

*St Mary's Cathedral,  
Glasgow*

*Annual Report  
2018 / 19*

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## Agenda – Annual General Meeting, 12 noon, Sunday 24 November 2019

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 25 November 2018
4. Governance:
  - 4.1 Achievements and performance (Trustees' report)\*
  - 4.2 Treasurer's report
  - 4.3 Appointment of independent examiner
  - 4.4 Vestry secretary's report\*
  - 4.5 Leadership group report\*
  - 4.6 Core Group report\*
  - 4.7 Property group report\*
  - 4.8 Compliance group report\*
  - 4.9 Music Director's report\*
  - 4.10 Fundraising group\*
5. Elections
  - 5.1 Lay representative
  - 5.2 People's warden
  - 5.3 Alternate lay representative / Diocesan N E Regional Council representative
  - 5.4 Vestry members (three vacancies)
6. Group and network reports\*
7. Questions arising from reports
8. Provost's remarks
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 25 NOVEMBER 2018

**Chair:** The Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth (Provost)

**Secretary:** Jim McKillop      **Treasurer:** Roger Mackenzie

**Present:** Brian John Aitken, Ella Aitken, Neil Aitken, Irene Ballantine, Sr Helena Barrett, Pat Bennett, Rev Canon Cedric Blakey, Honor Brogan, Peggy Brown, David Burness, Sue Champion, John Curtice, Lisa Curtice, Chris Dacosta, Taylor Driggers, Diane Elliott, Frank Ewing, Karen Ewing, Michael Gammie, John Gerrard, Margaret Gerrard, Rosemary Gray, Graham Hair, Greta-Mary Hair, Anne Halliburton, Ian Halliburton, David Hanson, Andrew Heatlie, Jackie Heatlie, Michael Hitchman, Christina Hughes, Tony Hughes, Jean Inch, Steve Innes, Hazel Jolly, Anne Jones, David Kenvyn, Tracey Lawson, Kit Lindsay, Rev Matthew Little, Monica Long, Robert MacDonald, Kathryn Macfarlane, Stewart Macfarlane, Shona Maciver, Catherine Mackenzie, Roger Mackenzie, Gordon Matheson, Franny Mawditt, Robert Mawditt, Alan McCulloch, Lynda McCulloch, Steven McIntyre, Kathy McKean, Caroline McKillop, Iain Milne, Ahilya Noone, Madad Nser, Martin Pearson, Bernard Porter, Alan Richmond, Pam Richmond, Jo Russell, Wolfgang Schlegel, Michael Shanks, Graham Skellern, Gail Smith, Peter Smith, Vivienne Smith, Jinty Stewart, Jennifer Taylor, Kenneth Taylor, Margaret Taylor, Christine Walker, Frikki Walker, Sr Alison Joy Whybrow.

#### 1. Opening prayers and memorial for the departed

The Provost led the opening prayer, offering to God all the work done at the Cathedral. He gave thanks for all who had gone before us and remembered members of the congregation who had died in the last year: Jane Hardy, John Evans, Margaret Mackie, Jean Pearsall, Ella Wince, Agnes Harrison, Catherine McConville and Andrew Colin.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Rev Ivan Draper, Muriel Draper Robert Elliott, Simon Freebairn-Smith, Leo Kumagai, Bruce Montgomery-Smith, Eleanor Montgomery-Smith, Migeun Park, Gordon Smith, Brian Toal, Andy Winter, Suet Teo-Winter.

#### 3. Minutes of AGM held on 26 November 2017

The circulated draft minutes had been amended with the removal of the last sentence from the paragraph beginning "Tony Hughes...".

With that amendment the minutes were accepted unanimously 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, Compliance Group, Music Director's and Fund Raising Group Reports

The Provost noted that the reports had been circulated with the AGM papers via the website in advance of the meeting. The reports with an asterisk would be

taken as read though questions could be raised regarding any of them. He thanked the Office Manager, Jo Russell, for her hard work in bringing the AGM papers together and also all those who had prepared the reports. They were a good indication of the breadth of activity in the place and of the involvement of the Cathedral community.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer had no additions to make to the circulated report. There being no questions for the Treasurer, the report was accepted.

The Provost thanked Roger for all he continued to do for the Cathedral as Treasurer. It was a large task in an institution like St Mary's.

### **Appointment of the independent examiner**

The Treasurer proposed that we use Jenny Irvine of Bell Barr who had been the independent auditor for the first time last year. The meeting agreed to this proposal nem con.

### **Music Director's Report**

Frikki made an addition to the contents of his report. The assistant organist Steven McIntrye has become a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He also won the Limpus Prize for the best organ performance in the examination. The Provost and the meeting congratulated Steven on this impressive achievement.

Stewart Macfarlane asked for an update on the organ rebuild and was referred to the Fund Raising Group Report.

There were no questions on the other governance reports.

### **5. Elections to Vestry**

As the number of nominations matched the vacancies on Vestry a vote was not required. The following were declared elected:

#### **Lay Representative**

Beth Routledge (proposer Stewart Macfarlane, seconder Steve Innes)

#### **Alternate Lay Representative**

Pat Bennett (Proposer Beth Routledge, seconder Peggy Brown)

#### **People's Warden**

Franny Mawditt (Proposer John Gerrard, seconder Gail Smith)

#### **Vestry members (3 vacancies)**

Brian John Aitken (Proposer Alan McCulloch, seconder Robert Mawditt)

Steve Innes (Proposer Jim McKillop, seconder Stewart Macfarlane)

Robert Macdonald (Proposer Jim McKillop, seconder Peggy Brown)

The Provost thanked those stepping down from Vestry (Lisa Curtice, Michael Hitchman, Gordon Lowther and Jinty Stewart) for their hard work and many contributions to Vestry.

## **6. Group and Network Reports**

These reports had been circulated with the AGM papers and were taken as read.

## **7. Questions arising from the reports**

No questions were raised about the reports.

## **8 Provost's remarks**

The Provost commented that the cathedral was a complex, interesting and lively congregation. The members showed enormous goodwill and willingness to work to sustain its activities. Without that he would not be able to function as Provost or to find his role as wonderful and enjoyable as it was. He thanked all those involved in Vestry, groups and the other activities.

We were in a time of uncertainty as we awaited the election of Bishop Gregor's successor. This was likely to occur in March of next year with the installation of the new Bishop possibly taking place next June.

He thanked the Vice Provost, who was retiring in the coming week, for all that he had achieved and for all of the support he had given the Provost. Cedric was our first Vice Provost and had shaped and developed the role. He had initially been appointed for three years, but after Cedric's eight years in the post it was clear that it was an important role.

