

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow
open, inclusive, welcoming

ANNUAL REPORT

(Year to 30 September 2014)

Please bring this Report with you to the AGM

ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

2013/2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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AGENDA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
12 noon Sunday 23 November 2014

1. Opening Prayers and Memorial for the Departed
2. Apologies for absence (*Please indicate on the paper that will be circulated for that purpose*)
3. Acceptance of AGM Minutes of 24 November 2013
4. Governance:
 - 4.1. Achievements and Performance (Trustees' Report)*
 - 4.2. Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Accounts
 - 4.3. Appointment of Auditor
 - 4.4. Vestry Secretary's Report*
 - 4.5. Releasing the Vision Report*
 - 4.6. Leadership Group Report*
 - 4.7. Property Group Report*
 - 4.8. Compliance Group Report*
5. Elections:
 - 5.1. Lay Representative / Diocesan Synod and West End ACTS Representative
 - 5.2. People's Warden
 - 5.3. Alternate Lay Representative / Diocesan N E Regional Council Representative
 - 5.4. Vestry Members (five vacancies)
6. Group and Network Reports*
7. Questions arising from reports
8. Provost's Report
9. Closing Prayers

* Reports all taken as having been read.

ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, GLASGOW
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2013

Chair: The Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth (Provost)

Treasurer:
Roger Mackenzie

Secretary:
Jim McKillop

Present:

Susan Anthony, Irene Ballantine, Cedric Blakey, Honor Brogan, Peggy Brown, David Burness, Harriette Campbell, Sue Champion, Anne Chowaniec, Zen Chowaniec, Andrew Colin, Veronica Colin, Nelson Connelly, Robert Elliott, Frank Ewing, Karen Ewing, Sandra Fraser, Michael Gammie, John Gerrard, Greta-Mary Hair, Anne Halliburton, Ian Halliburton, Andrew Heatlie, Jackie Heatlie, Michael Hitchman, Kelvin Holdsworth, Christina Hughes, Anne Jones, G. Joss, David Kenvyn, Kit Lindsay, Monica Long, Margaret Mackay Gerrard, Catherine Mackenzie, Roger Mackenzie, Isobel MacNaughtan, Paul Mallinson, Franny Mawditt, Robert Mawditt, Calum McDougall, Caroline McKillop, Lisa McLeman, Harry Monroe, Kath Monroe, Neil Parker, Bernard Porter, Alan Richmond, Pam Richmond, Anne Robertson, Duguld Robertson, Joanna Russell, Ken Shaw, Derek Smith, Jinty Stewart, Elspeth Waime, Ken Waime, Christine Walker, Frikki Walker, Robin Webster, Andy Winter.

1. Opening Prayer and Memorial for the Departed

The Provost led the opening prayer, thanking God for creation and humankind, the work of the Church, its clergy and people and for all those who contributed to the many activities of the Cathedral. He gave thanks for our founders and predecessors. He remembered the members of the congregation who had died in the previous year: Joyce Peterson, Alistair Fulton, Deidre Trundle, Sheila Shaw and Harry Lawrence.

2. Apologies for absence

Pam Barrowman, Ivan Draper, Muriel Draper, Roger Edwards, Charles Fraser, Simon Freebairn-Smith, Graham Hair, Anne Imrie, Jean Inch, Karen Jolly, Hazel Jolly, Margaret Kitson, Bruce Montgomery-Smith, Eleanor Montgomery-Smith, Migeun Park, Beth Routledge, Graham Skellern, Gail Smith, Gordon Smith, Ken Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Gill Young.

3. Approval of AGM minutes of 20 November 2011

On the proposal of Peggy Brown, seconded by Kit Lindsay, the minutes were accepted unanimously without amendment as a true record of the AGM in 2012 and signed by the Provost.

4. Governance: Achievements and Performance (Trustees Report), Treasurer's Report & Acceptance of Accounts, Appointment of Auditor, Vestry Secretary's Report, Leadership Group, Property Group and Compliance Group Reports.

The Provost noted that the Reports had been circulated with papers for the AGM well in advance of the meeting. Therefore, most of the reports would be taken as read though questions could be raised regarding any of them.

Treasurer's report and Acceptance of Accounts

The Treasurer gave a short presentation of the Accounts. This year they had already been by approved the Financial Examiner Ernie Turner. The main message was that the finances were finely balanced with a need for further income to provide greater security for current activities and to allow for future developments.

There were no questions regarding the accounts.

On a proposal by Michael Hitchman, seconded by Margaret Mackay, the accounts were approved unanimously.

The Provost thanked the Treasurer for all his work on behalf of the Cathedral. The Secretary was asked to write and thank the Financial Examiner

Approval of auditor (Financial Examiner)

On the proposal of the Treasurer, seconded by Michael Hitchman, it was unanimously agreed that Ernie Turner of BDO LLP should be reappointed as the Financial Examiner for the Cathedral accounts.

5. Elections

The following were declared elected, the number of nominations matching the number of vacancies:

People's Warden: Pam Richmond (proposer Franny Mawditt; seconder Graham Skellern)

Alternate Lay Representative: David Kenvyn (proposer Sue Champion; seconder Irene Ballantine)

Member of Vestry: Wolfgang Schlegel (proposer Franny Mawditt; seconder Beth Routledge.)

No nomination had been received for Lay Representative. The Constitution did not allow cooption to this role. An extraordinary General Meeting would be called to elect this post following discussion at Vestry.

Anne Jones, the Provost's Warden, thanked all those who had contributed to the production of the Reports and those who had contributed to the discussion. She thanked the Vice Provost, the Clergy Team, the Group Conveners and the Vestry for their contributions in the last year. She also thanked Jinty Stewart, retiring Lay Representative, Irene Ballantine, retiring Vestry Member and Compliance Group convener where she had shown huge dedication and Franny Mawditt retiring People's Warden, the first to hold this post which she had performed brilliantly.

6. Group and Network Reports

The precirculated reports were taken as read, with the Provost noting the great range of activity happening at the Cathedral.

7 Questions arising from the reports

- Tony Hughes asked why the Restoration Fund account this year showed a difference of £30,000 from last year? The Treasurer explained that the Financial Examiner had requested that all restoration monies appear in this account rather than being split between it and General Funds, as happened previously.
- Andrew Colin asked why only first names were used in intercessions saying he had a number of reasons why he thought the surnames should also be used. Susan Anthony supported his view. This had been discussed at last year's AGM, chaired by the Vice Provost. Following last year's meeting he met Margaret Kitson who was happy with his explanation of the pastoral reasons behind our current practice. Kit Lindsay was distressed that this matter was being raised again and said she was happy with the present situation where surnames could be used if requested. Isabel MacNaughtan suggested that some education on the nature of prayer would be helpful and this will be considered by the Vice Provost and the Spirituality Group
- In response to a question from Kit Lindsay, the Provost said that the Compliance Group was planning a practice fire evacuation at a 1030 Sunday Eucharist.
- Harriette Campbell asked why Mothering Sunday was not observed at the Cathedral and had the congregation been consulted. Harry Monroe asked why we did not have a traditional Festival Thanksgiving. The Provost explained that whilst neither Mothering Sunday and harvest were unobserved, how we marked feasts had been considered early in his period as Provost. In a very diverse congregation like the Cathedral, traditional celebrations could be difficult for substantial numbers of people, for example if they had had a difficult family background or if they came from a part of the world where food was scarce. So we celebrated them in different ways such as marking Creation Sunday or by celebrating the family at Baptisms, as had happened at today's 1030 Eucharist.
- Neil Parker commented on the substantial difficulties caused to the choir by poor lighting. The Provost commented that lighting was regularly discussed by Vestry who were considering a long term solution, possibly LED lights, though this would be expensive and not straightforward. Robin Webster, Convener of the Property Group, commented that replacing bulbs one at a time would cost £5000 each and it therefore made sense to wait until several replacements were necessary.
- Ken Waine felt that the loop system was very variable in its effectiveness and wondered if was sometimes switched off inadvertently? The Provost said that he was sure that did not happen and that he had not received other complaints about the system.
- Ian Halliburton thanked the Treasurer for the clarity of presentation of the accounts and others who had produced reports which reflected well the diverse and rich life of our congregation

8. Provost's Report

The Provost said that when he thought of the Cathedral, the words which came to his mind were appreciation, thanksgiving and hope.

- Appreciation: The Cathedral benefitted from the time and work given by so many people in all sorts of ways beyond those already noted in the Reports. This was a happy congregation and he found it a wonderful place for worship. He recounted that after

this morning's Eucharist and Baptism a visitor had commented it "combined high church liturgy with informality – that was fun!"

- Thanksgiving: The Provost never celebrated in the Cathedral without feeling a huge sense of thanksgiving for the people of St Mary's.
- Hope: The Provost had now been at the Cathedral for 7 years and this had allowed him plenty of time to think of the future, aided by his sabbatical in North America last year. The Vestry was launching a congregational consultation on our way forward, entitled "Releasing the Mission". It would run till the end of January and the views expressed would be important in making decisions. There would be three congregational meetings. Responses could be made on paper or via the Cathedral website. He encouraged everyone to express their views and preferences.

Anne Jones, Provost's Warden thanked the Provost for all he had done for and given to the Cathedral.

Franny Mawditt, People's Warden, thanked Caroline, John and Chucks for their continuing contributions to the Cathedral and Cedric and Kelvin for their commitment to the Cathedral and beyond and for the grace and integrity which they showed. The Cathedral was blessed to have them as leaders.

9. Closing Prayer

The Provost thanked all who had attended the meeting which he closed with a prayer.

Jim McKillop
November 2013

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (TRUSTEES REPORT)

St Mary's Cathedral continues in its overlapping vocations of providing a spiritual home to a diverse congregation in the city, offering space to community groups and a venue for many kinds of artistic endeavour.

This has been a busy year for the City of Glasgow and this has been reflected in the life of the cathedral. Over 1000 visitors to the cathedral were welcomed by Open Church volunteers during the summer months and the cathedral was kept open for extended hours during the Commonwealth Games. At this time the cathedral also housed the Commonwealth Tapestry project, an innovative artistic project drawing together work from children across the Commonwealth.

The vibrancy of the congregation is represented in the many different groups and networks that it contains within it. These vary greatly, ranging from the God Factor which explicitly exists to allow participants to explore directly the basics of the Christian faith, to groups which have a more social function.

Musically the cathedral is thriving – the choir has been growing larger during the year that has past and continues to be the core around which the reputation of the cathedral as a centre of musical excellence is based.

