

**BELHAVEN &  
SPOTT  
CHURCHES  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
APRIL 2011**

## **BELHAVEN AND SPOTT CHURCHES**

Annual report – for 2010.

A famous philosopher warned that “*The unexamined life, is not worth living*” – and something the same could be said about churches. Unless we look closely from time to time and what we are doing, why we are doing it, and how well we are doing it...the tendency to drift and then to slide is almost inevitable. So, more that 30 years ago, we established the discipline of the Annual Report...a bird’s eye view of the past year – its triumphs and its challenges, its achievements and its loose ends. This has given us a chance to celebrate real movement and development, observe where the stresses and strains are becoming evident – and to honour those people whose involvement, commitment and faith inspire and encourage us all.

Not that a list of events successfully completed, tasks dutifully done can do full justice to the range of situations in which the role of the Church has been vital, creative and transforming in the lives of the people we serve. There have been countless occasions on which the ministry of the whole people of God has had a profound and healing effect, and where the compassion, grace and good news borne by men and women of faith, have brought hope and blessing –more than any sermons preached, more than all the hymns sung, more than all the offerings taken...Christian people out there with their prayers, their listening ear, their tender heart. I am in awe of the true Christian love I discover, out in the experience of real people – brought to them with humble grace and compassion by the folk who sit in the pews Sunday by Sunday. They don’t just believe it...they live it.

And always available to the church that wide range of gifts – those who will roll up their sleeves and clean a dust-covered church interior once the roof repairs are completed...those who will bring a parcel for the homeless and place it under the Christmas tree...those who will notice who has been missing for a week or two...and take the trouble to see that they are alright.

And those whose ministry is to sustain by prayer the whole life of the church.  
And sometimes, they are the same people!  
So thank you to every one.

As will emerge in the report, it has been a difficult year for me – various family health issues have been the constant background story - and if I have been less on the ball than I might have liked to be...I can only thank you all for your patience and care.

I can look back over the year and see reasons for gratitude and thanksgiving...

I can look over the year and see new challenges emerging to which we will summoned to rise.

Alison asked me just the other week if I ever had any regrets about not moving on to pastures new over the years of my time here. My answer was instant and totally honest.

“Not for one second! Not for one second!”

With love and thanks

Laurence Twaddle

## **Highlights of the year:**

### **DAVID GRAY;**

**To share in the experience of ministry with David, to reflect on priorities and styles and why things might be done this way or that has been immensely stimulating – and has brought challenge and enrichment, as someone else’s vision of ministry and church is brought into the mix to unsettle and shake up complacencies. David was delightful to work with...and it was a great joy to us that he was called to Edzell – and a delight to share in the event of his Ordination and Induction. There is a big space where he used to be, in the life of Belhaven and Spott.**

### **NEW MINISTRY AT DUNBAR PARISH;**

**Gordon Stevenson is now so much part of things in Dunbar that it hardly seems possible it was only in January 2010 that the new ministry began at Dunbar Parish Church. In that short time his impact has been considerable and his passion and vision are driving the Church there with real energy. I have been glad of his company and conversation, his support and his prayers. It’s good to have a colleague that I can relax with and get along with so well.**

### **THE YEAR OF TRAINING:**

**When hospital chaplaincy transferred completely to the NHS this set in motion the processes of Induction and Training – and though I’d been Chaplain at Belhaven Hospital for 32 years, I was now required to undergo a whole series of Induction Training events, from Fire**

**extinguishers and how to use them, to Equality Law and how to respect it. What with First Aid courses and knowing how to escape from a smoke-filled room...your minister has never been more useful!**

#### **HOLY WEEK:**

**Once again the Churches offered members and community alike a chance to walk the road to Easter and a whole range of imaginative expressions of the gospel were made available. And as always, for those able to make the journey, it was a spiritual time of real blessing.**

#### **SUMMER MISSION.**

**The high degree of inter –church co-operation that made the Summer Mission possible was a real joy, and the impact of the event significant in the stories of many young people. There is always a huge amount of planning and commitment needed to make this work**

