

*St Mary's Cathedral,  
Glasgow*

*Annual Report  
2017 / 18*

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## Agenda – Annual General Meeting, 12 noon, Sunday 25 November 2018

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 26 November 2017
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 26 November 2017

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

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

Present:

Robyn Airlie; BrianJohn Aitken; Ella Aitken; Neil Aitken; Susan Anthony; Irene Ballantine; Sr Helena Barrett OSB; Pam Barrowman; Sandy Brander; Honor Brogan; Teresa Brown; David Burness; Sue Champion; Anne Chowanec; John Curtice; Lisa Curtice; Christopher Dacosta; Taylor Driggers; Roger Edwards; Diane Elliott; Robert Elliott; Sandra Fraser; Michael Gammie; John Gerrard; Margaret Gerrard; Liffy Grant; Greta-Mary Hair; Anne Halliburton; Ian Halliburton; David Hanson; Andrew Heatlie; Jackie Heatlie; Olanna Horhut; Christina Hughes; Tony Hughes; Kieran Hunter; Lisella Hutton; Anne Jones; David Kenvyn; Leo Kumagai; Kit Lindsay; Matthew Little; Monica Long; Robert MacDonald; Kathryn MacFarlane; Stewart MacFarlane; Catherine Mackenzie; Roger Mackenzie; Petko Marinov; Franny Mawditt; Robert Mawditt; Alan McCulloch; Lynda McCulloch; David McFadyen; Steven McIntyre; Caroline McKillop; Oonagh McKinnon; Iain Milne; Bruce Montgomery-Smith; Madad Naser; CaraBeth Nichols; Ahilya Noone; Neil Parker; Sandy Peterson; Bernard Porter; Jason Reese; Hunter Reid; Marnie Reid; Catherine Riches; Christopher Riches; John Riches; Nena Riches; Alan Richmond; Pam Richmond; Beth Routledge; Ryan Salamony; Wolfgang Schlegel; Billy Scorgie; Hugh Searle; Mrs Searle; Michael Shanks; Ken Shaw; Alex Shephard; Gail Smith; Gordon Smith; Vivienne Smith; Jinty Stewart; Allison Sticklely-Miner; Brian Toal; Caitlin Wakefield; Frikki Walker; Martyn Webster; Robin Webster; Sarah Weir; Kristy Whaley; Sr AJ Whybrow OSB; Daniel Williams; Gill Young.

#### 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: Elspeth Waine, Alice Bain, Adam Curtis and Joan Fairweather.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Pat Bennett; Ivan Draper; Muriel Draper; Simon Freebairn-Smith; Michael Hitchman; Jean Inch; Eleanor Montgomery-Smith; Migeun Park; Joanna Russell; Graham Skellern; Matthew Wyllie.

#### 3. Acceptance of AGM minutes of 20 November 2016

The minutes were approved unanimously without amendment as a true record of the 2016 meeting and signed by the Provost.

The Provost noted that two items in the minutes (further God Factor courses and purchase of new vestments) had not happened due to the aftermath of the Epiphany service Koran reading. These two issues were still on the agenda.

#### **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, and Music Director's Reports.**

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

##### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer highlighted a number of points in his report

- He apologised for the misprinting of the chart on the first page of his report (page 9 of the AGM papers).
- Ernie Turner had retired as our independent financial adviser after many years of dedicated service. Vestry had recently agreed that he would be replaced by Jenny Irvine of Bell Barr.
- Andrew Heatlie had retired as Gift Aid coordinator also after many years of dedicated service. Vestry had appointed Alan McCulloch as his successor.
- The Cathedral had a surplus of income over expenditure this year. This was due to legacies of £31,000 received. Without the legacies there would have been a deficit of around £10,000 caused by professional fees and work on the fabric of the church. We had received notification of a further legacy of around £100,000.
- The Cathedral has healthy reserves. Vestry will need to decide what best to do with them.

There were no questions to the Treasurer.

The AGM approved the appointment of Jenny Irvine of Bell Barr as the independent financial examiner for the coming year.

The Provost thanked the Treasurer, Ernie Turner and Andrew Heatlie for all of their work on behalf of the Cathedral.

#### **5. Releasing the Mission Scoping Project Update**

The Provost invited Wolfgang Schlegel, Convener of the Releasing the Mission Core Group, to present an update to the AGM.

Wolfgang outlined the background to the scoping project, which had been carried out by Richard Murphy Architects. They have come forward with four options

1. A development on the NW corner with substantial changes to the Synod Hall. This did not provide enough space to meet the brief and was expensive.
2. A new build on the SW corner at a cost of c£3m (all costs are ex VAT). This was an attractive option but discussions with Glasgow City Council and Historic Environment Scotland indicated it would be unlikely to get planning permission.

3. A new build on the SE corner, costing around £3.5m. However this would require moving the organ and would be likely to have the same objections from the planners as option 2.
4. A new build on the NE corner with substantial changes to the Synod Hall, at a cost of c£4.1m. This offered the most space, met the brief and was the least likely to meet objections from the planners.

The Core Group has recommended to Vestry that the last option should be explored in more detail.

Wolfgang thanked the members of the Core Group (Lisa Curtice, John Gerrard, Jim McKillop, Hunter Reid and Robin Webster) for all of their work in getting the project to this point.

The Provost referred to the Director of Music's report. He suggested that we had gone beyond asking if we should be doing something about the organ to asking what we should be doing and recognised the urgency of this.

Beth Routledge, as Lay Representative presented a statement on behalf of the current Vestry. The challenges faced by the Cathedral were very different from those when it was built and from the 1990s when the last refurbishment was carried out. The Vestry were asking the AGM to support it exploring further the outcomes of the scoping study and the discussions on the organ with Harrison and Harrison. Vestry would wish to bring back the outcomes of the exploration to the congregation. In any case, detailed discussion with the congregation of any proposals would be required under Canon law. She thanked Wolfgang and the Core Group and Frikki and the musicians.

Kelvin opened the presentations and reports to questions and comments.

In response to a question from Stewart Macfarlane, Frikki explained that when Harrison and Harrison restored the organ in 1909 the original organ case designed by Oldred Scott had not been built. Harrison and Harrison have the original drawings. It was magnificent and it would be possible to build it now.

A number of people raised questions on whether there were two projects or only one and whether the organ rebuild could go ahead before any works on the building? Wolfgang replied that Vestry regarded it as one project, though it may need to be phased. It was likely to be easier to fund raise for a single project. Extensive work in the Cathedral after installing the new organ ran the risk of causing damage to it.

In response to various questions the following answers were given

- Frikki said that the cost of a new build of the organ would be £1.2m (ex VAT). This was not included in the costs given for the scoping study options. A completely new organ would cost about three times as much. It would produce an organ of international standard and should last for about 50 years. The new organ would be easier to maintain and repair. Harrison and Harrison could start work in 2020 if we paid a 5% deposit by the end of 2017. This would allow the new organ to be in place for our 150th anniversary. We would be without an organ for about 12 – 18 months. Harrison and Harrison had agreed that they would refund the deposit up till the end of July 2018 if we decided we were not in a position to go ahead. This would provide 6 months in which we could work on the likelihood of raising funds.

- There would be only partial overlap between those funders interested in supporting the organ rebuild and those who would support building changes. Targeted fund raising would be essential.
- Shrouding the organ after installation to allow building work was possible but would be expensive and ideally internal work in the Cathedral should be done before installation of the rebuilt organ.

Tony Hughes noted the considerable expertise available in the congregation and asked that it be used taking the projects forward. He questioned the need to pay fees to an architect to develop proposals.

Robin Webster commented that he felt the architect's report justified the fees paid. He noted how long it took to make decisions and asked Vestry to move as quickly as they could.

The Provost reminded the AGM that the costs of the scoping study had been covered by a grant from the diocese. He also reminded the AGM that decisions whether to proceed would be made by the Vestry, on behalf of the congregation, as the Trustees of the Cathedral charity.

A motion was proposed by Beth Routledge that Vestry be empowered to take the steps it sees necessary to take forward as fast as possible work on the organ rebuild and the NE corner development. This was seconded by Wolfgang Schlegel and carried nem con. The Vestry would consider the issue at its meeting on December 4.

