another form of worship to include our youth in with us attending as a group and having some social time and food together afterwards.

We concluded the year with a weekend residential at Gowanbank SU centre from 9 to 11 December. Eleven teenagers attended this weekend. We continued to study Youth Alpha with teaching focused on the Holy Spirit. We also took part in archery, tree climbing, informal social time together to build friendships as well as 'reigniting' the traditional candlelit dinner on the Saturday night. We were blessed to receive the support of eleven members of the church to help lead this weekend. This was our final gathering of 2022.



All of our activities for children and young people are carried out in accordance with the Church of Scotland's Policy on the Care and Protection of Children and Young People. The **Co-ordinator of the Care & Protection of Children and Young People** is Mr Hugh Campbell. If you wish to work with our children and young people and are not sure if you are on the Care & Protection Register, please contact Hugh Campbell on 01357 440548.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATIONS

Avendale and Drumclog Church believes that, as well as worshipping and learning together as a congregation, fellowship and growing in friendship are of equal importance. Every Sunday at Avendale, and on the last Sunday of each month at Drumclog, we join together in the church hall for tea/coffee and fellowship. Also, in Avendale there is a Tradecraft stall.

There are many other organisations that take place within the life of the congregation:

**Drumclog Kirk Guild** - meets on the third Tuesday of the month from October till April. Guild meetings are well attended. The Guild has always had a varied and interesting syllabus including talks, films, and demonstrations.

New members are always made welcome. Anyone wishing further information should contact the President: Mrs Margaret Semple, 48 Threestanes Road, Strathaven (01357 529408); the Secretary: Mrs Aileen Scott, 2 Douglas Street, Strathaven (01357 522074), the Treasurer: Mrs Margaret Frame, High Dyke Farm, Sandford (01357 520467).

**The Craft Club** - meets on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 pm. It is an opportunity for people to go along and learn a new craft or work on their own craft. It is a friendly group where people can gather together and teach or learn from others in a cosy, relaxed manner. More information can be obtained from Laurie Jackson (01357 522534).

**Avendale Amateur Football Club** - Avendale AFC play in the Strathclyde Evangelical Churches League (SECL) and has done so since their formation in 2000. For the last 15 years the team have played in the top division regularly finishing in the top half of the league. This was converted into a championship win in 2007/08. More information on the team can be obtained from the manager Iain Shaw.

**Bethany** is a group for the Bereaved, not just for members of the congregation, but for all in our community. The group meets on Wednesday afternoons in the Church Hall. There is a varied and interesting programme of events and speakers. Sometimes they have day trips or visits to places of interest. The group is organised by Mrs Allison McKinlay.

Our church premises are a valuable asset, not only for the congregation, but also for the wider community of Strathaven and Drumclog. Many external groups use the premises each week. This ensures that the buildings are busy and used for the wider benefit of the community. Other organisations include Auld Avondale Actors, Aileen Gibson School of Dancing, Slimming World, MacMillan Cancer Care, Strathaven Striders, Country and Western Dancing, Baby Sensory Class and the Friday Night Keep Fit. Our premises are also used as a Polling Station.





## COMMUNICATIONS (LEADER: CHRIS MACRAE)

As a church we aim to Connect, Cultivate and Challenge. One of the main ways in which we do this is via our communications and digital media strategy. Over the last year we set out to grow the reach of our digital communications as a means of engaging with our local community more effectively.

### Social Media

We have taken steps to grow our reach on our social media platforms. We have a presence on both [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) where we regularly post information regarding our activities as a church family with the aim of engaging our local community.

We have 363 followers on Facebook and 82 page-followers on Instagram. Our overall reach on Facebook in 2022 was around 15,000 people. This is the number of people who saw any of our content from our Page or about our Page, including posts, stories and advertisement. We had just under 2,000 visits to our Facebook page and 41 new followers in 2022. Our overall reach on Instagram in 2022 was around 500. This is the number of unique accounts that saw any of our posts or stories at least once.

We also regularly cross-post our content to community social media groups in Strathaven which increases the reach of our content further.

### YouTube

We have a channel for Avendale and Drumclog on YouTube - [@AandDChurch](#) - which is used to live-stream our services each week from Avendale. Our live-stream reaches between 15 and 30 viewers live, whilst the services are taking place, but we reach between 80 and 190 views of each streamed service per week. This has proven to be a big success.

We also use our YouTube channel to host the 'A+D Podcast' which is an audio series that looks at the 'Stories Behind The Songs'. Each episode looks at a different Christian song or hymn and explores the background to it, what inspired the artist or writer when writing the song, and a reflection from the Bible on how the context of the song flows from there. The podcast is produced by members of the congregation.

The YouTube channel is also used to showcase our church praise band - 'The Elastic Band'. The channel hosts videos of the band, which were recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2022 our YouTube channel had just under 9,000 views. Around 6,700 of these views were of our live streams. Our content posted on YouTube in 2022 generated 49,300 impressions, which are the number of times that our video thumbnails were shown to viewers on the platform. Our channel has 167 subscribers, which is 8 more than the previous year.

