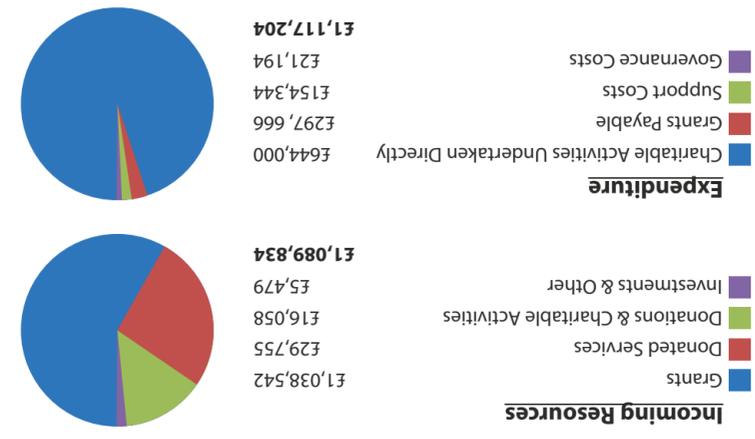




With thanks to our funders



The following is an extract from our audited accounts for the year ending 31st March 2017.

If you would like a copy of our full financial statement and auditor's report please contact us.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

We work alongside groups like Dundee Methodist Church, supporting them to meet the needs of their community.

"Initially we talked about a Job Club, but FiCS staff had research showing a lot of people needed access to good quality clothing. We were nervous. We didn't know how it would work or if we had space, but you have to ask "What is our purpose and mission as a church?"

Dundee Foodbank and FiC Dundee helped with training and processes. As for space, we had a vestry and a library no one used; now we have rails, sections for men and women, space to browse and try things on - it's important for dignity that the experience is like shopping.

Had we ran the Job Club we wouldn't have made a difference, but this has breathed life into the church. We're here to stay now, and are working to redevelop the building, making it more accessible, offering more into the city centre." - Nick Baker, Dundee Methodist Church

We supported the delivery of 15 "Aging Well Initiatives" tackling isolation and loneliness among older people, like "John" and "Betty".

"Betty" lives with dementia, and attends music based activities with her husband and carer "John". Within weeks "John" noticed "Betty" was less agitated when left on her own, and was displaying more confidence in engaging with others to the extent that it improved her mood through the rest of the week.

Both look forward to the music sessions each week, finding the space to live in the moment and participate in a "normal" activity together. It doesn't take away from the reality of the rest of the week, but even for those 2 hours there's an element of relaxation and recognition, as they each get back a bit of their spouse that they feel they've lost.

GET INVOLVED

Our work has been greatly enriched by the contributions of volunteers, and we are keen to shape volunteer roles around the strengths, experience, and interests of those kind enough to give us their time. If you would like to volunteer, please get in contact for a chat. If we are unable to find a role for you within one of our own teams we would be happy to direct you towards one of the many community projects we work with.

"I feel privileged to have met the guys I help to support. Volunteering has not only given me great fulfilment but insight and skills I can continue to use in all aspects of my life."



Ashley Wilson
Faith in Throughcare
Support Volunteer

If you would like to support our work financially, you can donate online via our website www.faithincommunityscotland.org/donate, or by sending a cheque made payable to "Faith in Community Scotland". Your gift could be used in a variety of ways to support our work with people and communities, or you could specify one area of work in particular

Faith in Community Scotland, 759 Argyle St, Glasgow G3 8DS
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Website: www.faithincommunityscotland.org

Faith in Community Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC036787, Limited Company Number SC288937

THOUGHTS FROM STAFF AND TRUSTEES



FINANCIAL REPORT

It is often said of charities that the ultimate goal is to no longer be needed, that we are working towards a world where our services are no longer required. If this is the case, how should we mark the end of a year?

Because we've been carrying out our work for over a decade now, the past year has been peppered with reflection, and it's amazing to think how much has changed. Our activities have grown, working to tackle poverty in so many ways that one colleague told us they saw FiCS perhaps more like a "movement" than an "organisation" in the traditional sense.