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY:**

**Belhaven and Spott were to be represented at this year's General Assembly and Mary Jamieson and I enjoyed the experience of seeing the broad picture of the work and witness, the pressures and the possibilities facing the Church of Scotland in different times. As always, there was immense inspiration, humbling demonstrations of amazing Christian work being done in the name of the Church – and ringing alarm bells alerting us to the real difficulties that lie up ahead, if for any reason our resolve should waver or our nerve fail.**

**WORSHIP:**

**For me the highlight of the life of the Church is our worship together Sunday by Sunday – as we sing great songs, reflect of deep truths and in fellowship bring our needs and aspirations to God.**

**The musicians who lead our praise are wonderful...and we are so privileged and so blessed to have so many willing and gifted people who care enough to want to enable the praise to be all that it can be.**

**And never was this more obvious that at the BBC RADIO 4 Sunday Worship in October when Belhaven Parish Church was the focal point of worship across the whole of Britain. Wonderful singing , meaningful prayers and a sermon that seemed to touch a chord with so many people made the service a real ministry for us all – and the response by way of e-mails, letters, phone- calls, text messages was astonishing.**

**OUTREACH :**

**The Church is for the people outside of it. Our calling is to reach out to them with the Gospel – and we try to do that in many different ways. The Churches combine for a leaflet distribution offering an invitation to any or all of the local congregations. Given that this has been a bit of unfinished business lying in wait for us...it was good to make this beginning. But as the town continually draws new people in....the Churches will need to stay alert to the call to go out and make disciples.**

**CARE IN THE COMMUNITY...**

**There are those who can't get to church...we want to reach them too, and the tapes of the Church services are appreciated hugely by those who receive them and are more able to keep connected to the body of**

the Kirk. The Car Rota enables people to be picked up and brought to church, who would otherwise find it impossible to be with us, and church flowers are taken to sick and housebound on a regular basis. Our new dropped kerb allows easier wheel-chair access, the Loop system for those with hearing aids means people can hear what's going on...and we do all that we can to make sure people feel included, valued and loved. Especially good at doing this are the Guild members, whose pastoral support for their fellow Guild folk – and for others is remarkable and precious.

A number of meetings for reflection and sharing have been held for those who previously belonged to the Young Women's Group and these have been valuable times of deepened spiritual experience...the group supportive of those dealing with tough things.

#### **NEW PEOPLE:**

It has been a joy to welcome new people into our congregation and to see them growing in their sense of belonging. It's important that we stay alert to the ministry of hospitality, and keep trying to move beyond the formalities of polite connection...to the real sense of fellowship and Christian love that is the true character of the Church.

#### **SCHOOLS WORK**

The chance to visit the local schools and share something of my work and the message of the Christian faith has been an enormous privilege – and I have greatly appreciate the access to Primaries and Secondary alike – hope these good relations...encouraged and fostered over the years – and built on trust and mutual respect will continue to be part of my work and ministry for years to come. The Youth worker project has certainly made that work all the more part of the life of the schools.

## **BUILDINGS AND FABRIC:**

When the Church roof required huge amounts of money spent on it... somewhere in the region of £50,000 – we would have been in the deepest trouble had one of our most long –serving and dedicated Elders, Sandy Hunter not made provision for just such a crisis through the generous legacy he left Belhaven Church – a legacy now swept away by one needy situation. Our debt to him....and to all those who in the past have worked and served in these Churches...and supported them with their love and their resources...is real and significant. Others will look to us to deal with similar dedication with the tasks of securing the life of the church for the years to come.

## **CHURCH WEBSITE.**

**Great interest was raised in this by our BBC broadcast on October 10<sup>th</sup> and it continues to be a useful means of reaching out to the wider world...**

[www.belhavenparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.belhavenparishchurch.org.uk)

## **DUNBAR CHURCHES TOGETHER**

**This important group brings together representatives of all the churches in Dunbar, and tries to find ways to express our common faith and take opportunities to serve our communities. Joint services and wide variety of initiatives take the churches into the town and the surrounding villages, and demonstrate the love for Christ that we share...that stands over and above any historical differences that lie behind our different styles of being the Church.... But doing together the things that express the shared Spirit of Christ is an important witness and demonstration to**

**our parishes that there is much more that binds us together than would, for reasons of history, separate us. This is good.**

**PEOPLE;**

I am, as always, indebted to the precious friends who share the ministry here...be they Session Clerks, Church Secretary, Treasurers, Elders, Board Members, Sunday School Teachers, Church Officers, fellow Christians on the journey. Your love and prayers sustain me, humble me and warm my heart.

