

*St Mary's Cathedral,  
Glasgow*

*Annual Report  
2021 / 22*

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## Agenda - Annual General Meeting, 12:30 pm, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2022

1. Opening prayers and memorial for the departed
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Acceptance of AGM minutes of 21st November 2021
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. Elections to Vestry  
Nominations:
  - 5.1. Lay representative  
Beth Routledge (proposer Jo Russell, seconder Stewart Macfarlane)
  - 5.2. People's warden  
Franny Mawditt (proposer Daniel Williams, seconder David Burness)
  - 5.3. Alternate lay representative / Diocesan N E Regional Council representative  
Lesley Buntain (proposer Beth Routledge, seconder Jo Russell)
  - 5.4. Vestry members (one vacancy)  
Pat Bennett (proposer Beth Routledge, seconder Jim McKillop)
6. Group and network reports\*
7. Questions arising from reports
8. Vice-Provost's remark.
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 21st November 2021

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

**Secretary:** Liffy Grant

**Treasurer:** Roger Mackenzie

**Present:** Robyn Airlie, Brian John Aitken, Ella Aitken, Neil Aitken, Irene Ballantine, Pam Barrowman, Oliver Brewer-Lennon, Liam Brown, Peggy Brown, Harriette Campbell, M.J. Carmine, Matt Cavanagh, Becki Cox, Roger Edwards, Diane Elliott, Robert Elliott, Frank Ewing, Karen Ewing, Sandra Fraser, Margaret (Mackay) Gerrard, John Gerrard, Alan Grant, Graham Hair, Greta-Mary Hair, Jackie Heatlie, Olanna Horhut, David Kenvyn, Bob Leslie, Helen Leslie, Kit Lindsay, Monica Long, Robert MacDonald, Kathryn Macfarlane, Stewart Macfarlane, Shona Maciver, Roger Mackenzie, Ruth Marshall, Franny Mawditt, Robert Mawditt, Alan McCulloch, Lynda McCulloch, Steven McIntyre, Iain Milne, Alan Richmond, Pam Richmond, Graham Skellern, Gail Smith, Frikki Walker, Christine Walker.

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

The Provost opened the meeting with a prayer and by giving thanks for the lives of those departed in the last year naming Joyce Dippey and also Bishop John Taylor

The AGM of 2020 was held by Zoom which had worked well and the Provost took this opportunity to thank all those who had contributed to its successful execution.

#### 2. Apologies for absence

Margaret Dawson (Taylor), Christine Hughes, Tony Hughes, Anne Jones, Caroline McKillop, Jim McKillop, Bruce Montgomery-Smith, Eleanor Montgomery-Smith, Beth Routledge, Jo Russell, Michael Shanks, Ken Shaw, Ken Taylor, Gill Young.

#### 3. Acceptance of AGM minutes (by Zoom) of 22 November 2020

Stewart Macfarlane commented that, as last year's elections had been postal and the results of the elections not available at the time, this had not been recorded in the minutes as a postscript. This was accepted as correct and would be written in as an amendment.

The minutes were then otherwise accepted and signed by the Provost.

#### 4. Governance: Achievements and performance (Trustees' report); Treasurer's report; Appointment of the independent examiner; 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 as well as available as paper copy during the meeting. The reports with an asterisk would be taken as read though questions could be raised regarding any of them. He thanked the Cathedral Administrator, Iain Milne, for his hard work in bringing the AGM papers together and also all those who had prepared the reports.

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

The Treasurer proposed the reappointment of Jenny Irvine of Bell Barr who has been the independent auditor for the last two years. The meeting accepted the proposal and agreed nem con.

### **Additional comments from the floor**

The Property Convenor informed the meeting that the insurance claim, for the majority of the work in St Anne's Chapel, had been successful and the monies received. She then took the opportunity to ask that if any member of the congregation is willing to help with general maintenance to get in touch with her.

The Provost added that, as the usual Holy Saturday clean & polish had not been possible over the last two years, he and the Vice-Provost are considering whether this could be reinstated in due course.

There were no further comments.

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

The following nominations for Vestry had been received:

**Lay Representative:** Beth Routledge (proposer Becki Cox, seconder Sandra Fraser).

**People's Warden:** Franny Mawditt (proposer Grace Nsofor, seconder Diane Elliott).

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

Belle Fisher (proposer Neil Aitken, seconder Beth Routledge)

**Vestry Members (2 vacancies):** Margaret Dawson (proposer Jim McKillop, seconder Gail Smith) & Robert MacDonald (proposer Graham Skellern, seconder Alan Grant).

As the number of nominations matched the vacancies the above named were declared elected.

The Provost thanked those who were newly elected for their willingness to stand and existing Vestry members for all of their work on behalf of the Cathedral.

### **Additional comment from the floor**

Robyn Airlie requested that Vestry members identify themselves so that the congregation could take this opportunity to thank them for their work.

### **6 Group and network reports**

The Provost thanked everyone for their reports and the business they represent.

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

No questions were raised about the reports.

### **8 Provost's remarks**

The Provost remarked that there had been many changes during the course of this pandemic and there would be further changes to come. This had resulted in a great deal of hard work and thanked the Compliance Group for its work noting that St Mary's standard of safety for the congregation is regarded as exemplary. This has allowed the congregation to meet and come together and the Provost acknowledged his thankfulness and is confident that St Mary's has remained true to its vision of openness and inclusivity.

