

*St Mary's Cathedral,
Glasgow*

*Annual Report
2023 / 24*

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Agenda - Annual General Meeting, 12:30 pm, Sunday 24th November 2024

1. Opening prayers and memorial for the departed.
2. Apologies for absence.
Richard Kilgour, Beth Routledge
3. Acceptance of AGM Minutes of 26th November 2023.
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 Property group report
 - 4.7 Compliance group report
 - 4.8 Music Director's report
5. An Organ for Glasgow
6. Elections to Vestry: Nominations:
 - 6.1 Lay Representative
 - Beth Routledge (Proposer Franny Mawditt : Secunder Stewart Macfarlane)
 - 6.2 People's Warden
 - Franny Mawditt (Proposer Daniel Williams : Secunder Peggy Brown)
 - 6.3 Alternate lay representative / Diocesan N E Regional Council representative
 - Lesley Buntain (Proposer Anne Jones : Secunder Jo Russell)
 - 6.4 Vestry members (three vacancies)
 - Margaret Dawson (Proposer Christine Walker : Secunder Gail Smith)
 - Rebecca Marek (Proposer Franny Mawditt : Secunder Bob Leslie)

The Vestry may co-opt a member to fill the empty place.
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 26th November 2023

Chair: The Very Reverend Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost

Vestry Secretary: Alan McCulloch

Treasurer: Robert MacDonald

Present: Robyn Airlie, Irene Ballantine, James Booth, Liam Brown, Peggy Brown, Lesley Buntain, David Burness, Dr Harriette Campbell, Matt Cavanagh, Becki Cox, Margaret Dawson, Ruth Elder, Frank Ewing, Karen Ewing, Sandra Fraser, Marco Florence, Elli Folkesson, Michael Gammie, John Gerrard, Margaret Mackay Gerrard, Alan Grant, Liffy Grant, Greta-Mary Hair, David Hanson, Gregory Hast, Jackie Heatlie, Jason Ho, Christina Hughes, Tony Hughes, Lisella Hutton, Anne Jones, Bryn Kelley, David Kenvyn, Kurt Law, Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon, Bob Leslie, Helen Leslie, Kit Lindsay, Monica Long, Franny Mawditt, Robert Mawditt, Iain Milne, Liz Murray, Linda McCulloch, Steven McIntyre, Robert MacDonald, Kathryn Macfarlane, Stewart Macfarlane, Catherine Mackenzie, Caroline McKillop, Jim McKillop, Isabel MacNaughtan, Maggie McTernan, Andrew Orr, Kevin Philp, Alison Rawles, Stephen Rawles, John Riches, Renata Riches, Beth Routledge, Jo Russell, Wolfgang Schlegel, Lily Sharp, Graham Skellern, Gail Smith, Vivienne Smith, Simon Freebairn-Smith, Nadine Sunter, Ken Taylor, Suet-Lin Teu, Deanna Tindall, Christine Walker, Frikki Walker, Chinemerem Uche, Alys Williams, Andy Winter, Gill Young.

1. Opening prayers and memorial for the departed

The Provost opened the meeting with a prayer and gave thanks for the lives of those departed in the last year.

2. Apologies for absence

Pat Bennett.

3. Acceptance of AGM minutes of 21 November 2022

The minutes were accepted without amendment. The Vestry Secretary will add a note to the minutes to indicate this.

4. Governance: Achievements and performance (Trustees' report)*; Treasurer's report*; Appointment of the independent Auditor*; Vestry Secretary's report*; Leadership Group report*; Core Group report*; Property Group report*; Compliance Group report*; Music Director's report*

The Provost noted that the reports had been circulated with the AGM papers via the website in advance of the meeting. The papers were also available as paper copies during this meeting. The reports with an asterisk would be taken as read though questions could be raised regarding any of them. The Treasurer was called to speak to his report.

Treasurer's Comments & Appointment of the independent Auditor

The Treasurer, Robert MacDonald, spoke to his Report with particular reference to the legal requirement this year to appoint an Auditor as opposed to an independent examiner. This is a statutory requirement due to the level of our income this year being significantly higher than normal, which was largely the result of the large and very generous donation we received towards the Organ Fund. The appointment of the Auditor

will involve a considerable increase in the time required to review our accounts and consequently the costs for the current year will be considerably higher than normal. The process will get underway in February 2024, but is unlikely to recur in future.

The Treasurer thanked the members of the congregation for their generous increase in financial support for the work of the Cathedral as a result of the Stewardship campaign, but spoke of the continuing need to take account of the underlying figures in the accounts and to continue to support the Cathedral's finances in the face of current significant inflationary increases in all costs. He highlighted in particular the significant pressures as regards energy costs, which will increase from approximately £19,000.00 to £40,000.00 in the current year although new energy contracts which will come into operation in April 2024 will reduce that figure to approximately £29,000.00, which still reflects a substantial increase on previous year costs.

Although the Cathedral holds some reserves, those are needed to cover maintenance and repair costs for the building which can be significant.

The Treasurer thanked the Finance Group for their support during the year and then proposed the appointment of Jenny Irvine of Bell Barr as the Auditor. This was proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by David Kenvyn. The meeting accepted this proposal and the appointment unanimously.

Stewart MacFarlane and the Provost thanked the Treasurer for his sterling work throughout the year and for his Report.

There being no other questions or proposals the Report was adopted unopposed.

5. Director of Music

The Director of Music advised that he had nothing to add to his Report.

The Provost expressed his thanks for and deep appreciation of the wholehearted commitment of the Director of Music, Frikki Walker, that of Steven McIntyre, the Cathedral Organist and that of the choir and our Organ Scholar.

5. Elections to Vestry

The following nominations for Vestry had been received:-

David Hanson

Alys Williams

There being two vacancies on Vestry as discussed *infra* and no other nominations having been received, their appointment to Vestry was unanimously approved and the above named were declared elected.

The following nominations were also received for the undernoted posts:-

Lay Representative:

Beth Routledge

People's Warden:

Franny Mawditt

Alternate Lay Representative /Diocesan N.E. Regional Council:

Lesley Buntain

There being no other nominations for the above posts the above named were declared elected.

The Provost expressed his congratulations on their re-election and his thanks to Beth, Franny and Lesley for their devoted service in the above posts and his appreciation of the enormous amount of work they do. He also congratulated those who had now been elected to Vestry and thanked both Becki Cox, who is standing down from Vestry due to her moving away from Glasgow, and those who were continuing to serve on Vestry for their considerable commitment.

The Provost advised that Professor Jim McKillop was standing down as Provost's Warden after many years of devoted service (including during the recent pandemic), both as Provost's Warden and as Vestry Secretary and as a member of Vestry. The Provost expressed his deep appreciation of Jim's service over many years and the support given to Jim in those roles by Caroline. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Caroline and Jim as a token of everyone's appreciation of their service.

The Provost also intimated that Liffy Grant had stood down as Vestry Secretary and thanked Liffy for her considerable service. Liffy is succeeded in that position by Alan McCulloch.