## **6. Elections**

The number of nominations for the various roles matched the number of vacancies on Vestry and the following were declared elected:

### **Lay representative:**

Beth Routledge (proposer Stewart Macfarlane, seconder Sue Champion)

### **Alternate lay representative:**

Pat Bennett (proposer Anne Jones, seconder Jim McKillop)

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

Jinty Stewart (proposer Beth Routledge, seconder David Kenvyn)

### **Vestry Members:**

Lisa Curtice (proposer Beth Routledge, seconder Anne Jones)

David Kenvyn (proposer Lisa Curtice, seconder Beth Routledge)

Alan McCulloch (proposer Lisa Curtice, seconder Roger Mackenzie)

Michael Shanks (proposer Jim McKillop, seconder Anne Jones)

Caitlin Wakefield (proposer Ryan Salamony, seconder Carabeth Nichols)

The Provost appointed Jim McKillop as Provost's Warden.



## **7. Group and network reports**

These had been precirculated and were taken as read.

## **8. Questions arising from reports**

There were no questions.

## **9. Provost's remarks**

The Provost said he felt that we were at a significant and exciting point in the life of the Cathedral. Due diligence would be essential on the proposed developments but we had the chance to do what was working well even better. The Cathedral was full of life and this was a source of great joy to him. He was moved every time he celebrated the Eucharist and was thankful for the many things that made this an inspiring place.

On behalf of the congregation Anne Jones thanked Jo Russell, the office manager, for working incredibly hard and for the many things she does beyond the remit of her post.

Anne thanked the clergy team for all that they do. She noted the changes, all happy, in the last year – the reception of Matthew Little today and the arrival of Neil Heavisides, Sister Helena and Sister AJ in the course of the year. The continuing contributions of John Riches, Ken Shaw and Ivan Draper were most welcome.

Anne thanked the Vice Provost for all he does and said we all looked forward to welcoming him back in a few weeks' time from his well-earned sabbatical.

Anne ended by thanking the Provost. He works incredibly hard for the Cathedral, the diocese and the Province. She particularly thanked him for his willingness to speak up, to speak out and to speak for the disadvantaged and marginalised.

In reply the Provost noted that Anne was stepping down after 7 years as Provost's warden. She had contributed an immense amount to the Cathedral, to the diocese and to the province. We are greatly in her debt.

## **10. Closing prayers**

The Provost closed the meeting with a blessing.

## Achievements and performance (Trustees' report)

St Mary's Cathedral is one of the larger congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church and is a centre of excellence for liturgical worship in the tradition of the Scottish Episcopal Church. Its open, inclusive, welcoming ethos affects all activities.

In addition to the worship and pastoral care that take place here, the cathedral remains a place of engagement within the vibrant West End of Glasgow – a place where other charities and groups gather regularly.

This year, the congregation has continued to develop and the Vestry (the Charitable Trustees) have met to ensure the continuing life of the congregation as well as to plan for the future.

A number of specific objectives were set for the year. These were to:

- maintain a high standard of worship and external engagement.
- increase and enhance the physical space available for St Mary's by taking forward the development plans we are working on, including the infrastructure and governance to deliver them.
- ensure the capacity to enable a growing congregation to flourish by reviewing office staffing, stipendiary clergy numbers and clergy housing provision.
- secure the future of liturgical organ music within the Cathedral's worship by seeking resources to rebuild our historic instrument.

The congregation which gathers at St Mary's benefits from continued excellence in the liturgical field. The influence of this aspect of the life of the congregation spreads far beyond Glasgow and we now regularly have visitors who plan their time in Scotland specifically so that they can worship in this place. Members of the cathedral staff work with many volunteers to create a liturgical life which deliberately aims to celebrate the liturgies of the Scottish Episcopal Church in as fine a way as they can be encountered anywhere.

Physical space remains a particular challenge. It is particularly difficult for the cathedral congregation to be as hospitable as it would wish to be when hosting large diocesan occasions. Staff and volunteers continue to find the office space inadequate and difficult to work in. Indeed, the more activity that develops around the congregation, the greater the challenges of finding space become. In the course of this year, the Vestry have continued to try to work towards increasing the physical space available for the congregation. This included making an unsuccessful bid on a local property which might have been the basis of developing solutions in this area as well as providing other opportunities such as a shop front on Great Western Road. Although this bid was not successful, this issue remains under review.

With regard to staffing, the Vestry have continued to monitor how the cathedral is resourced. On the same day as the Annual General Meeting, the first Vice Provost of St Mary's, the Rev Canon Cedric Blakey is retiring. There is a strong sense of gratitude amongst the trustees and other members of the congregation for the way in which Cedric has developed this role in the eight years since he came to Glasgow.

There is a strong commitment from the Vestry to make a full time appointment in 2019. It should be noted that the cathedral currently is grateful for the use of a diocesan house

to house the Vice Provost and discussions continue about how and where a future Vice Provost might be housed.

No changes have been made to office staffing in the year that is past but this also remains an issue which is under review.

The need for an organ rebuild has been recognised and affirmed by the Vestry and by the congregation generally. In connection with this, an appeal has recently been launched in order to raise the money for such a rebuild. The Organ Appeal was launched with a fine and very well attended concert at which members of the congregation were joined by many from the musical life of the city as well as civic leaders.

The Vestry continue to work towards twin goals of ensuring that the congregation has enough space and the rebuilding of the organ which were identified several years ago in the Releasing the Mission report as the key elements needed to ensure the continuing growth, development and flourishing of the cathedral congregation.

Many of the aspects of the life of the congregation are described more fully in the reports which go to the Annual General Meeting. Each report details the activities of dedicated volunteers and each represents great gifts of skill, talent and time. Members of the staff and the congregation also continue to influence and serve the life of the wider church.

St Mary's was the gathering place in October for a service to mark the retirement of Bishop Gregor Duncan. Looking ahead, it is likely that the largest event in the year to come will be the consecration of a new bishop in early summer 2019.

Kelvin Holdsworth

## **Treasurer's Report and draft accounts**

Each year at this time I apologise for the lack of formal accounts to present to the AGM. In fact this is the fault of the timing of the AGM so soon after the end of the Cathedral's fiscal year (on September 30th.) and the accompanying reality that the report you read now had to be prepared 3 weeks in advance to meet publication deadlines. I will follow the form of the last few years and examine briefly the income and expenditure highlights of the preceding year. I will also take a longer look back over a couple of decades to put the details of current fiscal details in an historical perspective.

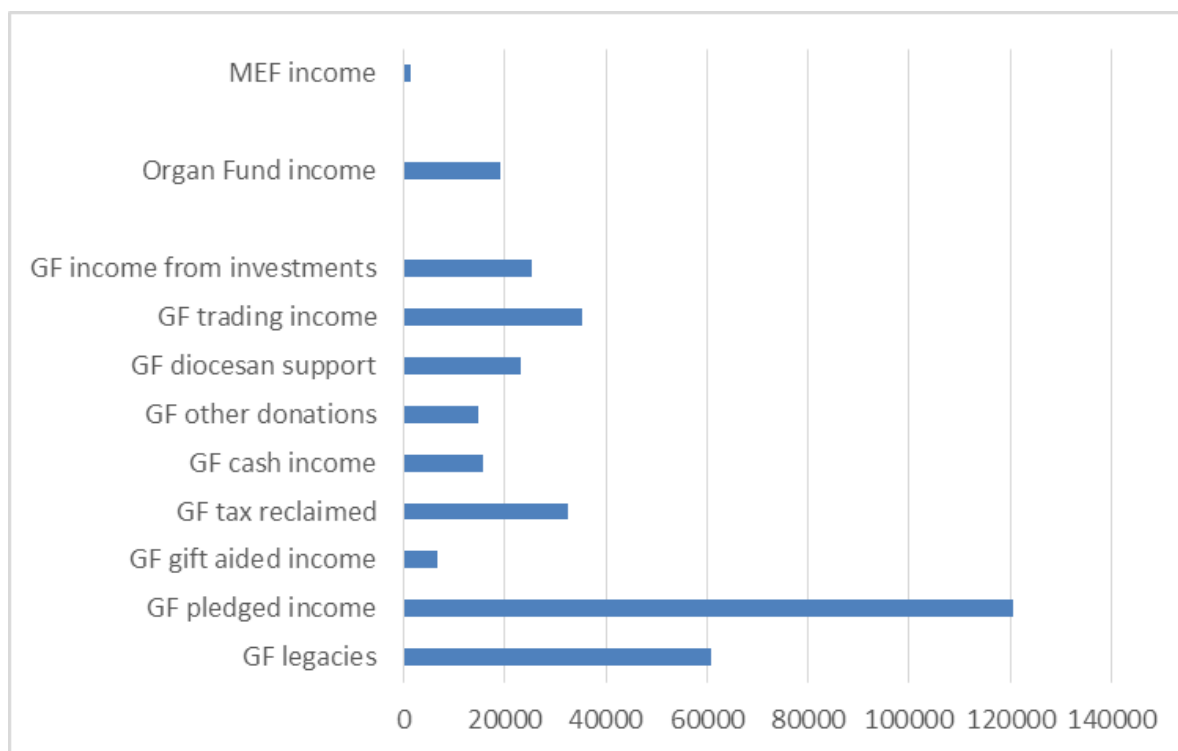
The usual 'broad brush' form of commentary which follows is based on a graphical presentation of our income and expenditure. The picture is generally similar to previous years but there have been some exceptional events which I will draw to the reader's attention.