Franny Mawditt, People's Warden, on behalf of the congregation, also commented on the beautiful music and thanked all the clergy for excellent preaching, their creativity, energy and continuing hard work.

The Provost then added his grateful thanks to the work of Leadership Group and Music Staff: Frikki Walker and Steven McIntyre.

### **9. Closing prayers**

The Provost closed the meeting with a blessing.

## Achievements and performance (Trustees' report)

On this side of pandemic lockdowns, many find themselves wondering how to navigate a new landscape. Covid rocked the foundations of many institutions. So, is it now back to business as usual? Or do folk need a new tack?

Instead of being stuck with an operational model that hindered movement or adaptation, the Cathedral possessed something that encouraged and enabled action and growth. The guiding principles of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow—open, inclusive, welcoming—have been an anchor, not an albatross.

How the Cathedral changed during the pandemic (moving online, initiating and enforcing new protocols for safely meeting in public, and developing tools for staying in touch) has informed the strategies of the current year. When faced with new challenges, leaders continued to ask how the Cathedral could remain visible and accessible to various people, providing a generous welcome at multiple points of contact.

The Cathedral now livestreams the Sung Eucharist on Sundays and other major festivals, enabling folk to join in its distinctive worship from around the world. Recordings of these events mean participants need not take part contemporaneously nor partake only once. Online hosting of services and other events increases ease of access and visibility. It means more and more people see the high standard of music-making, challenging preaching, and inclusive liturgy. Most notably, God's love for all of God's children is proclaimed more widely.

Yet, some ask, 'When will we get back to normal?' In some ways, that will come with time—especially in the New Year when the Cathedral looks to reincorporate mid-week worship and other activities into its offerings. But in different ways, how things used to be are not how they are now. Life patterns and regular commitments have changed since the pandemic. Organisations like the Cathedral can either lament this or adapt to folks' new needs and preferences, celebrating the opportunity for connection.

Again, this is where the ethos of the Cathedral proves to be a strength. Although there have been no changes in paid staff (however, it's worth noting the positive contributions of the Rev Dr Maggie McTernan—Associate Priest who began serving at the Cathedral this past year), a team of dedicated volunteers has expanded to meet the demands of the growing congregation, adapting to changing circumstances. A committed Vestry has employed an ambitious vision while pledging itself to careful stewardship of resources. Groups have welcomed new people, allowing flexibility for scheduling and responsibility. And individual members have taken up new roles—and in some cases, developed new skills—to contribute to the community's life.

The building itself has begun to host more events following pandemic restrictions. Concerts and groups have brought folk into the Cathedral and provided a valuable resource for the community. Cathedral-sponsored events—like live music, classes, and forums—and Diocesan services have brought people in, too. This past year, the Cathedral delivered a series of programmes (in-person and online) as part of its School of Spirituality, focussing on ways of living and exercising faith. Progressively, the Cathedral aims to increase the occasions when its doors are open and people find welcome, securing its rightful place as a convenor of culture and faith in the city.

The dedication to maintaining its open, inclusive, and welcoming character has meant the Cathedral has repeatedly sought refreshment and sustenance in its undertakings. This requires time for thought and reflection, conducting feedback surveys, and offering staff and volunteers the opportunity to use their imaginations to work innovatively. This year, the Provost of St Mary's Cathedral has taken a well-deserved sabbatical. From times of resourcing and respite come enlivened and recharged community leaders.

Its Christian faith provides St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow a firm foundation. And its venerable character—that of open, inclusive, and welcoming—equips it with the tools and flexibility to proclaim the Gospel in a new age and new ways.

Leadership Group  
Provost – the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth  
Vice Provost – the Rev Canon Oliver Brewer-Lennon  
People's Warden – Franny Mawditt  
Provost's Warden – Jim McKillop

## Treasurer's report

This is my first report as Treasurer, since succeeding Roger Mackenzie in that role in August. I would like to thank Roger for the very considerable and diligent work he has undertaken for us as treasurer over many years. It was enormously helpful to me that duties transferred gradually over a number of months, and I am very grateful that Roger has been – and continues to be – very supportive. At the outset, Roger set a target of achieving handover before a significant birthday and I am pleased to say that objective was met!

The gradual resumption of our activities, following the easing and removal of restrictions imposed for the coronavirus health emergency, is reflected in the transactions underlying this year's Accounts.

In the year to 30 September 2022, before taking account of losses on investments, there was a surplus of income over expenditure of £21,000. Income for the year, however, included an insurance settlement of £44,000 – a one off payment relating to works carried out in the prior year. In the absence of that insurance settlement, expenditure would have exceeded income and, once again, it would have been necessary to draw on reserves to support day-to-day activities. This is a pattern which is not sustainable in the longer term.

Income from donations and legacies amounted to £235,000 compared with £265,000 in the prior year. The prior year amount included support payments made in response to the health emergency and a one-off gift to enable the purchase of the chamber organ.

Total expenditure in the year was £318,000 compared with £341,000 in the prior year. Staff costs account for around half of total expenditure with the costs of operating and maintaining the buildings accounting for much of the balance. Income of around £27,000 was generated from uses of the cathedral buildings during the year, and this helps to offset some of the buildings-related costs. Equipment purchases and maintenance of £25,000 included £12,500 for equipment to enable the livestreaming of church services and £10,000 for replacement heating boilers in the Synod Hall and in the office.

Investments fell in value by £125,000 over the year and, overall, our funds reduced by £105,000.