We also think of FiCS as a catalyst. Whether it is on the individual level through the work of Faith in Throughcare, helping communities support people returning from prison; on the project level where FiSCAF grants enable the community groups to expand their services or test new areas of work; on the community level with the support of our community development groups to expand their services or test new areas of work; on the community level with the support of our community development groups to expand their services or test new areas of work; on the community level with the support of our community development groups to expand their services or test new areas of work.

Of course we are working towards a world without poverty and inequality, but we hope this culture of peer support and mutual aid remains a cornerstone of community life, and wherever it is found there will be groups such as FiCS ready to provide support. We will mark the end of this year then, by celebrating the humbling work that committed groups of individuals are engaged in across Scotland. It is in this spirit that we look forward to the challenges of the future - with optimism and enthusiasm, supporting communities and unlocking potential.

"FACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE. IT DOES." - WILLIAM JAMES

FOREWORD



Each year we ask the local people we work with to think about how Faith in Community Scotland (FiCS) has supported them and to write the foreword to our annual review. We thank Anne McGreechin and Tina Blakey, from Ruchazie, for this year's foreword.

"Things were a lot harder when FiCS staff first came - the minister had just left and there were difficult relationships with the community, staff weren't really being supported. It felt like nobody was in charge. FiCS staff would cheer us up, bring people together and get folks talking. That was 6 years ago and things happened slowly from then. Now we've got the cafe, the gardening, kids club, dementia cafe, parent and toddler group, a school bank, and loads of other stuff. On different levels FiCS has supported us throughout all this, but we have not become dependent. FiCS have helped us grow, helped us develop new skills and think about what we're doing, so we're better equipped to do it better.

There are still real issues, but what we now see is people realising "better" is possible and thinking about what they can do - people beginning to take ownership over problems, saying "I can do something about it." We've still a way to go but we're on our way to people becoming independent, and that makes the whole thing sustainable. We're not there, but that's where we want to get to."

Faith in Community SCOTLAND

Supporting Communities **Unlocking Potential**

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

WE HELP PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO TACKLE INJUSTICE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES. WE DO THIS IN FOUR KEY WAYS:

INCREASE THE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE OF FAITH GROUPS SERVING SCOTLAND'S POOREST COMMUNITIES

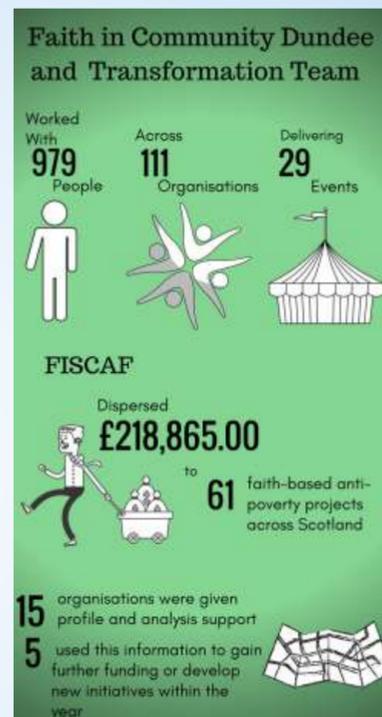
We believe that one of the best ways to support groups is to help them build better connections with each other, and find new ways of working together. Here is a small selection of some of the ways we are helping to bring people together:

Dundee Drop-in Network—bringing together faith communities, statutory services, and 3rd sector organisations that are supporting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Interfaith Food Justice Network in partnership with Interfaith Glasgow. We use social media and quarterly meetings to help groups involved in food provision to share learning as well excess food stock.

Funeral Poverty - Faith in Community Dundee brought together representatives from across Dundee to discuss the issue of funeral poverty and plan a local response - a scoping exercise has been commissioned to explore the possibility of an alternative service.

Our work with Muslim groups identified a number of groups supporting refugees. We enabled better coordination between these groups, leading to improvements in both access to, and quality of support for refugees.



above infographic in high resolution, as supplied one is not suitable for print

Faith in Throughcare continues to work with people returning from short term prison stays. Support volunteers work 1-on-1 with participants, while staff work with faith groups to look at how their services can support people to reintegrate into their neighbourhoods.