Jinty Stewart (People's Warden) thanked all of the clergy for what they have given to the Cathedral in the last year. Ken Shaw and Ivan Draper did great service, particularly for the Thursday Eucharist. Sister AJ contributed in so many areas. It was great to have Audrey back from maternity leave. The Associate clergy, John, Helena and Matthew, contributed breadth and depth to our worship and preaching. Kelvin and Cedric were a great team with Cedric's people and organizational skills and Kelvin's courage, conviction, strong leadership and willingness to share leadership. With Cedric's departure we will be a member short in the team. The congregation has to opportunity to show their support for the Cathedral and the clergy by mucking in to help.

## **9. Closing prayers**

The Provost closed the meeting with a blessing.

## Achievements and Performance (Trustees' Report)

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow is one of the larger congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It is a centre of liturgical excellence and its open, inclusive and welcoming ethos draws people from a wide area. At St Mary's the Christian faith is proclaimed in a culture of liturgical excellence which focuses particularly on the liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

In addition to this, St Mary's also serves the local community by hosting groups and events ranging from 12-step groups to help those recovering from alcoholism to large concerts put on by various artistic groups. Occasionally external groups use the cathedral for liturgical events, such as the service which takes place each December for those who have lost a baby which is run by the chaplaincy service from the Hospital for Sick Children. A particularly significant event this year was the exhibition during June of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry which attracted over 1000 people.

This year has not been without its challenges. The Vice Provost Rev Canon Cedric Blakey retired in November 2018 and the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway gave notice that the house that he had occupied would no longer be available. Although a transitional financial arrangement was made, this took some time to achieve and delayed re-advertising the post. Thus, for most of the year, the cathedral had a vacant full time clergy position. The new Vice Provost Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon took up post on 27 October. A flat has been purchased by the Cathedral in the Woodlands area, to accommodate the Vice Provost.

This year the position of Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway has been vacant. The Dean of the Diocese also moved to a new position and a new dean can only be appointed when a new bishop is in post. Other senior clergy in the diocese including the Provost have had extra diocesan duties as a consequence of these vacancies.

In the course of the year, two members of the cathedral staff were required to attend Glasgow Sherriff Court on a number of occasions to appear as witnesses in the case of someone accused and subsequently convicted of sending to the cathedral, threatening and abusive material aggravated by prejudice relating to homosexual and transgender identities.

During the course of the year, the Office Manager, Joanna Russell resigned in order to take up other employment opportunities. Members of the cathedral community were able to express their gratitude to Joanna for the considerable work that she has done in the office. Iain Milne has subsequently been appointed as the Cathedral Administrator.

Some of the above changes and challenges have had an impact on life of the cathedral. Members of the Vestry have worked to ensure the stability of the congregation throughout this.

Issues of physical space continue to be challenging at St Mary's. The space available is considerably less than would be desirable for the ministry and activities of the congregation. All the members of the staff work in less than ideal working conditions. No solution has been achieved in the last year. However considerable work has been done on scoping possible solutions to the problem. These are all contingent on significant amounts of money being found for this purpose and it is clear that there is no easy short term solution.



The need for significant work on the organ becomes a more significant threat with each year. A review of this fundraising activity is currently underway and a report will be made to the Vestry to consider the next possible steps early in the new vestry year.

In the course of the year, the Provost was awarded an Honorary Fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in recognition of the way he has used his position to influence public policy on issues affecting LGBT people, fight discrimination and to help St Mary's continue to develop as a centre of excellence in liturgy, music and art.

Many aspects of the life of the cathedral are described in the reports from the various groups and networks which report to the Annual General Meeting. St Mary's is a place which benefits from many thousands of hours of time from volunteers through each year.

The cathedral congregation continues to be a beacon of progressive Christian values with an influence far beyond those who physically attend on a Sunday. Notwithstanding the considerable pressures of the last year, the congregation remains vibrant and celebrates and proclaims the Christian faith with much joy and considerably vitality.

The Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth

### **Treasurer's Report and Draft Accounts**

This year's report is giving a rest to the format of several previous years. This arises in the main from two principal factors.

Firstly, the retirement of our first ever Vice-Provost (Cedric Blakey) and the recent appointment of a successor Vice-Provost (Oliver Brewer-Lennon) has had a significant impact on both expenditure during the past year and income and expenditure over the boundary between the past year and the forthcoming one.

Secondly the ability to present even a draft set of accounts in time for the AGM has turned into a virtual impossibility. It is not practicable to produce audited accounts much before the end of the calendar year. At the time of writing I still await data for dispatch to our auditor from external parties.

Consequently, this report highlights fiscal facts drawn from the raw data.

The retirement of one Vice Provost and the appointment of another have had a major impact on expenditure under two categories one being obviously salary expenditure reduction and the second less predictably being investment realisation and expenditure on property purchase.

For 10 months of the last year and almost two months of this we have employed only one member of the clergy. The retirement of Cedric Blakey was marked in part by a Vestry decision to enhance Cedric's pension contributions in his remaining time with us. This proved impracticable so this was recast as an enhanced salary payment ending in November 2018. At the same meeting Vestry agreed an enhanced accommodation allowance for the Provost so this is a factor throughout the financial year in question. The gross costs of clergy fell in December by slightly over £3000 per month giving a saving of around £30,600 (10 months) in the financial year in question.

There was also a saving on Council Tax of around £2,200 over this period and a saving on Vice-Provost expenses of let us estimate £1000.

The appointment of a new Vice-Provost brought with it the option available to the appointee of selecting the provision of clergy accommodation as part of his employment agreement. This required the Vestry to realise investments for property purchase. The net results of this exercise in 2018/2019 was a surplus of income over expenditure of £22,740. This too has been excluded from the balance of income and expenditure for the purposes of this report.

To discern the true state of affairs year on year requires certain categories of income and expenditure, which can reasonably be deemed as exceptional, either due to allocated purpose or to the nature of the source, to be excluded from our consideration of the raw figures. As a primary example we must exclude the £41,145 raised for the organ fund, which at financial year end stood at £59,653 in total. Income to this fund is erratic though a few pledgers make regular gifts for this purpose. Other special purposes need likewise to be excluded such as £675 to the Music Endowment Fund but I do not exclude income from this fund in support of music salaries nor do I exclude random income to the general fund such as that from the Tapestry of Scotland share of sales at the event.

For projection (budgeting) purposes we must exclude the unpredictable such as legacies which saw £18,581 residual income from legacies first declared in previous years.

Once all these modifications have been made, we see income (£275,551) and expenditure (£284,792) almost evenly balanced in the year just gone (difference -£9271). In practice because of exceptional items, for example residual legacies and extra investment realisation the final figures for the year show us well into the black (£33,579).

This is of course only part of the analysis. We now must ask what does next year hold. As well as removing exceptional (one off) items we must add in extra costs. The only costs we can reliably know are those applying to salaries, not just the additional costs of a Vice-Provost but also the additional inflationary costs due to salary increases. I calculate these in total to be of the order of £40,000. So, all things being equal and starting from October this year as our baseline we currently expect a deficit of around £50,000 on the year (that is £40,000 recognised extra costs and a projected deficit without exceptional income of £9271).