Alison and the family continue to show patience, understanding and to stand alongside me in a wonderful and valued way. If it ever looks like I take their love for granted, more fool me.

The death of my father in July, my mother's time in hospital and increased frailty, combined with Mary's long –term health issues, and Alison's need for further treatment have all made time and emotional demands which have led to some occasional distractedness – but I hope that by and large the parish work has not suffered unduly from these external...or are they internal? pressures – and the love and thoughtfulness of so many people has been a wonderful support – and their prayers immensely sustaining. I thought 2009 was a bit of a challenge...and 2010 turned out to bring its own demands. I've learned long ago that no-one misses out on the tough stuff....not Christians not rich people, not clever people – not anyone. And certainly not me!

And there's next year!

If I may repeat something I said in previous Annual Report....and I repeat because it is worth saying again...because it is so true:

*I look out Sunday by Sunday on a congregation of heroes and heroines...Men and women of deep and abiding faith, the kind tested in the fire of sometimes harsh and bitter experience. Men and women who work hard for the Lord they love in the Church they are called to serve in, and I am in awe of their tenacity and trust. Not a collection of people for whom life has gone smoothly and without hitch...but wounded and hurting and fragile and tentative, brave and believing, trusting and true, among whom it is my privilege to work, and with whom it is my delight to be a fellow pilgrim.*

## LAURENCE TWADDLE

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### Session Clerk's Report – Belhaven

None of us would function very well without support of one kind or another, from family, friends, colleagues. We've all needed it and experienced it and know its value. I would like to start by saying thank you to all of the Kirk Session for the support I've enjoyed this past year - to some folk for particular jobs done, but really to everyone: without all the regular input, the discussions both up-front in meetings and on the sidelines, the considered thoughts and prayers, and the commitment, the Session would not function as well and as happily as it does.

The support we give each other allows us in turn to be supportive of many people, and of things that happen in our church life and in the wider community: in 2010 the list of people should include David Gray in his time as Probationer, Richard Taylor and all

involved in the Youthworker Project (now amazingly in its sixth successful year, but still very much requiring our continued support), Andrena Gray, Chrissie Black and all who have reinvented the Women's Group, Darren Kilfara who has been instrumental in the production of the new-look Belhaven News, the Guild with all their many and various talents and ways of serving, Dunbar Churches Together and the new clergy in our town. By no means an exhaustive list - I could go on of course.

Events-wise, the Kirk Session has been happy to support, for example, the Bibleworld Trailer visit, DCT's distribution of leaflets to 'the new houses', our involvement in Christian Aid Week, the Summer Mission, Quizaid, Dunbar's October "Gathering-In" event, and the BBC broadcast service.

Of course there is always a second side to every coin - we could sigh collectively over the lack of response to the "what talents and gifts do you have to offer?" leaflets circulated in the pews last March, over low attendance at the ecumenical Holy Week services, over the difficulties of finding and encouraging new youth leaders and elders, but the faith and commitment demonstrated around us and among us keep us ever-hopeful of renewal, when the time is right. A genuine example of this might be the regenerated Women's Group, now out in the town, in a new format, and serving in a different way. In the autumn we were sad to see the demise of the JAM Club after so many successful and valuable years, but there are now fresh, new youth initiatives in the town - perhaps it was time for a change.

Discussions during the year included the rather tough subject of "Same-sex relationships and the Ministry" - information and guidelines supplied by '121' helped us to have an honest expression of thoughts, and enabled us to record our spectrum of opinions. Less weighty matters also arose, many following the now annual August 'ideas forum' - getting round the table to talk over lunch is an excellent way to proceed, and we are now about to extend this way of operating to our Joint Session meeting with Spott elders. It has been said before how much we like to do things 'with food' at Belhaven - our Kirk Session has no problem in supporting this idea!