The Provost advised that since Jim was standing down from his post as Provost's Warden, another member of Vestry, Bob Leslie, had been approached by the Provost and Vice Provost and that Bob had agreed to serve as Provost's Warden. Bob's standing down as a Vestry member to assume his post as Provost's Warden had created the second vacancy on Vestry in addition to the one arising from Becki Cox's departure.

6. Group and network reports

The Provost thanked everyone for their reports and the business they represent which he was very pleased to read. There being no further questions or comments regarding these reports, they were taken as read.

7. Additional comments & questions

Stewart Macfarlane expressed his thanks to Becki Cox and all of the others who had assisted with live streaming of services and the Provost echoed those remarks.

Steven McIntyre asked if there was a time line for recommencement of external events in the Cathedral. The Vice Provost responded to confirm that everyone was keen to see such events return to the Cathedral as soon as possible but it was proving complicated to navigate through the practicalities and the regulations covering the same, although the wish is to resolve any difficulties to allow such events to recommence as soon as possible.

Isabel MacNaughtan asked for an update on the current status of the Justice and Aid Network group. Isabel was advised that David Hanson was acting as interim convener of the group and was working to reorganise the same. David is hopeful that some proposals to facilitate that can be put before Vestry shortly.

8. Provost's remarks

The Provost opened his remarks by commenting on just what an extraordinary year this has been, resulting in his having lots of good news to share:

The Vestments project was coming come to fruition with the new green vestments having arrived already and we are now moving on to commission the replacement of the other vestments;

The Organ Fund has received an extraordinary donation from the family trust fund of a family with long associations with the Cathedral. This most generous donation should enable us to apply for other funding now that we have a substantial sum in the organ fund;

There is something new going on the congregation as we recover from the long periods of Covid shut down and Covid restrictions gradually being lifted : the renewed start-up of the Justice and Aid Group, the vibrant Young Church and Children's Choir contributions to our congregational life and music, the resumption of the Fair Trade stall and the numbers of new people constantly coming through our doors; All symptoms of the new life being breathed into our congregation.

Vice Provost Oliver gave voice to his appreciation of the welcoming aura of this special place and its people, and what a wonderful job he had here, The ethos and worship of the Cathedral is amazing with the immense contributions of the Director of Music, the Choir, the Organist, the Organ scholar and musicians, the stewards, the tea and coffee folks and all who selflessly give of their talents and time to make this such a special place of worship.

Franny Mawditt expressed her thanks and appreciation to Kelvin, Oliver, John and Maggie for their thoughtful preaching and offered Kelvin her congratulations on his 25 years of his ministry here. The congregation are truly blessed to have them all here with us.

9. Closing prayers

The Provost thanked everyone who make up our wonderful congregation, then concluded the AGM and closed the meeting with a blessing.

Achievements and performance (Trustees' report)

St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow is one of the most vibrant congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It is established for exclusively charitable purposes, primarily for the advancement of religious and to provide public benefit. St Mary's is widely known in the city and beyond for its aspiration to be a congregation which is "open, inclusive and welcoming". Activities at the cathedral are facilitated by a small group of paid staff and by a community of volunteers who give time, expertise and money to enable the purpose of the charity. Thousands of hours of volunteering time are offered in this place each year.

St Mary's is a place where many diverse people meet. St Mary's serves those who have an established religious faith and members of the community and is proud to be a place where encounters can happen that simply wouldn't happen anywhere else.

During the course of this year a new service of Nigerian Style worship has been established under the auspices of the cathedral, which meets monthly in Shettleston. This congregation offers a vibrant and exciting pattern of worship and provides pastoral care and support to Nigerian members of the community in Glasgow. Conversations and negotiations are now taking place with a view to planting this congregation as a Private Chapel in its own right, within the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. Worship events provide a gathering place for Nigerians in Glasgow, particularly members of the Igbo Community and warm hospitality both during and after services is extended to everyone present. Non-Nigerians are particularly welcome to attend and enjoy a different style of Anglican worship to that which they may be most familiar with.

St Mary's continues to welcome a number of people who are seeking asylum in this country and benefits from their presence.

During the year, the Vice Provost, the Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon announced that he had accepted a call to become the Rector of St Michael and All Saints Church in Edinburgh. A farewell Evensong allowed the congregation to express their warm appreciation of Oliver's ministry at St Mary's which began in November 2019. Particular thanks were paid for the role he played in enabling the congregation's life during the global Covid pandemic of 2020.

In addition to being a congregation in its own right, St Mary's is the cathedral church and consequently the gathering place for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway. This year saw one ordination and also the farewell service for the Rt Rev Kevin Pearson, Bishop who has now retired.

Musical and liturgical excellence continue to draw people into the life of the cathedral. The choir and cathedral musicians work hard week by week and their ministry of music continues to inspire those who hear them. Passing on the musical tradition is a key element to what is done here and the Junior Choir and the Bernard Porter Organ Scholarship are both ways in which this happens.

During the course of the year, considerable progress has been made with regard to replacing the organ at the cathedral with a suitable instrument. The Vestry accepted with much gratitude the gift of a redundant Willis organ from St Andrew's, the Roman Catholic Cathedral in Glasgow. This gift was a great ecumenical gesture in a city that is often troubled by sectarianism. Work is now underway to raise the money needed to restore this organ and install it in the cathedral. Canonical permission has now been given by the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway for this project.

A further generous gift was received during the year in the form of a very fine Steinway and Sons piano. This an anonymous gift from a member of the congregation will enhance the music for many years to come.

Pastoral work continues and as with most aspects of the work of the cathedral is conducted both by lay volunteers and by members of the clergy.

The Provost remains an Honorary Chaplain of the University of Glasgow and the congregation continues to attract a number of people involved in the academic life of the city.

Two events have been held called “A Rough Guide to St Mary’s Cathedral” which have included opportunities to engage with members of the clergy and a behind the scenes tour of the congregation. The building is in use every day and participated in Open Doors Week in September.

The cathedral provides space for local musicians to rehearse almost every week of the year.

Various groups continue to function including the 20s and 30s Bible Study and an active Book Group and Young Church and Junior Choir provide activities for Young People.

The Festivals of Christmas and Easter drew people from across the city into the building and a number of pilgrimage groups from across the Atlantic visited St Mary’s on their way to or from Iona.

It has been a busy year in the bell-tower and the Guild of Bellringers continue to teach local people the art of change ringing and the sound of the bells can regularly be heard in the vicinity of the cathedral. Members of the guild contribute to the activities of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers and help to look after the bell-tower at Inverary as well as ringing each week in Glasgow.

Members of the Vestry have met regularly to conduct the business of the congregation and have been pleased to have input on safeguarding from the Safeguarding Officer, Matt Cavanagh.

The BBC continue to use St Mary’s as a venue for live broadcasting and a service was broadcast on Radio 4 in June.

A busy hustings event for local people took place in the cathedral in connection with the General Election.

A local community art group uses the building each Friday and hosted an exhibition in the cathedral during the year.

Treasurer’s report

In the year to 30 September 2024, before taking account of gains on investments, expenditure exceeded income by £21,716 (2023: surplus of £252,224). Income in 2023 included a donation in support of the organ replacement/refurbishment project of £260,000. Excluding income and expenditure on the organ project, expenditure exceeded income in both years, as has been the pattern recently.