Are there any positive indicators? Well I reckon just one for the moment and that is an increase of Diocesan support from £12000 to £24000 per annum. This is a tapering relief against our current quota assessment and at a reduction of £1000 per annum it will decrease eventually to £18000 per annum. It is inflation linked!

This is clearly the starting point of a debate to which we should clearly invite Mr Micawber amongst others.

Roger Mackenzie

### **Vestry Secretary's Report**

The Vestry has met on five occasions since the 2018 AGM (10 December, 28 January, 1 April, 3 June and 2 September) with a further meeting scheduled for 21 October. It also held an away day on 6 April.

As in previous years, much of the detailed work was carried out by the Vestry Groups which report back to each Vestry meeting.

The major issues considered by Vestry in the last year were:

- Appointment of a new Vice Provost. The Rev Oliver Brewer-Lennon will be inducted as Vice Provost on 27 October 2019.
- Provision of housing for the new Vice Provost. An offer for a property in Woodlands has been accepted with an expected entry date in mid October.
- Rebuild of the organ. Vestry decided at its December meeting that the funds raised at that point were insufficient to sign the contract with Harrison and Harrison by the deadline of 31 December 2018. Slow progress in fundraising since then has resulted in Vestry undertaking a review of its approach to fundraising.
- New and continuing issues with the Cathedral fabric.
- Regular review of income and expenditure and work on setting a rolling three year budget.
- The need to develop a strategy to have sufficient funds to purchase a rectory if that becomes necessary in the future.
- The possibility of purchasing a property in Great Western Road to provide additional space for Cathedral activities. This was abandoned after an adverse surveyor's report.
- Responsibilities of Vestry members as Trustees of the Cathedral charity.
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups, including the appointment of a successor to Anne Jones who is stepping down after many years as our PVG coordinator.
- Arrangements for Young Church.
- Providing suitable office/administrative support for the Cathedral.

More details on many of these items can be found in other reports to the AGM.

Jim McKillop - Vestry Secretary

## Leadership Group

The Leadership Group has a remit 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 every six weeks. It submits a report to each Vestry meeting.

In the last year the Group has consisted of the Provost and the two Churchwardens due to the vacancy in the Vice Provost post. It met formally on eight occasions (7 December, 8 February, 22 March, 3 May, 1 June, 8 July, 5 August and 2 September) with a further meeting scheduled for 28 October.

The major activities undertaken by the Group since the last AGM were

- The appointment of a new Vice Provost. Starting the appointment process was delayed until discussions were held between the Cathedral and the Diocese on the consequences of the sale of the Diocesan house occupied by Cedric Blakey. Following local and national advertisements in June the Leadership Group interviewed a number of applicants on 1 August and unanimously agreed that Rev Oliver Brewer-Lennon from the Diocese of Edinburgh should be appointed. He will be inducted into the post on 27 October.
- Purchase of accommodation for the Vice Provost. A successful offer was made for a property in the Woodlands area. The expected entry date is mid October.

- The appointment of conveners of various groups and networks and the development of remits for groups.
- The appointment of a PVG Coordinator to succeed Anne Jones. Vestry accepted the Leadership Group's recommendation that Matt Cavanagh be appointed to the post and Bishop Mark has approved the appointment. We are grateful to Matt for his willingness to take up the role after the 2019 AGM. The Cathedral owes an immense debt to Anne who has carried out the role such an expert and caring fashion over many years.
- The appointment of Iain Milne as Cathedral Administrator following Joanna Russell's resignation as Office Manager. We thank Jo for her 8 years of dedicated service and wish her well in her plans to devote more time to her other professional activities.
- Provision of support to members of staff involved in the court case against an individual who was found guilty of sending unlawful correspondence to them.
- Support for the activities of Young Church.
- The support and development of the Student and Young People's Group.
- Consideration of pastoral matters.

The Leadership Group are immensely grateful to the many individuals who give of their time and talents to the ongoing mission and development of St Mary's Cathedral.

Jim McKillop - Provost's Warden

### **Releasing the Mission Core Group**

The Releasing the Mission Project Group was established by Vestry at its December 2017 meeting as successor to the Releasing the Mission Core Group which had fulfilled its remit at AGM 2017 which was to bring the work around the scoping study by Richard Murphy Architects to completion.

The Project Group makes recommendations to Vestry with regards to expansion and/or better use of space on the existing Cathedral ground and beyond. These considerations are rooted in the Releasing the Mission process which has been running at the Cathedral for several years, with an initial congregational consultation on required changes dating back as far as AGM 2013.

Wolfgang Schlegel convenes the group. The other members of the group are Beth Routledge, John Gerrard, Jim McKillop (as Secretary), Hunter Reid and Robin Webster. The group officially met once since the AGM 2018 Report was written.

Since AGM 2017 the focus of Vestry and therefore the Project Group has shifted from a large development on site, as explored in Richard Murphy's scoping study report, to opportunities presented by commercial properties in the vicinity and smaller changes on site. With Vestry, supported by members of the Project Group, having explored two commercial properties in the Great Western Road area between the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, it became clear that any such project would still require significant funding. Accordingly, and considering other projects also demanding major financial

resources are either already completed or in process of raising funds, such efforts have to be aligned with an overall budgeting and fundraising strategy. This report to AGM 2019 therefore marks the end of the group's work.

Wolfgang Schlegel

## Property Group

BrianJohn Aitken was appointed as Convener of the Property Group at the end of 2018 as the successor to Michael Hitchman. Unfortunately, after a few months, he found it necessary to resign for personal reasons and a successor, Steve Innes, was not appointed until September of this year. Steve Innes has, therefore, asked me, as Verger, to write this report as he has only been in office for two months.

It has been very difficult to take forward the tasks set out in the Quinquennial Review of 2016 without a convener in post. The Quinquennial Review report, which was received in 2017, recommends an expenditure of £207,000 on the maintenance of the fabric of the building. Some of the stonework repairs, as anyone who looks at the West Door, will realise is now becoming urgent, as there is considerable damage to the stonework. Also, we only have two years to complete these tasks before the next Quinquennial Review, which is due at the end of 2021. This effectively means that most of the tasks have to be completed next year.

The Property group has continued to work on the general maintenance of the building. There are 24 outstanding items on the Property Issues Log that the group maintains. Of these, 17 were inherited from 2018, and many of them relate to the work that we are required to complete in the Quinquennial Review. Of the 24 items that were added to the Property Issues Log in 2019, only 8 are currently outstanding, and all of them are being dealt with. It is hoped to have most of these items completed by the Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank all the members of the Property Group – Lisella Hutton, Wolfgang Schlegel and Clyde Wallbanks – for their work in ensuring the maintenance of the building. I would also like to thank BrianJohn Aitken for the work that he put in when he was Convener, and express my regret that he did not feel able to continue in this role.

Finally, I would like to wish Steve Innes's luck in taking on this post, which is essential to the good maintenance of the Cathedral.

