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Prison Fellowship S C O T L A N D

CHARITY NO.: SC002222

Angel Tree



Like Christmas of 2020, Christmas 2021 posed challenges for us all, this was especially true for those in prison, and their families. With Covid still very much present, we were very happy to continue to run the Angel Tree project – one of our programmes that provides gifts to the children of people in prison at Christmas time. In PFS we understand the importance of working with families of people in prison, as well as prisoners themselves. Angel Tree is one way of doing this as it helps strengthen relationships between parents and children.



Reindeer Handprint

This year, we worked alongside **Family Contact Officers** in the prisons and partner organisations including **Crossreach**, **Action for Children**, and the **Cyrenians** to help bring some of the magic of Christmas to these children.

The feedback we received highlights the thankfulness of so many parents in prison who were able to show that extra bit of love to their children. We would not have been able to achieve this without the amazing generosity of our supporters.

One of the fathers asked why we were doing this and commented that usually no one cares, and he was so thankful! One of the mothers commented that

this has actually felt like they had some proper family time together where they could forget a little bit about their circumstances.

The children were all so happy too making comments like, *“this is the best day!”* (one child told me three times!) and *“did you see my daddy got me a baby doll!”* She couldn't quite believe it!

“Without your kind donation, we would not be able to celebrate Christmas and provide presents to all children. For that we are very grateful, and we really appreciate the kindness offered at a very difficult time for prisoners and their families.”

Family Centre Officer - HMP Grampian

“The atmosphere was lovely, and I witnessed some really positive family memories being made.”

Family Centre Officer - HMP Addiewell

“The whole experience was enjoyable. I'm glad I got to do something personal for my son”

Dad - HMPYOI Polmont

“Thank you so much - I've not been able to give him a Christmas or birthday present for 4 years”

Dad - HMP Addiewell

JOIN OUR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE!

40 NEW DONORS FOR OUR 40 YEARS

[Click here for more details](#)

NEWSLETTER

A Note from the Director

Last week in our PFS prayer meeting we prayed for several men and women who have recently completed their prison sentences and who are now successfully rebuilding their lives in the community. It was a great reminder of what we long to see happen.

As I reflect on these stories and the background to them, I am also struck by the number of people involved: the prison authorities who allow us to run our PFS groups in the prisons and allocate staff to us; volunteers who lead bible study groups; individuals who pray and in some cases visit and write letters and other partner agencies who support these people as they leave prison, ensuring they have accommodation to go to and are linked up with a local church.

As we look forward to all that 2022 holds for us in Prison Fellowship Scotland we hope there will be more stories of lives changed and that we will be back in the prisons around Scotland doing what we have always loved doing; running groups in the prison, getting to know the men and women in prison and helping people discover more about how much God loves them.



Staff Team: John, Zoe and David - Christmas Lunch

In the last few months, it has been great to be joined on the team by Zoe, who leads our communications and runs the letter writing programme, and by David our Projects Manager, who is always looking for more opportunities to run new programmes in the prisons. Zoe and David are great fun to work with and bring much to the organisation.



John Nonhebel
Prison Fellowship Director

Sarah's Story



My Name is Sarah, I am a volunteer with Prison Fellowship Scotland and live in Dundee.

Growing up, I didn't have a lot of confidence and was very shy which led to me being bullied a lot both in school and at home. I also struggled to make friends.

After leaving school I met my boyfriend who was very abusive. Having been bullied all my life I think I was conditioned to accept this. This person put me under pressure to do something that I knew was wrong, but I did it anyway. As a consequence, I was sentenced to 5 years in prison at age 29 - having never been in trouble before, this was a huge shock to me.

I was very lost when I first went to prison, I was afraid I would be bullied again so I reached out to the Prison Chaplain, Colin, who really encouraged me and prayed for me. I felt like I could trust him and saw a peace in him that he said came from his Christian faith. Colin asked me if I would like to start meeting with a Christian volunteer named Jean. I'm

so thankful I met Jean, she wrote to me and came to visit me many times during my prison sentence, Jean helped me to understand God, Jesus, the Bible and introduced me to praying which I thought was amazing!

I committed my life to Jesus in prison, asking Him to help me change my ways and live a better life. I was baptised inside prison in 2010. I may have been locked up in prison, but I felt free for the first time in my life!

“ I felt like I could trust him and saw a peace in him that he said came from his Christian faith.”

I was released from prison in February 2011 and within 2 weeks I had a job and was also blessed with an amazing flat of my own just around the corner from the Church I chose to attend and still attend to this day. I am also still volunteering with Prison Fellowship Scotland!

I hope my story gives someone, somewhere, hope that change is possible, regardless of how hopeless things may seem.

A Challenge From the Treasurer

It was great to be at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Prison Fellowship Scotland in October last year and to join in with staff and volunteers giving thanks for all that God has done over the last 40 years.

As the Treasurer since 2017, it is easy to get caught up in the business of the finance of the organisation, so it was good to hear such powerful stories of how lives have been changed.

But, of course, my role is to look after the finances. We recently finalised our annual accounts and it has been an encouraging year with income increasing to £90,000 over the year as we saw a welcome growth in the donor base while, due to Covid, expenditure was lower at £78,000. With much less access than normal to the prisons in Scotland, this was far from a normal year and so we have spent less money on direct project activities than normal.