Total income from donations and legacies amounted to £310,467 (2023: £513,545). Excluding donations to the organ project, the underlying amount is broadly in line with the prior year. Income of £24,624 (2023: £29,379) was generated from uses of the

Cathedral buildings during the year and this helps to offset some of the buildings-related costs.

Total expenditure in the year was £408,570 compared with £327,212 in the prior year. Staff costs account for around half of total expenditure with the costs of operating and maintaining the buildings accounting for a significant proportion of the balance. Energy costs were £40,860 compared with £19,673 in the prior year, due to significantly higher energy prices taking effect as previous contracts ended.

Investments increased in value by £76,382 during the year (2023: £25,889) and the net movement in Funds was an increase of £54,666 (2023: £278,113).

Vestry recognises that annual income must cover annual expenditure to sustain the work of the Cathedral. Thoughtful giving by members, appropriate to their circumstances, is vitally important in the face of general inflationary pressures and significant increases in energy and other costs.

The book value of the Cathedral's assets less liabilities at 30 September 2024 was £1,988,899 (2023: £1,934,233).

Reserves

The Cathedral holds reserves to provide principally for the restoration and renovation of the cathedral church buildings; to contribute to a future purchase of a rectory should that be required; and to support continuity in the Cathedral's work.

Excluding the amount attributable to freehold property used directly in the Cathedral's activities, unrestricted funds at 30 September 2024 were £1,223,190 (2023: £1,181,501).

Of that amount:

- £396,819 (2023: £370,185) is designated for restoration and renovation of the cathedral church buildings;
- £360,292 (2023: £340,462) is designated for organ replacement/refurbishment;
- £6,986 (2023: £7,574) is designated for choir and music; and
- £5,997 (2023: £10,054) is designated for vestments.

Vestry currently views the £380,000 held in an investment residential property as a resource which would be realised for the purchase of a rectory.

At the end of the year, the balance in the Music Endowment Fund was £94,579 (2023: £81,602).

Robert MacDonald
Treasurer

Vestry Secretary's report

Since I assumed office as Vestry Secretary I have received considerable help and guidance both from my immediate predecessor, Liffy Grant, and from her predecessor, Jim McKillop, to both of whom I am deeply indebted and without whose assistance I would have been in some difficulty in discharging my duties.

Vestry has met on six occasions in the last year.

Meetings now take place in the comfort of the new office suite at Napiershall Street, save on occasions when more space is required and we return to Synod Hall to accommodate advisers invited to assist Vestry with its deliberations, such as the discussions relative to the replacement of our current organ, when our Director of Music, Frikki Walker, our Organist, Steven McIntyre, our organ adviser, Matthew Hynes, and Organ Steering Group lead, Roddy Neilson and Steering Group member, Richard Kilgour, have attended to give Vestry (which includes as Vestry members as well as Steering Group members, Margaret Dawson and Shona Maciver) the considerable benefit of their combined experience and knowledge.

The Agendas for all Vestry meetings include as standing items the Minutes of the previous meeting, any conflicts of Interest in relation to any matters to be discussed at that meeting and Safeguarding matters.

Reports are received and discussed at each meeting from the Finance Group and Treasurer Robert McDonald, Compliance Group, Leadership Group and Property Group. More recently reports are also received from the Organ Steering Group.

Numerous matters have been discussed at Vestry during the current year, including the replacement of the current organ, the consequent requirement for Canon 35 consent for the same, the setting up of a steering group to promote the organ replacement and its funding, the replacement of the Cathedral heating system and its controls, the continuing development of the Nigerian style of worship services, the most generous gift from a member of the congregation of a Steinway grand piano, the problems which could arise from the Council's proposals to introduce restrictive parking regulations in the areas surrounding the Cathedral (on hold for now), the appointment of HR Consultants, a new stewardship campaign, the lighting of the Cathedral, first aid training including the use of the defibrillator now installed outside the Synod Hall entrance doorway and of course, the loss of our well loved Vice Provost, Oliver, to the lucky congregation at St Michael and All Angels in Edinburgh.

This has been a very busy year for Vestry and our thanks as a congregation are due in considerable measure to the Vestry members who faithfully attend meetings and freely give of their considerable knowledge and experience as well as their time. It is a privilege to act as their Secretary.

Alan McCulloch
Vestry Secretary

Leadership group

The Leadership Group (LG) has met 13 times (once by Zoom and 12 times in person) since the report to the 2023 AGM. They have also had several e-mail discussions.

A variety of issues have been considered by the LG in the past year including:

- Pastoral issues: at each meeting the LG reviewed the pastoral issues they knew of, and the operation of the Contact Group was also discussed.
- Eucharistic Assistants & Sacristans.
- Heating & Lighting in Cathedral.
- Remits for all groups.
- Nigerian Style Worship.
- Recruiting new volunteers.

- Replacement of Organ including offer of Gift of Organ.
- Gift of Steinway Piano.
- Vestry Sub Committees.
- Christmas Arrangements.
- Vice Provost Vacancy – Recruitment Arrangements.
- Dissolution of West end ACTS.
- Cathedral Office.
- Readers & Intercessors.
- Open Church: LG concluded we could not operate Open Church at present owing to insufficient volunteers to staff this.
- External Events: Challenges continue to exist in being able to facilitate the running of external events to ensure compliance with guidance and expectations of groups seeking to book the Cathedral for such events. Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position to re-commence accepting bookings for external events.
- Easter Services.
- Parking Restrictions & Charges – proposed introduction by Glasgow City Council.
- Catering arrangements for Diocesan Events & Cathedral Events (roles and responsibilities).
- Hustings for General Election.
- Clergy cover.
- Young Church.
- Travel Survey.
- Bishop Kevin’s Celebration Service.
- BBC Broadcasts.
- Stewardship.
- Rough Guide.

Bob Leslie
Provost’s Warden

Property Group

We started the year with the installation of the defibrillator outside the entrance to the Synod Hall and it has already been issued for action by the 999 service, although thankfully not actually needed.

We removed the office gas meter, now that we have fully electric heating, to save money and avoid standing charges.

The soundproofing works in the new office have been finished and improve the quality of the study and quiet reflection rooms for the use by the clergy

Holy Saturday Maintenance Day was great fun and well supported as usual. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to tidy-up the Cathedral before Easter.

We have renewed the telecoms lease for equipment in the Tower to secure on-going income.

We finally managed to source the old-style halogen bulbs required for the main lights and get the Cathedral relamped to bring light back the building. We will be starting to look at the Cathedral lighting as a project next year to improve the lighting functionality and its sustainable credentials.

We have had a couple of major water leaks into the organ chamber which have been resolved by repairs to slates in the valley gutter between the tower and the main roof, and by clearing out the gutters and down pipes. We will be making sure that area is completely dry before the new organ installation, which is well underway now that we secured the required Canon 35 granting permission to proceed.

We have had three contractors quote for replacement of the Cathedral boilers and will be working with them further to ensure we have a suitable system for the future before any work commences.

During the year, we replaced the carpet in the Vice Provost Flat and will review any additional works required before it has a new occupant.