David Kenvyn - Verger

## Compliance

The role of this group is to ensure the wellbeing of everyone at St Mary's through attention to health and safety, arrangements for the employment of lay staff and any other relevant matters. The Convener reports to the Vestry and the group meets for an evening once every other month. Issues, actions and progress are tracked using an action log.

In the period under review Lisa Curtice stood down as Convenor and our thanks go to her for the diligent way she led the group for many years. In particular through the complex changes to data protection regulations which could have been very complex for the Cathedral.

On that very subject, the Compliance Group continues to monitor the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) within the Cathedral, ensuring data is handled and managed in accordance with this new legislation and that all those who are responsible for holding any personal data (no matter how little!) do so in the same fashion. This will, I suspect, be a never-ending task, but it is an important one!

The Compliance Group continues to take a keen interest in safeguarding matters and held a meeting with the outgoing PVG Coordinator to discuss related issues and the SEC's procedures on safeguarding. Vestry members also completed a refresher session in safeguarding and their role collectively in ensuring compliance with regulations.

A number of health and safety matters have been discussed and dealt with in a proactive and positive way. Many of these actions have been taken forward in one way or another by members of the Property Group and my thanks to them for that.

My thanks to all the Compliance Group members – those long-standing and those fresh-faced (not that the long-standing members aren't fresh faced of course!) for their hard work, patience and cheerful approach to these issues. My thanks also to the other key contacts for this group – the Provost, Verger, Property and Finance Convenors for their assistance in specific matters.

Michael Shanks

## **Music Report**

### **Cathedral Choir**

Generally speaking, this has been a slightly quieter year for the cathedral choir. They have still been busy with their usual commitment of regular services every Sunday and mid-week Eucharists for special occasions, as well as extra services, such as Bishop Gregor's farewell service.

In January we were live on the radio again in Radio 4's *Morning Worship*, and in March we had a very special Choral Requiem service for Prof Jason Reese, a huge supporter of our music here, and whose family have been choir members. The choir was augmented for that service by some of Jason and Alex's singing friends to create a very special service indeed.

With no planned choir trip this year, we were delighted to be asked by the Precentor of Lincoln Cathedral if we could step in at very short notice to provide a choir for the services in Lincoln Cathedral for a weekend in July. Luckily enough of our choir were indeed available, and we had great fun singing in that magnificent building once again. It is testament to our reputation that we were called upon to do this, and a great honour to be trusted to produce high quality music for a major English Cathedral at what was very short notice indeed!

Our next Cathedral trip is for a whole week in Gloucester Cathedral (13-19 July 2020) and then the following year we have been invited to sing for a week in York Minster!

These choir residencies in cathedrals are not only hard work and great fun for the choir, but they also play a very important evangelistic role for the whole community of St Mary's.

Choir membership fluctuates as ever, but remains at a solid core of about thirty-five or so adult singers. We are currently on the look-out for a couple of tenors!

We are also always on the look-out for choristers! Please do spread the word about us, and send any prospective children our way.

### **Library**

Thank you as ever, 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!

Storage space for our music collection continues to be a serious issue.

### **Organ and Organ Appeal**

I can't really add anything to my previous reports (the first of which appeared in 2003!) on the condition of the organ, which continues to deteriorate and becomes more and more difficult to manage. I am, frankly astonished that it is still playable, and Steven and I continue to do our utmost to keep it going and to make it sound as good as we can under what are now almost intolerably frustrating circumstances.

Reports of the Organ Appeal appear elsewhere in these reports. I am very grateful, as I am sure you all are, to everyone who has donated to the appeal and to those who continue to search for ways to raise the considerable sums required to salvage our ailing instrument.

There have been several concerts this year in aid of the appeal, and we are so grateful to those who have taken part so generously and willingly.

A lovely lunchtime concert by Riko Suzuki and Olanna Horhut raised over £200, and the Telemann Ensemble have raised more than £1600 through their last three concerts here.

The Cecilia Choir and Glasgow Sinfonia had a fundraising concert for us in September, which due to date clashes had to be moved to the RSNO Centre, and at time of writing we still await the financial result of that concert, but we remain indebted to them all for putting on such a splendid major event.

Forthcoming Organ Appeal concerts include a performance of Schubert's *Die Winterreise* at 6.00pm on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, sung by former chorister and choir member Magnus Walker, and a Choral Bonanza on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> 2020 sung by our own Cathedral Choir who will be joined by a splendid choir from Canada, the Chantry Singers.

### **Thank you**

As always, thank you to everyone who helps to make our music department 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!

Gratitude and best wishes to all,

Frikki Walker - Director of Music

## Fundraising Group

The Fundraising Group had been meeting regularly to establish sources of funding for several large projects within the Cathedral. However, it was felt during the past year that a more strategic approach was necessary to ensure our plans were achievable and that we went about the fundraising in the most tactical way to realise those plans.

In response I was asked to convene a short-term working group to review the fundraising work to date and suggest the future course for it. A number of people volunteered to join me in this project who were not involved in the other fundraising work which brought some fresh thinking to the discussions. My thanks go to all of them for the time they have already put into individual research tasks for this paper.

The group has focussed its thinking on some key questions:

- What is the overarching vision of our fundraising projects – in other words, what is it we actually want to achieve long term?
- Feasibility of funding – what funding sources are available to us, what is the possible ‘ask’ of them and how do we go about approaching them?
- Is professional assistance required to move these projects forward or can we continue to rely on volunteers ‘in-house’?
- How do the Cathedral’s day to day finances fit within the fundraising landscape, to ensure we continue to deliver the ‘bread and butter’ alongside new projects?

We may not have the solutions to all of these but we have made some progress and the report will be presented to a future Vestry meeting for discussion and to inform the next decisions that are necessary on these large-scale projects.

Michael Shanks

## Bellringers

Again this year we have rung for services on both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings on those Sundays when we had enough ringers available. We also rang for the morning service on Christmas Day and for the services for Epiphany, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi. We have rung for three weddings this year.

The bells were rung half-muffled before the morning and evening services on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to mark the centenary of the Armistice at the end of the First World War. Along with most of the change ringing towers in Scotland we tolled the tenor bell on April 18<sup>th</sup> this year in solidarity with the people of Paris following the fire at Notre Dame Cathedral.

The local band have rung two peals this year and five quarter peals. In October a band of ringers from Bristol visited to experience our bells.

We support meetings of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers and have hosted some of the monthly Association Advanced practices.

Our learners continue to make excellent progress and two of them are now sufficiently



competent to take part in service ringing. We have also begun some short occasional practices on Monday nights for those at the intermediate stages.

Margaret Williams

## Book Group

2018-19 saw a well-attended group, meeting on 8 occasions, October to June, following our initial meeting in September to decide our book titles. We had 17 suggestions, whittled down to 8. This was a mixture of fiction & non-fiction. We followed the usual pattern of whoever chose the title presented the discussion & provided questions. This worked well and allowed most people to present at least once.