The ground floor flat at 5 Napiershall Street was purchased during the summer. Subject to planning permission for change of use being granted, it is intended that the flat will be used principally for office and meeting accommodation. It will also enable better use to be made of existing facilities. The purchase was financed from cash held on deposit and by selling a portion of our holding in the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

While making arrangements to finance the purchase of the flat, Vestry took the opportunity to allocate part of the remaining holding in the SEC Unit Trust Pool to the Music Endowment Fund. The assets of the Fund were part of the Cathedral's cash balances following disposal of the Fund's investments previously held in a portfolio managed by Brewin Dolphin.

Vestry recognises that annual income must cover annual expenditure to sustain the work of the Cathedral. To that end, we embarked on a stewardship campaign to promote thoughtful giving appropriate to our individual circumstances, and with a view to raising the overall level of offerings. Expenditure is managed carefully to mitigate, at least in part, significant increases in energy and other costs. These inflationary pressures, together with changed and changing patterns of activity make planning and budgeting a challenge.

We hold 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 our work.

Excluding the amount attributable to freehold property which is used directly in our activities, the Cathedral held £908,000 in unrestricted funds.

Of that amount:

- £339,000 is designated for restoration and renovation of the cathedral church buildings;
- £76,000 is designated for organ replacement/refurbishment;
- £10,000 for vestments; and
- £9,000 for choir and music.

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.

Robert MacDonald  
Treasurer

## Vestry Secretary's report

Vestry met 6 times in the last year. Meetings were on Zoom until a welcome return to the Synod Hall on 5<sup>th</sup> September. It is anticipated that meetings will now be held in-person where possible but with recourse to online option as needs be.

Vestry discussions included:

- Lessening of Covid-19 restrictions and how they are best managed
- Introduction of live-streaming
- Improvements to the Cathedral WiFi
- Stewardship Campaign and Cathedral Finances
- Cathedral, Synod Hall and office heating
- Need for additional office space
- Provost's sabbatical

During the course of this year, refreshments after the 11 a.m. service restarted and the use of the chalice at Communion reintroduced. Both had been curtailed during the pandemic and Vestry gave due consideration to their reintroduction. Resumption of 'normal' service is appreciated.

Improvements to the heating have been achieved in part with the replacement of the boiler in the office and Synod Hall.

Live-streaming of the 11 a.m. service had its inaugural trial in early February and has now become a regular feature of the service. A group of very competent volunteers ensure the live broadcast runs smoothly.

The need for additional office space has now been resolved with the purchase of the ground floor flat in Napier's Street (adjoining the current Cathedral office). This opportunity arose earlier in the year and was given full consideration by Vestry concluding with a decision to make an offer for the flat. This was successful and the allocation of this much-needed space is progressing rapidly.

After a number of postponements, the Provost left for the United States on a 3-month sabbatical and will return shortly before Christmas. The Vice-Provost is officiating in his absence aided by both Maggie McTernan, John Riches and Audrey Stewart O'Brien.

Other topics considered by Vestry in the year included

- Approval of the annual report to OSCR, including the accounts approved by the independent examiner.
- PVG procedures and Safeguarding at the Cathedral. An update on procedures was given by Matt Cavanagh on 4<sup>th</sup> April
- Reflections on COP26 and the S.E.C. Towards Net Zero toolkit
- Proposal for Cathedral Archives

I am a less frequent in-person visitor to the Cathedral these days but am making use of the live-streaming option and, when I do manage to attend a service, much appreciate the atmosphere of welcome, excellent sermons and wonderful music. Thank you!

Liffy Grant  
Vestry Secretary

## Leadership group

The Leadership Group (The Provost, The Vice Provost and the two Churchwardens) have had eight meetings since the 2021 AGM. They have also had frequent email discussion between their meetings.

The main topics they discussed were:

- Responding to changing COVID circumstances including mask wearing in church, hand sanitiser provision, social distancing, track and trace arrangements, reintroducing the communion chalice, use of the Synod Hall, reintroducing the collection plate for the congregation and the restarting of tea & coffee provision after the 11am Sunday service.
- Arrangements for the live streaming of services.
- Pastoral matters – deciding how best to respond to situations that they had become aware of.
- Provision of Young Church and Baby Space.
- Arrangements for the Glasgow University Chaplaincy activities by the Provost and Vice Provost.
- Office and administration arrangements.
- The Cathedral database.
- Managing external bookings.
- Managing, within the parameters agreed by Vestry, the successful purchase of the flat at 5 Napiershall Street
- Managing the transition to the new Cathedral Treasurer.
- Giving strategies.
- Synod Hall heating.
- Managing difficulties which arose with the cleaning contract.
- Arrangements for the Provost's sabbatical leave.

Jim McKillop  
Provost's Warden

## Property group

It's been another busy year for the property group as we have delivered some significant projects.

At the beginning of 2022, the live-streaming of worship started following a successful Canon 35 application swiftly followed by the installation of high definition cameras, microphones, internet connection and an audio visual desk into the Cathedral.

It was unfortunately a cold start in the Synod Hall and Cathedral Office as both boilers failed and had to be replaced, which took much longer than usual due to problems sourcing parts and labour due to Covid, Brexit etc. However eventually they were fixed and in the Cathedral Office, we were able to come off gas and install an electric combi-boiler to assist with our long-term green credentials. The Synod Hall had to stay on gas for now but is a far more efficient boiler.

After a couple of years off, Holy Saturday Maintenance Day returned and was very well supported - a big thanks goes to everyone who volunteered their time to tidy-up and help with a deep clean before Easter.