Ruth Marshall
Property Convenor

Compliance

A new suite of Cathedral Policy Documents was completed during the first quarter of 2024. These cover a range of topics and have been prepared to help ensure the safety of everyone attending or working within the Cathedral. Work is underway to ensure that all groups and employees are aware of these policies and how they relate to them.

At the beginning of 2024, Vestry discussed the Cathedral's position with regards to Human Resources, as it was felt that we could benefit from some support in this area. Not requiring, or being unable to justify a staff appointment, we approached a number of suitable suppliers who would be able to offer us the level of cover we required. We formally appointed HR Department in May, and now pay a monthly fee to them for advice and support on a wide scope of issues as and when we need assistance or guidance.

We are currently working with HR Department to review the contracts for all Cathedral employees. All employees have been in post for a number of years, and during this time there have been some changes to legislation which needed review and the contracts brought up to date. In addition HR Department are assisting us with preparation of a new Employee Handbook, which captures all statutory employment law, as well as other guidance specifically tailored to the Cathedral and it's operation.

In response to proposed increase in parking fees and restrictions by Glasgow City Council, we undertook a travel survey at all three services on Sunday 24th March. This was designed to determine the numbers affected by these increased restrictions, and sought to confirm how people travelled (ie modes of transport), how far they travelled, and how often. A large number of choir and Vestry members also wrote to local Councillors expressing their concerns about how the proposals would affect us as a place of worship. Thankfully, we were given a reprieve, with the Council forced to undertake further consultation before implementing any changes. We believe unfortunately that the changes may eventually be approved, but are prepared to respond again should this be the case.

We may undertake a similar survey in 2025, and have attached some key statistics to the end of this report. You will note, despite the fact we have quite a few keen cyclists amongst us, that no-one used their bike that day. We may need to do the survey on a day with better weather! The grand prize for the longest journey to St Mary's went to Jane Ford, one of our choir members, who travelled a grand total of 104 miles by car, bus and on foot!

The Compliance Team responded to a Scottish Government document on proposed charges for disposable paper cups being brought in in 2025. At present we don't think this will affect the Cathedral directly, however we do perhaps need to align our use of paper cups with a drive towards less waste overall.

As the Organ Project gets properly underway, the Compliance Team will regularly consult with the Organ Steering Group to ensure that all necessary Construction Health and Safety legislation is adhered to. Many of these considerations are still over a year away, however forward planning is vital to ensure the Cathedral maintains as 'normal' a service as possible during the period when the existing organ is being removed and the new one installed, and that we do this with the safety of everyone in mind. We will work on this closely with the organ builder Henry Willis and Sons, and members of the Cathedral Property Group.

Travel Survey results from Sunday 24th March 2024

9am Service

Number of attendees returning surveys	28
travelling by public transport	10.7%
travelling by foot	28.6%
travelling by car	60.7%
travelling by bicycle	0.0%
car journeys outside city boundary	35.3%
public transport journeys outside boundary	0.0%
Modes of public transport used	bus
No of Blue badge holders	0

11am Eucharist

Number of attendees returning surveys	136
travelling by public transport	16.2%
travelling by foot	23.5%
travelling by car	53.7%
travelling by bicycle	0.0%
car journeys outside city boundary	31.5%
public transport journeys outside boundary	18.2%
Modes of public transport used	bus/train/subway
6 no people travelled by taxi	

No of Blue badge holders 2

5pm Evensong

Number of attendees returning surveys 56

travelling by public transport 8.9%

travelling by foot 21.4%

travelling by car 69.6%

travelling by bicycle 0.0%

car journeys outside city boundary 38.5%

public transport journeys outside boundary 60.0%

Modes of public transport used bus/subway

No of Blue badge holders 0

Lesley Buntain
Compliance Convenor

Music Report

The 2023-2024 season has been another successful one for the Music Department. Staffing has remained the same with Steven McIntyre as Cathedral Organist and we have Eilidh Harris for one more academic year as Bernard Porter Organ Scholar.

It is thrilling to be able to report that there is now progress with replacing our ailing organ, and you can read all about it elsewhere in the AGM reports.

Cathedral Choir

It has been another hugely successful year for the choir, whose dedication and reliability have produced some wonderful singing, not only at our regular services, but at many of our special services, too.

The pool of singers is ever-changing as some people move away and new singers come to the city and join us. Membership of the choir increasingly requires us to be more and more flexible about the level of commitment singers can offer, so running the choir becomes more and more complicated! There is now a pool of over forty singers in total, although the morning service usually attracts about 20, and Choral Evensong anywhere between 20 and 30 singers.

Whilst we are always on the lookout for singers of any voice part of the right calibre to join the choir, this year we are particularly short of tenors, so are actively on the lookout for tenors who might be able to help.

This year’s extra achievements have included another BBC broadcast last June, a hugely successful weekend’s residency at Liverpool Cathedral, and the learning of lots of new repertoire, and refreshing some older repertoire that we have not sung for a while.

Future plans for the choir include a week at Southwell Minster next summer, and then at Winchester Cathedral the following year, and plans are currently afoot to make another recording of the choir.

We recently put on a concert to welcome our new piano (more of that later) and raised over £2,000 for the Organ Appeal. Such was the popularity and success of the concert,

which showcased some of the fabulously talented members of our choir, that there are now plans formulating to put on more concerts of the same ilk.

My thanks to all the choir members for their continuing commitment, and to all who help with the practical stuff behind the scenes.

Children's Choir

The Children's Choir is now established as part of our music programme, and currently numbers 20 children aged from just 7 years old to 12 - 13 years old.

Children are not auditioned, and as well as learning music for singing in church, they learn musicianship through singing games, liturgical knowledge through the songs we sing and through story-telling, and they have now embarked on the beginnings of the RSCM Voice for Life scheme which encompasses all of these elements.

Although we run this choir together, the driving force behind it is my wife Christine, who manages it, is wonderful with the children and the parents, and usually directs the choir when they sing in church. I am so grateful to her, and to the various adult choir members who put so much time and care into helping us, and to Eilidh, our Organ Scholar for her wonderful accompaniments.

It was good to get the choir robed this year, so they look smart and are identifiable as part of the Cathedral Choir.

The Children's Choir is a fun-based activity and we are always on the look-out to add to the choir's membership, which is offered without audition and free to all.

Plainsong Cantors

We continue to have a Eucharist at 0900 on Sundays at which the music is led by an organist and a solo cantor.

Leading a whole service as a soloist is a huge undertaking, and I am greatly indebted to our wonderful team of Cantors who prove so willing, and who sing so professionally week by week.

Piano

This year we have had the most generous gift of a beautiful Steinway & Sons grand piano. This extraordinary gift will be a huge asset to our music here at St Mary's and is a big draw for others to come and use us for a concert venue. It has already proved invaluable in services and in a recent concert given by the choir.

Huge thanks are due to our generous donor, who prefers to remain anonymous.

And finally

Every year I say how lucky I feel to serve a church where music is considered so important, and is appreciated by so many, congregation and clergy alike.