The group was well attended, between 8 and 10 people present each month. The Synod Hall was used for our meetings and Anne Jones has kindly acted as key-holder and dispenser of tea/coffee & biscuits. There were no new members joined the group and we presented a stand at the Cathedral Open at the end of September.

The Book Group continues to be a successful meeting group for the discussion of contemporary literature in a comfortable setting with friendly and interested members.

Gordon McCulloch

## Communications

St Mary's Cathedral continues to have a strong presence online - perhaps the strongest of any of the congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The cathedral social media accounts have the following number of followers:

Twitter - 1046

Facebook - 2435

Instagram - 159

Email newsletter - 432

Individual members of staff of the cathedral also continue to be active using different forms of social media and this makes a further contribution to the online impact that the cathedral has.

Kelvin Holdsworth

## Compline

The simple and gentle office of Compline continues to be sung in plainchant at 7.15pm on the first Tuesday of each month as 'Community Compline' in the Chancel of St Mary's Cathedral.

Using a traditional form of the service, people quickly gain familiarity with the plainchant involved, achieving the timeless atmosphere for which Compline is noted. Numbers attending have recently been about eight to ten people, with exact numbers of attendees being recorded each month in the Sacristy services record book.

During Advent 2018 and Lent 2019 Community Compline has been sung weekly with the addition of a few minutes of a seasonally related contemplation.

As a group we would like to record thanks to Cedric for his support to this office over his time at Saint Mary's, and our ongoing thanks to Kelvin for his encouragement throughout the years.

Gail Smith

## Contact Group

The Contact Group currently has eight active members offering support to congregation members on an informal basis, as a back-up to the work of the clergy. This may take place in the form of meeting up for a coffee and chat, or sometimes a home visit. The group meets about every 2 months and is supported by Anne Jones in her role as diocesan protection officer and PVG coordinator.

We have had eight short-term referrals this year, alongside the longer-term visiting commitments offered to elderly, disabled or housebound congregation members and to those in hospital or care home settings. Communion can be offered in these circumstances by approved group members upon request.

Shorter term contact is suitable for acute need, such as bereavement or illness, or for those looking to find a way into the congregation as newcomers. The group does not provide formal counselling, but there are trained counsellors among us. Requests for support can be made by individuals themselves, or on behalf of others with their consent, by speaking to the clergy or directly to Anne Robertson using the email: [contact@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:contact@thecathedral.org.uk)

## Events

Over the past year the Events Team have been busy with an even increasing number of events. In an attempt to expand our range of activities, we were able to attract two new art exhibition as well as the very successful Scottish Diaspora Tapestry through our doors, which attracted a total of 1,1001 people to visit St Mary's.

As well as hosting our regular choral and orchestral groups, we have developed ties with two Tour Agencies, who booked choirs from Canada and the USA. These Tour Groups have already confirmed booking with us for next year. This comes as a welcome confirmation of our ability to attract and host both small and large groups. In total we hosted 16 choirs and orchestras, 4 exhibitions and hosted the Annual Service of Thanksgiving for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

The events team is rather small in number, which makes it really hard work. Were it not for the dedication and commitments of both Bob Leslie and Kathryn Macfarlane, the event at St Mary's would not be able to function. We desperately need volunteers to help sustain this vibrant outreach work for the Cathedral. My personal thanks to Bob and Kathryn as well as all those other behind the scenes people who offer their unstinting support.

Iain Milne

## 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 arrange silk flowers from time to time.

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 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.

Migeun Park

## Gardening

The Gardening Team meet up occasionally as a group or usually in smaller numbers or when required to keep the grounds as smart and free from weeds as possible. There are normally activities such as scraping of moss, sweeping and raking of stones as well as keeping the wild flower garden in good order. I am grateful for all the hard work and the dedication of this very select group of people and would encourage others to consider helping us out occasionally.

Frank Ewing - Gardening Team Leader

## Gift Aid

The Cathedral's Gift Aided income falls into 3 main streams:-

Pledged income paid into the Cathedral's current account monthly by way of Standing Order;

Pledged income in collections and

Gift Aided income in collections.

One of the great benefits of Gift Aided giving to the Cathedral is the receipt from HMRC of a 25% uplift on all Gift Aided donations. That amounts to a substantial sum in each year and forms an important part of the Cathedral's income.

All pledged income, whether by way of Standing Order or in collections is very important due to the predictability of the income stream from it, but there is also considerable added value in the first method of giving pledged income by way of Standing Order since it can be relied on to provide a steady and predictable income level throughout the year. If it is suitable, and I realise it is not suitable for everyone, it would be helpful if pledged income currently given in collections could be given by Standing Order instead. Anyone wishing to give by way of Standing Order can obtain a Standing Order instruction either from me or from the Cathedral office, where I will deposit a supply. However, if you are currently giving by way of pledged donations in collections or by way of individual Gift Aided donations in collections, and that method of giving suits you, please continue to do

so. Your support for the work of the Cathedral is invaluable and without it we could not function.

Turning to the current position with regard to all Gift Aided giving, I am pleased to report that the total level of such giving for the current year shows a marginal increase of over last year of 0.52%, to a total of £125,191 as opposed to £124,549 for 2018, although that very modest increase has to be viewed in light of the increase in the Retail Price index for this year to date which stands at something in excess of 3%, and also in light of the decrease from the 2016 and 2017 levels of giving of £136,126 and £132,028 respectively.

The recovery of Gift Aid from HMRC for the current year amounted to the substantial sum of £37,049 bringing the total income for the current year from Gift Aided giving plus the Gift Aid recovery from HMRC to £162,240 as compared with the total for 2018 of £156,836.

Finally, I would thank everyone for their invaluable financial support for the work of the Cathedral and given the need to maximise our income streams, would encourage all members of the congregation to continue with that support to the best of our individual abilities.

Alan McCulloch - Convenor

## **Justice and Aid Network**

Following the closure of the Night Shelter, the meetings with refugees/homeless people on Sunday afternoons has been discontinued.

Members of the congregation took part in “The Big Picnic” in June in George Square. A proposal to set up conversations in English with those for whom it is not a first language is being pursued, and participants have been attending similar classes at St Aloysius, who have been running these successfully for some time.

Robin Webster

## **Lay Representative**

As the Lay Representative, my role within the Cathedral is to attend the Diocesan Synod each year and to act as the lay elector from the Cathedral in the event of an Episcopal vacancy.

The majority of my work this year has been taken up with the Episcopal vacancy created by the retirement of Bishop Gregor in October 2018.

The process of discerning a new Bishop for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway has now gone through two rounds of the process within the Diocese.

On the first occasion, a shortlist of three candidates was produced and we proceeded to an Electoral Synod. The Electoral Synod is made up of the lay representatives from each of the other charges within the Diocese and the Diocesan clergy. This body was able to review the applications and nominations of each of the candidates before meeting with them as a whole Electoral Synod, and an election took place in the Cathedral on 16 March. The election requires one candidate to be elected with a >50% majority by each of the houses of Laity and of Clergy. On this occasion, we chose not to elect a Bishop.

