



TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/15

The principal source of income for Portree Parish Church is the weekly offerings given via the Freewill Offering envelopes, the Gift Aid scheme and the Open Plate.

Compared with the givings for 2012, donations through FWO fell by 10.7% to £5,429 ; those linked to Gift Aid fell by 0.2% to £33,250 while those through the Open Plate rose by 5.5% to £8,163.

Overall givings via FWO, Gift Aid and Open Plate have, compared with the corresponding total for 2012, shown a decrease of 0.6%. This decrease regrettably means that the upward movement shown last year has been reversed. It is earnestly hoped that through the generosity of our congregation the upward trend will return in 2014.

As for any congregation, Gift Aid donations provide an invaluable means of raising additional income - at no additional cost to the donors. For the 12 month period from 1 October 2012 to 30 September 2013 the church was able to reclaim from HM Revenue and Customs the sum of £9,343.

While the number of members of the congregation giving via the Gift Aid scheme has risen to 57 it is hoped that all others who contribute to the church and who pay income tax (even on pensions) will make a commitment to link their givings to Gift Aid. Forms for this are available in the Front Vestibule and anyone requiring further information should contact the Church Treasurer.

After the completion of the Mobility Access to the church it was agreed that donations would continue to be requested to assist with the cost of replacing the heating system in the church and to address major repairs to the stonework and pointing in the church building. Two highly qualified stonemasons were employed for one week to tackle the front elevation of the building. The cost for this was £1,250 + materials and we have asked them to return in 2014 to carry out a further week's work elsewhere on the church's exterior walls.

While Portree Church can still meet all its financial commitments - both local and to the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, its reserves are not excessive. Upkeep of the beautiful buildings and the increasing costs of fuel for heating and lighting make heavy demands on church finances. Unforeseen eventualities can make quick and sizeable inroads into reserves.

It is hoped that members of the congregation continue to show their support for the Church and its work.

Wm Marshall, Braes