The vocation of St Mary's to be a place of welcome is commented on positively by many who visit demonstrating the success of various elements of training and development in that area which have been put into place in recent years.

The cathedral is in use every day of the year for worship. The major and minor festivals of the Christian faith punctuate the year and rising numbers at the festivals point towards sustained growth of the congregation for the last few years.

The Vestry, as trustees, have begun to work this year on proposals which could lead to plans to develop the building in order to try to solve several longstanding problem. As the congregation grows busier, the pressure on space for groups and the pressure on members of staff who have inadequate workspace is becoming more acute. A church-wide consultation (Releasing the Mission) project took place this year which will in turn lead to professional advice being sought for the way forward. Any project is likely to include both tackling the space problems and also dealing with issues surrounding the organ that will need to be addressed in the near future.

A successful stewardship campaign was held in November 2013 and it has now been agreed that an annual stewardship campaign will take place each autumn.

Staffing has been stable in the last year, the addition of an additional Assistant Organist position being the only change.

The appointment of a voluntary Events Manager has made a significant impact during this year, increasing the number of external events that the cathedral is able to host for local community groups.

New technology and particularly the use of the internet now plays a key part in the mission and life of the Cathedral and can only be expected to grow in the future.

St Mary's continues to be one of the most exciting congregations in Scotland. Its reputation for exciting liturgy combined with being open, inclusive, and welcoming continues to grow.

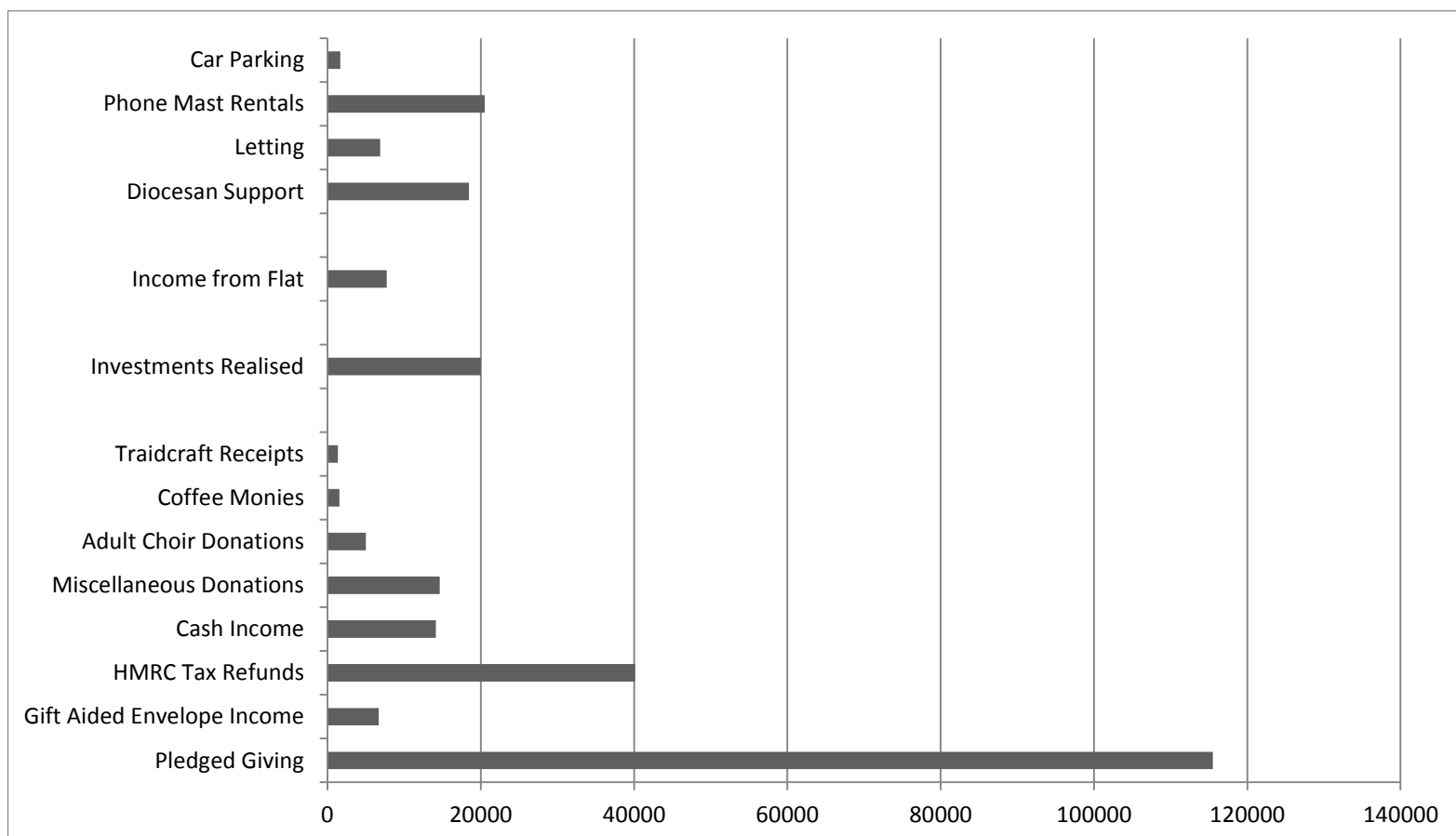
The Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth
Provost and Rector

TREASURERS REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

This year I am using the format from last year, which is based on a graphical presentation of our income and expenditure. Though this hides and in the case of small sums discards the precise arithmetical detail I again trust this approach presents the key facts of our fiscal life in a clearer and more quickly comprehensible form.

Below are two charts generated from the cash book data for the last financial year. The data has been simplified by combining details to allow a reasonably uncluttered presentation on A4 pages. Most importantly the distinction between general fund income and expenditure and restoration fund income and expenditure has been lost in this mode of presentation. Not unsurprisingly I have had to change little of what I wrote last year provided the reader appreciates that £20,000 of extra income was achieved this year by the sale of SEC Unit Trust Pool investments. In the commentary that follows I will ignore this sum and return to an explanation of it later.

Cathedral Income 2013/2014

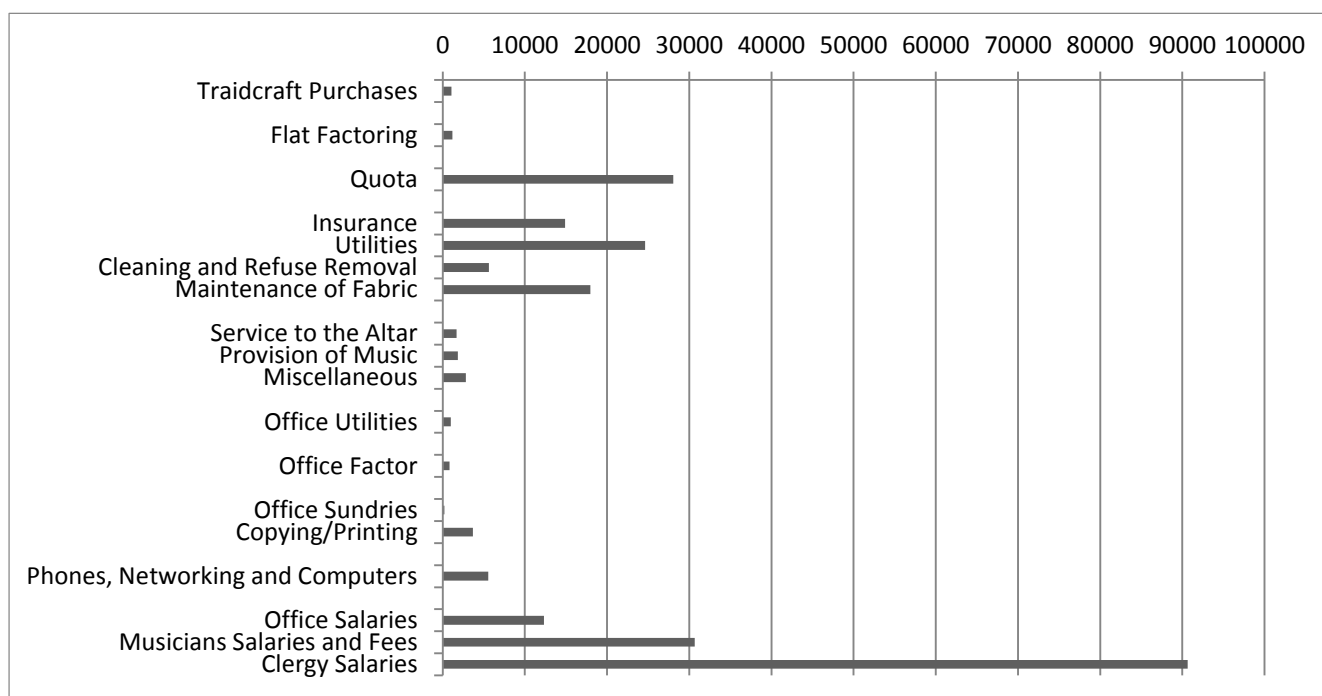


The graph above shows very clearly the significance of pledged giving to our overall income. The money received as regular pledges again approaches nearly half of the total this year (45%). When tax refunds are added this rises to nearly 60%. The key feature of this income is that it is reliable. There are other reliable sources of income, primarily phone mast rentals and Diocesan support, which means we can plan once again on the basis that around 75% of our income is 'guaranteed' into the following year.

Of course the other income shown above will never go to zero in any year and we are very grateful for it. We continue to receive significant support from AllChurches Trust which is owned by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company who provide property insurance and various liability protections to the Cathedral and its employees. The congregation contributes extra income week by week by putting cash in the plate though there have been no special appeals this year. Individuals have again made ad hoc donations but no legacies have been received this year.

Only two of the categories of income shown above can be directly related to expenditure categories shown below and these, Traidcraft and Letting are minor components of our income. Of course the letting property, the flat at 5 Napierhall Street, is a significant and realisable asset.

Cathedral Expenditure 2013/2014



You can see from the above chart that salaries – people – are a very significant part of our outgoings. This is around 55% of our overall expenditure this year. Buildings and their maintenance account for around 25% of our outgoings this year – a figure subject to unforeseeable variations. Month by month maintenance accounts for about 75% of this sub-total this year, significantly up from last year. I wrote last year that ‘there are of course from time to time significant calls on funds for building works and the coming year is likely to be one such year’. Maintenance foreseen last year has been undertaken.