The second round of the process was unable to produce a shortlist of three appropriate candidates, which is the minimum required for taking the process forward.

The task of finding a new Bishop has now passed to the College of Bishops. This is the procedure under Canon Law when a diocese is not successful in finding a new Bishop after two attempts. At the end of July, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the College of Bishops together with other members of the Electoral Synod and the Preparatory Committees. They received our reflections on the process and on the needs, assets, and challenges of the Diocese with wisdom and understanding.

With the departure of the Dean of the Diocese, Ian Barcroft, for a new post in Edinburgh, this year has been a busy time. The work of Gordon Fyfe, Audrey O'Brien Stewart, and Kelvin Holdsworth to keep the show on the road has been considerable, and is appreciated. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Acting Bishop, Mark Strange, who, despite the geographical challenges of his current responsibilities, has given incredible support to the Cathedral during what has been a very busy year.

Beth Routledge - Lay Representative

## **LGBT Network**

The LGBT Network's main event of the year has been to organise the Diocesan attendance at Pride in Glasgow. This was made more challenging this year by the city's decision to split up into three separate Pride events, but we had an excellent turn out for the first of the three events, Mardigla. The march was attended by LGBT+ members of the Cathedral and by straight allies, and we were joined by friends from other congregations around Glasgow and Galloway including members of the Diocesan Office staff. Mardigla also included a marketplace with various stalls and events, and members of the LGBT Network were invaluable in staffing the stall throughout the day.

As part of Pride weekend, the LGBT Network also arranged a forum conversation with Sister Helena Barrett, who was present at the first march after the Stonewall riots. This year was the fiftieth anniversary of Stonewall. This conversation was an enormous success and was very well attended, and I am grateful to Kelvin Holdsworth and to Sister Helena for facilitating it.

I have been attending Pride with various iterations of the LGBT Network for over ten years now, and I'm asked occasionally why it is important that we still go to Pride and why we still have Pride. These questions come from members of the Cathedral and from many people outside it. We march every year under a banner that says The Scottish Episcopal Church Welcomes You. Every year, even now, we meet people at Pride who are surprised that there's a church there, and who are surprised that there's a church who welcomes them and accepts them and wants to marry them. I am very proud of the significant role that the LGBT Network and the Cathedral as a whole have played in making this happen.

The other activities of the LGBT Network have largely been on hold over the last few years as we consider future planning for the Network, but we are now in the process of organising more events. Over the last month, we have had a well-attended trip to the Tron Theatre to see Jesus Queen of Heaven, and we have screened the new documentary Are You Proud? in the Cathedral.

Beth Routledge - Convenor, LGBT Network

## Litter Picking

St Mary's now boasts a team of eight litter pickers, thanks to Marie Craig who has recently joined us. Taking charge for a week at a time, Monday to Sunday, we visit St Mary's as often as necessary to clear any litter either thrown or blown into the grounds. During the past year, we saw a recurrence of drug use in the Cathedral grounds, with litter pickers mandated to summon assistance from City Council operatives to remove discarded paraphernalia. However, the combination of wind and litter in Great Western Road remains the greatest threat to our efforts to keep the Cathedral grounds tidy, which I trust are appreciated by both regular worshipers and visitors.

Tony Hughes

## 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 several on-going projects – we knit for the Special Care Baby Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. A delivery was made during the year to the Unit of a large bag of blankets, bonnets, cardigans, booties etc.

We also knit for the Seafarers' Mission (woollen hats, mufflers, balaclavas etc.); and we knit five inch squares to make Prayer Blankets for members of the congregation. We made and delivered a prayer blanket to Cedric to say thank you to him and remind him of his time at St Mary's.

In addition our members continue to work on their own projects.

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!

Our next meeting is on Monday 09 December – why not give it a try?

Sandy Fraser/Pam Barrowman

## Open Church

Open Church volunteers offer hospitality to visitors to the Cathedral when the doors are kept open between 10am and 12.30pm every day from early May to the end of September. Working in pairs, they offer welcome, information and support to a wide range of people from across the world. There are around 30 volunteers, varying between those who make themselves available on a regular basis to those who offer support as and when they can.

In 2019, they received visitors from many countries, including intrigued local passers-by, tourists, pilgrims returning to their church of origin or sacrament, church 'collectors' and those in need of spiritual or occasionally practical support. The general impression in 2019 was that there were more visitors from Europe but fewer from further afield.

The cathedral played host to 3 exhibitions during the Open Church period. In May the regular exhibition by the Friday Art Club took place and in September there was a presentation of work by Creative Coverage. Throughout June we played host to an

exhibition of the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry which was very well attended and attracted almost 1000 visitors to view this interesting work.

In 2019, around 700 visitors were welcomed to the church in the mornings between May and September. The Cathedral was not included in the official programme for the Doors Open Weekend this year.

Ongoing feedback from visitors comments on the warmth of the welcome they have received and the high quality of knowledge and information shared with them about every aspect of Cathedral life.

Anne Chowaniec

## Protection of Vulnerable Groups

The PVG co-ordinator is appointed to take responsibility on behalf of the Vestry for ensuring that the work of the Church is carried out in accordance with the Law and the Church's policies on the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults. These policies focus on prevention and safeguarding by ensuring that anybody appointed or volunteering to do "regulated work" with children or vulnerable adults have their details submitted to Disclosure Scotland who check for any relevant criminal convictions. Vulnerable adults include those people who, because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, infirmity or ageing, are unable to protect themselves from abuse, or are more vulnerable to being abused than persons who are not so affected. Regulated work could include teaching/supervising Young Church or providing some kind of regular welfare service to people with particular needs as members of the Contact Group, which has now amalgamated with the former Fiop group. All clergy doing regulated work have gone through the PVG process before taking on their duties.

At the beginning of each year I submit a Protection Checklist to the Diocese to confirm that we are implementing the PVG process correctly including ensuring everyone involved in regulated work has the correct level of PVG clearance. A copy of this checklist is printed alongside this report. In the last year I have processed the forms of 3 people and carried out a 'catch up' training session for those working with children who had been unable to attend a previous event. I attended a Vestry meeting to ensure members were fully aware of their responsibilities regarding PVG and Safeguarding issues.

However as the SEC website reminds us "it is important to remember that it is everyone's responsibility to protect the vulnerable and everyone working in and attending services in the SEC has an important part to play in developing a safe and supportive culture within the Church that protects everyone, regardless of the nature of their vulnerability". If any member of the congregation has concerns about possible incidents involving children or vulnerable adults they need to notify the PVG Co-ordinator. If neither is available and there is somebody at immediate risk, the police or local social work department should be contacted.