Below are two charts generated from the cash book data for the financial year 2017/2018. The data has been simplified by combining details to allow a reasonably uncluttered presentation. General fund income and expenditure covers all unrestricted funds whilst both Music Endowment Fund and Organ Funds are clearly designated for specific purposes. Both these funds are shown separately in the income graph shown below.

### **Cathedral Income 2017/2018**

I have abandoned the visual presentation of a percentage valuation of each category of income. It is subject to the vagaries of other income and cannot be used to compare year on year. Obviously absolute values can. The graphing happily still shows the usual significant contribution of pledged giving to our overall income. The money received as

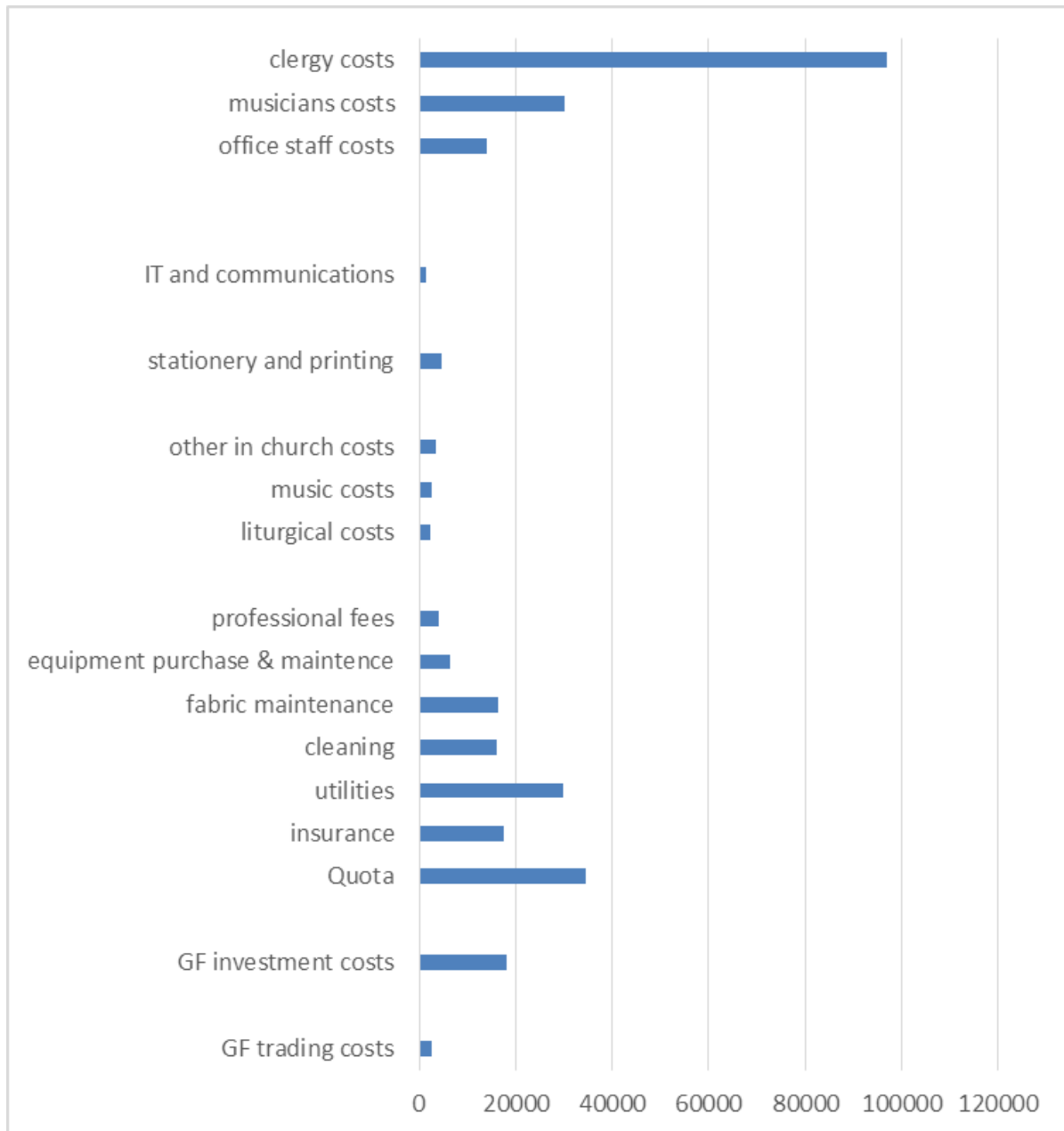
pledges along with the associated tax reclaimed on the bulk of it represents once again about 56% of our total planned income this year.



I say planned income as a major feature of this year's income, even more so than last year's income is represented by legacy income. In fact historically legacy income has often 'filled the gaps' where otherwise borrowing would have been necessary – but of course not always. I'm pleased to say I can once again write that there are several other regular sources of income, primarily phone mast rentals and Diocesan support, which means we can plan on the basis that around 70% of our income is 'guaranteed', at least in the short term. Of course the other income will never go to zero in any year and we are very grateful for it. We continue to receive significant support from AllChurches Trust which is owned by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. I have included as I did last year the income generated from our investments in the SEC Unit Trust Pool though currently this is all reinvested in buying further units in the pool.

The one key income item this year that stands out at the foot of the chart is legacy income. Nearly £61,000 has been received from a single source.

### Cathedral Expenditure 2017/2018



You can see from the above chart that salaries – people – are a very significant part of our outgoings amounting to nearly 47% of our overall expenditure this last year. Buildings and their maintenance account for around 30% of our outgoings this year. Utility costs have increased sharply though in part this is due to a significant catch up exercise relating to the lost charges for water affecting the office since its purchase in the mid ‘noughties’.

Like our income, much of our expenditure is predictable and not subject to significant variation from year to year. There are of course a few categories of expenditure that are inherently unpredictable, fabric maintenance being the most obvious one. Though last year I implied that fabric expenditure for that year might prove exceptional, it has not and I’ll make no predictions for next year.

Cash flow of course is not the whole picture but it is satisfactory to state that our cash at bank situation has improved over the previous two years. In this year this has been due

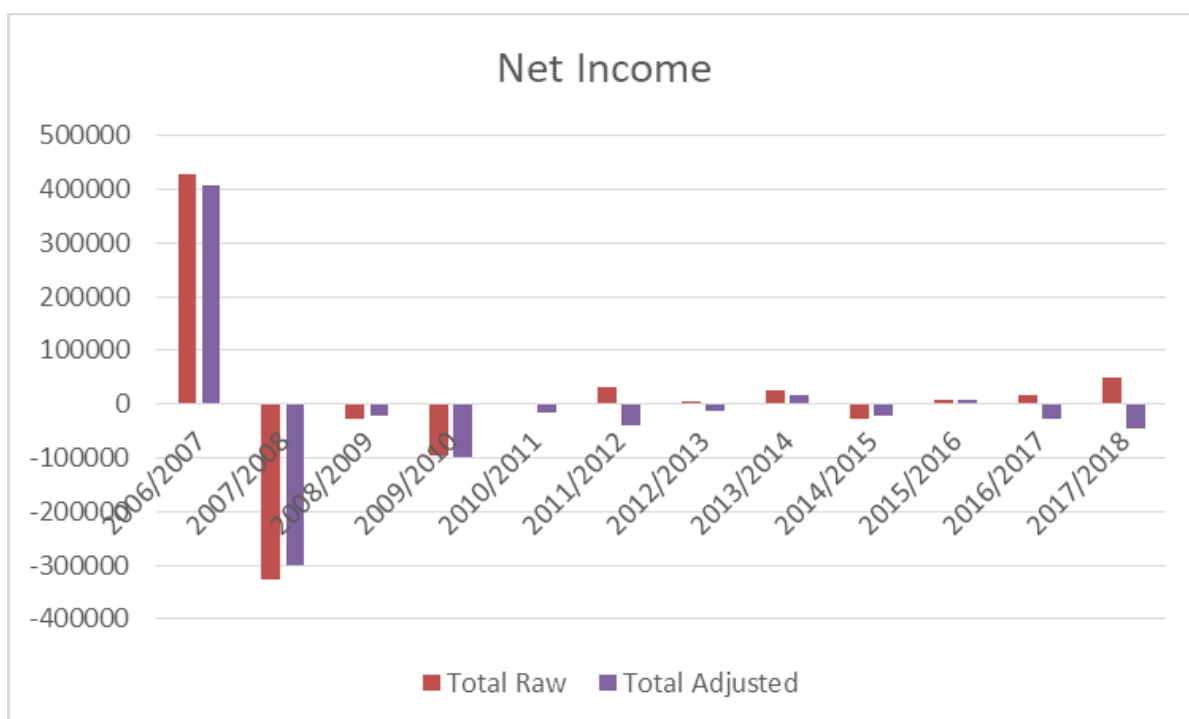
to the legacies we have received, otherwise as you would expect with the additional expenditure highlighted above would have seen a significant reduction in our cash at bank position.