Thank you all for your support of the music here at St Mary's

Frikki Walker
Director of Music

Organ Project Report

In an incredibly generous gesture, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Glasgow has gifted us a superb Willis II organ, for which we are extremely grateful. This has been in storage

for many years and has deteriorated during this time - it needs to be cleaned, restored and rebuilt.

Quotations for this work were obtained from Harrison & Harrison Ltd, Nicolson & Co, and Henry Willis & Sons Ltd and, after discussion with the Director of Music and our organ technical advisor, Matthew Hynes, vestry decided in March 2024 to appoint Henry Willis & Sons as the contractors for the project. Willis have all the records and knowledge of the original organ build; their quote was for full restoration of the historic organ rather than essentially a new build (therefore the most sustainable option); and happily, also gave the lowest quote.

The organ has now been uplifted from storage and taken to the Willis workshop in Liverpool. Some urgent cleaning has been completed to remove rodent infestation and prevent further deterioration of the pipework and other components.

An Organ Steering Group and a Project Group have been formed to take this project forward. Although there is a lot of overlap between the membership of the groups, the Steering Group is largely concerned with setting up the fundraising campaign, while the Project Group is concentrating on the broader project management and those aspects that impact on the fabric of the cathedral.

The project name is "An Organ for Glasgow" and the total estimated budget is £1.1 million. The original organ will be restored to its historic condition and subtly augmented to suit the needs of St Mary's space and musical requirements. The historic organ and console will sound the way they did in 1902, and as they were originally intended to be heard, with the console sited in the console recess in our chancel. All of the additional components will be played from a new mobile console, also designed by Willis.

The organ restoration will be completed in five stages, with the estimated timelines dependent on raising the necessary funds:

- Phase 1: Clean, repair and restore the historic Willis organ, quote £218,000, timescale 6-10 months.
- Phase 2: Design and build the new 4-manual mobile Willis console, quote £96,000, timescale 4-6 months.
- Phase 3: Build the organ in the Willis factory, quote £340,000, timescale 10-12 months.
- Phase 4: Install the organ in St Mary's, quote £80,000, timescale 4 weeks depending on any minor works to the organ chamber.
- Phase 4a: Remove and dispose of old organ parts that are not salvageable, estimate £20,000, timescale approximately 8 days.

Other (non-Willis) costs are currently estimated at £99,070 and we are including an organ contingency fund of £75,000 and an £150,000 allowance for VAT on the organ costs while we await a specialist opinion on the tax situation.

Canon 35 (permission from the Diocese to install the organ) was received in October 2024 and fundraising efforts are well under way. The main thrust of the initial fundraising has been to write grant applications to Trusts and Foundations. These can take many months to reach a decision and therefore need to be submitted early in the project. To date, sixteen applications for a total of £270,000 of funding have been submitted and work continues on further applications. We have just heard informally that one application for £30,000 has been successful and we are awaiting the formal confirmation of this.

At the time of writing, we have raised £400,000 and so will be able to start phase 1 as soon as we have clarity on the VAT status of the project. We hope to be in a position to proceed to phase 2 on schedule and our next aim after that will be to raise the £340,000 currently quoted for phase 3.

Fundraising from the congregation and wider community is being officially launched today. You may already have seen leaflets about the project in pew sheets and at the back of the cathedral. We are creating a dedicated organ project website with a blog where we can keep everyone updated monthly about the progress of the project (www.anorganforglasgow.org). The recent concert to welcome our new Steinway piano raised just over £2,000 for the project and we are hoping to hold an event after the carol service this year, with donations going to the organ fund. Further concerts and events are being planned for next year.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has donated to the project so far. Every donation, whether large or small, takes us closer to achieving our target and we would like to thank all those who are supporting us. If anyone feels able to offer some time to help with the running of fundraising events, we would be very glad to hear from you!

Margaret Dawson
Communications Lead

20s & 30s Bible Study

The Bible study group has been meeting regularly this past year. The group generally meets twice a month for an hour of freeform discussion on a set Bible passage. The quality of discussion is always very good, with thoughtful, fruitful and respectful conversations. There has been regular attendance throughout the year and some new members joining. During Lent, there were weekly sessions on a penitential theme, as well as a session of evening prayer with lectio divina.

Beyond being a study group, the group also functions as the students and young adults' group within the cathedral. The group has started meeting around once a month for lunch on Sundays as well as other social gatherings. There was a well-attended pot luck dinner in September. The group also serves as a network for members to share news and invitations with each other.

Overall the group is building an effective community for young adults within the cathedral, providing spiritual reflection and social connection, and is always open to new members.

Liam Brown
Coordinator

Bell Ringers

Again this year we have rung for services on both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings nearly every week. We also rang for the morning service on Christmas Day and for the services for Epiphany, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi.

Six quarter peals were rung during the year including three during the Scottish Association of Change Ringers quarter peal weekend, one for the graduation of one our ringers and one to say a fond farewell to Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon. Two full peals were rung on the bells, both by visiting bands.

We support meetings of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers and in January we hosted ringers from around Scotland for the annual Winter Meeting. During this as well as the lots of ringing on the main set of tower bells, a mini-ring was set up in the body of the church with many ringers enjoying this new experience for them! We have also hosted some of the monthly Association Advanced practices.

Out training this year has focused on continuing to improve the general standard of ringing, especially on 8 and 10 bells. We continue to, once a month, split the practice over both Monday and Tuesday nights to give focus both to intermediate and advanced ringers separately. Our learners continue to make excellent progress and are now able to take part in service ringing.

Peter Kirton
Tower Secretary

Book Group

The Book Group meets on Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month. We continue to attract new members and currently have fourteen people who regularly attend. It is worth noting that some members of the congregation, unable to be at the discussions, appreciate the recommendations and read the books on the list.

Once again our book list for 23/24, compiled by our member's suggestions, contained many genres; fiction (historical, contemporary and classical), biography, and for Lent a spiritual study. Discussion is enthusiastic and spirited!

The book list for the coming months is available and details can be found in the weekly pew notes. New members are always welcome.

Anne Jones - Book Group Convenor

Communications

The ministry of St Mary's Cathedral extends beyond its immediate vicinity and beyond those who are able to attend worship in person.

BBC Radio 4 broadcast one live service from the cathedral in June 2024 which had a theme relating to the General Election that had taken place during the previous week.

Below are the statistics for the cathedral social media accounts:

- 3.7K followers for St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow on Facebook (an increase of 5.7 % since last year)
- 1153 followers for @thecathedral on X (a decrease of 2.95%)
- 42 followers on Bluesky (new account)
- 544 subscribers on YouTube @stmaryscathedralglasgow (an increase of 46%)
- 561 email accounts subscribe to the weekly email newsletter though it is likely that a number of these are inactive email accounts. The average number of unique views of the newsletter each week is approximately 320.

Once again the largest increase in social media reach has been through YouTube subscriptions.

Kelvin Holdsworth

Contact Group

The Contact Group provides a link between the Cathedral and those who for any reason are unable to get to the Cathedral in person. The contact may be made by phone calls, emails, texts, home visits, coffee shop meetings, care home visits or hospital visits.