Further guidance about SEC policies and procedures can be found at <http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/organisation/safeguarding/>

After twenty years in the position this will be my final report to AGM. I am delighted that Matt Cavanagh has agreed to take on the role of PVG Co-ordinator and wish him well. I would like to thank all those who have supported me; Donald Urquhart, the

Provincial Safeguarding Officer and his assistant Daphne Audsley and at St Mary's the Provost, the Leadership Group, clergy and Vestry.

Anne P Jones

### **St Mary's @ The Movies**

The St. Mary's @ the Movies enjoyed another good season of films during the 2018-2019 season, watching a diverse range of well-known films such as The History Boys, The Kite Runner, First Reformed, Call Me By Your Name and Nocturnal Animals; and we also watched a few perhaps lesser known films such as Autumn Sonata, We Need to Talk About Kevin and Tyrannosaur.

As is always the case with our small but spirited group, our discussions were robust, passionate and always interesting! We have about 11 regular attendees of the group, with a few others who come from time to time depending on the film.

The group meets in the church office on the last two Tuesdays of each month from September to June (apart from December and April): the first week is the screening of the film, and the second week is the discussion led by the person who screened the film for the group.

Our new season is already underway, with seven new films to be screened. New attendees are always welcome, whether it is for one film or for those aspiring cinephiles who may wish to join us for the entire season!

For more information, contact the convenor, Steve Innes, on [movies@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:movies@thecathedral.org.uk)

Steve Innes - Convenor

### **Sacristans**

The work of the Sacristans has continued throughout the year, and we would like to thank David Kenvyn and other members of the serving team who have helped with preparations for services.

We have endeavoured to keep the Sacristy clean and tidy and hope that everyone can find whatever they need as they need it. Palm branches for Palm Sunday for this year were again kindly supplied by the Botanical Gardens Glasgow and I hope they will continue to supply us for future services. Grateful thanks also go to Kate Mackenzie for laundering the small linen

Sister AJ & Sue Champion

### **School of Spirituality**

After Cedric's retirement in Nov 2018, the ongoing programme set up to carry forward into 2019 has been curated by Caroline McKillop, Debbie Lewer, Sr AJ and Sr Helena and Sue Champion. This included:

Lent 2019: a Lent course on Jewish Spirituality was led by Steve Innes, and included a visit to Giffnock Synagogue. Retreats: a May retreat to Millport was led by Dr Debbie Lewer as the speaker with the theme of Transformation: Art and Faith. The occasional series on Spirituality and the Arts had two events, covering faith & poetry with Professor David Jasper, and Faith & Opera with the Provost.

Sue Champion



## Servers

The serving team at the Cathedral contributes to the planning and delivery of services, hopefully 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 Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services as well as assisting Sunday by Sunday. We have served for baptisms, weddings and funerals in the last year as well as an Ordination.

The Cathedral has had 16 servers this year. I am extremely grateful to Sister AJ, Awele, Beth, Bruce, Caitlin, Chioma, Daniel Kianpisheh, Daniel Williams, David Hanson, David Kenvyn, David McFadyen, Franny, Lisa, Roger and Sue. Lucas Cunningham has also served as Boat Boy to assist the Thurifer at several services.

We have been fortunate to welcome some new recruits in the past few years and I hope they are finding serving fulfilling. If anyone thinks they might be interested in becoming a server please speak to Kelvin, Matthew 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 am particularly indebted to the Verger (David Kenvyn) and the Sacristans (Sue Champion and Sister AJ) for all their hard work in organising the Sacristy, keeping everything clean and tidy, and preparing for services.

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 - Head Server

## Stewards

Most visibly, the stewarding team at St Mary's greets those arriving for worship, distributes pew sheets and uplifts the offertory. However, much of our work is unseen: preparing the building for worship, supporting the clergy and sacristy team during services, maintaining the safety and security of the congregation and tidying up once most of the congregation has departed. During the past 12 months, I have been pleased to welcome Neil Aitken as a steward at Sung Eucharist, and to welcome back Jinty Stewart to assist at 8.30 am. However, the current complement of 25 stewards remains smaller than that several years ago, when we had fewer duties and worshipers than now, and requires several stalwarts to steward more than once on a Sunday. As ever, my thanks are due to all those in the stewarding team for their support both on Sundays and at weekday services including weddings and funerals.

Tony Hughes

## Students at St Mary's

Students and Young Adults at St Mary's have continued to meeting for lunch after the 10.30 service on Sundays. This is a thriving and welcoming group. If you would like more information please speak to someone wearing a Student Welcomer badge after the 10.30 service. You can also message our instagram @\_ya\_stmarys or speak to Ellie or Franny. A huge thanks to Ellie Wheeler who helps co-ordinate what happens on Sundays.

Franny Mawditt

## Tea and Coffee Team

The Tea and Coffee Team form an integral part of St. Mary's welcoming team. There are currently 25 regular volunteers and five reserves. The volunteer numbers are down from last year (30) so an active recruitment exercise is underway. Four people are on duty each Sunday morning, all arriving three quarters of an hour before the service to set up the Tables and clearing away afterwards.

The aim is for each volunteer to be "on" every six weeks or so. It is a great way of getting to know the congregation and clergy! New Team members are always needed to replace those who have left the city or whose circumstances have changed. Please see Franny or Lisella if you are interested or want to know more!

Lisella Hutton

## Tea-run

No report submitted

## Traidcraft stall

As you may have been aware the company Traidcraft from whom we purchase the majority of goods was threatened with closer last autumn. Fortunately after a substantial response from users/purchasers of its products a reprieve was achieved and the organisation has continued trading. The stall's other supplier, mainly of rice is a local company 'Just Trading Scotland' (JTS). One way the congregation supports the work of Fairtrade is by purchasing products from the stall. For the period 2018-2019 purchases and donations for fresh produce were £1938.90, which was a decrease on the previous year's income (£2140.70). However the 2018 sum included income from a Christmas Fair. Our costs to Traidcraft and JTS for this financial year were £1438.80.

This month I handed over the reins of the stall to Margaret and Ken Taylor who have kindly agreed to take on the task. Personally I would like to thank the team of dedicated people over the years who have ensured that there is a stall nearly every Sunday, for the donations of seasonal produce and for the congregations continuing support of Fairtrade.

Graham Skellern

## Vergers

As usual, this has been a particularly busy year at the Cathedral. A particular joy was the ordination of Harriet Oxley to the Diaconate and Lee Johnston to the Priesthood. There were so many clergy present that it was quite challenging to arrange seating for all of them, but we did this. The service was conducted by Bishop Idris, in the absence of a Diocesan Bishop following the retirement of Bishop Gregor

There are far too many people to thank by name. They know who they are. They are the people who count the money from the collections, who organise the coffee and tea for the Thursday morning service and for the service on Sunday, who help with Open Church and other events, the stewards and the welcomers, who deal with the lighting and heating, the bell-ringers, the servers and the choir and everyone who helps in whatever way with what happens at the Cathedral. It is because of the dedication of our

volunteers that the Cathedral continues to function on a daily basis, and special thanks must be given to Franny Mawditt who co-ordinates this aspect of our work.