We have financial assets in the shape of portfolios of investments with the Scottish Episcopal Church Unit Trust Pool and with Brewin Dolphin. Obviously the value of these assets varies with the state of the stock market. At the moment the total of these assets is around £750,000 (last year £650,000) due in large part to the unit value of the SEC UTP. This might be a peak valuation as storm clouds gather around the stock markets worldwide. Much of the SEC UTP is invested in US based IT companies. I hope the management of these funds proves inspired in the coming year. Additionally we own the top floor flat at 5 Napiershall Street currently valued at around £250,000.

**Historical View.**

The graph below illustrates the cashbook situation going back to year 2006/2007 when the current format of recording annual data became sufficiently standardised to allow year on year comparison.

The x-axis terms total raw and total adjusted mean respectively ‘all income’, including designated income and legacies, and remaining income once designated income and legacies are removed. The point of the comparison is to reveal which income is available to be budgeted for expenditure on general purposes. Designated income, such as organ funds obviously cannot be spent on anything other than organ restoration. Legacy income is quite interesting historically. It is often the difference between red ink (loss) and black ink (profit) in the accounts. This is certainly true of the year reported here.



Roger Mackenzie

## Vestry secretary's report

The Vestry met on seven occasions since the last AGM (4 December, 5 February, 26 February, 15 April, 4 July, 27 August and 22 October).

As in previous years, most of the detailed work was carried out by the Leadership, Finance, Compliance, Property, Fund Raising, and Releasing the Mission Project Groups. They report their activities to each Vestry meeting, highlighting topics which require discussion and/or decision by the full Vestry. This has proven to be an efficient and effective way of ensuring that Vestry can devote its time at meetings to those issues which matter most. A major part of Vestry's work in the last year has been on the organ rebuild and on possibilities for obtaining additional space. Reports from the Groups appear elsewhere in the AGM papers.

Vestry has also regularly considered matters relating to Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

Jim McKillop

## Leadership group

The cathedral constitution (2010) provides for a Leadership Group, comprised of the two Churchwardens, Vice Provost and Provost. The remit is to provide general oversight of the life of the Cathedral with particular reference to the preparation and monitoring of group and network remits, the appointment and resourcing of group conveners and key personnel, and the development of ministry and mission strategy. It meets roughly on a six-weekly basis. It submits a report to each Vestry meeting. These reports detailing the work of the group and the achievements and activities of St Mary's as a whole are posted on the notice boards in church and Synod Hall after the Vestry meeting. The experience of exploring possibilities and addressing problems collaboratively continues to be an enriching, supportive and challenging experience of shared responsibility. This is pertinent not least in providing consistency of oversight and mutual support.

The Leadership Group supports and monitors St Mary's groups and networks. This is to foster appropriate accountability, support and guidance for them and their conveners. Succession management remains a priority, especially in respect to key roles undertaken by volunteers. The "Who's Who at St Mary's" leaflet has been updated twice during the year to enable members of the congregation to be aware of where current responsibilities lie. This accompanies the Cathedral monthly prayer cycle.

Jinty Stewart joined the Leadership Group on her election as People's Warden in November 2018. It has been a busy year. It has met formally on six occasions in 2018.

Attending St Mary's worship. In 2017 Christmas services saw 901 attending Christmas Eve and Christmas morning (909 attending in 2016, 872 2015, 995 in 2015, 943 in 2014, 805 in 2012; 743 in 2003). Ash Wednesday launched Lent with attendances of 138 (184 in 2017, 163 in 216, 122 in 2015). Other midweek festival saw increased attendances this year (Ascension, Corpus Christi). 1,209 attended Holy Week and Easter services (1,272 in 2017 which included the St John's Passion), 1,172 in 2016, 1,159 in 2015, 1,233 in 2013; 1,067 in 2012; 619 in 2004). Regular Sunday worship attendances has been maintained with the usual fluctuations. Currently attendances at the 10.30 Eucharist are over 200. Numbers at the Sunday 0830 service has declined, often with under 10 people. But this could give opportunity for the consideration of a new type of earlier service in due course.

How else will 2017-18 be remembered?



The Releasing the Mission report on the need for more space for storage, choir, young church, office and meeting space and new toilet facilities came into focus when the Ducati shop on Great Western Road came onto the market early in the year. This raised the additional possibility for St Mary's Cathedral to develop its local community identity with the possibility for a small shop selling fair trade goods and also possibly a small café. And all this for a fraction of the cost of building a new facility on the cathedral grounds even if planning permission was obtainable for that extension. And of course such a property would be a financial capital asset to St Mary's. After detailed diligent debate the Vestry unanimously put in a bid reflecting the value and was unsuccessful. Later in the year another property came on to the market, slightly closer to St Mary's, with as much space and with less complex access issues. Vestry is currently commissioning a survey of this property.

St Mary's groups and networks continue to evolve, and their reports are contained in this 2018 Annual Report. Open Church has seen a record number of people visiting the Cathedral. We were official entrants in the 2018 Doors Open weekend.

There was a St Mary's retreat at Millport with Bishop Gordon Mursell as leader. Prayer for healing was offered with the anointing of oil at the St Luke's Day said Eucharist on 18 October. The labyrinth has been much appreciated and used when set out.

The Vice Provost continued work as convener of the provincial interfaith committee and a member of the provincial Church in Society Committee and Committee on Canons, and as a trustee of Interfaith Glasgow. David Kenvyn (Verger) serves as convener of the provincial Overseas Committee. The Provost has been serving on the provincial committee considering revisions to the clergy competency and discipline canons.

Also outward looking, the Justice and Aid Network is considering the current context of needs in the world and the city. The Network will report separately on its other activities.

We congratulate the Provost on being awarded an honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (FRCPSG) in October 2018. An admission ceremony will take place later in 2019.

St Mary's has hosted another ordination this year, as well as the valedictory service for Bishop Gregor Duncan who retired as Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway in October.

Cedric Blakey retires as vice provost at the end of November, and his farewell service takes place on 25th November at 6.30pm. He has served eight years in this capacity. Vestry is currently determining the process as timing for an appointment of a new vice provost. The first step being the determination of the Diocesan Council in respect of the sale of the current house and the possible provision of a more appropriate property.

So there is still a great deal to do, but there is good heart and much good will in St Mary's Cathedral. Generosity in giving of prayer, time, talents and money continues to be very evident and many of the achievements this year are due to this blessed and positive spirit.

The Leadership Group continues to share with the whole congregation deep appreciation of all who volunteer their generous gifts to the glory of God in the Cathedral's life.

Cedric L. Blakey



## 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, Lisa Curtice (now retired from the Project Group), John Gerrard, Jim McKillop (as Secretary), Hunter Reid and Robin Webster. The group met 4 times since its foundation with a further meeting scheduled before the AGM.

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. The Project Group is supporting Vestry by reviewing, updating and expanding the scope of the original space requirements analysis. The aim is to define categories of spaces and functions in terms of size, use and need for proximity to the Cathedral to inform decisions about possible acquisitions in the area as well as adjustments on Cathedral grounds.

Wolfgang Schlegel

## Property group

The Property Group is a team of six made up of Vestry and congregational members. A list of tasks is kept on a Property Issues Log and over the last three years the number has increased from 59 to 182. During the same period the number of completed jobs has gone up from 50% to just under 90%; currently there are 25 outstanding tasks.

Over the last year a number of major projects has been dealt with. As required by the Quinquennial Review (QR), the cathedral was made watertight by the end of 2017. That allowed the repainting and refurbishment of interior walls to be done in the New Year by an internationally award winning decorator; a number of complimentary comments were made about his work. Some of the work was paid for by a telecoms company that damaged the external drainage system which led to the deterioration of plaster and paintwork. A review of the roofing and guttering in general was recommended in the QR, and discussions about this are in hand with the conservation architect. Spalling of the cathedral brickwork, particularly around the west end doorway, is another matter that needs to be dealt with and is being considered. A further QR recommendation was to have the condition of the stained glass windows assessed. A free evaluation has been underway since the end of last year, and a report is due shortly.