We fitted a long awaited handrail to the lectern box to make it a little easier and safer to use.

The telecoms companies who have equipment high up in the tower have been requesting frequent access for inspections, surveys and minor maintenance, as they seek to upgrade their systems.

We received the Quinquennial Report at the start of the year and have been working with the Finance Convenor to plan for expenditure required to fulfil its recommendations for maintenance to the Cathedral, Vice Provost's flat and office over the next 5 years.

We are working to support the expansion of our office space into the recently acquired flat next to the existing Cathedral office, through the Change of Use application to Glasgow City Council, redecoration and the minor electrical works required to make it a functional office space. This is also involving making arrangements to reorganise the existing office in due course.

Projects for next year include the refurbishment of the Cathedral toilets to improve their quality and further investigation into the Cathedral lighting.

Ruth Marshall  
Convenor – Property Convenor

## Compliance

The compliance group has continued to work to monitor the measures required under COVID guidance as these have changed and relaxed over the past year. The pandemic is not fully over, and everyone must remain cautious and maintain common sense measures to ensure their own and others safety.

We recommend if you feel in any way unwell or show symptoms of COVID/Flu you refrain from attending Church or Church activities in person as the risk of infection remains. Public Health officials are concerned about infection rates rising (especially flu) this winter hence this ask of members.

We are grateful to the congregation for their co-operation and understanding in their continued adherence to measures that are required.

We are grateful also to the Cathedral medical advisory group for their guidance as required in how best to adapt to our own situation.

Work is ongoing to revise our policies as some require updating to ensure they reflect current legislative and good practice guidance.

The First Aid boxes around the Church / Synod Hall / Office have all recently been replaced as the old ones had reached their 'expiry date'.

My thanks to the leadership for their support and to the members of the Compliance Group for their contributions to the work of the group.

Bob Leslie  
Convener – Compliance Group

## Music Report

This session has been an uphill exercise in re-building and re-energising the Music Department as we have climbed out of the months and months of restrictions imposed by the pandemic. Choral Evensong has returned, and we have been able to sing at a variety of special services, as well re-establish our English Cathedral residency in the summer. We have also been able to use our lovely chamber organ frequently, and to wonderful effect, but the main organ is increasingly difficult to play, and remains a huge matter of concern.

### *Cathedral Choir*

It has taken quite a while to get people back into the habit of attending rehearsals and services regularly, but the process of re-building the choir has turned out to be a very positive one, and I think they are now singing as well as they ever have. The pool of singers is ever-changing as people move away and new people are drawn into our fold. 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 nearly forty singers in total, although the morning service usually only attracts about 20, and Choral Evensong anywhere between 20 and 30 singers.

We were delighted that we were asked to broadcast live to the nation once again, another sign of things beginning to return to some sort of normality. So, we sang on BBC Radio 4 *Morning Worship* on June 12<sup>th</sup>. It was quite nerve-wracking getting back into it, but I think it went well, and it was certainly most favourably received.

Our summer break included the re-instating of our residency in an English cathedral, where we go as a visiting choir to sing the daily services while the professional cathedral choir is on holiday. It is a hugely enjoyable commitment, both musically and socially.

Having been cancelled in 2020 and 2021, I was delighted when the two Cathedrals who had to cancel us were quick to offer us new dates, so we found ourselves in Gloucester Cathedral in July, where we sang Choral Evensong each day, including for the installation of a Canon, and for visiting Bishops from far afield who were gathering to attend the Lambeth Conference. The clergy and congregation of Gloucester Cathedral were very welcoming and deeply complimentary and appreciative of our singing, as was their Director of Music!

Next summer we will sing in York Minster, then in 2024, Guildford Cathedral, 2025 in Southwell Minster, and in 2026 we have been invited to sing in Winchester Cathedral.

As well as being really enjoyable, these cathedral visits are a hugely important part of the choir's outreach and are also a way of keeping the wider St Mary's community in touch with us, as former choir members often come and sing with us, and former associates of St Mary's often come and hear us.

As the autumn term began, we were delighted to welcome the Berkshire Youth Choir and their Director, Christopher Haan to join us for Evensong in September, as part of their Scottish tour; their lovely voices and youthful energy were refreshing and inspiring as they joined with ours.

In September, we also welcomed a choir from Iceland, the Kór Fella og Hólakirkju. They sang to us, and we sang certain parts of the service to them, and we joined together for the hymns, the anthem, which was in Icelandic, and I wrote a Nunc Dimittis for us all to

sing together using Icelandic, English and Latin. There was also a very noisy party afterwards at which the Icelanders regaled us with some of their folksongs and party pieces, and the choir presented us with a beautiful new translation of the Psalms of the Passion by Hallgrímur Pétursson. It was a fun occasion!

Another great pleasure for us was to sing at both Ordination services for the Revd. Lisa Curtice. Having sung at her deaconing last year, it was a particular privilege to be with her again as she was priested this term!

Another triumph for the choir was our recent concert to celebrate the arrival of our Chamber Organ. Although we have had it now for a couple of years, and have been using it to great effect at services, it arrived between pandemic lockdowns, and we had not been able to publicly show it off, or officially thank Margaret Dawson and her family for the gifting of it to us. The organ now also bears a beautiful brass plaque stating the people in whose memory the organ was bought.