I will comment here on only three further expenditure categories. Quota is what we pay to the Scottish Episcopal Church at Provincial and Diocesan levels. This category of outgoings is not all give and no take and I refer you back to the Diocesan support element of our income. The provision of new music is an on-going investment in our musical life. The preparation of service sheets accounts for most of the copying/printing expenses.

To repeat last year’s comments verbatim:

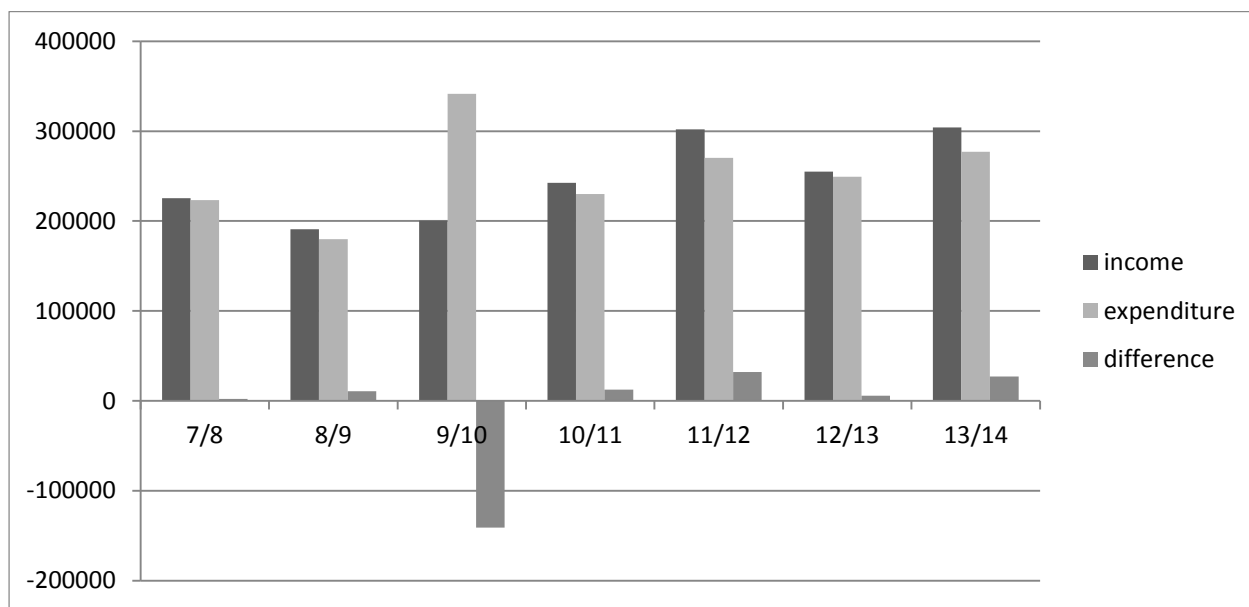
‘cash flow of course is not the whole picture’.

‘We have financial assets in the shape of portfolios of investments with the Scottish Episcopal Church Unit Trust Pool and with Brewin Dolphin’.

‘Additionally we own the flat at 5 Napierhall Street which is currently let’.

‘For completeness I should also record that the Cathedral has uncharged use of a terraced house in Scotstoun, owned by the Diocese, and used to accommodate the Vice Provost and his family’.

Historical Cashflow Income and Expenditure 2007 - 2014



The figure above shows the year on year cash flow but it does not show investment accounts that we have with the Scottish Episcopal Church and Brewin Dolphin nor the value of any other investment assets. The data shows that most years we are close to balanced in our income and expenditure but almost always on the positive with income exceeding expenditure. The significant loss in 2009/2010 was due to repaying a restoration loan from the Diocese. Where we have experienced a deficit we can go to our inheritance from our predecessors (our investments) to help us out. The better than average result in 2012/2013 was due to a legacy and this last year's was cashed investments.

The report from the Finance Group, included with the AGM reports, presents the financial picture through a lens where the normal separation of income and expenditure into general and restoration categories is maintained. To preserve and build for the future we need to increase our income and trim our expenditure where ever possible.

Roger Mackenzie

DRAFT ACCOUNTS

THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
300 Great Western Road, Glasgow G4 9JB

Registered charity number SCO 06225

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

BALANCE SHEET
at 30 September 2014

DRAFT

	2014			2013		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Restoration Funds	Combined Funds	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Restoration Funds	Combined Funds
FIXED ASSETS						
Tangible Assets note 1	96,000		96,000	96,000		96,000
Investment Assets note 2						
Investments	462,732		462,732	432,940		432,940
Investment Property	306,898		306,898	306,898		306,898
	<u>865,630</u>		<u>865,630</u>	<u>835,838</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>835,838</u>
CURRENT ASSETS						
Debtors note 4	2,706		2,706	6,982	-	6,982
Cash at bank and in hand	88,611	53,134	141,745	48,793	65,605	114,398
Total current assets	91,317	53,134	144,451	55,775	65,605	121,380
Less creditors due within one year note 5	1,237		1,237	1,389		1,389
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>90,080</u>	<u>53,134</u>	<u>143,214</u>	<u>54,386</u>	<u>65,605</u>	<u>119,991</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>955,710</u>	<u>53,134</u>	<u>1,008,844</u>	<u>890,224</u>	<u>65,605</u>	<u>955,829</u>
FUNDS						
Capital funds note 3			<u>1,008,844</u>			<u>955,829</u>

The financial statements on pages 1 to 2 were approved by the Vestry on UNDATED

Signed

Dr. Roger Mackenzie, Honorary Treasurer

The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of these financial statements.

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (incorporating income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 30 September 2014

		2014	2013
	£	£	£
	Unrestricted General Funds	Unrestricted Restoration Funds	Combined Funds
			Combined Funds
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming resources from generated funds			
Voluntary income	note 6	189,095	1,100
Activities for generating funds	note 7	3,183	32,259
Investment income	note 8	24,667	-
Incoming resources from charitable activities	note 9	20,045	-
Other incoming resources - special collections		4,131	4,131
Total incoming resources		241,121	33,359
			274,480
			256,214
RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Costs of generating funds			
Fundraising trading: cost of goods sold	note 10	1,449	1,047
Investment management costs		1,985	1,985
Charitable Activities			
Diocesan Quota		28,056	28,056
Fabric	note 11	62,912	62,912
Church activities	note 12	9,613	9,613
Office	note 13	11,390	11,390
Staff	note 14	134,553	134,553
Governance Costs: Remuneration of Independent Examiner		-	-
Other material expenditure - charitable donations		4,131	4,131
Total resources expended		254,089	1,047
			255,136
			228,482
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers		(12,968)	32,312
			19,344
			27,732
TRANSFERS			
Gross transfers between funds			
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources after transfers		(12,968)	32,312
			19,344
			27,732
OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS/LOSSES			
Gains/Losses on revaluation of fixed assets for Church use		26,471	26,471
Gains/Losses on revaluation or disposal of investment assets		7,200	7,200
Net movement in funds		7,735	32,312
			53,015
			66,212
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward			955,829
			889,617
Total funds carried forward			1,008,844
			955,829

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

Net incoming resources reflect the income and expenditure of the Cathedral for the year which has been adjusted to incorporate (losses)/gains on investments and fixed assets to produce the net movement in the year
The notes on pages 3 to 5 form part of the financial statements

Registered charity number SCO 06225

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

at 30 September 2014

DRAFT

Note 1 Tangible Assets

Property - 3 Napershall Street
Acquisition cost of property

96,000

Note 2 Investments

Unit Trusts	Holding	Cost	Market Value 2014	Market Value 2013
		£	£	£
SEC Unit Trust Pool				
Cost/valuation 30 September 2013	27,496	259,923	326,767	284,287
Additions/(disposals) to investments at cost	(545)	(1,687)	(1,687)	13,036
Add/Deduct: Net Gain/(Loss) on revaluation			26,935	29,444
Cost/valuation 30 September 2014	<u>26,951</u>	<u>258,236</u>	<u>352,015</u>	<u>326,767</u>
Equities with Brewin Dolphin				
Cost/valuation 30 September 2013		91,832	106,174	94,664
Net dividend income/gain on disposals		5,007	5,007	2,191
Add/Deduct Net Gain/Loss on revaluation		0	(464)	9,319
Cost/valuation 30 September 2014		<u>96,839</u>	<u>110,717</u>	<u>106,174</u>
			<u>462,732</u>	<u>432,941</u>
Property - 5 Napiershall Street				
Acquisition cost of property, September 2006		306,898		
Add/Deduct Net Gain/Loss on revaluation		-		
Purchase cost at 30 September 2014		<u>306,898</u>		

Note 3 Capital Funds

	At 1 October 2013	Transfers	Surplus/ (deficit) for year	At 30 September 2014
General Fund	890,224		20,703	910,927
Restoration Fund	<u>65,605</u>		32,312	<u>97,917</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>955,829</u>		<u>53,015</u>	<u>1,008,844</u>

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 September 2014

		Unrestricted General Funds £	2014 Unrestricted Restoration Funds £	Combined Funds £	Unrestricted General Funds £	2013 Unrestricted Restoration Funds £	Combined Funds £
Note 4	Debtors	2,706		2,706	6,982	-	6,982
Note 5	Creditors						
	Utilities	1,237		1,237	1,389	-	1,389
Note 6	Voluntary Income						
	Pledges	114,317	920	115,237	105,745	715	106,460
	Gift Aid	6,860	180	7,040	2,307	565	2,872
	Income tax	35,027		35,027	30,445		30,445
	Cash collections	10,975		10,975	12,979		12,979
	Donations	16,916		16,916	12,886		12,886
	Legacies			-	2,000		2,000
	Adult choir donations	5,000		5,000	3,500		3,500
	Special collections				5,943		5,943
		189,095	1,100	190,195	175,805	1,280	177,085
Note 7	Activities for Generating Funds						
	Concerts, recitals	3,183	2,889	6,072	2,078	3,945	6,023
	Other events					52	52
	Souvenirs						
	Letting of non-investment property		29,370	29,370		29,493	29,493
		3,183	32,259	35,442	2,078	33,490	35,568
Note 8	Investment income						
	Interest	7		7	3		3
	Investment receipts	16,936		16,936	16,343		16,343
	War loan	4		4	4		4
	Income from flat	7,720		7,720	7,452		7,452
		24,667		24,667	23,802	-	23,802
Note 9	Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities						
	Traidcraft	1,609		1,609	1,899		1,899
	Grants from Diocese:						
	- Stipend support	12,211		12,211	5,000		5,000
	- Cathedral Support Grant	5,800		5,800	12,435		12,435
	- Hospital Fees	425		425	425		425
	- Travel Grant						
	Other charitable activities						
		20,045		20,045	19,759	-	19,759
Note 10	Fundraising Trading: costs of goods						
	Traidcraft	1,067		1,067	1,650		1,650
	'Inspires'						
	Other fund-raising trading						
	Costs of letting non-investment property					240	240
	Events	382	1,047	1,429		436	436
	- Concerts, recitals						
	- Other events						
		1,449	1,047	2,496	1,650	676	2,326
Note 11	Fabric						
	Insurance	14,902		14,902	14,489		14,489
	Heat, light	23,104		23,104	12,240		12,240
	Water rates	1,368		1,368	1,361		1,361
	Cleaning	3,727		3,727	3,726		3,726
	Repairs + maintenance	17,911		17,911	14,743		14,743
	Waste Disposal	1,900		1,900	2,188		2,188
	Restoration Works						
		62,912		62,912	48,747	-	48,747
Note 12	Church Activities						
	Service to altar	1,693		1,693	2,600		2,600
	Music/Choirs	4,329		4,329	4,547		4,547
	Flowers	1,269		1,269	660		660
	General expenses	746		746	831		831
	Event expenses	1,576		1,576	1,148		1,148
		9,613		9,613	9,786	-	9,786