The group works closely with the clergy and members of the Leadership Group. All our members have been through the Disclosure Process. Matt Cavanagh, our PVG Coordinator, attends our three monthly meetings in a consultancy capacity.

The remit for the Group has recently been reviewed and updated by Franny Mawditt, the People's Warden and myself. The edited remit was approved by the Leadership Group and copies distributed to the members of the group.

Anyone feeling that they, or someone they know, might welcome support for any reason can contact me. My details are in the weekly pew notes.

I thank the Provost, the other members of the Leadership Group, our PVG coordinator and the members of the Contact Group for giving of their time so generously.

Anne Jones
Contact Group Convenor

Food Bank Donation Point

Saint Gregory's Foodbank volunteers are always very grateful for the gifts of food items, empty jars with lids, empty egg boxes, etc that you so very kindly donate week by week via the boxes at the back of Saint Mary's. Our team of 5 people take it in turns to deliver these to Saint Gregory's on a Monday, collecting them after Morning Prayer and aiming to deliver them to the Foodbank between 10am and 12 noon. The donated items are then integrated into the supplies that support increasing numbers of local households. Egg boxes are used to repackage eggs bought wholesale, and empty jars aid distribution of washing up liquid, salt, laundry liquids, etc.

The Foodbank's Spring Newsletter reported that over the first 3 months of 2024 they helped support almost 10 thousand adults and children by dispensing more than 4 thousand basic bags of food. Their Autumn Newsletter reports 2,759 bags of supplies have been given out just on Mondays in 2024

"St Gregory's Food Bank is an independent food bank operating five mornings a week from the Chapel of St Gregory's RC Church in Wyndford, Maryhill. We provide a range of grocery and store cupboard items to the most vulnerable in society. Household cleaning and personal items are available on request. No referral is required, meaning anyone can access support.

As we are blessed with the use of Fr Cameron's presbytery, we have no overheads: no rent, and no heating bills. The food bank is staffed entirely by a dedicated team of volunteers which means there are no staffing costs."

Gail Smith

Flower Team

The Flower Group now consists of five 'floristas' including us. We arrange pedestals, decorate window sills, sometimes with fresh, sometimes artificial flowers, for major festivals and on other occasions. We ensure the cathedral is flower-free when appropriate. We were delighted to be asked to provide the floral decorations for the wedding of a Cathedral server and his partner in the summer.

Earlier this year we met to reorganise, tidy and where necessary dispose of some of the contents of the flower cupboards.

We are grateful to the members of the group for their skill, time and support and look forward to continue working together.

Pam Richmond
Anne Jones
Flower Group Convenors

Gardening

Firstly I should make an apology for not being able to convene the gardeners on a regular basis, the main reason being that both Karen and I had health problems for much of the year and have on occasions come out to do an hour or two of gardening if the weather looked promising and we ourselves felt okay. Once again the members of the group have helped in similar fashion to keep the grounds tidy, and this is greatly appreciated.

Gardening started in March this year, and the weeds are still growing apace in November, so more sessions have been necessary. We hope to establish a regular pattern of meetings through the coming year. The garden has a sort of rustic charm, but it is more about keeping the grounds tidy and free from weeds than planting and nurturing. We bring our own tools, patio scrapers, rakes, brooms etc and take away the weeds and fallen leaves. Sincere thanks to all our gardeners, and especially to Franny and Robert Mawditt for their many years of involvement, firstly as group leaders, their continuing support for me in that role, and lastly for their excellent pruning and care of the rose garden. Franny and Robert are stepping down from the team, which means we are looking to recruit some more gardeners.

Frank Ewing
Gardening Group Leader

Lay Representative

As the Lay Representative of the congregation, my principal task through the year is to attend the Diocesan Synod. This took place in March 2024.

Bishop Kevin announced his retirement at Diocesan Synod, and has now left the Diocese. In what has been a very busy year, this has been the most significant and noteworthy event. Bishop Kevin arrived in Glasgow and Galloway – albeit on Zoom -- in 2020, in the midst of the COVID pandemic, at a time when our church doors were locked and we were having to find new ways of being together and of doing God's work in the world. He came to us from the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles, elected by the College of Bishops after the Electoral Synod of this Diocese had found itself unable to appoint a Bishop. That was an electoral process that still lives deep in the memories of those of us who were involved in it, and that has led to some partial canonical reform of the way we elect Bishops in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

The Diocese now finds itself in yet another electoral process as we search for the person who is called to be our next Bishop. It is likely that an election will take place early next year. The electors include members of the clergy team at the Cathedral, and myself as the Lay Representative who was in post on the date that the electoral process began in September. The process is confidential, and none of the electors will be able to speak at any stage about the discussions or the candidates. I am grateful for your prayers for all of us as we do the difficult and necessary work of discerning who is to be our next Bishop.

The other business done at Diocesan Synod 2024 included:

- The ongoing work in the diocese to implement strategies for more responsible use of our natural resources and better stewardship of the planet which we have inherited. This included discussion around the provincial target for the whole of the Scottish Episcopal Church to reach Net Zero by 2030.
- A specific discussion was had on a proposed amendment to Canon 35, which deals with how we manage our church buildings. Following robust input from our Diocesan Synod, the amendment which has ultimately been approved by General Synod is that any application for church building works made under Canon 35 must now take account of Net Zero guidelines.
- A resolution regarding the limitations around how clergy are appointed in the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the need for broader provision in our Canons than we currently have. It has been requested that proposals around this are brought to the General Synod in June 2025.
- A series of new liturgies for Lent and Holy Week were discussed at length, and a series of motions to amend them were brought by the Provost and Vice Provost. They can be read in full on the Diocesan website. These motions were each supported by the Diocese in a majority vote, but failed to pass at General Synod and the new liturgies were approved "as is" at the General Synod of June 2024.
- A proposed amendment to Canons 15 and 16, which deal with our ecumenical relations. The proposed amendments dealt with the possibility of eucharistic sharing with the churches with which the Scottish Episcopal Church has entered into agreements of limited exchange (e.g. the Methodist Church of Great Britain and the United Reformed Church, and the Church of Scotland), and the procedures for welcoming visiting clergy. There was a robust discussion about this, particularly around the need to be stringent in our safeguarding procedures around visiting clergy. The view of the Diocesan Synod was that more work needed to be done on the amendments to these Canons before they could be passed, and they voted against them. The General Synod of June 2024 subsequently approved both Canons at Second Reading.

Bishop Kevin's Lent Appeal this year was for the Friends of the Holy Land. At the time of writing, more than £11,000 has been raised.

Beth Routledge
Lay Representative

LGBT Network

The LGBT Network attended Glasgow Pride 2024, which took place in July. The members of the Network joined with the group of LGBT+ Episcopalians and Friends from around the Diocese for the march through the streets of Glasgow. Our presence at Pride as an inclusive church remains extremely important to both the broader LGBT+ community and to us.

Earlier in the year, the LGBT Network had an outing to the Burrell Collection for LGBT History Month. The staff of the Burrell Collection took us on a tour of some of the artefacts and areas of the museum that are part of the story of LGBT+ people throughout the ages, and the day was enjoyed by all who attended.