We were joined by members of the wonderful Telemann ensemble for the concert, and presented a mixed programme to reflect the many ways the organ can be used; as a concerto instrument, for continuo, for accompanying the choir, for accompanying solo instruments, and as a solo instrument in its own right. Everyone played and sang beautifully and I'm hugely grateful to the members of the Telemann Ensemble for accompanying us so willingly and so beautifully, and to the choir and soloists for singing so well. We also raised, through the generosity of the audience, nearly £500 towards the Music Fund.

Many of our former children choristers have gone on to prestigious Choral Scholarships and the like, and we have another success to report this year. Hugh Kaliski, who began with us about ten years ago as a treble, has gained a prestigious scholarship to study voice at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He has also taken up a choral scholarship at All Saints Church in Fulham. We wish him well on this next stage of his journey, and we are grateful to him for his dedication and service to our choir.

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

#### *Choir Recruitment*

The turnover of choir members can be quite rapid and variable as many people come to Glasgow on short term contracts, or to study. Membership of the choir, as I have said earlier in this report is eminently flexible, and is, I hope, huge fun!

Although I am always open to hear from all voice parts, we are currently looking for more ALTOS and TENORS to join our pool of singers. Please contact me if you are interested or know of anyone who might be.

#### *Children's Choir*

As previously reported, the restrictions on singing during the pandemic basically erased our choristers/children's choir which had been so successful since I started them off back in 2007. We did manage to keep them going on Zoom for about eighteen months, but gradually, as the boys' voices changed, and some of the others just outgrew the group, others just tired of yet another online activity, and with the limitations of what is possible in that format, it all became very difficult to maintain. It was also impossible to recruit new members, so with no influx for two years, I made the difficult decision to close.



Having got the adult choir up and running again, I then decided to try and launch a children's choir again. I emailed schools and various organisations, and we had a chorister singing morning from which we have collected ten very young singers, some of whom are from St Mary's families already. It has proved to be quite challenging, but I think they are beginning to make some lovely sounds, and I am hoping to get them to sing on Advent Sunday.

My thanks to all who are helping with this endeavour, including some former choristers who now sing in the adult choir.

I am still keen to recruit many more children for the choir and am on the look-out for some older children, boys and girls, so please do spread the word far and wide.

### *The Organ*

I have been reporting on the deterioration of our cathedral organ since 2003! How it keeps going is beyond me, but year by year it becomes increasingly difficult to play and manage. It is only through the patience and skill of our organ builder, Paul Miller and the unerring talent of our Assistant Organist Steven McIntyre that it still sounds presentable at all.

But it is important for you to know that it is now in such a state that there is a lot of the repertoire, both organ and choral that we now cannot offer, as the organ simply cannot cope with it.

I would also like to stress most strongly, how much more time it takes to set anything up on it when it is in this condition, and how stressful it is playing it with all the mechanical uncertainties it regularly throws up at us.

For example: on the Sunday after our late Queen died, I was asked to play Elgar's "Nimrod", both here at St Mary's and at the school I teach in. It took me ten minutes to set it up to sound convincing at school. It took me an hour and a half to produce the same result on this organ here at St Mary's! This is because I had to find what was working, avoid that which was not working, create crescendi and gradual diminuendi with the swell box not working, and the swell pistons basically malfunctioning.

I am hugely appreciative of how much our congregation enjoy our organ voluntaries before and after services, but I am not sure you all appreciate how difficult a journey it is for me and Steven to produce decent music for you on what is a catastrophically ailing instrument.

For any newcomers to this information I reproduce below an excerpt from one of my many reports about the organ to explain further.

*Although basically a fine instrument, the organ has suffered over the years from the changing fashions of organ design, and is now something of a mish-mash of styles and sonorities, with a stop list reflecting both the wide-scaled sonorities of 1909, and the narrow-scaled quasi-Continental pipework of 1967.*

*So, what is actually wrong with it?*

### **The problems**

*The main problem facing us now is a combination of wear and tear, workmanship of dubious quality in the last restoration in 1990, and the increasingly rapid disintegration of the transmission system.*

*The transmission system is the “brains” of the organ, the means by which the console speaks to the pipes. Its deterioration manifests itself in various ways:*

- *notes not playing*
- *notes playing permanently when you draw a stop but no key is pressed*
- *the pistons which bring out combination of stops for the player, either don't work, or bring out a different set of stops than programmed, or just cancel everything! (It is the equivalent of when driving your car, you might operate the control to indicate a right turn, but, instead of a light coming on, the door flies open!)*
- *Swell box doesn't operate properly, making it very difficult to effectively accompany the choir and play expressively*
- *Keyboard action is becoming more and more sluggish, making it difficult to play anything with fast and repeated notes*
- *Pedal action is getting slower making much of the organ repertoire impossible to play*

*The system installed in 1990 was already outdated at that time, and is now obsolete, so as parts now fail, it is impossible to replace them. Patching up can (and does) happen, but it is extremely costly, and not durable.*

*There are also issues with the wind supply to the instrument. The blower is good, but the trunking system that carries the air from the blower to the pipes is deficient and results in the organ being under-winded.*

I have over the years, submitted various reports from many organ builders, and we have been exploring the possibility of re-housing an organ from a redundant church to replace our instrument, but so far, we have not yet come up with a scheme that satisfies the many and varied musical needs of our church and congregation.

However, as the instrument continues to deteriorate, our worship will suffer, as its vagaries continue to further and further restrict what we can actually play on it.

*And finally...*

As I progress along my 27<sup>th</sup> year as your Director of Music, I am constantly amazed and touched by how much the music in this church is valued and appreciated. I count myself as a very lucky person to be able to serve in a place where choir and other musicians are always striving to offer their absolute best, and the clergy and congregation appreciate what they do.