Registered charity number SCO 06225

DRAFT

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

for the year ended 30 September 2014

		2014 Unrestricted General Funds £	2013 Unrestricted General Funds £
Note 13	Office		
	Heat + Light	1,030	1,818
	Computer equipment	3,868	-
	Factoring charges etc	821	847
	Copying, printing and stationery	4,109	7,966
	Telephone, postage and broadband	1,562	1,293
		<u>11,390</u>	<u>11,924</u>
Note 14	Staff		
	Office staff	12,334	12,117
	Organists	26,718	25,498
	Musicians fees	-	506
	Director of Music Pension	3,967	1,901
	Clergy	74,003	73,978
	Clergy Expenses and Travel	1,363	835
	Provost Council Tax and Accommodation Allowance	12,942	12,942
	Vice Provost Council Tax	1,985	1,969
	Staff Development and Expenses	1,241	245
		<u>134,553</u>	<u>129,991</u>
	Staff remuneration, including trustees remuneration		2013
	Salaries	87,233	86,218
	Employers' National Insurance	9,005	8,886
	Employer's Pension Costs	20,784	18,389
		<u>117,022</u>	<u>113,493</u>
The Provost and Vice Provost are full time, the office post and three music posts are part-time.			
	Remuneration paid to two Trustees, the Provost and Vice Provost		
	Remuneration	51,799	50,790
	Employer's National Insurance	6,775	6,700
	Employer's Pension Costs	16,816	16,488
		<u>75,390</u>	<u>73,978</u>
	Expenses and accommodation allowance	16,290	15,746
		<u>91,680</u>	<u>89,724</u>
The remuneration for the Provost is an enhanced SEC Stipend plus accommodation allowance payments approved by the Vestry and for the Vice Provost is a standard SEC Stipend			

VESTRY SECRETARY

The Vestry met on seven occasions since the last AGM (13 December, 3 February, 15 February, 5 May, 7 July, 1 September and 27 October).

Most of the detailed work is carried out by the Leadership, Finance, Compliance and Property Groups which report their activities to each Vestry meeting, highlighting topics which require discussion and/or decision by the full Vestry. These groups have proven to be an efficient and effective way of ensuring that Vestry can devote its time at meetings to those issues which matter most. Reports from the Groups appear elsewhere in the AGM papers. Vestry has also regularly considered matters relating to Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

A major theme of Vestry's work in the last year has been taking forward the work on developing a shared vision of how the Cathedral should develop. The congregational consultation document "*Releasing the Mission*" was launched at the last AGM. The consultation ran till the end of January and consisted of a series of open meetings and written responses. Vestry analysed the views expressed at their half-day meeting on 15 February which was devoted solely to this topic. Congregational responses were largely supportive of the need of the Cathedral to enhance the facilities for music and to improve space available for many other purposes, as proposed in the consultation document. The need for financial prudence and the requirement to seek external funding to realise the plans were highlighted by many responders.

Based on these views Vestry conducted a review of potential space and other needs of the almost 40 groups and networks who use Cathedral facilities on a regular basis. The next step will be a scoping study by an architectural firm to establish outline plans and indicative costs for any development or modification of the Cathedral and associated buildings. Following an invitation to tender, three firms have been shortlisted for interview on their proposals for the scoping project. The congregation will be consulted on the outcome of the scoping project and parallel work on the organ restoration to assist Vestry in deciding whether to proceed with one or more components of a large project of work.

A small group (Lisa Curtice, John Gerrard, Michael Hitchman, Jim McKillop, Hunter Reid, Wolfgang Schlegel and Robin Webster), will take the work forward under Vestry's oversight.

Jim McKillop

RELEASING THE MISSION CORE GROUP

As noted in the Vestry Secretary's report, Vestry set up this group in September to take forward the "Releasing the Mission" project. The remit of the group set out by Vestry is:

- In collaboration with the Leadership Group to recruit additional members with appropriate gifts and skills.
- Take forward the Releasing the Mission project as directed by Vestry.
- To keep the Leadership Group and the vestry informed of developments.
- To recommend appropriate fundraising structures.
- To liaise, on Vestry's behalf, with professional advisors e.g. architects, surveyors, contractors and lawyers.
- To liaise with the Bishop, the Dean, Diocesan Council, Property Committee and Synod.

The initial membership of Wolfgang Schlegel (Convener), John Gerrard and Jim McKillop (Secretary) has been joined by Lisa Curtice, Michael Hitchman, Hunter Reid and Robin Webster.

The initial work of the group will be to agree a work plan and methods of working and to recommend to Vestry an architectural firm to carry out a scoping study for developing the Cathedral space based on the results of the congregational consultation, the needs analysis carried out recently and the plans submitted by the Director of Music.

Reports from the group will be a standing item on Vestry agendas.

Jim McKillop

LEADERSHIP GROUP

The Cathedral constitution (2010) provides for the Leadership Group, comprised of the two Churchwardens, Vice Provost and Provost. This year there was a change of personnel, in Pam Richmond's succession to Franny Mawditt as People's Warden following the 2013 AGM. The Leadership Group's remit is to provide general oversight of the life of the Cathedral with particular reference to the preparation and monitoring of group and network remits, the appointment and resourcing of group conveners and key personnel, and the development of ministry and mission strategy. It meets roughly on a monthly basis and held a working away day looking at Enneagram as a team building process in March and a 24 hour residential at Millport in October. It submits a report to each Vestry meeting. The experience of exploring possibilities and addressing problems with four pairs of eyes instead of one continues to be an enriching, supportive and challenging experience of shared responsibility. This is the case not least in respect of providing support and a sounding board for all its members.

Further St Mary's group remits have been created and monitored to foster appropriate accountability, support and guidance for groups and networks and their conveners. Succession management has led to the succession of people to David Kenvyn's posts on his departure for South Africa (sacristy, servers and compliance group). The post of "Volunteer Co-ordinator" was created to help people who are considering offering time and talents to St Mary's and the needs of the groups and networks. Franny Mawditt was appointed as the first post holder. The "Whose Who at St Mary's" leaflet has been updated to enable members of the congregation to be aware of these and existing responsibilities. This accompanies the revised Cathedral monthly prayer cycle. The leadership group is recognising the marked change in commitment and pledging culture, particularly in "generation X and Y" (adults born since 1966), and its impact on volunteering as well as in general church life. Some ways that churches operate and organise will have to change significantly to harness the energies and changing lifestyles of this and future generations.

There are indicators of growth at St Mary's. 2013 Advent and Christmas services were well attended with 943 attending Christmas Eve and Christmas morning (805 in 2012; 743 in 2003). Positive feedback was received after Lent, Holy Week and Easter. 1,233 attended Holy Week and Easter services (1,067 in 2012; 619 in 2004).

How else will this last year be remembered? 22 people attended a retreat at Millport in March. The sound system required replacement microphones after Easter, along with associated equipment which had failed. A series of Sunday Forums were held. St Mary's Cathedral's involvement with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow July/August included welcoming the passing Queen's Baton, Open Church keeping the doors open for visitors from 10.00-17.00 and the hosting of the Commonwealth Tapestry Exhibition (more than 1,000 people came through the doors during this season of Open Church, and over 300 in the September Doors Open

weekend), Peter Tatchell being invited to give a lecture and a Sunday forum by the Justice and Aid network, and offering a special welcome to visitors to Glasgow during this period at Sunday and weekday worship. Local community activity continues with the Tea Run, the Justice and Aid Network's involvement with interfaith engagement and St Mary's support of the Stepping into Diversity and oral history projects sponsored by our close neighbours West of Scotland Regional Equality Council.

St Mary's groups and networks continue to evolve, and many of them thrive, as their reports in the 2014 Annual Report evidence.

It was decided not to host separate hustings in relating to the Scottish independence referendum. People in this congregation held convictions on both sides of the debate and voted in different ways. Hustings hosted by the local Church of Scotland parish grouping were publicised and the diocese hosted a post referendum discussion on 8 November. The period had, and still has, significant impact on individuals and communities alike. Sunday worship before and after the vote were designed to give space for thought and prayer on the future of Scotland.

In September the Bishop wrote to clergy and lay representatives encouraging them to attend and name at least three other members of their congregation to take part in a diocesan cascade conversation on the subject of same sex relationships. At least nine people from this congregation took part in the process. This cascade process was an initiative of the College of Bishops.

Future growth and development of St Mary's Cathedral is always at the top of the leadership group business. The "Releasing the Mission" report was published at the 2013 AGM and ongoing work on the process has been considered by Vestry and is currently in the hands of a core group. Very real consideration was given to the potential for planting a congregation in the Merchant City, but with the departure from Glasgow of two key members, this idea has been shelved for the present. Other opportunities promote faith development, learning, spirituality, work among young people and pastoral care have been keenly considered.

The Leadership Group shares with the whole congregation appreciation of the valuable contribution of the associate and retired clergy to St Mary's life and worship, and all who volunteer their generous giving of talents, time and money to the glory of God in the Cathedral's life. A great number of people, many just visiting here for a short while, even just a day, express their delight in their experience and that impact on their lives. This is due in no small part both to hard work of many people, and that simple smile and kind word of the individual to a stranger which is expressed on a regular basis. For those graces in particular, and opportunities to share them, thanks be to God.