During 2010 we have all been made very aware of the need for support, literally, as we have watched scaffolding go up in and around our church during the major roof repairs. Thankfully, with much organising effort from elders and Board members, the work is complete, with financial support 'from beyond the grave' in the form of Sandy Hunter's bequest enabling us to proceed promptly with repairs.

Support is vital to us all, and of course as a Session and as a congregation we are hugely grateful to Laurence for his constant support and love, and to Alison also for her warmth and commitment - this is our opportunity to express our sincere thanks to them, which we do wholeheartedly.

Barbara Richerby

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## **Belhaven Parish Church Congregational Board Chairman's Report**

It hardly seems like a year I have been in post as time passes so quickly. It has been a pleasure to work with so many talented people over the period and I thank them all for their endeavour and commitment.

This year Elizabeth Gray stepped down as Social Convenor and has been replaced by Jessie Gold. Elizabeth has done a fantastic job over many years and I am sure Jessie will continue that tradition.

David Wight continues to do a tremendous job as Beadle. He works tirelessly for us all and that was best evidenced by the work he put in to keep it safe for us all to come to Church during the ice and snow.

The Finance Committee continue to work diligently to ensure that we work within our income and that expenditure is under control.

We tend to take what goes on "behind the scenes" for granted but where would we be without the people who make it all happen?

The year has been dominated by repairing the Church Roof. The roof took more than six months of sustained effort to repair and has cost nearly £50,000. The impact of this work means that we now have no Fabric Fund and the expense has also severely impacted the Church reserves. Had it not been for the extremely kind donations bequeathed to us by deceased members we simply could not have afforded the repairs. We remain hopeful that the property insurance will allow us to recoup some of the costs but we will not get it all back. Therefore all of the affiliated Church groups are now looking at fund raising opportunities to help us

recover our reserves. This will ensure we can keep the Church and Manse in a healthy state and have provision for the next major repair that affects us.

A final thanks goes to Laurence whose faith, guidance, help and humour have been invaluable to me personally and encourage all who are fortunate to participate in his ministry of Belhaven Parish Church.

John Creasey  
Chairman  
Congregational Board

### **SPOTT CONGREGATION – ANNUAL REPORT** from the **SESSION CLERK**

The joy of worship in Spott lies not just in the new insights over the past year, the fresh faces, the stimulating initiatives, but in all that continues unchanged year after year: enduring friendships, and the ancient and lovely heritage that we steward, preaching that touches the heart, and enthusiastic singing. We treasure all that as people warmed by the care and love of those who join with us here. So it is no surprise, perhaps, that our congregational roll is higher today than it has been for many years, and that a good proportion of our membership are actively involved one way or another in church life. Praise the Lord.

But the human heartaches and cares are ever with us too, and we remember particularly John Baptie and the Bradd family and others in our community who have lost loved ones, and yet others who are wrestling with sickness or infirmity. We reach out to them and want them to know that Spott people truly care for them. We do.

The Rev (since November!) David Gray left us for his parish at Edzell after his year assisting our Minister. He won many friends among us; meetings of the house study group which he formed have been warm and enriching. What a marvellous 'convener' he was and is. Let's hope the study group will continue with its lively discussions and grow too.

Quite a lot of our time in the vestry has been spent considering Church property matters. New pew cushions are one visible fruit of that work (thanks Fiona), and we continue to plan for improvement

to the Church access from the road. We want to make the steps easier for (us!) senior citizens to cope with. For much of this work and for supervising all our financial obligations as well we owe a great debt to Peter.

One of our huge strengths remains the faithful witness of our older members and we are immensely grateful to them. But we wish too that we could engage more effectively with the younger people who belong to our area. Richard Taylor, our youth worker, has been doing great work in Dunbar but in Spott we recognise that we Elders must do more to reach out and widen our circle with younger folk. Any ideas?