The ongoing saga of lighting at the west end of the cathedral is drawing to a close after a number of years. Following some discussion, approval for the proposed scheme was received from Glasgow City Council and Historic Environment Scotland, and subsequently a Canon 35 was issued by the Diocese. At the same time a proposal to renew

the lighting in the side aisles was approved. Genesis 1:3 will now apply – inside and outside!

In last year's report a number of matters to be dealt with in the Bell Tower were mentioned: re-painting of the bell frame; removal and refurbishment of the wooden louvres; repair of the wheels that the bell ropes go round; installation of a new sound attenuation system. Discussion of plans and the logistics for those major tasks have been ongoing, but a definitive programme has still to be formulated.

Numerous smaller tasks have been completed. As my period as a Vestry member comes to an end, I want to thank a good number of dedicated and talented helpers who have given freely of their time and energy to support the cathedral for all the property-related achievements. It would be invidious to mention by name all who have helped with a wide range of jobs. I have to say, though, it has been so encouraging to always get such positive responses when I have asked for help with property matters, and I have found it a joy and delight to work with those who do so much out of love for St Mary's and for their Lord

In preparation for a visit of the Dean in May a Property Register was compiled; a copy is available for inspection. The Dean was very satisfied with the care of property matters for the cathedral. The Register includes the SEC document on the Responsibilities of the Property Group Convener which had never been brought to my attention; my successor should be aware of what the responsibilities are!

Michael Hitchman

## 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 Convenor 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.

A significant issue during the year was ensuring that St Mary's was ready for the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations in May. Before the implementation date a data audit was conducted and a privacy notice was written and made available on the website. A note in the pew sheets alerts potential pledgers that gift aid involves certain information being retained for tax purposes. Data security remains a priority and actions to ensure best practice will continue.

A number of HR matters were progressed including contracts for members of the Music Department and a review of pension and housing allowances for clergy. A useful discussion was held with the Volunteer Co-ordinator about valuing and supporting volunteers at St Mary's. The cash counters continue their faithful activity and have endured a number of tweaks to documentation this year.

The health and safety policy has been reviewed and a nappy disposal service has now been put in place. A change has been made to the tea and coffee provision after services; gluten free biscuits are now available and anyone bringing in baking is asked to list all ingredients.

Other matters dealt with have included electrical appliance testing and removing some flammable materials. A risk register template has been developed for Vestry, but this will not be progressed until the next awayday.

The Convenor thanks the Compliance Group for their cheerful commitment this year, as well as all those with whom we regularly liaise, including the Provost, Verger and Property Convenor.

Lisa Curtice

## Music Report

This year the cathedral choir membership has fluctuated more than in any year I can remember, but remains at a pool of about thirty-five or so adult singers. Many of our young choristers have grown up and moved on, and we are currently struggling to replace them. However, we still have a very faithful, but young set of 12 choristers, having admitted two into the choir just a couple of weeks ago. I am very keen to recruit more boys and girls for this very important element of the cathedral's ministry. Please do spread the word about us, and send any prospective children our way.

The choir continues to be as busy as ever, not only singing twice every Sunday, but also taking part in many special services and broadcasts (Morning Worship and Daily Service on Radio 4, catch us soon, on 13th January), as well as a highly acclaimed residency singing in Manchester Cathedral for the weekend after Easter.

In May we combined with the Glasgow University Chapel Choir and the choir of Glasgow Cathedral for the third and last time, to sing a Choral Evensong for Trinity Sunday in Glasgow Cathedral. Glasgow University Chapel Choir also came and joined us to celebrate the centenary of the death of Sir C. H. H. Parry in October, with a rousing chorus of his "Blest Pair of Sirens"!

Joining with other choirs in our locale is an important part of our outreach, and a very enjoyable one.

This November is proving as busy as last year! A couple of weeks ago we sang the Walford Davies Shorter Requiem for All Souls, which was written for the fallen of World War I, along with Harris' Bring us O Lord God, gifted to us by a generous member of the congregation. We also have two memorial services to sing, one on the 10th November, for the composer Martin Dalby, and another on the 24th November, for Andrew Colin who was a member of the cathedral choir for nearly thirty years. Andrew also built our bookshelves in the library and the choir room, and ran the library for many years, too. He also served on the vestry of the cathedral. Andrew was an incredibly gentle kind man, and we shall miss him dearly.

December begins with the Advent Carol Service on Sunday 2nd, and preparations for Christmas.

## 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, and who help us to buy extra copies as our choir continues to grow!

However, storage space for our music collection continues to be a serious issue.

## Organ Appeal

The choir and organists put together a fabulous concert to launch the Organ Appeal in May. All aspects of the cathedral music department's work was demonstrated, including the training of our choristers, and our young organists, as well as showcasing the choir's wide and varied repertoire.

We were honoured that the concert was attended by over 200 people, including the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Eva Bolander, and raised over £5,000 for the organ appeal. You can read how the appeal is developing elsewhere in these reports.

### Thank you!

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

## Fundraising Group

The Fundraising Group was set up by Vestry in December 2017 to consider fund raising for building development and for the organ rebuild. Initially the group had three members from Vestry - the convener, Michael Shanks and Caitlin Wakefield.

From the start it was apparent that the building development was in a state of flux and it was not clear what the financial needs would be. Thus the Fundraising Group activity has been restricted to collecting and collating information on funding sources specifically directed towards historic buildings and places of worship; about 50 funds have been identified. Once it becomes clear what the actual requirements will be then a short list of the most likely candidate funds can be drawn up, and a fund raising strategy for making a case for the cathedral can be developed.

The Fundraising Group has, therefore, concentrated on the organ rebuild. For several years, the cathedral has had quotations from three companies. They were all rather similar, but the long established and world renowned company of Harrison & Harrison of Durham produced the best offer in terms of what was proposed and value for money. A contract was produced by them at the end of 2017. The total cost for the work is £1.2 M excluding VAT. In order for the organ to be rebuilt in time by 2021 for the 150th anniversary of St Mary's and the original organ, initially H&H guaranteed that could be achieved provided that a 5% deposit was paid and the contract was signed by the end of August this year. However, they later generously extended the deadline to the end of the year.

The first step in the launch of the fund raising programme for the organ was arranging an organ and choir concert. This was extraordinarily successful with nearly 200 people attending. There were very many complimentary remarks about the standard of the music, and an indication of the interest shown and the support for the rebuild of the organ was shown by the fact that £5000 was raised on the evening. That amount has

been more than quadrupled subsequently. Support was also shown by strong, extremely positive messages from leading national and international organists.

After the concert because of other heavy commitments for the members of the Fundraising Group, we lost some momentum. In order to try and regain that we advertised in the Pew Notes for help with making applications to charitable trusts and grant funding organisations, and for an honorary Project Manager who could help to identify potential individual and corporate donors and to formulate a strategy for approaching them.

For the first position, John Gerrard volunteered and has worked on identifying a wide range of possible charitable funders. For the second position, there were no enquiries until David Kenvyn offered administrative support and I took on the role of Project Manager. The members of the enlarged FRG started to work together to try and identify wealthy benefactors who could respond quickly to funding requests; several lists were drawn up. The largest one is the Sunday Times Giving List 2018 which helpfully identifies each giver's wealth, recent donations, percentage of wealth given away annually, and the main beneficiaries. There are 200 names on the list and we have identified those with a Scottish link. However, even though the list is long, only about 10% of the names are suitable for soliciting support for the organ appeal because of restricted or excluded areas of beneficence, or of not accepting unsolicited applications.

A general letter has been written which briefly introduces St Mary's and tells the story of our organ, music at the cathedral, and what our need is. Quite a lot of work is required to provide sufficient detailed information to allow the letter to be personalised for each application. So far we have sent out nearly 20 requests, of which three have been declined, but one, from the Arnold Clark Charity, has resulted in a £15,000 donation. It is a good time of year to send off requests as many Trusts and Foundations are considering their annual financial commitments.

Now that contacting philanthropic sources has almost been completed, we will move on to charitable organisations that have been identified by Caitlin Wakefield and John Gerrard; the basic information about the appeal is available, but again it will need to be carefully tailored for each case.