### Website

The Avendale & Drumclog Church website is our main window into what is happening at our church for those in the community and beyond. All of our social media content links back to content on our website. Thus, it serves as the place where we can showcase our activities in a more in-depth way. The site includes information on every aspect of our mission and outreach as a church and is regularly updated to keep the content relevant.

In 2022, we have on average 10,500 page-requests per month on our website.

### 'In The Loop'

'In The Loop' is our regular church digital newsletter. It is sent out to members via email. This gives important information to the church family about everything that is happening at Avendale & Drumclog. We also publish this newsletter on the church website as well.

### Newsletter

We also produce a printed newsletter three times a year which give more of an overview of what has been happening and what is coming up in the life of the church. This newsletter is designed for those members who are not able to access 'In The Loop' or who do not have access to email.



## FRIENDS

As a church we support a number of Christian mission organisations and charities that carry out vital work both locally and around the world. These are:



The Church of Scotland



Please take a look and consider how you could support these organisations in prayer, giving or volunteering. See: <https://www.avendale-drumclog.org.uk/Groups/352641/Friends.aspx>

We are also part of the Warm Welcome network:



## BACKGROUND INFORMATION (THE CHARITY)

**Charity Name:** Strathaven: Avendale Old and Drumclog Memorial Parish Church of Scotland

**Charity Registration No:** SC001956

**Congregation No:** 171166

**Contact Address:** Avendale Old Parish Church  
59A Kirk Street  
Strathaven, ML10 6LB

**Telephone:** 01357 529748

**Website:** <https://www.avendale-drumclog.org.uk/>

## THE TRUSTEES/ELDERS (KIRK SESSION)

Dates of Ordination/Admission are shown in brackets:

Rev Calum M Stark, Moderator (2011/2021)	
Mr Angus Allan (1990/2021)	Mrs Sandra Allan (1993/2021)
Mr Hugh M Campbell (1997)	Miss Jean L G Campbell (1985)
Mrs Margaret R Crawford (1993)	Mr Alistair J Douglas (1981)
Mr Ian G Douglas (1995)	Mrs Margaret A Douglas (1995)
Mr James C Elliot (1983)	Mrs Margaret W Elliot (1989)
Mr James Foster (1977)	Mrs Doreen Frew (2009)
Mr Victor Garvie (1990)	Mr Ian S Gibson (1990)
Mr William Gibson (1990)	Mr Ian Gow (2006)
Mrs Renie Gow (2006)	Mrs Barbara Grant (1998)
Mrs Linda M Greenshields (1984/1991)	Mr Thomas Hainey (1976/1998)
Miss Catherine Hamilton (1972/1989)	Mr Marshall Harkness (1983)
Dr Murray Herbert (2021)	Mrs Anne Herbert (2021)
Mrs Margaret Hendry (2004)	Mrs Margaret C Hunter (1996)
Mr Keith C Jackson (1981)	Mr William Kirkland (1991)
Mr Andrew Kurilla (1985)	Mrs Margaret A Kurilla (1998) <sup>3</sup>
Mrs Lorna Lennox (2003/2021)	Mr Keith H Mackenzie (1995)
Mr Christopher Macrae (2004/2021)	Mr David M McAlpine (1993)
Mr Daniel Miller (1984)	Mrs Margaret Miller (2004)
Mrs Muriel M Mitchell (1989/1995)	Mrs Mary B Moore (1989)
Dr David Moreland (1994/2021)	Mrs Ann K Morton (1985)
Dr Irene Pepperell (1993)	Mr James M Raeburn (1985)
Mrs Margaret T Sawers (1983/1991) <sup>2</sup>	Mr Alexander Semple (1960)
Mr Andrew Semple (1983)	Mrs Margaret Semple (1989)
Mrs Hazel M Shaw (1996)	Mr Iain Shaw (1991)
Miss Janette W Smith (1990)	Mrs Dyan Spence (2021)
Mr James H Spence (1977) <sup>1</sup>	Mrs Mary M Spence (1998)
Mr Neil Spence (2021)	Mr William B Steele (1990)
Mr Ian Stewart (1988/2002)	Mrs Christine Ward (2004)
Mr Peter Williams (1998/2021)	

- (1) Retired as Trustee and became Elder Emeritus on 20 September 2022.
- (2) Retired as Trustee and became Elder Emeritus on 1 November 2022.
- (3) Deceased on 8 December 2022.

### **ELDERS EMERITUS:**

See notes (1) and (2) above.

### **OFFICE BEARERS**

Moderator:	Rev Calum M Stark
Session Clerk:	Dr David Moreland
Church Treasurer:	Mr Neil D Spence
Bankers:	The Royal Bank of Scotland Hamilton (c) Branch, Palace Towers, Palace Grounds Retail Park Hamilton, ML3 6AD
Auditors/ Independent Examiner:	Fiona McMurray Anderson MacDonald, The APL Centre, Stevenson Industrial Estate. Stevenson, KA20 3LR

### **HOW WE ARE RUN**

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The Church of Scotland is trinitarian in doctrine, reformed in tradition, and Presbyterian in polity. It exists to glorify God and to work for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom throughout the world. As a national Church, it acknowledges a distinctive call and duty to bring the ordinances of religion to the people in parishes of Scotland through a territorial ministry. It co-operates with other Churches in various ecumenical bodies in Scotland and beyond.