The prayer for visitors adapted for use at St Mary's in 2014 expresses the hope that all will find what they are looking for when they enter these doors:

Loving God this cathedral was built as a home for you. Not because you need it, you don't. Not because it is big enough to hold you, it isn't. Not because you can't be found elsewhere. You can. It was built as a meeting place where people can worship and wonder, sing and study, pray and ponder. Be with those who come here, and go with them when they leave. Let this place be lovely in their memories, and let your love be miraculous in their lives. Amen.

Cedric Blakey

PROPERTY GROUP

There is always more than enough to do in terms of the maintenance and repair of the Cathedral, and it can be very frustrating when apparently simple things take much longer than expected to be resolved.

This year (at long last) the lettering on the flagstones outside the south aisle was finally completed, and at the same time the inscriptions to the tablet in the chancel marking the names and dates of the bishops were also brought up to date.

In addition, the plasterwork to the wall of the South Aisle has been renewed, along with damp proofing measures, and an agreement has finally been reached with the phone companies regarding additional equipment and cable routing which will eliminate the illegal timber box beside the tower entrance.

The committee have responded to apparently never ending plumbing and roofing leaks, door closer problems, and various issues with regard to the heating and lighting. The committee members have been kept busy, and have been helped enormously by Margaret Owen who has done a huge amount of work in repairing various pieces of joinery, tiling etc. which has saved considerable expense.

There are some further repairs to be carried out that will be expensive but unavoidable, such as the repair to the timber louvres in the tower, and the quinquennial inspection which is due next year will no doubt highlight further matters requiring attention.

Meanwhile the Vestry have authorized a scoping study to determine how the Cathedral's various activities may be best accommodated, and this should identify some significant changes to the building in the coming years.

Robin Webster

COMPLIANCE GROUP

Over the last year the compliance group has worked on the following:

- the development and implementation of a fire policy
- annual fire and health and safety risk assessments (ongoing)
- the Cathedral Walkaround with the provost and the other vestry group conveners
- a risk assessment for Doors Open Day
- updating staff work agreements (on-going)

In late Summer David Kenvyn retired from the position of convener and we are most grateful for his work in this position.

Anne P Jones (Acting Convenor)

BELLRINGERS

The year since the last AGM started on a sad note as we rang the bells half – muffled on Sunday Dec 1st when the city was in mourning for those killed at the Clutha Bar. This was followed a fortnight later when we rang a quarter peal to celebrate the life of Nelson Mandela. During the year we have continued our witness to the city, ringing as usual for services on Sunday

evenings, for the morning service on Christmas Day, Easter Day and Pentecost and for Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi. We have also rung the bells for two weddings.

In July we rang for the Queen's Baton relay and, along with all the other churches and institutions which have sounding bells, at 20.14 on the eve of the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. Following the Games we rang a quarter peal of the method called Glasgow for the parade of the Scottish team and to celebrate the success of the 2014 Games in Glasgow. Our set of handbells has been brought down from the tower and made available for various events, including ringing when the baton passed through the west end of the city. The handbells require refurbishment and we are looking at the best way to go about this and raise the funds needed.

We have had two sets of visiting ringers and one visitors' peal attempt. As well as this we have had visits from the Cathedral children's group, an Explorer Scout group and tours during Doors Open Day. Some of the visitors on Doors Open Day expressed an interest in learning more about bellringing so we are arranging some training sessions and hope that this will lead to some people wishing to become part of our band.

We have also been filmed twice during the year. A Japanese couple, currently working in Scotland, included us ringing and being interviewed on 'the bell that never rang' as part of a promotional video for Glasgow based on the City motto. We understand this was well received when it was shown in Japan. Then recently we were filmed for STV Glasgow's Riverside programme, when one of the presenters was given a bellringing lesson.

We have supported meetings of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers and our beginners' team won their section in the striking competition at the AGM in Inverness in May. We have hosted some of the Association advanced practices.

If anyone from the Congregation would like to see what bellringing involves they would be very welcome to come along on a Tuesday evening when we practice. Please wait outside the ringing room door until the bells stop and then just come in and introduce yourselves.

Margaret Williams

BIBLE GROUP

The Bible discussion Group meets on the last Monday of the month at 7:30pm in the Synod Hall. There are thirteen regular attenders at the moment, and others join us occasionally to discuss scripture and its many ramifications. The topics are varied and interesting, with listening and learning, discussion and debate.

Among subjects for discussion this year have been icons, pictures and scripture relating to the Presentation; learning more about selection of texts for the Church's liturgical year; Angels and Archangels and discussion of readings for the following Sunday. Guidance for life is often sought in scripture and topics also discussed include Decision and Choice, and Conflict.

Our clergy have joined us on several evenings, and we welcomed a Church of Scotland inner city worker to share her experiences rooted in Scripture. As we start a new season and many are considering pilgrimage in Scotland or further afield; we hope to explore that subject, a subject so linked with the lives of Our Lord and the saints.

The evenings start with refreshments at 7:20, and topics are advertised in the Sunday pewsheets. New folk or old stagers are always welcome to come along on these Mondays.

Gill Young

BOOK GROUP

St Mary's Book Group is continuing to maintain a regular attendance of 10-12 members at each meeting. New members are always welcome; indeed, the only mild negative to report is that we could do with one or two new faces! Please do come along, especially if you are new to the congregation and a book lover. There is no pressure to say anything at all! The process of selecting reading material – via a long list/ short list/ voting process – continues to work well. This February, we selected an article “Water from a deeper well - Why spirituality without religion isn't enough” – an interview with religious scholar, writer and teacher Huston Smith, which produced some especially interesting discussion. A full list of the eight books chosen to cover 2014 -15, and any further information, can be obtained from contact person Anne Halliburton, tel: 0141 946 5426 or email: contact.anne.w@gmail.com

Anne Halliburton

CONTACT GROUP

The contact group has continued to meet through 2014, although there have been a number of changes this year. Four people have left the group in the last year, three because they have moved away. One new person has joined, so we are currently four 'contactors', plus Robert convening and Cedric and Anne ex officio. We have not been very busy, with a few new contacts, mostly taking place in cafes and ad hoc, two visits to hospitals, including one sharing communion.

Robert Mawditt

EVENTS

Listed below are the number and nature of events which took place in St Mary's Cathedral in the last year.

The Cathedral continues to offer a creative space for diverse musical exploration. A variety of different choral and orchestral groups return regularly to hold their seasonal concerts at St Mary's. The city's academic student bodies – **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland**, and **The Kelvin Ensemble**, **NYCoS** and the **RSNO**, also continue to use the Cathedral on a regular basis.

Innovative art exhibitions, some exploring different cultures – **Namibian Exhibition June/July**, others reflecting national events – **The Commonwealth Tapestry Exhibition July/August**, have added to the diversity of Cathedral life for those visiting and those in the congregation.

With the help of an enthusiastic group of volunteers, the Commonwealth Tapestry brought in over 600 extra visitors in July/August **The Botanicals Friday Art Group** also made a welcome return to the Cathedral and successfully exhibited for ten days during the West End Festival in June

Cultures and conflicts have been explored through readings, poetry, music and food – **Voices of Palestine in October**, and hopefully this theme will be carried forward in November with the organisation – **Nadja Now Lebanon**, an exhibition of children's artwork from the refugee camps of Syria.

Support for student projects has continued throughout the year, some with unexpected but welcome benefits. The pipes and drums of Clanadonia, who were assisting with a student

project recording at the Cathedral in January, agreed to lead the Palm Sunday procession at the Cathedral.

Other student events have included costumed video projects, photographic projects and a four hour installation and exhibition by final year students from The GSA as part of their Art Degree Show in February.

Also in February, one event which transformed the interior of the Cathedral to dramatic effect was a visit by an organisation called the Philanthrobeats. Through the use of diverse music, street poetry and visuals they raise awareness of world issues of justice and equality. Using a club – scene setting, they attract an audience of mostly students and those from the young adult community. Monies raised at these events goes to a charity specially chosen to reflect the event. The St Mary's event raised money for an arts project in the north of the city.

Visiting groups have included The Architectural Heritage society of Scotland and The Scottish Episcopal Church Historical Society.

The Cathedral was again privileged to host the Yorkhill Service of Togetherness and Hope in December 2013.

In response to the Clutha Vaults disaster, the Telemann Ensemble gave a recital in December 2013 in St Mary's to raise money for the Lord Provost's Fund.

By the completion of the year, concerts will be given by the Bearsden Choir, Kelvin Ensemble, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the Glasgow Youth choir.

2013 – 2014 Summary:

Concerts – 12

Recitals – 4

Exhibitions – 4

Visiting Groups – 3

Recording / video sessions / installations – 4

Club night event

Cultural event

Workshop

Honor Brogan

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE GROUP

Five visitors, namely Honor Brogan, Peggy Brown, Diane Elliott, Nena Riches and Margaret Brown (convenor) have maintained contact with twelve or so older members of the congregation who live with support either in their own homes or in care/nursing homes. These get-togethers are always appreciated by those visited and by members of their families. They are arranged at least once a month, more frequently when someone is not well. The group of visitors meets every two months.

It is good to be able to record that Honor Brogan enquired about becoming a visitor. To this end she participated in some initial training which included accompanying established visitors

on some of their usual visits. Honor will shortly begin making her own arrangements to see two new visitees.

A few people receive Holy Communion at 'home'. These visits are in addition to the ordinary visits.

Margaret S. Brown

FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Neil Parker devised a varied and engaging programme with the group until standing down as convener in the summer. Those who have attended have been asked to consider the future of the group. A thank you to Neil, and Ethel, was being arranged for a date in October.

Cedric Blakey

FLOWER TEAM

The St Mary's Flower Team is a friendly group of volunteers, who, with their love for flowers, try to bring the beauty of nature into worship. There are eight members in the Team and we make a team effort to arrange fresh flowers for Easter, Pentecost, the Open Day, All Souls' Day and Christmas, and to arrange silk flowers throughout the rest of the year, except during Lent and Advent.

As well as this we arrange flowers for weddings, civil ceremonies, baptisms and funerals, working to a budget with families in their choice of colour and design for their floral displays.