My thanks to you all.

Frikki Walker  
Director of Music

## **Bell Ringers**

This year ringing in the tower has returned to normal after the disruption of the covid pandemic. We have rung for services on both Sunday mornings and Sunday evenings on those weeks when we had enough ringers available. We also rang for the morning service on Christmas Day, at Easter and for the services for Epiphany, Maundy Thursday and Corpus Christi. We have rung for two weddings this year.

Six quarter peals were rung during the year including to mark special events such as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Mary's, Rev Canon Stephen Hazlett being installed



as a Canon of the Cathedral and the Queen's platinum jubilee. A full peal that took 3h 36 minutes to ring was also rung in June as part of the celebrations.

We joined in with towers across the globe by tolling a single bell as a sober sound to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth in September and rang a quarter with our bells fully-muffled on the day of her funeral.

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

We offered tower tours during Glasgow Doors Open Week; giving a small demonstration of bell ringing.

A lot of the training this year has focused on getting the band back to the standard we were at before the lockdowns. Our learners continue to make excellent progress and are now sufficiently competent to take part in service ringing. We have also restarted practices on Monday nights for those at the intermediate stages.

Peter Kirton  
Tower Secretary

## Book Group

The Book Group has continued to meet regularly on Zoom and has been delighted to welcome new members. Discussion continues to be rigorous but good natured.

One change this year was holding a meeting in August to swap details of our holiday reading. This was well attended and most enjoyable.

One highlight of the '21-'22 session was the meeting when the book chosen for discussion was *New Shoots Old Roots*. In this book members of the African and Caribbean Women's Association (ACWA) reflect through interviews and photographs on their experiences of living in Scotland across the seven decades from the 1950's. We were delighted to welcome Dr Harriette Campbell, a member of both St Mary's congregation and the ACWA. Dr Campbell was joined in our meeting by fellow members of the ACWA and they made a valuable contribution to our discussion.

Our reading list for the coming months is now available and details can be found in the weekly pew notes. New members are assured of an enthusiastic welcome!

Anne Jones  
Convenor – Book Group

## Communications

The Cathedral's online presence has expanded in the past year, most notably because of the livestream of worship and other events on YouTube. Content from the Cathedral continues to engage and spark conversation. Below are statistics on social media accounts.

- 3,362 people follow St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow on Facebook
- 1,145 Followers on Twitter
- 441 followers on Instagram
- 228 subscribers on YouTube
- 554 subscribers to email newsletters

Oliver Brewer-Lennon

## Contact Group

Compared to the last few years of Covid restrictions this has been much quieter. However, our work does continue and I am grateful to those who do their best to help and support those who are in need of such contact.

It is encouraging to know that some of the people recruited to help during the crisis of the Pandemic have agreed to stay on as members of the Contact Group and to them I am grateful. We continue to meet on Zoom to discuss our work.

Anyone feeling that either they or someone they know might welcome support for any reason please contact me. My details are on the weekly pew notes.

I thank the Leadership Group for their continuing support and advice.

Anne Jones  
Franny Mawditt

## Events

It was difficult to predict what our events programme would look like after Covid, as the majority of booking received in 2020 - 2021 had either been cancelled or rescheduled into 2022/2023.

In December 2021 we able to welcome our first booking from Glasgow Stitchers who ran a very successful Christmas Fair. Since then we have had thirteen events up to November 2022. Our events activities have shown a significant upturn, giving the Events Team an indication that we could be back at our pre-covid level of activity before too long. This will hopefully help generate a significant income for the cathedral.

All this activity would not be possible without the generosity in time and effort given by Bob Leslie, Robert MacDonald, Sandy Fraser and Kathryn Macfarlane. My grateful thanks to everyone for their help and support over the year.

Iain Milne  
Events Coordinator

## Flower Team

Migeun Parks has recently retired from being the Convenor of the Flower Team after ten years. She has worked hard during this time to ensure the Cathedral was decorated to enhance our worship each week and at festivals both organising and encouraging the team. Following her retirement we are delighted she will continue to be a member of the flower team.

Migeun's work at St Mary's was especially difficult during the restrictions of Covid and for the last two years until very recently has carried out all the arrangements herself.

On behalf of the flower team we thank Migeun for everything she has done over the last ten years and wish her well.

Anne Jones/Pam Richmond  
on behalf of the Flower Team

## Gardening

For some years now a small but dedicated team has endeavoured to keep the cathedral grounds tidy, but we were fighting a losing battle against weeds, and Covid. Thanks to a very welcome appeal made by the clergy this summer our numbers have now doubled, resulting in some very successful and enjoyable gardening sessions. We aim to meet monthly for an hour or two and weather permitting.

Besides the weeding we have endeavoured to clear moss from the paving, sweep the paths, and rake the gravel. The wildflower garden is always a great favourite. Some of us cannot get to group sessions but have very kindly put in an hour's weeding when convenient to themselves, which is greatly appreciated. Having a few more helpers has made a noticeable difference to what we can achieve, and the results show. Many thanks for your enthusiastic response and commitment, and happy gardening!

Frank Ewing  
Gardening Group Leader

## Lay Representative

My principal role as Lay Representative of this congregation is to represent the cathedral at Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Synod of the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway took place this year on 5th March 2022, and was held virtually on Zoom with Bishop Kevin in the chair.