Working with our colleagues at Belhaven remains a real pleasure. Together we have recently heard about the financial and manpower pressures that are beginning to eat away at the edges of Ministry and Mission across our Presbytery. We can only thank the Lord for giving us such an energetic and inspiring Minister, without whose service we might well have become one of the 'problem' parishes. We wish him and Alison a time of real spiritual refreshment over the next couple of months or so – if you can call Study Leave refreshment. We look forward eagerly to his return in early April.

So another year, rich and challenging as ever. Thank you all for making it so, and for your encouragement and love. One could hardly imagine anywhere better to be living and worshipping.

**Victor Wood**  
**Session Clerk**

#### SPOTT CHURCH FINANCES:

Peter Macintyre, the Church Treasurer has kindly presented the following digest of the financial situation at Spott Church as things stand at the moment. The bald statistics speak about a deep commitment and supportiveness from the congregation, and thanks are due to all those who give with love and a glad heart to support the work and witness of Spott Kirk.

## SPOTT PARISH CHURCH – TREASURER’S REPORT 2010

The congregational funds have maintained a similar pattern of growth in 2010, as with 2009.

Treasurer’s Account for 2010 (with comparison to 2009):

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
Income:	£13,981.69	£11,621.04
Expenditure:	£9,985.53	
£7,708.43		
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Surplus (Deficit) for year	<b>£3,996.16</b>	
<b>£3,912.61</b>		

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### Summary of Funds

**Treasurer’s Account:                   £19,823**

**Savings Account;                       £7,186**

### Accounts held by Church of Scotland Trustees

Consolidated Fabric Fund:           **£10,994**

Capital Account:                       **£11,564**

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Total worth of Spott Parish Church:   **£49,567**

## TREASURER'S REPORT – BELHAVEN

The financial position facing the congregation in 2010 could have been vastly different had it not been for the Sandy Hunter Bequest, given the major church roof repairs of £46257.97. £38073.97 of the cost of the repairs was met from the bequest. The balance of £8184.00 was taken from the Fabric Fund leaving no fabric reserve.

It is important, however, to consider general church expenditure for 2010 independent of the £46257 repairs. The general expenditure is £80496. Setting this against the total income for 2010 of £83118 shows a surplus of £2622. However, this surplus is only possible through the generous bequests from Mrs A Ross and Mrs M Grey. If this £3000 income is seen as extra-ordinary income, not regular giving, then the general income will be £80118 and setting this figure against the general expenditure of £80496 results in a £378 deficit.

This slight deficit, however, shows a marked reduction in the general level of deficit experienced over the past 4 years. By deducting the Sandy Hunter Bequest from the 2009 total income figure gives a general income figure of £82455 and a resultant deficit of £6026.

The decrease in deficit during 2010 is due mainly to an increase in offerings (increase of £3711 on 2009 figures), along with careful stewardship (decrease in general support costs of £8767 on 2009 figures).

The Finance Committee has also considered the projected increases in expenditure and decreases in income during 2011. a) A decrease in income will result following the change in tax refundable through the Gift Aid scheme. This will decrease from 28.67p per £1 to 25p per £1. Assuming that Gift Aid donations remain roughly the same for 2011 the amount of tax reclaimable will drop resulting in a projected decrease in income of £1455.00. b) Expenditure for Ministries & Mission contribution has increased by £1528 for 2011. c) The recent increase in VAT will increase expenditure during 2011 by at least £1000. These three changes will make a total projected difference to our income for 2011 of at

least £4000.00. To absorb this difference a 5% increase in general income will be required for 2011 to cover our present level of expenditure, if we are focusing solely on income from offerings this will mean an 8% increase in givings.

Belhaven Parish Church accounts for 2010 were passed to the accountant and draft accounts set out to meet the Charities Accounts Regulations have subsequently been received from the accountant. The draft accounts have been presented to the Kirk Session and Congregational Board members and will be available to members of the congregation once finalised.

The finance convener has been diligent in progressing the insurance claim in relation to the roof repairs. No settlement has been made to date and the congregation will be informed if this position changes.