A meeting with the former Head of Development of the RSCM has confirmed that the strategy outlined above is the appropriate one, and Vestry has endorsed that. Once we have some major donations then we can target individuals; David Kenvyn has drawn up a list of Famous Glaswegians that we can approach

Other developments have been the production of the general Appeal leaflet, the Adopt-a-Pipe leaflet, and the Organ Experience leaflet, thanks to Michael Shanks, and they have been widely and favourably commented on; leaflets have been inserted in the pew notes at a number of Sunday Eucharists. The web site has also been populated by a professional web designer.

We have investigated the recovery of VAT for the organ refurbishment and learnt that provided that the contract is for rebuild then VAT is refundable under the Listed Places of Worship Scheme (LPWS). Even with that saving of ca. £240k, the £20k we have raised, the £15k donation from Arnold Clark, and a cathedral commitment of £120k from a legacy, some major donations are still required if we are to be able to seriously consider taking up the Harrison & Harrison contract at the end of the year.

Honore de Balzac wrote “The organ is the grandest, the most daring, the most magnificent of all instruments invented by human genius”, and David Briggs, the international concert organist has said, “There is no doubt that the sound of a really great pipe organ can change lives - it can deeply move and even heal the human spirit”.

So we will persevere to raise the funds to allow the Cathedral to have an instrument which will be a musical gem not just for us, but also for the people of Glasgow, and of which we, the city, and the whole of Scotland can be proud.

Michael Hitchman

## **Bellringers**

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, Easter Day and Pentecost and for the services for Epiphany, Candlemas, Maundy Thursday, Ascension Day and Corpus Christi.

Seven quarter peals were rung including one by a visiting band of ringers. In May another band of ringers 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.

We are still liaising with the Cathedral property committee to plan work that is required to the bells, bell-frame and louvres. We had hoped that this work would be carried out during the past year but it has now been put off until next year.

We opened the tower during the Doors Open weekend in September. This year we had the added attraction of a mini-ring in the Cathedral. This was particularly popular on the Sunday when several members of the congregation were able to have the chance to try out bellringing on this small scale.

We are very fortunate to have been joined by four new experienced ringers; three are students who have come to Glasgow to study and one has recently moved to Glasgow for his work. Along with our learners who are making excellent progress this should ensure a good future for the band.

Margaret Williams

## **Book group**

The Book Group met for the first time on Sep 3. A core of 10 people met to discuss 17 book titles to whittle down to a short list of 8 to be discussed Oct to Jun.

The group has shown a good regular attendance over the past year. Monthly discussions are chaired by the person who chose the particular book. This is a range of fiction and non-fiction books. A presentation was also made at the recent Open Doors day, arranged by myself and supported by Anne Jones. Anne is also a great asset opening doors on the Tuesday evenings we meet and providing tea/coffee and biscuits. The group's membership and attendance is healthy, with 16 people on the mailing list. I enjoy coordinating the meetings.

Gordon McCulloch



## Communications

St Mary's continues to be very active online. A total of 431 individual email accounts are signed up to receive regular email news from the congregation. On twitter, 1017 follow the cathedral account. On facebook the cathedral's page is followed by 2608. Sermons and forums are regularly posted to this page and made available on the cathedral website in video form.

It is believed that the congregation has the largest online reach of any congregation of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Kelvin Holdsworth

## Compline

Gathering to sing the plainchant Monastic late evening Office of Compline in the Cathedral has continued throughout this past year on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.15pm, and each week through Lent.

St Mary's started this regular service when Drew Sheridan was curate with our clergy team. Times and days have varied a little through the years, details being published in the Sunday Services' pew notes and an informal email reminder circulated to everyone who has requested this – send me an email at [gail@ggsmith.co.uk](mailto:gail@ggsmith.co.uk) to join the list. Everyone welcome.

The service lasts about half an hour with folk frequently enjoying informal refreshment thereafter in the local vicinity.

Gail Smith

## Contact group

The Contact Group has met every two months over the last year. We are available to meet up informally for coffee and chat with congregation members needing pastoral support. It was decided at our last meeting that we should join together with the FIOP group, who will now no longer use that title. Instead, the two groups are now combined and will all meet together as the Contact Group, so we now have eight members in all. The remit will remain as before, in that the former FIOP group members will continue to offer longer term support, including home visits if required for those with long-term health conditions, mobility issues, those who are housebound or the elderly, whereas the regular Contact Group members will be available for short term support, in cases of more acute need, or for those simply looking for a way in to the congregation as newcomers. The group does not provide formal counselling, but there are trained counsellors among us. The group is supported by Anne Jones in respect of PVG training, safeguarding and legislation.

The number of requests we have is not large, being around half a dozen or so over the year, but the group provides an additional resource to back up the pastoral support offered by the clergy. Some members are also able to offer Communion to housebound congregation members who ask for this.

Requests for support can be made by individuals themselves, or on behalf of others, by speaking to the clergy, or directly to Anne Robertson using the email: [contact@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:contact@thecathedral.org.uk)

Anne Robertson

## Events

This last year has kept us busy. We have been pleased to welcome many of our regular orchestras and choirs, but due to circumstances beyond our control we have seen a number of cancellations. As a result, our autumn concert season has turned out to be rather quieter than usual. Overall this year we have hosted the following:- Orchestras and Choirs = 13, Exhibitions = 2, Dedication Services = 1, Organist Events = 1

We do; however, have some more positive news by way of the now formalised Cantus Firmus Choir who will give their first formal appearance as a concert group, basing themselves at St Mary's Cathedral, and Julia Solomon and her colleague Karla who will present a St Andrews Day Concert.

**Festivals:** Glasgow Open Doors Festival saw St Mary's attract some 260+ visitors which is an increase from what we saw in 2017. (We did not participate last year). I am extremely grateful to the large number of cathedral volunteers who helped to make this a very successful event. Everyone involved helped to show just how wonderful a place the cathedral is and how sincere we all are in welcoming everyone to be with us. Well done everyone. Thank you.

We also took part in the West End Festival and saw very good audiences attend. We are a popular venue and attract some interesting people, ranging from Barber Shop Music to that of Kurt Weill as well as traditional Choral music. In July we even had a French Choral Group with us, thanks to Robert Guthrie.

**Exhibitions:** The Friday Art Group once again presented their annual exhibition of members' work. This proved to be highly successful; they sold much of the work on display. We had another first by way of a Photographic Exhibition entitled "Interfaith at Work". This ran for the whole of September and was very well received. I must express my thanks here to Queens Park Camera Club for their co-operation in putting this exhibition together for us.

**Events to look forward to:** In June of 2019 St Mary's will host the superb "Great Scottish Diaspora Tapestry". This is a unique opportunity to see an internationally renowned exhibition at the Cathedral. As we are not large enough to display the whole tapestry, it will be split into two parts. The first half will be displayed for two weeks, and then replaced by the second half of the tapestry for the final two weeks. This will hopefully allow people an opportunity to see at least one half, if not the whole exhibition.

There will be another Art Exhibition coming in March, when local artists will exhibit and sell their work. We welcome the 3L's Art Group and I am sure that they will find St Mary's a warm and inviting place to display their handiwork.

**Behind the Scenes:** As ever, I am grateful for the small but hard working team of supervisors who unstintingly give of their time and efforts to ensure that we maintain our reputation of being a great place to come to. Without the support of the events team, we would not have such a vibrant and successful concert and exhibition venue.

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. 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.

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 have normally met monthly or as needed to keep the Cathedral grounds tidy and free of weeds. This includes raking and sweeping, removing moss, clearing leaves and maintaining the wild flower garden beside the office. Especially we have convened small working parties ahead of Easter, Weddings and Doors Open Day.

Frank Ewing

## Justice and aid network

The Committee held its bi-annual World Christmas Fair in November 2017 shortly after the last AGM, and this realised around £2,000, which was banked by the various charities exhibiting, although St Mary's made some funds from operating the coffee and cakes stall. This event is also a valuable opportunity for conversations and meeting different people who are concerned about justice in the world.

John Riches organised a visit from representatives of farmers in Malawi, who spoke about the realities of their situation. (85% of the population of Sub-Saharan Africa are small farmers: making their lives better is vital, as global warming affects them disproportionately).

Volunteers from the group had also been meeting folk from the Night Shelter on a rota, but this has stopped temporarily in the summer when the Night Shelter at Anderston had to close. It is hoped that something similar may start up again.

There was a meeting at the end of October focussed on the Theology of the Care of Creation, organised by Ahilya Noone, at which we had to admit that the "survival of the fittest" conflicts with Christian doctrine. It was generally thought that we should try to respond to the problems of nature with compassion, and take positive action wherever possible.

Members of the congregation also take part in Interfaith meetings and events, including Scriptural Reasoning meetings with other faiths, which help us understand different approaches to justice and aid.