Beth Routledge
Convenor, LGBT Network

Litter Picking

Unbeknown to many who pass through the doors of the Cathedral, a dedicated team of pickers, drawn from the congregations of St Mary's, take turns at keeping the grounds clear of litter throughout the year. In last year's report, I noted the good response to pew sheet requests for additional litter pickers. I am delighted to report that, from January 2024, the team has remained ten strong, enabling a significant reduction in duty days for each member from that prevailing previously. Those recently joining the team have also brought welcome enthusiasm for the task as has been evident from the general cleanliness of the grounds during the past year. Once again, I extend my thanks to all who have assisted in keeping the cathedral grounds clear of litter during the past year, including those not rostered for duty!

Tony Hughes
Convenor

Livestream Team

As part of the Online Mission of St Mary's Cathedral, the Live Streaming team at the Cathedral contributes to the planning and delivery of services, mainly the 11am Sung Eucharist, as well as midweek Sung & Choral Eucharists, and other services at Advent, Christmas and Holy Week. In 2023/24 we also streamed additional services including a funeral in December 2023, an Ordination in June 2024 and Bishop Kevin's Celebration service in June 2024.

The team are responsible for the set up and shut down of the livestream equipment, planning how each service will be streamed, and operating the cameras and microphones during the service (this is done by pressing buttons on our stream deck for each part of the service). Our goal is to facilitate our online congregation and providing them with a smoother and better-quality experience.

Current team members

This currently consists of Holly Oates, Stewart Macfarlane, Chris Oates, Greg Hast and Lily Zhang. This year we have sadly had to say goodbye to Becki Cox and Ellen Gira when they left St Mary's for pastures new, however we welcomed Lily to the team. Thanks are due to livestreamers past and present for the diligent effort put in throughout the year, including server Daniel Williams who stepped in at very short notice when illness prevented the duty streamer from being available.

Future goals

We would like to grow our team to help us continue to stream more services- a regular notice about this is in place in the service sheet including Holly's contact details. We aim to continue improving the quality of the livestream, while making sure it remains quick and easy to train new people.

Livestream impact

We are regularly approached by members of the congregation who appreciate being able to join in with worship at St Mary's when they aren't able to come to the building. There are also many people who engage with worship at St Mary's entirely via the livestream. The livestream typically receives around 200 views every week both live and on "catch-up" throughout the week on YouTube, although special events (e.g. Midnight Mass) often receive many more views. The livestream is a vital part of the life of St Mary's and we are grateful for the team members, clergy and other Cathedral teams who help us to make it happen every week.

Holly Oates & Stewart Macfarlane

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

PVG Applications

An increased number of new volunteers for Young Church and the organisation of servers within the cathedral needed PVG scheme membership and their applications were made successfully using the new online application procedure using the forms provided by the SEC Provincial Office to ensure the safeguarding of young people within St Mary's and the congregation of the Nigerian services.

Safeguarding Issues

Matt was in contact with the vestry and representatives from different groups within the community of St Mary's to assist when concerns about safeguarding vulnerable people in the congregation and community arose as relating to the different activities of the cathedral (including choral tours, bell ringing, Young Church, serving and the Contact Group). A record of significant details of such conversations is kept securely and password protected on Matt's computer.

Contacting

Questions around safeguarding; including questions of scope and how the protection of vulnerable groups affects the different groups and individuals within St Mary's are welcomed. Matt's contact details are available on the website, on the noticeboard and in service sheets.

Matt Cavanagh
Safeguarding Officer

Sacristans

Behind the scenes in the Sacristy, preparation quietly takes place for our regular services – although sometimes we are swans, calm above water on the outside but pedalling furiously under the water. Thank you to all those who help, especially Kate who launders the fair linen on a weekly basis, and thank you to the others, you know who you are.

Sandy Fraser
Head Sacristan

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 clergy at the required point in the service.

We have served Sunday by Sunday for the regular services, as well as at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. We have also served for the Christmas services, Holy Week and Easter services, Ordinations, and other Diocesan services.

Currently there are two servers on duty for the 9am Plainsong Eucharist service each Sunday, five servers for the 11am Sung Eucharist and one server at Choral Evensong. We welcomed three new servers to the team this year – Kevin Philp, Robert Mawditt and Stephen Hanvidge. I hope they are enjoying serving and finding it fulfilling. We also welcomed back David McFadyen after a short break from serving. Sadly, we will soon say farewell to Bryn Kelley as they move back to the USA. It has been a pleasure having Bryn as a member of the serving team and we will miss them. I am very grateful to Beth Routledge, Daniel Williams, David Hanson, Franny Mawditt, Liam Brown and Marco Florence for their continued service and support.

We are very keen to welcome more members to the team. If anyone thinks they might be interested in becoming a server, please speak to Kelvin, or any of the servers, for more information. No previous experience is necessary as training will be provided. We are a friendly and supportive team!

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 Sacristan (Sandy Fraser) for all her 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.

This year the number of stewards has increased to 24.

We have staffed three services each Sunday, in addition to festival and special services.

Stewards are usually the first people members of the congregation encounter as they enter the building, and we are very grateful for the quality of welcome shown by the whole team.

They continue to show their usual good humour and efficiency and help to ensure that Cathedral services run smoothly and safely.

Our thanks and appreciation to them all.

Alan and Pam Richmond
Head Stewards

University/Student Ministry

A number of students and academic staff from the various higher education institutions in the city find a place at St Mary's.

The Provost (and when in post, the Vice Provost) has a particular role as one of the Honorary Chaplains in the University of Glasgow. Eleven choral services were conducted in the Memorial Chapel of the University during the year featuring the music of the Chapel Choir. This year a new late night service for Ash Wednesday saw a significantly large attendance.

These services are open to everyone whether or not they have a university connection. More details at ugac.online

Kelvin Holdsworth

Tea and Coffee Team

The Tea and Coffee Team continues to provide refreshments after the 11 o'clock service every Sunday, which remains popular with the congregation. It is especially appreciated when bakers in the Team bring along home-made biscuits, cake, and savoury snacks. This year we have started buying our tea and coffee from the fair-trade stall in the Cathedral and are continuing to experiment with the brands they have on offer. We are also working on updating the tea and coffee provision guidelines. The team is co-run by Noah (formerly Elli) and Dominic, who serves as the treasurer for the group. In addition to Noah and Dominic, we currently have eleven team members and a few people who are happy to help last minute. However, with a few of our team members taking a break or needing to take a step back over the year, we are needing to recruit some more people in the next couple of months.

Anyone wanting to volunteer should get in touch with Franny Mawditt (volunteering@thecathedral.org.uk) or Noah Folkesson (noahfolkesson@proton.me). It's a great way to get to know folk in the congregation – and we would be very grateful for your help! We aim for people not to be on duty more than once every six weeks.

Noah Folkesson/Dominic Al-Hariri

Tradecraft Stall

St Mary's Fair Trade stall aims to support small-scale producers and farmers in the developing world through sales of their produce. It is this that gives them their dignity. We also donate any profits from the stall to projects in which producers are engaged to develop their livelihoods and strengthen their communities.