Flowers have been used to decorate St Mary's from the opening of the cathedral, and we want to continue the tradition. We welcome anyone of any age to join us and share our delight in adding to the beauty and welcoming feeling of our Church. Some experience would be helpful, but not essential; flower arranging is very enjoyable and easy to learn. Those who are interested should contact Migeun Park (07929 354 881) migeunpark@hotmail.com

Migeun Park

GARDENERS

Thanks to all those who gave bulbs and rose bushes this year - the garden gave much pleasure to staff and, hopefully, visitors to the office and passers-by. The church garden is still evolving and for those clearing later summer flowering perennials please think about donating them. There is regular clearing of weeds between the paving stones - if you'd like to help with this as and when you can, please let us know.

Robert and Franny Mawditt

GOD FACTOR COURSE

The God Factor course is a basics course for enquirers, congregation members and anyone who is interested in exploring some of the fundamental questions about the Christian faith. Each course is unique and is constructed on the basis of questions raised by those attending. Two courses have been completed this year - one before Easter and one in the autumn. The session

titles included: Who or what is God? How (not) to read the Bible. Developing a prayer life. Christian ethics. St Mary's ethos. Hearing God's call. What's the Church For? What about other Faiths? About 12 people have attended over the course of the year. It is planned for the course to be offered again early in 2015. Derek Smith and Cedric Blakey have been facilitators.

Derek Smith

HOSPITALITY

I'm sure that you have all enjoyed the hospitality extended by St Mary's, but it doesn't just happen by itself! Many people contribute time, effort and personal warmth to ensure that everyone feels relaxed and refreshed both physically as well as spiritually.

The hospitality team at St Mary's is one of the groups looking after this part of the community at St Mary's. Drinks and snacks are served to enable people to sustain themselves a little longer and so chat and take part in any of the many activities that take place after the 10.30 Mass. The hospitality team are also involved in helping out at other events, like the occasional concert at the church, where refreshments are often served.

This year teams serving after the 10.30 Mass have moved so that both are at the west end of the church, one at the northern corner and one at the southern corner. It was felt that this was the best way to ensure that most congregants could be served, rather than having one table in the church and one in the Synod Hall.

Standard Government issued health and safety guidance was passed to all the serving teams to ensure that those serving food and drink are aware how to maintain the latest recommended hygiene standards.

There is always a need for more people to become involved in this service since people move on, or become involved in other areas of work at the church, and so the hospitality team tends to change regularly. Being on the team is a fun way to get to know the other people who come to St Mary's and allows one to see and be involved in many and varied activities.

The hospitality team is currently coordinated by Anne Jones, and she should be contacted if you are interested in getting involved or if you want to request hospitality at an event you are arranging at St Mary's.

David McFadyen

JUSTICE AND AID NETWORK

The committee has maintained a focus on a concern for poverty and the need to create a world where everyone has enough to eat. We have continued to support **"Regenerate in Africa"**, a very small social enterprise charity based in Zambia, and also the work of **"Just Trading"** in Malawi, led by John Riches. John also organized the wonderful exhibition of Namibian art which was held at the cathedral this summer before travelling to other locations in the UK.

The **"Christmas World Fair"** which is planned for **Saturday 29 November** this year will be an opportunity to see what a range of different charities and individuals are doing in relation to our concerns, and we hope it will be well supported. We have a liquor license for the day, so there will be mulled wine, and we have also planned to have a hog roast, as well as the usual wonderful cakes and pastries etc. If you have not had an opportunity to get involved up until now, we hope to see you then! (It will run from 10.00am till 4.00pm.)

We also initiated with the Glasgow “Interfaith” group a very interesting convention of representatives from different faiths in Glasgow City Chambers, in which their different approaches to dealing with poverty were discussed.

In addition to the above, we invited Peter Tatchell to come and give a talk and also to have a conversation with the Provost in July, the week before the Commonwealth Games. He spoke extremely well and movingly, about how it is necessary to recognise that very many of the Commonwealth countries have a very poor record of justice and equality with regards to gender issues.

Robin Webster

LAY REPRESENTATIVE

My responsibility as Lay Representative is to represent the Cathedral at the annual Diocesan Synod and where appropriate at the North East Regional Council.

At the Diocesan Synod in March 2014, the Bishop’s Charge related to the role of the Church in this year of the referendum on Scottish independence. Bishop Gregor urged the Church to create a respectful environment which would allow congregations to engage with the issues and would allow people space in the weeks and months afterwards to adapt to the result. He also called on all members of Diocesan Synod to vote in the referendum.

A significant portion of the Synod was devoted to discussing the forthcoming change to the law on equal marriage and the response of the Church to this. This included a highly stimulating presentation from John Curtice regarding social attitudes. The provincial mechanism for conversations around the subject has been through the “Cascade Conversations”. The events for our Diocese have been taking place throughout the autumn, and I have been attending them together with other members of the congregation.

We noted that due to changing numbers across the Province, the number of diocesan representatives to General Synod has been recalculated. This reduces the number of lay representatives from 14 to 10.

The Bishop’s Lenten appeal this year was for Yorkhill Children’s Charity.

I would like to end by thanking David Kenvyn for his service as Alternate Lay Representative prior to his departure for South Africa this summer. He fulfilled the office with great competence and good humour.

Beth Routledge

LGBT NETWORK

The LGBT Network organises various events relating to LGBT areas of interest, as well as providing a contact point for LGBT individuals and allies from within the congregation and acting as a source of engagement for people outside the Cathedral.

This year has been a time of great celebration, with the passage of the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Scotland) Act in February. We look forward to Hogmanay, when equal marriage will become the law of the land in Scotland. This marks the end of a long journey for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community within the Cathedral and its allies – in 2009, members of the LGBT Group together with the Equality Network collected a huge number of signatures for a petition on equal marriage, delivered that petition to the Scottish Parliament,

and were there when the Provost launched the campaign at Pride Scotia that year. We have continued to be involved in the campaign throughout its evolution. I think this is the time to thank all members of the group, past and present, and to say how proud I am of the part it has had in changing the world.

We will be having a party around the time of the first equal marriages in Scotland, and all will be welcome.

The weekend of Pride was a busy one for the Cathedral this year. Our walking group within the parade was well attended, despite the rain. We were also pleased that weekend to be able to be involved in Peter Tatchell's visit to the Cathedral, both for a lecture on Human Rights and the Commonwealth on the Saturday evening which was well attended particularly by people from outside the congregation and for a Sunday forum. I am grateful to the Justice and Aid Network for having organised these events.

This year has been a time of some restructuring. I think that for any group in a church to exist and flourish, it is important that they are not allowed to stagnate. The LGBT Group, as it then was, started meeting in early 2007, and until Easter 2014 had met on a regular monthly basis. We had an extended summer break this year for consideration of the group's future, and it was felt that after seven years it would benefit from a change in format and a broadening of purpose.

We continue to hold events, which will be advertised on the website and in the notices ahead of time. These no longer always occur on a Monday evening, and we hope that our new irregularity will enable us to arrange a wider variety of events and will allow a greater variety of people from the congregation to attend than have previously been able to. As has always been the case, our events are always open to anyone who might be interested in them.

Our next event is planned to be a Sunday lunchtime forum on HIV and AIDS, which will be around the time of World AIDS Day.

Beth Routledge

LITTER PICKERS

The eight members of the litter-picking team take turns to ensure that the grounds surrounding the Cathedral are kept clean and tidy. The litter pickers' roster is organised such that each member of the team is responsible for a week at a time from Monday to Sunday. Ideally, litter pickers visit the cathedral several times during their duty weeks, keeping the grounds tidy for weekday services and meetings as well as for Sunday worship. Litter picking is obviously most onerous during windy periods and at times when events bring more people and their litter into the West End.

During the past year, which has included several major events including the Commonwealth Games, the team has excelled in keeping the grounds tidy throughout the week. This has been particularly important during the summer months when the church has been open for visitors seven days each week. If you would like to join the team, thereby reducing the frequency of our duties, please contact me or Franny Mawditt.

Tony Hughes

MUSIC

The Music Department continues to grow and develop, and this session has been another interesting and exciting time!

Music Staff

We have welcomed Steven McIntyre as Assistant Organist. He joins a team that now comprises, myself as Organist and Director of Music, Peter Wakeford, Assistant Organist and Christine Walker who has no title as such, but manages the choir, and helps to teach the choristers.

Whilst I, and one of the Assistants is paid by the Cathedral, the second Assistant is paid for by Dr Roderick Neilson, who has been a very generous benefactor of the choir over the years. Christine gives of her time and gifts entirely voluntarily, and is not paid.

The Cathedral have now applied to the Friends of Cathedral Music for a substantial grant, which if it is successful, will be in the form of an endowment grant which will then be used to secure the salary of the Assistant Organist(s) in perpetuity. We will also be required to add to that endowment to “top it up”, but plans are already afoot so to do. In fact, the choir has already contributed to the fund to set up the account, and I’d be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to that fund.

I am also grateful to many chorister parents who, week by week continue to help with choir practice, with refreshments, looking after the children, helping with their music, teaching the younger choristers, and generally being a friendly adult presence in the proceedings on Thursdays and Sundays.

Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral Choir continues to flourish and grow. Many choir members (as always) have come and gone, but, generally, the membership of the choir is at an all-time high, with nearly forty adult singers, and 20 young choristers involved in the choir at the time of going to press!

The choir continues to be as busy as ever, not only singing twice every Sunday, but also taking part in many special services and broadcasts, as well as a highly acclaimed residency for a whole week in Lincoln Cathedral in the Summer Holidays.

Plans for this session include a new CD of music written for the choir, a choir concert in February, and involvement with the RSCM Triennial Festival, which will be held in June, and some exciting plans for West End Festival events. All proceeds will go towards our Music Endowment Fund.

There will, no doubt, also be our usual round of parties and social events!

The choir would also welcome more support at Choral Evensong on Sunday nights. At 6.30pm every Sunday the choir usually outnumbers the congregation for what is a musical and worshipful delight, here on your doorstep every Sunday.

Chorister successes

Our choristers are trained through the Royal School of Church Music Voice for Life Scheme, and this year we have had great success again with many choristers gaining awards.

Many of our choristers go on to greater things when they leave, and this year we congratulate one of our young choir members, Magnus Walker, who has been awarded a prestigious Choral Scholarship to the choir of Gloucester Cathedral for the session 2015-2016. Magnus was one of our original “Trebles” (now called “choristers”) when we started the children’s choir back in

2007, and it is wonderful to see Magnus join the ranks of choristers from our choir who have gained Choral Awards in Cathedral and University choirs up and down the country.

Recruitment

The choir is still flourishing, and many talented singers have been drawn to the choir. Some come for a year, or even a just term, but it always heartening to have them along and make them feel at home by joining the choir.