#### **Governance**

Avendale and Drumclog Church is administered in accordance with the Unitary Constitution.

Although there are two places of worship, Avendale and Drumclog is one church, with one Minister, one Kirk Session, and one congregational.

#### **The Trustees**

The Trustees are members of the Kirk Session, are the Elders of the Church and are chosen from those members of the Church

#### **Organisational Structure**

The Moderator of the Kirk Session is the Minister. The Kirk Session is responsible for both the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church. The Kirk Session normally meets about six (6) times a year, but meetings to deal with specific issues that arise can be called. The Kirk Session is made up of Work Groups and Committees, namely: Prayer & Worship, Mission & Discipleship, Pastoral, Youth & Family, Finance, Fabric, Communications and Church & Community). These enable the Kirk Session to progress work efficiently.

#### **Financial Affairs**

The Kirk Session, through the Treasurer and Finance Committee, is responsible for the financial affairs of the Church. Each year the Church pays a Mission and Ministries amount

to the Church of Scotland and Presbytery Dues to Forth Valley and Clydesdale Presbytery. To ensure that the Kirk Session and the congregation are kept informed of financial affairs, the Treasurer issues a Budget Update at each Kirk Session meeting, as well as ad-hoc updates as and when required throughout the year.

The contribution to Ministries & Mission is used to meet the costs of Mission and Discipleship, Church & Society, Social Care (CrossReach), World Mission, Support and Services to our church (legal advice, accounting, safeguarding), General Assembly & Moderator, Special Contributions.

## ROLL STATISTICS

The Statistical Return for the year ended **31 December 2022** showed the following:

Number on the Roll as at <b>1 January 2022:</b>		<b>425</b>
<b>Removals:</b>	By Death	11
	By Certificate	0
	Otherwise	2
	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>13 (-)</b>
<b>Additions:</b>	By Profession	0
	By Certificate	2
	By Resolution of Kirk Session	8
	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>10 (+)</b>
Number on Roll as at <b>31 December 2022:</b>		<b>422</b>

As well as traditional Sunday morning worship, new and alternative forms of worship are regularly available via: Messy Church, Ignite (café church) and Taketime.

## THE NUMBERS (EXPLAINING THE FINANCES)

This has been another demanding year financially, but the Congregation have risen to the challenges set, no more so than through the Gift Day appeal towards the end of the year to replenish the General Fund. The Church has not been immune to external factors of increasing energy costs, inflation and the cost of living but together as a Church family these have been navigated whilst maintaining our overall mission within both the local and wider communities.

The Finance Committee continue to explore all avenues of funding available and were successful in obtaining grant funding from South Lanarkshire Council and the Kype Muir Wind Farm to allow improvements to be made to the buildings at Avendale.

More details on the financial figures for 2022 can be found within the main accounts.

Grateful thanks are extended to Mr Neil Spence, Treasurer, and to the Finance Committee.

## BRICKS AND MORTAR (FABRIC)

The upkeep and improvement of our buildings continues to be a priority for the Kik Session. The Fabric Committee has been very busy in 2022. Thanks go to the Mr Mervyn McMullan, Fabric Convener, and to the Fabric Committee, who have worked throughout the year overseeing repairs and upgrading of parts of the buildings.

Repairs to and maintenance of the property at Drumclog is ongoing and under the ever-careful stewardship of Mr Marshall Harkness, for which we are ever grateful.

### AND FINALLY

There are so many people involved in the day-to-day running of Avendale and Drumclog, and so many who come to the fore when special events are being put on or some task needs done. To all of them is due a heartfelt thanks. There are the Work Groups leaders, the Conveners and members of the Committees, the leaders and helpers in all our activities, the worship volunteers, the Welcome team, the pastoral visitors, the organists, the musicians, the caretaker. For everyone who willing works to build God's kingdom or who offers a quiet word of encouragement or prayer support, we are richly blessed. And, of course, a special heartfelt thanks to Rev Calum Stark for the commitment, dedication and innovation that he has gifted to us in his first full year as our minister.

In common with other churches, we are always looking for people who feel called to serve in some way. If you feel that this applies to you, please speak to or contact our Minister, Rev Calum Stark (Email: [minister@avendale-drumclog.org.uk](mailto:minister@avendale-drumclog.org.uk) ; Tel: 01357 671557) or drop us an email at [info@avendale-drumclog.org.uk](mailto:info@avendale-drumclog.org.uk)

As we said in our 2022 Mission Statement, we are

**“A Church in the Heart of the Community with the Community at its Heart”**

Our activities in 2022 are clear testament that we resolutely remain in **MISSION MODE**. As we continue to gratefully work for His Kingdom, we give praise and thanks to God for what is, what has been, and what is still to come.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

David Moreland  
Clerk to the Kirk Session

March 2023