George Eastcroft deserves a special thanks for all the maintenance work that he does. Without him, many of the small repairs around the Cathedral would not get done or we would have to spend money on them. That is a significant contribution.

This year has seen two significant retirements. Cedric Blakey, our Vice-Provost, retired last November and it has taken us nearly a year to replace him. His successor, Oliver Brewer-Lennon will be in post by the time that the AGM takes place. It is impossible to express how much Cedric contributed to the life and work of the Cathedral. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him a very happy retirement in his new home in the Scottish Borders.

The other significant departure is that of Jo Russell from her post as Office Manager. Her replacement, Iain Milne, is already in place and hopefully the transfer has been seamless. Jo certainly worked very hard to make sure that this is the case. Jo will still sing in the choir and be a member of our congregation. I would like to thank her for all that she has done to make my life, as Verger, an easy one. I would like to wish both Jo and Iain the best of luck in their new positions.

Finally, I would like to thank Kelvin for all that he has done to make sure that the Cathedral functions efficiently in a particularly difficult year when we have had not Vice-Provost, and the diocese has had neither Bishop nor Dean. Others may not be aware of how much diocesan work our Provost has had to deal with, but it has been considerable. It is a tribute to Kelvin's commitment that there has been no discernible effect on the functioning of the Cathedral.

Lastly, and as always, I would like to thank those volunteers who have kept me supplied with coffee throughout the year. Without them, I would not be able to function.

David Kenyvyn

## **Volunteers**

St Mary's has a huge team of volunteers as shown in this AGM Report. Our group Conveners need help with rotas, and the 'Who's Who' leaflet is very useful for people wondering about activities and who organises them. We always need various roles to be filled and I encourage you to think about offering time - it is also a great way to get to know people. 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 indeed a rich community.

Franny Mawditt

## **Welcomers**

The welcome team work to put our open, inclusive and welcoming ethos at St Mary's into practice. Our whole congregation is encouraged to speak to those they have not met before, and many people have remarked on the friendly welcome they have received

here, and yet it is useful to have a team whose specific role on Sunday mornings is to say hello those who have recently come to St Mary's.

We are keen that those who come here feel known, recognised and valued, are helped to get to know other members of the congregation and at the very least share a friendly word with one of us.

There are currently 11 members on the welcome team, and thanks are due to them for their efforts. This is not enough and we would like to recruit more.

The availability of welcome cards in the pews is also an important part of our strategy; everyone who completes a card receives a communication from the Provost and on request is able to meet with a member of the clergy

Shona MacIver

## West End ACTS

Our group represents more than 10 church congregations based in the west of the city comprising several separate denominations. We meet three times annually, normally at Wellington Church, to learn from one another, to arrange appropriate events throughout the year and to circulate information relevant to us all.

It is now normal to begin each meeting with a short introduction to one of our respective traditions followed by discussion and I duly spoke at the spring meeting about the historic development of Scottish Episcopacy and St. Mary's commitment in worship and outreach to keeping that legacy relevant today.

Every other year it is now the custom to arrange a Burns Supper with one of Glasgow's faith communities and in 2019 it took place in the Glasgow Mandir when we enjoyed sharing the evening together with a roughly equal number of our Hindu hosts. The other main event will take place in late October at a public presentation of Glasgow University's current campaign to develop the Gilmorehill Campus. A calendar is maintained of other church-related activities and when appropriate these are publicised on our notice board and in the pew sheets. Our parent body Glasgow Churches Together arranges a number of annual events and I represented us at Carols for Peace and Glasgow the Welcoming City, both within the City Chambers. Next year's programme has still to be confirmed.

John Gerrard

## Young Church

Young Church aims to deepen understanding and spirituality in the children of the church, and to be thought provoking for all who attend. We see ourselves as providing a valid, valuable, engaging and age-appropriate worship experience for our children. We also welcome the adults who the children bring, and hope the sessions will be enriching for them, too. Any child is welcome to bring a grown-up, and children under three must do so. Our parents are wonderful and bring an array of talents and our sessions would not be as fulfilling without them. We have had sessions taken by Anissa Cavanagh, which have enriched the depth of experiences we can offer.

Young Church have had a happy and successful year. We have been joined by Dr Vivienne Smith, who is both a teacher, and now a teacher of teachers. She is a lecturer in primary education at Strathclyde University, specialising in the teaching of literacy. This has enabled us to split the class into two, offering more appropriate Christian education to our older children. We now have what is (effectively) a nursery class and a class for

young primary aged children. This allows the older children to work in a more reflective way. We are still looking for volunteers. Young Church is growing and it will soon be time for a third group, of even older children. If you feel you could help with any of the age groups, please get in touch with the clergy. If you are passionate about the education of young people in Christian traditions, especially in ways which encompass the ethos at St Mary's, we would love to hear from you.

Accommodation remains a struggle. The Synod Hall is shared with the choir, making it impossible to set up beforehand, and hard not to leave too much muddle afterwards. In addition, the exuberant learning style of the younger children disrupts the quieter approach of the older ones. Despite this we are proud of the depth of learning both groups have achieved. Generally, the syllabus follows the lectionary and the major festivals. One major focus has been the resurrection triptych, which shows the risen Christ dancing before the sun, and acclaimed by humans and angels. The image has travelled around the world, thanks to social media, and been enjoyed in the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

Much of the work is freehand, and all of it child-driven. The oldest child to work on this was eight, and the youngest not yet two. Recently we have considered creation, focusing on the macro (the power manifest in planets and volcanoes) and the micro, sharing wonder at the plants and insects upon whom we depend. We have looked at the life of Mary, Jesus's mother to whom our church is dedicated, and we made her birthday cards, and celebrated the power of angels and holy anger.

Young Church now traditionally write the intercessions for baptisms (when they take place at the main service) and recently wrote them for our most recent confirmation. This is a chance for our young children to share their spirituality, deep yet often very down to earth, with the congregation. Young Church meets every Sunday throughout the year, and also on Christmas Day, when we hold a birthday party in honour of baby Jesus.

Rosemary Hannah

Young Church also offers a musical experience, facilitated by Christine Walker and Ethel Parker. From time to time the children sing at the 10.30 Eucharist - I know that musical contributions, prayers and art work produced by the children are highly appreciated by the rest of the congregation. My thanks to all the leaders and parents who give so freely of their time and gifts. On a practical note Young Church leaders have started meeting every quarter or so: among other things we discuss arrangements on Sundays, budget and space issues, contact with parents and contributions to special services.

Franny Mawditt

The music for Young Church continues to progress well. We spend time in the sessions on Sol Fa hand signs, clapping rhythms, playing games and generally working on making young church members much more confident with their singing. We have sung with the Cathedral Choir quite a few times now and they really love being able to participate.

Christine Walker

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