The business of the Synod included

- The installation of Paul Watson, who is the rector at St James the Less, Bishopbriggs, as a Canon of the Cathedral.
- Elections to the Diocesan Council and to the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church
- An update on the new Diocesan Centre in the Merchant City, which has subsequently opened and is in use. This follows various delays to that project as a result of Covid restrictions.
- An update on the transitional ministry being carried out by Audrey O'Brien Stewart, our Canon Missioner.

- An update on Digital Mission by Petko Marinov, our Digital Missioner. Digital Mission in the Diocese has changed and expanded significantly during Covid due to lockdowns and the need we have had to find new ways of being together when this could not be in person.

Beth Routledge  
Lay Representative

## **LGBT Network**

It was wonderful this year to be able to participate in the Glasgow Pride events of Mardigla and Glasgow Pride with members of the LGBT Network and allies. This was after several years of a different way of celebrating Pride due to the restrictions of Covid-19, and it felt good to be back on the streets of Glasgow to proclaim the open, inclusive, and welcoming message of St Mary's.

Members of the LGBT Network also held a networking event at General Synod for friends from across the Scottish Episcopal Church to get support and resources to enable them to attend their own local prides, including the first ever pride in Shetland which had a strong Episcopalian presence.

Beth Routledge  
Convenor – LGBT Network

## **Litter Picking**

Unusually, there has been no change to the make-up of the litter picking team during the past year. Seven of us volunteer to take responsibility for a week at a time to pick up litter and keep the Cathedral grounds tidy. We are assisted from time to time by the gardening team who pick litter found during the course of their work. I am grateful to all who participate and in particular to those who have committed to their inclusion on the rota, thereby ensuring that the grounds remain litter free throughout the year.

Tony Hughes  
Convenor – Litter Pickers

## Needle Arts Group

Things have moved on, and people's circumstances have changed over the past few years – therefore we have decided to stop our face-to-face meetings. But that doesn't mean the end to Cathedral knitting! Keep your needles clicking with these on-going projects:

- The Queen Elizabeth Neo-Natal Maternity Unit is always in need of knitted (not crocheted) Incubator Blankets (50cm x 50cm / 20" x 20") and Baby Cardigans for Premies to 3 months, either wool or acrylic.
- The Mission to Seafarers welcomes knitted Beanies.
- Lastly, the Cathedral still welcomes 5" knitted squares to be made into Prayer Blankets. Finished items can be left with the Stewards on Sundays or handed in to the cathedral office during the week.

You can contact me via email [office@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:office@thecathedral.org.uk) if you need patterns or information.

Thank you to all who have supported us over the years.

Sandy Fraser & Lisella Hutton

## Protection of Vulnerable Groups

### *SEC PVG Training*

Two online PVG training sessions were arranged by the provincial officer in January. Matt attended both sessions and shared the key messages from this at the Vestry meeting held in April.

### *PVG Applications*

New volunteers for Young Church 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.

### *Safeguarding Issues*

Matt was in contact with the vestry when concerns about safeguarding vulnerable people in the congregation and community arise. A record of significant details of such conversations is kept securely and password protected on Matt's computer.

Matt Cavanagh

## Sacristans

This year has been full steam ahead with all the services which occur in our busy cathedral.

Thanks to David Kenvyn and Kathryn MacFarlane for their unfailing cheerful advice and years of experience, to the Holy Saturday team of silver polishers and to Kate Mackenzie for laundering the Fair Linen each week. An enormous amount of work goes on behind the scenes.

We welcome back Liam Brown after his short sabbatical in Edinburgh.

It is a real privilege to be part of this ministry.

Sandy Fraser

## **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 for the 9am Plainsong Eucharist service each Sunday, five servers for the 11am Sung Eucharist and one server at Choral Evensong. We welcomed some new servers to the team this year – John Urquhart, Mounes Sakhaei and Michael Shanks. I hope they are enjoying serving and finding it fulfilling. I am also very grateful to Beth Routledge, Daniel Williams, Daniel Kianpisheh, David Hanson, David McFadyen, Franny Mawditt, Liam Brown and Marco Florence for their continued service and support.

If anyone thinks they might be interested in becoming a server, please speak to Kelvin, Oliver, or myself for more information. We would welcome more members in the team. No previous experience is necessary as 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 (Sandy Fraser and Liam Brown) for all their hard work in organising the Sacristy, keeping everything clean and tidy, and preparing for services.

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

Kathryn Macfarlane  
Head Server

## **Stewards**

This year our 22 stewards have staffed three services each Sunday in addition to special services. The enforced restrictions of the Covid regulations have been over for most of the year, a welcome relief after the frequent changes of the last few years.

As always we would like to thank everyone who has stewarded this year. Stewards are usually the first people members of the congregation encounter as they enter the building, and their quality of welcome and helpfulness is an important part of the experience of being in the Cathedral.

The stewards continue to show their usual good humour and enthusiasm, helping to ensure that Cathedral services run smoothly and safely. Our thanks and appreciation to them all.

Alan and Pam Richmond

## Students at St Mary's

People from many of the different higher education institutions of the city are members of the congregation. Worship at the Cathedral gathers students together on Sunday mornings. In addition, several student welcomers coordinate activities and communication through a WhatsApp group. Email [students@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:students@thecathedral.org.uk) for an add. The 2022-2023 academic year began with a Welcome Event up a hill led by experienced guide Ken Taylor. (When the weather turns nice again, look for a repeat of this.)