Robin Webster

## Lay representative

My main ordinary responsibility as Lay Representative is to represent the Cathedral at Diocesan Synod, which took place at Holy Trinity Kilmarnock in May 2018.

Bishop Gregor announced his retirement during his charge to Diocesan Synod, and retired on his birthday in October 2018. The members of that Diocesan Synod are now constituted as members of the Electoral Synod which is currently working to discern who might be called as the next Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. The Electoral Synod held its preliminary meeting on November 3rd 2018, and the work of a Preparatory Committee to arrange application and shortlisting of possible candidates has now begun. An election is anticipated in the early spring of next year. The voting members of the Electoral Synod from the Cathedral will be the Provost, Anne Jones, and myself.

During the Bishop's vacancy, the Diocese is being managed by the Primus, who is acting as interim Bishop, the Dean, and the Provost. I would like to note and give thanks to them for the work that they have been doing since Bishop Gregor's retirement, and to express support for them during the ongoing vacancy.

Also at Diocesan Synod, the Synod received reports from around the Diocese, including from Petko Marinov on his work as Diocesan Digital Missioner. The accounts and budget for the year were presented by the Diocesan Treasurer, and it was concluded that Diocesan finances are in good health.

The planned review of the Diocesan Constitution, which I noted in my report to the AGM last year, is delayed in the context of the Bishop's vacancy.

At the time of writing, the members of the cathedral who are diocesan representatives to General Synod are the Provost, the Vice Provost, Anne Jones, and myself. We attended General Synod in Edinburgh in June 2018.

The Bishop's Lent Appeal this year was for MND Scotland in memory of our late Diocesan Secretary, Chris Zochowski. Chris died from Motor Neurone Disease earlier this year.

Beth Routledge

## LGBT network

It is some time since the LGBT Network has held regular physical meetings, but we remain present within the congregation and have continued to offer an important first point of contact for some individuals to St Mary's.

The LGBT Network had a significant presence at Pride Glasgow this year, as part of a group of Scottish Episcopalians from around the Province. Morning Prayer for Pride was celebrated in the Cathedral, followed by breakfast. This proved popular, and provided an opportunity for people to meet before moving on to join the march through Glasgow. We contributed to stalls from the Scottish Episcopal Church at both Pride Glasgow and Free Pride. It is notable and a point for celebration that seven clergy from around the Diocese were present at the main Pride march this year, and that we were joined by more clergy at the Pride and Free Pride stalls across the weekend. We were also supported by Diocesan Office staff. We had priests in attendance at the Pride marketplace and at Free Pride throughout the weekend, contributed to significantly by Cathedral clergy. This is a joyful and significant opportunity for the mission of the Cathedral and the Scottish Episcopal Church in the West End.

I note that this year the Provost has had speaking invitations to both Ireland and England, where he has shared some of the lessons that were learned about campaigning for marriage equality with LGBT campaigners in the Church of Ireland and the Church of England. The LGBT Network was a big part of that campaign in Scotland, and it is good to see that work being shared around the Anglican Communion in provinces where the work goes on.

I am hopeful that in the coming year we will expand the Network and be able to re-establish a form of regular meetings.

Beth Routledge

### **Litter picking**

Throughout the past year, a team of seven litter pickers has endeavoured to keep the Cathedral grounds generally tidy and litter-free. Taking charge for a week at a time, we visit St Mary's as often as necessary to clear any litter either thrown or blown into the grounds. We trust that our efforts are appreciated.

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. Over the year several enormous bags of blankets, bonnets, cardigans, booties etc. have been dispatched to the Hospital.

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.

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 10th December – why not give it a try?

Lisella Hutton

### **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 2018, 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 cathedral played host to 2 exhibitions during the Open Church period. In May the regular exhibition by the Friday Art Club exhibition took place and in September there was a presentation of photographs by Queen's Park Camera Club called 'Faithful Lives'.

In 2018, 743 visitors were welcomed in the mornings between May and September, representing an increase of 185 over 2016. Also in September 238 people visited the Cathedral during the Doors Open Weekend representing an increase of 72 over 2016.

Ongoing feedback from visitors highlights and commends the warmth of the welcome given and the high quality of the knowledge and information shared about every aspect of Cathedral life.

Anne Chowaniec

## **Protection of vulnerable groups**

The PVG coordinator 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 or supervising Sunday School or providing some kind of regular welfare service to people with particular needs.

Usually at the beginning of each year I am required to submit a Protection Record to the Diocese and that checklist forms part of my report to the AGM. However in May this year the Provincial PVG Committee carried out an audit of all charges in the SEC and have advised that the Diocesan checklist is unnecessary in 2018. The Provincial Committee's safeguarding audit was completed on behalf of St Mary's Cathedral by the Provost, the Vestry Secretary and me. In September we were invited to take part in an follow up consultative meeting with a member of the Provincial Committee and the Provincial Protection Officer, Donald Urquhart, and representatives from seven other churches from throughout the diocese. The People's Warden attended this meeting with me in my role as Co-ordinator for St Mary' and Diocesan Protection Officer.

I can confirm that anybody involved in regulated work at St Mary's has the correct level of PVG clearance, that we display the necessary information prominently (the display was moved this year from the Synod Hall to the back of the church) and that PVG issues are discussed at Vestry as necessary and carried out following the procedures, processes and policies of the church. Please note also that I carried out training in April this year for those undertaking regulated work with children.

To conclude I would like to thank the Provincial Protection Officer, Donald Urquhart, and the Assistant Officer, Daphne Audsley, the Provost, Vice Provost and clergy, the vestry secretary and vestry members and the congregation for their continuing support. I

would also like to take this opportunity to quote the SEC website which 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 protect 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 Coordinator or the Provost or Vice provost. If they are not 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/>

Anne Jones

### **St Mary’s @ The Movies**

St Mary’s at the Movies remains a vibrant film group meeting monthly to view a film one week and discuss it the following week. It has met to discuss ten movies since the last AGM. Chris Athorne stepped down as convener at the end of the summer “term”, being succeeded by Steve Innes.

Cedric Blakey

### **Sacristans**

The work of the Sacristans has continued at a steady pace throughout the year. We are enormously helped by David Kenvyn and by Kathryn McFarlane who heads up the team of Servers. We have endeavoured to keep the Sacristy clean and tidy and hope that everyone can find whatever they need as they need it. We were delighted to be supplied with Palms again this year for Palm Sunday, 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.

Sue Champion

### **School of spirituality**

The co-ordinators are Cedric Blakey, Sue Champion, Debbie Lewer, Sr AJ and Sr Helena. During the last year, Jo Russell and Sheena Forsyth stepped back from the group. Margaret Kerr joined us for a while, but has also had to step back. We would like to thank each of them for all their contributions. We have also welcomed Debbie Lewer, Sr AJ and Sr Helena to the group.

**The Open Silence:** an hour of shared silence in St Mary’s has been maintained throughout the year in a number of guises. The Thursday lunchtime sessions ceased early in 2018, but the Sunday sessions continued until May 2018. After this, it was decided to try a Wednesday night with more guided input to different approaches to Christian mindfulness. It has become apparent that the Open Silence seems to have reached a natural end, and therefore will not be continuing after the last programmed session on 21st November 2018.

**Lent 2018:** a Lent Course, A Rule: An Anchor for Life was led by Sisters Helena and AJ and was well attended. Compline took place on Tuesdays, and a Quiet Day was led by Margaret Kerr.

**Retreats & Pilgrimages:** a retreat to Millport was led by Bishop Gordon Mursell. A further retreat is booked for May 2019 with Dr Debbie Lewer as the speaker. The Vice Provost led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in May 2018 – participants were from the congregation & the Diocese.

**Icon Event:** Tatiana Nichita gave us a wonderful talk on icons and icon painting, which provoked lots of question and discussion.

**Upcoming programme:** there are already events planned for the year to come, including a Lent Course, the Millport retreat and an occasional series on Spirituality and the Arts – keep your eyes on the pew sheets for further information.

Finally, on behalf of the group, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Cedric for all he has done to make the spirituality programme at St Mary's work as it has done during his time with us. We wish you all the best for your retirement.

Sue Champion

## Servers

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

As usual, we have been involved in all the Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services as well as assisting Sunday by Sunday. We have served for several baptisms, weddings and funerals in the last year as well as an Ordination. We also recently served at the Valedictory Choral Evensong to mark Bishop Gregor's retirement.

The Cathedral currently has 16 servers. 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.