This year we have had a student from Germany, and even one singer who has come over from the USA specifically, and only, to sing with us for a term! This is a wonderful reputation to have established, and I'm very pleased and proud that our name is spread so far and wide as a choir that not only sings to a high standard, but is welcoming and worshipful.

My only concern remains our tenor line. We have very few tenors still, and that puts an unfair strain on the few we have! Where are all the tenors?? Please spread the word and cast your tenor nets!

We are still in stiff competition against the choirs of Glasgow Cathedral, Paisley Abbey and the Chapel Choir of the University of Glasgow, all of whom offer Choral Scholarships and / or have paid singers.

Robes

A huge thank you to Gail Smith for continuing to look after our robes with such patience and care, especially as the choir continues to grow. We still have some way to go before all of our choir members are in new robes, but we are getting there. Many thanks to everyone, congregation, choir members and parents who have donated the cost of their robes, or who have helped with fund-raising for robes, generally.

However, storage space continues to be an issue for the safe keeping of the robes, and for the choir's access to them.

Library

Thank you to Christine Walker, and to all our choir members who help with the music library. We are also grateful to members of the choir and congregation who donate sets of music to us, keeping our repertoire varied and up to date, and who help us to buy extra copies as our choir continues to grow!

However, storage space for our music collection also continues to be something of an issue.

Organ

Although the organ continues to be problematic, it has been behaving itself a little better of late, but I fear it is lulling us into a false sense of security before beginning to deteriorate!

Independent reports were commissioned last year as to the way forward, and they are all being considered along with the ultimate development scheme.

A CD of organ music called "On a Lighter Note" will be released very soon. It is a disc of lighter concert music that I recorded in the Cathedral, and the proceeds of that CD will go towards the Music Endowment Fund.

General

Much of what I have to say here is a repetition of the past few years.

The choir is in very good health and there are more singers involved than ever before, spread over a greater age range than ever before, singing more services to a higher standard than ever

before! Also, the general ethos of the choir is generally very happy, and one of genuine enthusiasm and nurturing.

The only issues we have, remain, the practical ones. The choir stalls are now not big enough to seat us all at a big service, and indeed, they are now showing signs of wear and tear and are beginning to fall apart. The front desks are unsatisfactory for resting music on anyway, and this is never clearer than when our choristers are wrestling with their music during services, trying to prevent their folders falling to the floor! An affordable, flexible solution is still needed.

Also, storage and rehearsal space is now very difficult. On Thursday nights, there may be up to fifty people coming through the doors to rehearse in several groups (at different levels) and it becomes increasingly hard to run things, in a sometimes cold, dark church, or a crowded Synod Hall, and wherever we rehearse or teach, we are constantly shifting furniture before and after rehearsals. The “Choir Room”, which is little more than a walk-in cupboard, also becomes somewhat perilous when we are all piling in and out of it to fetch our robes and music before and after services.

I do appreciate that all the groups in the church are clamouring for more space, but I must continue to add my voice to that clamour!

Thank you

Thank you to everyone who helps to make our choir such a successful and happy part of the life and ministry of our cathedral. The list is endless; our very supportive and appreciative clergy team, all the singers, the players, chorister parents, chorister families, library helpers, wardrobe helpers, chauffeurs, photographers, feeders, washer-uppers, and not least, you, the congregation!

St Mary's remains an exciting and involving place to work, and I thank God every day for the privilege of working here.

Gratitude and best wishes to all,

Frikki Walker

NORTH-EAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

The NERC has met on two occasions this year. At our last meeting there was a wide ranging discussion of the Cascade Conversations happening in the diocese and throughout the province. A resolution asking the Diocesan Council to bring a motion to the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod to ensure that no member of the clergy should be expected to act against their conscience with a view to same-sex marriage was passed by the council and will be discussed at the Diocesan Council in due course..

The organisation and make up of the regional councils may change over the next year as adjustments are made to reflect the changes in the representation from the diocese to General Synod.

Kennedy Fraser

NEEDLE ARTS GROUP

NAG has continued to prosper; we meet to knit, sew and chat from 7.30-9.30pm on the second Monday of each month. As well as those who come to the meetings we are grateful for the generous support of many members of the congregation in our project work.

We have two on-going projects – the first is to knit for the Special Care Baby Unit at the Southern General. Over the year several enormous bags of blankets, bonnets, cardigans, bootees etc. have been dispatched to the Southern General.

The second is to knit for the Seafarers' Mission (woollen hats, mufflers, balaclavas etc.).

We hope to continue to thrive by enlisting more members – and are always open to new suggestions for projects which involve even more folk from the congregation!

Sandy Fraser/Pam Barrowman

OPEN CHURCH 2014

A truly magnificent season. Over 40 volunteers worked in pairs Monday-Saturday mornings, May-September 2014. More visitors than ever came through the doors of St Mary's Cathedral. 1,051 visitors were recorded (as at 24.9.14), with 601 people coming during the extended opening hours (10.00-17.00) during the Commonwealth Games and the tapestry exhibition. Open Church is indebted to Gail Smith for the marshalling of the rota, and to each one of the volunteers for their time and hospitality. A final gathering was planned after Choral Evensong on Dedication Sunday, 26 October.

In addition to this, St Mary's Cathedral was in the programme for Doors Open weekend 20-21 September, which Irene Ballantine organised. 317 visitors were welcomed.

Cedric Blakey

THE OPEN SILENCE

The Open Silence is an hour of shared silence which takes place on the third Sunday of the month 20:00-21:00, and the following Thursday 12:30-13:30. It is, as the name suggests, simply an hour in which to be still and silent, and to spend time with God. Some music and an opening prayer or meditation leads into the silence, which then concludes with a final blessing.

Attendance varies throughout the year, but it is much appreciated by those who come. People are encouraged to try the open Silence for just a few minutes to begin with – it is recognised that learning to be still and to meditate is an art to be cultivated with short periods to begin with, and there is ample facility to come and go during these times. The School of Spirituality has also led an Introduction to Silence session. The team who organise this are Cedric Blakey, Sue Champion, Sheena Forsyth, Caroline McKillop and Jo Russell.

Sue Champion

POETRY GROUP

“In the prison of his days
Teach the free man how to praise.”

Auden's final words on the death of W.B. Yeats concluded, as I write, the most recent of the meetings of the Poetry Group. Perhaps it is a common sense of being "conflicted" that brings us together to explore the challenges that words can open up inside us, their beautiful ambiguities.

In the past year we've sampled poetry by Rilke, R.S. Thomas and Sinead Morrissey as well as exploring the themes of April, Glasgow, food and femmes fatales. We enjoyed a multilingual evening of Spanish poetry with Juan de la Cruz, Lorca and Neruda. This coming year the foreign language trend is set to continue with more Spanish, Chinese and Indian poetry. We may try to spot next year's T.S. Eliot prizewinner.

I am grateful to the group members whose continued enthusiasm both in attending and bringing reading material is what drives the group. Anyone is welcome to join. Simply turn up or contact the convener: Chris Athorne, ca@maths.gla.ac.uk

Chris Athorne

THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

I was appointed Child Protection Co-ordinator by the Vestry in 1999 after my references were checked and approved by the Bishop. In 2006 my remit was extended to include the protection of vulnerable adults. In 2013 the vestry asked me to continue as co-ordinator for another three years. I am supported in my position by the Provincial Protection Officer, Donald Urquhart, and the Assistant Provincial Protection Officer, Daphne Audsley.

During the past year I have ensured that the new members of the Contact Group, Fiop Group and those doing regulated work with children in Young Church have successfully completed the PVG procedure.

The PVG legislation requires that retrospective checking is carried out on those working with children or vulnerable adults before 2003 when the Disclosure legislation was introduced or those who went through the original disclosure process and this is gradually taking place throughout the province. During this year I have ensured that the necessary forms and identity checks have been completed for those in St Mary's who come into these categories.

Each year an annual questionnaire is sent out to all charges in the diocese as an audit to ensure that the safeguarding policy of the SEC is implemented in its churches. This year the Provincial Protection Committee has produced a more detailed standardised questionnaire to be used throughout the province and I have received this for completion. The form is sent to the Diocesan Protection Officer and the information forms the basis of their report to Diocesan Synod.

In August I attended a Diocesan training event 'Safeguarding the Vulnerable in the Scottish Episcopal Church' with the Provost, the Vice Provost and the Lay Representative, representing the Vestry.

I appreciate the continuing support of the Vestry, the Leadership Group, the clergy and the congregation and thank all those who work with children, young people and vulnerable adults within the cathedral.

Anne P Jones

SACRISTAN

After the departure of David Kenvyn to South Africa, Nelson was asked by the Provost to undertake the sacristan duties that David had been responsible for. In the autumn Monica agreed to assist Nelson and we are now working together to help ensure that worship can be conducted smoothly and reverently. In September with the help of Kathryn MacFarlane and under the guidance of the Provost, the Sacristy was given a thorough “spring clean”. The cupboards were all sorted out and tidied and candles and other supplies stacked neatly.

We are aware of the many people who contribute to the maintenance of vestments, linen and necessary paperwork and we would like to place on record our thanks to them. It has been (and continues to be) a steep learning curve for Nelson and Monica and we are very grateful to the clergy, the servers and the office manager for their encouragement, advice and help.

Nelson Connelly-Smith and Monica Long

SERVERS

Sadly for St Mary’s, David Kenvyn resigned from his position as Sacristan and Head Server in the summer to allow him to go to work at the Donald Woods Foundation in Hobeni, South Africa for several months. He will hopefully be back with us in January 2015.

Following David’s resignation, Kelvin and the Leadership Group decided to split the role which led to my appointment as Head Server and the appointments of Nelson Connelly and Monica Long as Sacristans.

I am indebted to Nelson and Monica for all their hard work in organising the Sacristy, keeping everything clean and tidy, and preparing for services.

The serving team at the Cathedral contributes to the planning and delivery of services, ensuring that they are conducted with the grace and dignity that allows for prayerfulness. This, of course, is the purpose of serving – to ensure that everything required is in place and available for the celebrant at the required point in the service.

As usual, we have been involved in all the usual Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services as well as assisting Sunday by Sunday. We have also served for several baptisms, weddings and funerals in the last year.

The Cathedral currently has 11 servers. I am extremely grateful to the current serving team – Awele, Beth, Bruce, Daniel, David, Franny, Jackie, Roger, Seph and Sue. We are very much looking forward to welcoming some new recruits soon.