The Provost and Vice Provost led services at the University of Glasgow as Honorary Anglican Chaplains and continued a special services programme in the current academic term of 2022-2023. Find more information at [www.ugac.online](http://www.ugac.online).

Oliver Brewer-Lennon

## Tea and Coffee Team

After Covid restrictions were lifted we were able to recommence a tea and coffee service in May. Thus far it has only been possible to man one table, the North Table, but gradually the number of congregants taking advantage of the service has increased.

We are slowly building up the numbers of volunteers; we now have nineteen Team Members. We could always do with more, first to have three on duty on each Sunday, then maybe to have two Tables and /or offer Tea and Coffee after the 9am service as well.

Anyone wanting to volunteer should get in touch with Franny Mawditt [volunteering@thecathedral.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@thecathedral.org.uk) or Lisella Hutton [lisellahutton@kirkleelandscape.com](mailto:lisellahutton@kirkleelandscape.com).

It's a great way to get to know folk in the congregation, and we would be very grateful for your help! You would be on duty no more than once every six weeks.

Lisella Hutton

## Tea-run

Attempts to recommence Tea Run services with the permission of Glasgow City Council were unsuccessful before the Council elections in May 2022. Lockdown, Covid then Omicron restrictions early this year made group meetings such as the Tea Run impossible.

At the moment we are engaging with the newly elected GCC, and one Councillor from the Green Party has expressed an interest in the services we have been offering over these past 30 years.

Ideally we would like to resume services before winter sets in this year. Tea Run members have to decide whether to reform again this year or not. Like all voluntary services over the past three years, many people have been affected by Covid, and we have depleted numbers at St Mary's as well. We need to recruit new volunteers to make up two to three teams that can work on a Sunday night from 20:30 - 22:00, offering hot beverages and food to rough sleepers and those suffering from food insecurity.

The Tea Run consists of teams from the Humanists, the Quakers, the Buddhist community, the Catholic Church, as well as St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. We value your

ongoing support at St Mary's, and are heartened by the resumption of dialogue with Glasgow City Council who give us permission to offer our services to the community.

Olanna Horhut  
Tea Run Coordinator

## **Verger**

This year has mainly been concerned with organising the post-pandemic life of the Cathedral. Some things like the security checks have continued as normal and indeed continued to be done throughout the lockdown. Other things have altered. The most obvious example is the service times, which have altered the timescales for opening and locking up the Cathedral. There is equipment that we did not have pre-pandemic like the hand sanitisers, which have to be switched on and off, and refilled when necessary. All of these things are minor, but they have to be done.

Another change is that we are able to hold Diocesan services again. The most recent of these was the service celebrating lay ministries, which was a joyful experience for those being blessed by the Bishop, and receiving their licences from him. There was, of course, a lot of work involved in ensuring that everything worked without a hitch. The Cathedral can be very proud that it did.

As usual, 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 for the Sunday morning service, the online streaming team, the home visiting team, those who help with events, the stewards and the welcomers, the servers and the choir and everyone who helps in whatever way with what happens at the Cathedral.

Finally, as always, my thanks go to Iain Milne, 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 Oliver for all the support they have given me this year.

David Kenvyn

## **Volunteers**

A huge thank you to all those who help build our community here at St Mary's. Post-covid, we have re-established Tea/Coffee, 'Events', Stewarding, Gardening, Welcoming and Serving teams and as you can see from this Report, other groups are hard at work too. Joining in is a great way to get to know people and all the above have experienced conveners who fully support their members. Please ask me if you need to know anything about volunteering or want to be introduced to any of the conveners. I look forward to hearing from you!

Franny Mawditt

## **West End ACTS**

The group met three times during the year, all by Zoom. These were its main activities.

The group helped to plan the celebration of the centenary of the late Stella Reekie, fondly remembered as a leading pioneer of interfaith and interdenominational activity in the West End and in the city more widely. In the 1970's her flat in Woodside became a place



where refugees and other Glasgow members of the main world faiths were welcomed and could meet together intimately at a time when such activity was rare if not unknown. A well-attended memorial service held in Glasgow Cathedral in late September was followed by a celebration concert and party in the Hindu Mandir on 16 November.

The well-established tradition whereby, in alternate years, the group has arranged an interfaith Burns Supper was once more frustrated by the pandemic. However, with fingers firmly crossed, the 2023 event will take place in the coming January on the premises of the Garnethill Synagogue.

A questionnaire has been sent to all the member churches to find out their plans, if any, for providing a Warm Hub over the coming winter season. It is hoped to publish the results on the main Glasgow Churches Together website.

I have been St. Mary's representative for the last six years and consider that it is now time for another member of the congregation to take my place in time for the next meeting on February 7<sup>th</sup>. The thrice-yearly meetings at Wellington church are not too time-consuming and I have found it stimulating, as a member of St. Mary's, to meet and share fellowship with members of the other west end churches that would not otherwise be possible.

John Gerrard

## Young Church

Young Church began meeting again in person last November, ably led by Vivienne, Christine, and Tamsin, with help and support from parents. Each week they are learning about Jesus through story, song, and crafts. The numbers vary, week by week, but the level of engagement and fun is always high! Recently the children gave a short performance to the congregation after the service, to share something of what they have been learning, and we are looking forward to the crib service on Christmas Eve. Many thanks to all who are helping with Young Church, offering a creative space for our children to grow in faith.

Rev Dr Maggie McTernan  
Associate Priest

*The Cathedral Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Glasgow (St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral)  
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