Faith groups, and other local organisations, deliver a whole range of activities that our participants really benefit from but sometimes are not aware of, or are too anxious to access on their own.



In the past I only recognised people by their feet, now thanks to the support I've had, I can look people in the eye.
David - FIT project participant

SUPPORT FAITH COMMUNITIES' ENGAGEMENT WITH THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

We encourage and support our participants to become volunteers and active contributors to community life.

This year we are pleased to say that 4 participants have completed their training to become volunteer mentors with Faith in Throughcare, drawing not just on their own personal experiences of the criminal justice system but also on the positive changes that being a beneficiary of Faith in Throughcare support brings.



FISCAP'S PERSONALISED FUNDING PILOT

DISPERSED **£4212**

ENABLING **29** YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS ACTIVITIES OTHERWISE UNAVAILABLE TO THEM

SUPPORT FAITH COMMUNITIES IN CELEBRATING DIFFERENCE AND REDUCING CONFLICT IN SCOTLAND'S POOREST COMMUNITIES

In partnership with the Ignatian Spirituality Centre and the Craighead Institute, we developed a new course, *Inspiring Unity*, to enable people to move beyond sectarianism by strengthening and sharing faith resources and reflecting together on faith in action.

We trained a network of people in the skills of hosting 'community dialogues' – a space where difficult conversations can take place in an atmosphere of openness, respect and trust.

Resources pertaining to Community Dialogues, Inspiring Unity, and other aspects of "In Wi' The Mix" work are now available on the legacy resources section of our website.

Over the past year we continued our partnership work with the **Conforti Institute** and **Place for Hope** to deliver the **'In Wi' the Mix'** project funded by the **Scottish Government** through the **Tackling Sectarianism** budget.

789 People took part in a range of events across 9 different communities.

27 faith leaders took part in a residential programme exploring partnership working, community dialogue and joint training.

Facilitated community work in **Castlemilk, Pollokshields, East Renfrewshire, Coatbridge, Wishaw** and **Kilmarnock**. We also worked with **The Citizen's Theatre** to produce a play about territorialism, prejudice and gang culture.



"These are really serious issues and we need more time to bring out how people are feeling and discuss them within the community"

EQUIP PEOPLE STRUGGLING AGAINST POVERTY TO SPEAK OUT WITH CONFIDENCE AND TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF US TO LISTEN AND TO RESPOND

Dundee Fighting for Fairness

In response to their work with the Fairness Commission, and the Scottish Government's "Fairer Scotland" Report, FiC Dundee were invited to lead the next phase of the Fairness Commission in Dundee, building on the work already done by developing a process similar to The Poverty Truth Commission. This next phase has already begun and we are excited to be part of these developments.

The Poverty Truth Commission continued their work on the cost of school uniforms, including a social media campaign and meeting with John Swinney, Deputy First Minister to discuss the School Clothing Grant. Met with Jeane Freeman and Angela Constance to discuss what is needed to build a social security system built on **Dignity, Fairness & Respect**.

Worked with the Scottish Government & Nourish Scotland on food justice issues. Contributed to the Scottish Government's Consultation on Social Security. Supported the development of a Poverty Truth movement, with Poverty Truth Commissions developing in Salford, West Chester, Leeds & Wolverhampton.



COACHING LOCAL LEADERS

Providing 8 months of 1-on-1 support to 7 people active in communities affected by poverty. The response to the programme has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic with plans to develop the programme in 2017/18.

"The relationship with my coach was very helpful – indeed life changing"

Our Recommendations

- While tackling the attainment gap, the Scottish Government must recognise and tackle the sometimes hidden costs of schooling.
- Schools and Local Authorities must look at school uniform policy in terms of affordability.
- The dignity of young people should be a focus within training on poverty for teaching staff.
- The Scottish Government must ensure people with experience of poverty are involved in setting new minimum levels of the school clothing grant.