This last year has seen the Fair Trade stall operating with a strong team of volunteers and great support from members of the congregation. We now have a good range of teas, coffees, spreads, chocolates and snacks, rice, pasta, plus produce from Zaytoun in Palestine, candles from Eswatini and other gift items.

In the past, goods for the stall came principally from Tradecraft. Nearly two years ago, Tradecraft went out of business and we now get our stock from two principal sources:

True Origin Foods in Paisley . This company (Just Trading Scotland) was founded in 2009 and grew out of the work of the Balmore Coach House. Its website www.trueoriginfoods.co.uk has an on-line shop which sells all its own imports from Kenya, Eswatini, Malawi, South Africa plus those from a number of other friends: Equal Exchange, Divine Chocolate, Liberation.

Green City Wholefoods: a workers' co-operative in the East End of Glasgow.

Both these suppliers, provide us with discounts, part of which we pass on to the customer to encourage greater sales, part of which funds the farmers' projects.

We also did a little importing of our own and, with the help of True Origin, brought in some beautiful candles from Eswatini, which make excellent Christmas presents!

We were very pleased that we were visited in September this year by Howard Msukwa, a leading smallholder farmer from KASFA, a farmers' association in the north of Malawi. He spoke at a Forum meeting and explained how the partnerships with friends in Scotland had enabled the farmers to develop their farms, set up small businesses (making briquettes for cooking out of rice husks) and provide training for young people in carpentry, welding, tailoring and knitting. Trainees, who might otherwise have been causing problems in the villages, are now finding work in the local town.

We also heard of the multiple problems caused by climate change: the unpredictability of rainfall, damage to land and property by flooding, with crops and riverbanks washed away, and the work being done to provide irrigation during periods of drought.

During the last year we have taken £6317.96 in sales and spent £5139.61 on stock and minor expenses. This has enabled us to build up our stocks and to make a donation £650 for farmers' projects to the Balmore Trust. This will allow them to buy 3 ploughs and an oxcart. In addition, we have received some generous donations: £450 towards a solar pump and £2000 for a further 6 oxcarts.

Among our donors is Margaret Mackay whose Sutherland ancestors took an axle and two wheels on the ship 'Cleopatra' from Cromarty to Canada in 1831. On arrival, they made a cart, bought an ox and are still called the Ox-Mackays Sharing this account with our Malawi partners created an immediate bond and she and her relatives have contributed to their ox-cart project with great pleasure.

In the coming year we will be in discussion with Balmore Trust/True Origin Partnerships (TOP) to consider how best we can support the farmers and producers whose goods we sell. We will be looking at: provision of solar powered pumps to address at least some of

the climate change issues; ploughs and oxcarts for greater productivity; business start-ups and training; education. TOP is planning to form a loose grouping of friends of KASFA and this, we hope, will provide an effective support group for the work that this remarkable group of farmers is doing. We would be keen to encourage other congregations in the diocese and province to join us in this.

Thanks to everyone for the tremendous support this year.

John Riches

Verger

The major task for this year has been the re-lamping of the Cathedral combined with the cleaning of the gutters. This meant that all the Nave Altar furniture including the choir stalls had to be moved so that the cherry picker could gain access to the Cathedral. Then it all had to be put back again in time for the Sunday services. It was also necessary to celebrate the Eucharist for St Luke's Day (18th October) using the Chancel and the High Altar because the Nave Altar was not available. I am very grateful to the small team of people who gave up their time to ensure that all this happened. Thanks are also due to the Friday Art Group for enduring the chaos, and to Eilidh Harris and her friend Amy Duncan who were trying to rehearse for the Steinway Piano concert while all this was happening.

The Tuesday morning Eucharists have continued, attracting about 20 worshippers each week. This, and the subsequent coffee morning are an important social event for that congregation, creating a camaraderie this is shown by the way in which people look after each other. A much smaller group attend Morning Prayer, but this does mean that the doors of the Cathedral have to be open every day. It is noticeable that, when the doors are open, people come into the Cathedral. Some just wish to have a look around the place, others come in to pray and yet others to sit in quiet contemplation in a peaceful place. Unfortunately, we cannot keep the doors open on a regular basis without volunteers.

The major diocesan service this year was the celebration of the life and ministry of Bishop Kevin, just before his retirement as Bishop. The first meeting of the Electoral Synod has now taken place and the process of electing a new Bishop has begun.

As always there are too many people to thank by name. They include the choir, the gardeners, the litter pickers, the live streaming team, the servers, the stewards and welcomers, the tea and coffee providers, the Vestry and the volunteers. I hope that I have not missed any group out, and my apologies if I have.

I must also thank Kelvin and Oliver for all the support they have given me over the past year, and finally I must thank Iain Milne and Sandy Fraser for putting up with me and providing an endless supply of coffee and biscuits.

David Kenvyn
Verger

Volunteers

St Mary's has a huge team of volunteers as shown in this AGM Report - as always: 'thank you' for offering so much. However, if you are wondering about activities and who organises them please let me know and I can put you in touch with Conveners of different groups. New help is always appreciated as people move away or decide to do

something different - and you are not signing up for life. 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.

Franny Mawditt
Volunteer Coordinator

Young Church

In Young Church this year, children have enjoyed alternating between music-led and discussion-based sessions. Numbers of children attending are highly variable week on week, ranging between 3 up to 20. The ages of children are also wide ranging, with the youngest regular members aged 2 or 3, and the oldest around 11.

Music sessions have been led by Christine Walker. In the first part of the year, these included the Choristers on the weeks they sang with the main choir. Latterly, the Choristers have been staying in for the whole service, however music games continue for Young Church on these weeks as well. In the music sessions, children have been working on rhythm with their samba band, which they are looking forward to sharing at some point soon!

From November until late spring, the discussion-based sessions were led by Vivienne with support from Tamsin, following a range of themes associated with the church year including several weeks learning about saints. Over the summer, when Young Church has traditionally taken a break, several parents provided interim activities, and we now have a group of parents leading these sessions on a rota. Roots teaching materials are used to structure activities around the main church lectionary, combined with creative ideas to bring themes to life for the children.

Children have been given opportunities to share their learning and activities with the main church congregation on a number of occasions through the year. In December the Crib Service included contributions from Young Church members who read and sang. At Easter, we continued the Young Church tradition of creating and then 'locking away' our alleluias for Lent, releasing them to build banners and process singing through the church on Easter Sunday. Young Church members also helped to hide the 2000+ Easter eggs around church and joined in with the church cleaning on Easter Saturday, before helping to find and share the eggs the next day.

All Young Church families were sad to see Vivienne leave the congregation, and are enormously grateful for her dedication, care and support for the children over the last few years. Thanks should also be recorded to those parents stepping up to become the new Young Church team - Martin Pearson, Ben Cavanagh, Sarah Pickel and Tamsin Livermore - as well as to Iain in the office for his support with printing resources and to Franny who has helped co-ordinate the group over the last few months. A special thank you to Christine, who has maintained the Young Church rota and worked tirelessly with families throughout the year. Looking ahead, we hope to continue welcoming children of all ages, with ideas in development for activities better suited for high-school-aged children outside of the choir and Young Church contexts.

Elizabeth Black
Convenor

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