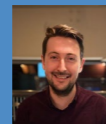
However, as we look forward into 2022 and beyond, we are eager to get back to our projects and excited by the new opportunities that are emerging for PFS. As part of this enhanced scope, we have expanded the staff team at Connect House and look forward to seeing how God can use PFS in this special year.

Prison Fellowship Scotland is very grateful to the various trusts that support our work, but we are also hugely grateful for the individual donors that partner with us in supporting the work financially.

As we continue to celebrate 40 years of work in Scottish prisons and with an expanded staff team to support, we are looking for 40 new donors who would support our work through a regular standing order.

If 40 people were to sign up at just £20 a month then this would raise £9,600, almost ten per cent of our budget. If these donations were eligible for gift-aid then it would come to £12,000!

Would you consider being one of these donors?

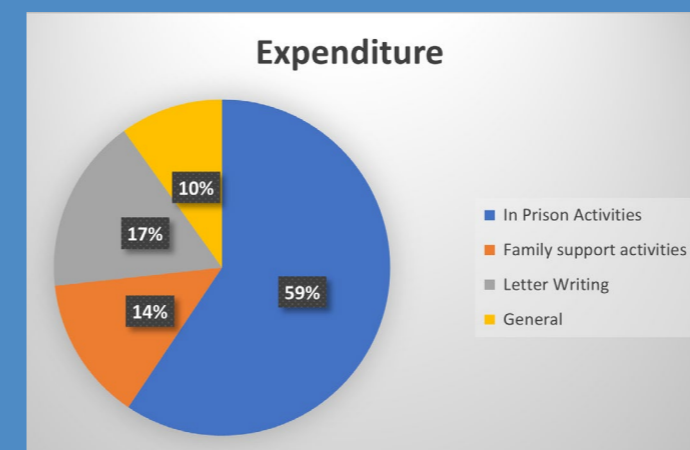
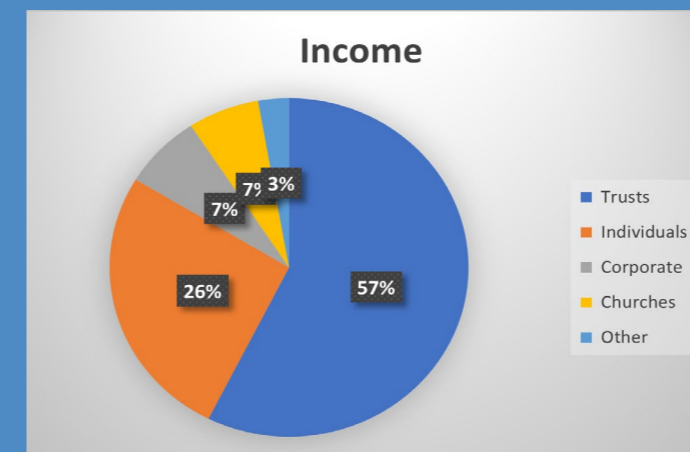


David Smith
Prison Fellowship Treasurer

If you would like to set up a Standing Order, please click on link below:

www.pfscotland.org/donate

or call the office on 0141 266 0136



A prayer...

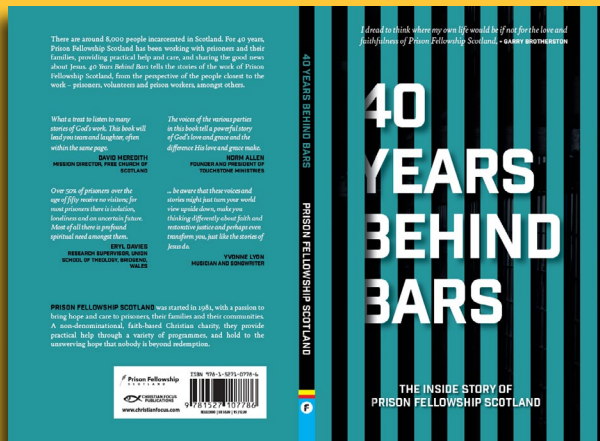
Lord as you lead us into 2022 may we be sensitive to your promptings. When we are back working in prisons keep us respectful and grateful to staff and Governors and, as we meet with men and women held in prison, remind us of our own sins, mistakes and failures and that it is only by your grace, mercy and forgiveness that we have been reconciled to You.

As we share your love, build us into effective instruments in your hands, loving each other and appreciating our various talents.

Especially we ask for your empowerment and protection of John, David, Zoe and the trustees as they navigate all that this year holds for us.

For Jesus' sake, Amen.

NEW PUBLICATION!



If you would like to buy a copy of our 40th Anniversary book entitled "40 Years Behind Bars" please place an order by emailing office@pfscotland.org
Cost: £6.00



How to GET INVOLVED with PRISON FELLOWSHIP SCOTLAND

- 1 Join the mailing list
- 2 Become a prayer partner
- 3 Become a letter writer
- 4 Become a regular donor by setting up a direct debit
- 5 Dedicate a Sunday Service to the work of PFS

 office@pfscotland.org



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SUMMER HOLIDAYS!

We will be partnering with **Circle Scotland** and **Scripture Union Scotland** to provide adventure holidays for children of prisoners this Summer!

Watch this space to find out how you can help.