If anyone thinks they might be interested in becoming a server please speak to Kelvin, Cedric or myself for more information. No previous experience is necessary as full training will be given.

I would like to express my thanks to the clergy and the other Cathedral staff for all their help and support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the servers for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Kathryn Macfarlane

ST MARY'S @ THE MOVIES REPORT

This year we came out from under Donnie's wing and struck out into the multiverse of the cinematic imagination on our own. We would like to thank Mr O'Rourke for his energetic, inventive, always stimulating and inimitable style.

With Donnie for the first half of the season we discussed *Brassed Off*, *The Searchers*, *The Lives of Others*, *Singin' In The Rain*, *Batman*, *A Matter Of Life And Death* and *Dear Frankie*. In the second half group members facilitated discussions on *Dreams*, *Cabaret*, *Blade Runner* and *Wings of Desire*.

The pattern of viewing a film one week and following up with a discussion the next has continued. At the start of each session people submit suggestions and the group votes to form the schedule. The next session will start in November and include films by Fellini, Guillermo del Toro and others.

Chris Athorne

SCHOOL OF SPIRITUALITY

Stand-alone sessions over the last year have included "Failure – how to pray when things go wrong" led by Cedric Blakey, "Christ for all seasons" led by Caroline McKillop, a teaching Eucharist led by Kelvin Holdsworth, "An introduction to spirituality" led by Cedric Blakey, Sue Champion, Caroline McKillop and Jo Russell and an "Introduction to silence and mediation" led by Sheena Forsyth and Caroline McKillop. Following the success of the Capacitar session in 2012-2013, a series of one hour sessions were provided during Lent 2014, which were attended by upwards of a dozen people each week, several of whom were people who don't usually attend St Mary's outside of services. The School of Spirituality also facilitated an Advent Quiet day in December 2013, a Lent Retreat to Millport which was over-subscribed and a Pilgrimage to Ruthwell Cross (which had inspired the Good Friday meditations). Finally, we revised a Prayer leaflet was available for visitors to the Doors Open Day, and for anyone else wanting one.

Plans for 2014-2015 include an Advent Quiet Day on Weds 10th December 2014, "Great Expectations: a biblical look at waiting and trusting" to be led by Rachel Inglis and Eileen Opiolka of the Epiphany Group and a Lent retreat to Cumbrae, 20-22 March 2015 to be led by priest, writer and spiritual director the Revd Michael Mitton. The upcoming programme for the evening sessions is currently under discussion by the team (Cedric Blakey, Sue Champion, Sheena Forsyth, Caroline McKillop and Jo Russell) and will be published soon, and we are also exploring the possibility of a Pilgrimage to Iona in 2016.

Sue Champion

STEWARDS' REPORT

In addition to their most obvious duties - handing out service sheets and uplifting the offertory - church stewards at St Mary's are responsible for all 'front of house' matters during worship; supporting the clergy and sacristy team in ensuring the smooth running of services and the safety and security of the congregation. Stewarding is a good way to get to know people at St Mary's and I am always pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the stewarding team.

This is particularly the case at present. As I mentioned in my report last year, in 1999 St Mary's had a team of 43 stewards. While the size of congregations at both Sung Eucharist and

Evensong has increased significantly since then, we now have just 25 volunteers to steward three services each Sunday, additional services on Holy Days, weddings and funerals.

Inevitably, this means more frequent stewarding duties for each member of the current team, all of whom deserve particular thanks this year for their dedication to the task. Thanks are also due to Veronica Colin, who left the Cathedral in September after many years of stewarding at both Sung Eucharist and Evensong and to Nadine Sunter, Rae and Stuart Cameron, Jinty Stewart and Billy Scorgie who have left the team during the past twelve months.

Coming the other way are Ian Halliburton and Alan Crameri, whom I am delighted to welcome to the stewarding team, and Andy Winter who has offered to assist on an occasional basis. I very much hope that others will join them and that next year I will be able to report a net increase in size of the stewarding team.

Tony Hughes

STUDENTS@ST MARY'S

Students@St Mary's was founded in 2011 as a forum for students at St Mary's. The main purpose of the group has shifted over the years from a strongly programmed group with regular themed group meetings at relatively short frequency to providing mostly informal gatherings for students at the cathedral to promote networking and communication among the students with longer intervals in between. This format seems more suitable for our students and also takes pressure off those who organise the group.

The main challenges the student group faced in 2014:

- high fluctuation of students at St Mary's – this, however, will always be the case in a student environment;
- loss of an organiser which leaves the group without contingency at the moment;
- increasing competition for space on church premises as only financially neutral meeting space option – the organisers aim for settings that do not incur costs to the students, and also attempt to not incur costs to the cathedral.

The latter two mean that in 2014 to date at writing of this report only few meetings were held early in the year and none in the summer term.

To end the report on a positive note, new students have arrived at St Mary's with the new term and at the time this report is published a minimum of one meeting is expected to have taken place.

Wolfgang Schlegel, Students@St Mary's Group Organiser, wolfgang.schlegel@gmail.com

Want to know what Students@St Mary's is up to?

Visit: www.facebook.com/StudentsAtStMarysGlasgow

Wolfgang Schlegel

THE TEA-RUN

The tea-run is as well-attended as ever. Regular numbers on a Sunday night are around 50, mainly men, with a small number of women.

The atmosphere is relaxed with both homeless and volunteers enjoying a low-key camaraderie. At the same time, the surroundings are bleak office buildings, and street lighting is subdued.

We all meet up at Corunna House on Cadogan Street, where the ATOS medicals take place during the daytime.

We set up our services on the pavement, dispensing hot tea, coffee and chocolate, with biscuits and juice. We are not alone. The Buddhists are ever present with hot soup, pasta and sandwiches. Trained workers, mainly from the Simon Community, mingle with the crowd, attentive to needs or requests for help, ever vigilant for those who are most vulnerable. The Sunday drinks rota is taken up by 3 teams from St Mary's, 2 teams of Quakers, and 2 teams of Humanists, all taking it in turns to provide hot drinks and biscuits on a Sunday night.

The whole organisation is a genuine ecumenical undertaking, requiring cooperation between many groups of people.

We are out in all weathers, with rain, wind, snow or sun, because we know that we are expected, and there will be homeless on the streets whatever conditions are like.

Kate Mooney, who has provided lasting loyal and dedicated support to the tea-run, stepped down this summer from the Sunday rota. I have stepped in to fill her shoes, and look to maintaining her high standards.

The tea-run is present on Cadogan Street in force 363 days a year, with the joint cooperation of even more ecumenical groups and organisations such as Emmaus and input from the Moslem community. A few determined people also ensure a service is available Christmas Day and New Year as well.

We have a new member to the St Mary's team, and hopefully, 2 more joining him, who have been trained up by current volunteers, to keep the much-needed presence on the streets.

Many thanks have to go to the St Mary's volunteers for their support and dedication to the work they do. We know we are appreciated. The homeless and other users of our services continue to congregate at Cadogan Street at night, some by now familiar, many just passing through.

Hopefully, we do something to make them feel that they are part of a caring City.

Olanna Horhut

TRAIDCRAFT STALL

One way the congregation supports the work of Fairtrade is by purchasing goods from the Traidcraft stall. For the last financial year the total purchases have amounted to £1763.70. Apart from selling Traidcraft goods to the value £1468.70 the stall sells Just Trading Scotland (JTS) products including rice and preserves. These sales totalled £295 pounds.

I would like to thank our team of dedicated people who ensure that there is a stall on most Sundays after the 10.30 am service.

Graham Skellern (Traidcraft Fair Trader)

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

St Mary's has a huge team of volunteers as this AGM Report shows. I never cease to be amazed at who we are and what we offer.

The role of Volunteer Coordinator was created in the spring of this year so it is still evolving. So far conveners of groups have asked for help with recruitment, or individuals have approached me to find out what they might offer in our community. So we now have a 'Situations Vacant' section in the pew sheet notices; the 'Who's Who' leaflet is a great help to people wondering about activities and who runs them.

We always need various roles to be filled and I encourage you to think about offering time; I am here to support where I can, so please ask me if you need to know anything more.

Thank you so much for all you do at St Mary's - we are a rich community of generous people.

Franny Mawditt

WEST END ACTS

This organisation linking a dozen or more churches of different denominations in the West End of Glasgow has had a productive year under the convenership of Alison Spurway from Hillhead Baptist Church. They organised the showing of Chariots of Fire in advance of the Commonwealth Games and a day in support of the Woodlands Community Garden and Food Hub. (The garden is a 91-111 West Princes Street). A showing of the DVD "The God Question" with discussion of science and faith was organised (16 October).

Cedric Blakey

YOUNG CHURCH

Young Church have had a fun year full of different activities and experiences, all designed to help them grow in their faith and as individuals. Our Sunday morning Eucharist sessions are of two different types – music, and bible reading/creative activity. Attendance varies throughout the year and we can have anything from between 3 and 12 children of all different ages.

Our music sessions start with a vocal warm up, which helps the children breathe well and develop a good singing tone. We then start work on rhythms, ones that are easy enough for the children to do, playing the various percussion instruments we have. The children have been working on bouncing a ball in time whilst playing a game which is great fun and at the same time they are developing their musical skills. In December, our Young Church children were thrilled to take part in the Crib Service at St Mary's, which involved the Christmas story being told based on a variation on the "We're Going On A Bear Hunt" book, and songs that the children had learned at Young Church. The music sessions for the next few weeks will be centred around learning music for this year's Crib service.

Since the beginning of the new term of Young Church in August, we have been following the Lion Children's bible and reading a series of stories from the Old Testament. From the King of Egypt and funny plague stories to Joshua and the walls of Jericho and the "rules to live by", the children have really enjoyed getting to know different characters through the age-appropriate and very entertaining stories in this bible! It's been rewarding to see them remembering what

we talk about from week to week, and we've enjoyed some fun activities from building the walls of Jericho with Lego bricks to creating special boxes to represent the Arc of the Covenant.

During the summer term, special Puppet-making Young Church sessions were run designed for children to drop in and drop out as they visited Glasgow or for regular attendees to be away on holiday. The result was a delightful "puppet play" which was very well attended by the congregation at St Mary's.

The year ahead will hopefully be a busy one for Young Church. We'd like to develop ways of breaking out different ages groups of children into separate sessions, when we have enough children to warrant that, to develop stronger links with parents and the baby room community, and to share the result of the things we're doing in Young Church on a more regular basis with the congregation.

Nicola Graham