Although the above report indicates increasing financial demands for the congregation in 2011 it is vital to celebrate the ongoing generous giving of the congregation on a week by week, month by month basis. Along with regular financial contributions the congregation give generously of their time and talents. This has been very evident during 2010 through the organisation of a number of successful events; the Burns Supper, the Fete, the more recent auction organised by the Mother & Toddlers Group and also through Guild donations from funds. Without this generosity of giving from the congregation Belhaven Parish Church would not be able to minister to the needs of the community and we thank God for this commitment.

Myra Johnstone,  
Treasurer.

**Belhaven Parish Church 1.**  
**Extracts from Draft Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010**

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**INCOME 2010 2009**

**1. Voluntary Income**

Offerings **53583** 49872  
 Tax recovered on Gift Aid **12554** 14102  
 Other donations **1497** 290  
 Legacies **3000** 57290  
 Contributions from congregational organisations **900** 550  
**71534**  
 122104

**2. Incoming Resources from Activities for Generating Funds**

Use of premises **4251** 5698

**3. Investment Income**

Bank interest receivable **884** 800

**4. Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities**

Weddings and funerals **2060** 1825  
 Coffee mornings etc. **658** 737  
 Concerts **413** 484  
 Other income from charitable activities **3318** 7807  
**6449** 10853

**TOTAL INCOME 83,118**

139,455

**EXPENDITURE 2010 2009**

**5. Costs of Generating Voluntary Income**

Envelopes for offerings **768** 696

**6. Costs of Charitable Activities**

Support costs **125026** 87535

**7. Governance Costs**

Independent examiners fee **960** 250

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE 126754**

88481

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**INCOME/EXPENDITURE 2010****TOTAL EXPENDITURE 126754****TOTAL INCOME 83118****Deficit - 43636****TOTAL EXPENDITURE 126754****EXPENDITURE ON ROOF REPAIRS 46258****GENERAL EXPENDITURE 80496****TOTAL INCOME 83118****GENERAL EXPENDITURE 80496****Surplus 2622****LESS 2 BEQUESTS 3000****Deficit - 378**

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
MINISTRIES AND MISSION CONTRIBUTIONS 2011**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thank you for supporting the worship, mission and service of the Church through the money you give in your offering. It is important that you know what happens to this money. This letter tells you about your congregation's Ministries and Mission Contribution - the money your Congregational Treasurer sends to the Church Offices in Edinburgh. How does it enable the worship, mission and service of the Church?

The information below shows how the contributions from your linked congregations are used to support Parish Ministries, Mission and Renewal, and general support and services provided for congregations and the councils of the General Assembly. Please note that the cost of your minister is not what he/she is paid. This cost is the total for stipend and employer's national insurance and pension contributions, and is based on a minister with ten years' service.

<b>Congregations:</b>		<b>Contribution</b>
<b>BELHAVEN</b>		<b>£41,505</b>
<b>SPOTT</b>		<b>£6,655</b>
		<b>£48,160</b>
<b>Parish Ministries (86%)</b>		<b>£41,418</b>
The cost of ministry in your parishes is:	£39,600	
Your contribution to the cost of ministries in other parishes and training for ministries is:	£1,818	
<b>Mission and Renewal (6%)</b>		<b>£2,890</b>
This supports the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, in caring for the vulnerable in society, in partnership with Churches in some of the poorest parts of the world, and in providing a Christian perspective on the social, political and moral issues of today.		
<b>Support and Services for Councils and Congregations (8%)</b>		<b>£3,852</b>
This provides financial, legal, procedural, safeguarding and other services, and meets the cost of the General Assembly and the Moderator.		

**Please note that Ministries and Mission Contributions only provide part of the total funding required for the work of the Church listed above. A fuller picture is given in the leaflet 2011 *Ministries and Mission*, which is available free to all congregations.**

I hope that this helps you to understand Ministries and Mission Contributions and shows you are enabling the sharing of the gospel through the money your congregation sends *through* the Church Offices to all parts of Scotland and beyond.

Yours sincerely

*Gordon D Jamieson*

Head of Stewardship

030245