We sadly had to say farewell to Ryan Salamony in September when he returned to the USA. We also lost Matthew Little as a server last year on the Feast of Christ the King when he was received into the Scottish Episcopal Church by Bishop Gregor as Rev Matthew Little. We are delighted that he is able to remain at the Cathedral as an Associate Priest.

We have been fortunate to welcome some new recruits in the past year 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



## Stewards

The stewarding team at St Mary's continues to support the clergy and sacristy team in ensuring the smooth running of services and the safety and security of the congregation. Following a further decline in the number of stewards on the rota during the past 12 months, I am pleased to report that Monica and Honor have recently joined the team, Iain has agreed to assist after bell-ringing and Matt to combine stewarding with his welcoming duties. I would like to thank Hazel, Nicole, Colleen and Gill who have recently left the team, in some cases temporarily, for their past assistance. Thanks are also due to those current and former stewards who make themselves available, often at short notice, for additional services including weddings and funerals and to the whole team for their commitment to stewarding at St Mary's.

Tony Hughes

## Students at St Mary's

In the past year students at St Mary's have continued to meet for lunch after the 10:30 service on Sundays and socialising throughout the year. In the past year we have been taking part in bible studies, a Christmas lunch and secret santa, a Shrove Tuesday celebration with liturgy and an Easter celebration.

We have partnered with Student Christian Movement Glasgow Network and hope to gain more members in this area. In this capacity we've been involved in events run by those organisations such as a fortnightly Bible study and freshers event, as well as the national AGM which this year was held in Glasgow.

We have continued to receive pastoral support from Sister AJ who has been advising us and along with Sister Helena joining us for lunch.

The past year has seen our numbers grow again and we now have a strong group of committed students and young people who attend St Mary's and several affiliated students. Numbers who attend week by week fluctuate but we regularly have between 8 and 10 people at lunch on any given Sunday.

As to participation within the wider Church students and young people at St Mary's are involved in serving, the readers rota, the intercession rota, the fair-trade stall, and interfaith work.

Caitlin Wakefield

## Tea and Coffee Team

The Tea and Coffee Team form an integral part of St. Mary's welcoming team. There are currently 30 regular volunteers and three reserves. 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. Each volunteer is "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

The tea-run remains a constant and caring presence in Glasgow's street night life, tending to the homeless, the lonely and the marginalised.

St Mary's, together with the Quakers, the Humanists, and the Buddhist group Kagyu Samye Dzong, and a joint Christian group of pastoral workers, man the tea-run on Sunday nights, as part of the Cadogan Street Soup Kitchen. We provide a multi-faith service to the community till 10:00pm every night, almost all nights of the year.

As winter approaches, as well as hot food and drink, the tea-run offers hats, gloves, socks, toiletries, and at a basic level, offers a welcome, and companionship in what otherwise can be a cold and hostile environment.

This year, we have seen volunteers leave, and new people ready to take up the call for help.

We held a Kitchen Table Talk at the Cathedral, where homeless people were invited to lunch, and took part in a discussion on the difficulties of accessing good quality food whilst on the streets. As a result, a report was written and sent to Glasgow MSPs, and to all the main political parties to persuade them to support the concerns of the low-incomed in the Scottish Government's proposed Good Food Nation Bill.

As part of Scottish Interfaith Week 11-18 November 2018, the Interfaith Food Justice network, of which the tea-run forms part, has organised an exchange whereby volunteers from all faiths, and from all areas of food justice, can attend each other's food initiatives.

The tea-run is to host guest volunteers, and St Mary's is to visit a community kitchen run by the Scottish Police Moslem Association to share a meal and chat with refugees and asylum seekers.

Throughout the year, as part of the Interfaith Food Justice Network, members of the tea-run have attended talks and discussions, extending and strengthening contacts and sharing experiences.

Members of the tea-run were on the organising committee of The Big Picnic in George Square earlier this year, and participated in the event in many ways, including manning the rubbish bins, and making the homeless in Glasgow that day feel welcome and included in the revelries.

This coming year, our focus will be on improving the quality of food available to the homeless and low-incomed, and on improving access to food for those who otherwise go hungry, and supporting as far as possible, the Council's endeavour to end homelessness in Glasgow. We are also active in the campaign to lessen the vulnerability of growing numbers of refugees and asylum seekers on the streets.

Olanna Horhut

## Traidcraft stall

Traidcraft and Just Trading Scotland (JTS) are part of the Fairtrade movement. One way the congregation supports the work of Fairtrade is by purchasing their products from the stall, and for the period 2017-2018 purchases and donations were £2140.70, which was an



increase on the previous year's takings (£1672.23). This increase was due in part to the World Christmas Fair held last autumn. Our costs to Traidcraft and JTS were £1812.28

In late September it was announced that Traidcraft would cease trading at the end of this year, which as you can imagine came as a shock. However it is planned that stronger links will be forged with JTS and Gavin's Mill (Milngavie). Consequently the stall will continue in 2019, renamed "Fairtrade Stall".

I would like to thank the team of dedicated people who ensure that there is a stall nearly every Sunday, for the donations of seasonal produce and for the congregations continuing support of Fairtrade.

Graham Skellern

## Verger

As usual, this has been a particularly busy year at the Cathedral. A particular joy was the ordination of Lee Johnston to the Diaconate. 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 the Bishop, and went without a hitch. The Choral Evensong to say farewell to Bishop Gregor was also extremely moving, especially at the point where he removed his mitre and placed his crozier on the High Altar. It was a beautiful service and we, as a congregation, should be proud that this is the kind of thing that the Cathedral does so well.

There are far too many people to thank by name. They know who they are. They are the people who count the money, who organise the coffee and tea for the Thursday morning service and for the service on Sunday, those who help with Open Church and other events, the stewards and the welcomers, the servers and the choir and everyone who helps in whatever way with what happens at the Cathedral.

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.

Finally, as always, my thanks go to Joanna Russell, Iain Milne, the Events' Organiser, and Sandy Fraser who have not only put up with me this year, but have given me a constant supply of coffee and biscuits. And, of course, I would like to thank Kelvin and Cedric for all the support they have given me this year, and I would like to wish Cedric a wonderful and enjoyable retirement (with the expectation that we will see him a few times during the next year).

David Kenvyn

## Volunteers

This year the Compliance Group looked at volunteering at St Mary's: who is involved, how people can be best supported and how much time is given; how we may move forward. We approached the conveners listed in the 'Who's Who' leaflet (if you'd like to be involved please see the named individuals – it's a great way to get to know people); they came up with a rough estimate of around 12,500 hours of time given, per year. This is quite a conservative estimate as not all were able to give a response. Of course the annual report gives a clear picture too of our activities. Please ask me if you need to

know anything more and as I say every year: thank you so much for all you do at St Mary's - we are a blessed community of generous people.

Franny Mawditt

## West End ACTS

The representative group, which represents more than ten church congregations in the west of the city, met on three occasions, hosted by Wellington Church. Regular attendance has largely been confined to those representing only five or six of the member churches. Partly with this in mind the format has been changed to allow time, following the regular business, for learning about and discussing the traditions and forms of worship of a particular member denomination.

During the past year the group was represented by myself and other members at a number of ecumenical events arranged by the city-wide Glasgow Churches Together, including participation in the annual St. Mungo Festival.

The group itself organised two main events during the past year.

Firstly an ecumenical service led by Rev. Chris Foxon of the Methodist Church during the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and secondly a full-house evening in Wellington Church taking part with John Bell in his wonderful "Holy and Humorous" celebration. A collection was taken on behalf of the work of the L'Arche community.

Throughout the year the group acts as a clearing house for information about the activities of our member churches, including St. Mary's and these are often included in the External Events section of our weekly pew sheets.

Future plans include the organisation of another interdenominational/interfaith Burns Supper, following the great success of that held in 2017 in the new Sikh Gurdwara.

John Gerrard

## Young Church

There was a good response to a survey of members of the congregation who have children participating in Young Church. We received a number of valuable suggestions as well as some offers to help with the Sunday sessions. Following the survey the Leadership Group and Young Church leaders have been exploring ways of raising the profile of Young Church within the congregation.

Music Report for Young Church: 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 2 members of Young Church that have now joined the Choristers in the Cathedral Choir and we will continue to help them develop these skills. Young Church have also sung with the Cathedral choir at various Eucharists throughout the year and will continue to do so. (Christine Walker)

Our thanks go to Christine, Ethel, Rosemary, Sophie and Vivienne for their dedicated leadership of our Young Church programme, and those parents who help to sustain it. There is a real need for a second group for the P2+ age group but this requires an extra

room St Mary's does not have at present. Roll on the acquiring of or building new space for education and meetings!

Report compiled by Jinty Stewart and Cedric Blakey for the Leadership Group

