A photograph of St Mary's Cathedral, a Gothic Revival style church with two prominent spires, set against a clear sky and partially obscured by bare tree branches in the foreground.

St Mary's Cathedral

ANNUAL REPORT
2020

2020 REPORTS

THE PROVOST'S ANNUAL REPORT

I am delighted to present to you the Annual Report of St Mary's Cathedral. It has without doubt, and for reasons that are obvious to all of us, been a challenging year.

The Cathedral takes pride in its open doors, welcoming many people into its prayerful ministry in the heart of our city and Diocese. And yet, this year, from March until June, our doors were locked, in common with all other places of worship, and in solidarity with the lockdown in our whole national life. That was the catalyst for a move into new and different ways of living out the Cathedral vocation, and I will say a little more about that in a moment. This annual report, however, covers the period from July 2019 to June 2020, and much happened prior to lockdown, even if the pandemic and its effects have understandably dominated our thoughts since March.

At last year's AGM, the depth of the financial challenge facing the Cathedral was outlined. I would like to record the Cathedral's thanks for the generous response of the congregation to that challenge. As the treasurer's report later on will outline, there was an increase in giving by standing orders which is most welcome, and which has been sustained through the pandemic. The Cathedral is not out of the financial woods yet, however, and much of the thinking and planning of this past year, pre-Covid, was about how we might begin to tackle that underlying financial deficit. The challenge of finances is best met by a growing and flourishing Cathedral, and I am grateful to Gill Stewart for her convening of Cathedral Council and its efforts to co-ordinate and encourage the life of our various committees in that endeavour. Gill is standing down as Lay Rep at this year's AGM, and I would like to record my thanks to her for her determined, but generous, efforts to help the Cathedral meet the challenges of this moment.

In January, Marion Chatterley took up the post of Vice-Provost, and has, with characteristic gusto, good humour and prayerful wisdom, tackled the challenges of helping to make the Cathedral more engaged

with our city, and a creative place of beauty and prayer. She has been a valued colleague and an immense support as the whole Cathedral team adapted to life within the pandemic.

The renovation of the Cathedral organ was already well underway by the time of lockdown: the cleaned and restored pipes and internal **workings of the organ had returned from Harrison & Harrison's Durham** workshop, and were in the midst of being fitted. Lockdown meant an 8 week delay, and when work resumed it was inevitably complicated by the necessary health & safety measures that Covid demanded, but the **workers from Harrison's responded with grace and good humour, and I** would like to record our appreciation for the magnificent job they have done in overhauling and restoring the organ. The job was finally completed in September – on budget, even if understandably late – and we are beginning to hear the fruits of their labours. We look forward to a time when we can properly organise some recitals to show the full range of what has been achieved.

The choir was enjoying another successful year: perhaps the highlight **being the launch of a new CD of Kenneth Leighton's music to celebrate** both the 90th anniversary of his birth, and his long and fruitful musical partnership with the Cathedral. Our master of the Music, Duncan Ferguson, was in the midst of a well-deserve sabbatical when lockdown arrived. That unfortunately impacted on his plans for the second half of that sabbatical, and his trip to Riga, Latvia and Finland had to be put on hold for the time being. We would like to thank Adam Wilson, our **Assistant Organist, for helping cover Mr Ferguson's sabbatical; as well as Claire Innes-Hopkins, Director of Chapel Music at University of St Andrews; Paul Stubbings, the Music School's Director of Music; and Tom Wilkinson, who all provided cover.** The lockdown also meant the **cancellation of the choir's planned Holy Week performance of Bach's St John Passion** with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, which was an immense sadness. Our recruitment process for a new permanent Assistant Master of the Music was also impacted by lockdown, and by the subsequent temporary re-structuring of the choir. That appointment will be made at a future date, when we are clear when fuller singing will once again be possible. We would like to thank Adam Wilson for continuing in his temporary role as part-time Assistant in the interim.

As previously mentioned, lockdown was the catalyst for the Cathedral to develop online worship in previously unanticipated ways: James Parsons, our publicity officer, has done an amazing job of compiling videos on a weekly basis for Sunday mornings that combine liturgy, music and visuals of the Cathedral in a way that evoke something, we hope, of Cathedral worship. In addition, we have used Zoom to grow a small congregation around our Morning and Evening Prayer, and found opportunities to livestream services from within the Cathedral on Facebook. It has been a learning process, not least in managing the limits of the technology available, but that move online has enabled us to connect with our congregation, and enabled it to grow. We anticipate that that online presence will continue, and we are planning for ways to enable that alongside the public worship in the Cathedral itself.

In June, we were delighted to be able to re-open the Cathedral building for individual prayer, and we would particularly like to thank Colin Campbell our Verger for helping prepare the Cathedral to re-open. The following month, we were able to resume public worship within the constraints of Government and Episcopal Church guidance. In both cases, we were amongst the first churches to do so, thanks in no small part to a team of volunteers who have helped keep the Cathedral clean and safe.



We were delighted to welcome Ruth Davidson, the Edinburgh Central MSP, who helped the Provost to re-open the Cathedral doors in June, after the lockdown.

With the choir unable to sing under the guidance, we have had to **re-structure our ‘back row’ of singers** – paring back for the time being until it is clear on what basis the choir can move forward. We are in ongoing conversation with the Scottish Government about this.

Despite the cancellation of the Edinburgh Festivals, we were delighted still to be able to welcome in August, as guest preacher on our recorded **service, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland’s General Assembly, Rev Dr Martin Fair**. Such connections have proved harder to maintain and foster in this time when there are so many constraints on meeting, and so much exchange and communication happens online. It will be one of the delights of a post-pandemic world, when and if that finally arrives, to pick up again those threads of communication and exchange which get easily lost when we are all somewhat isolated.

The future is clearly still very uncertain, and at what stage the limit, for example, of a maximum of 50 people attending an act of worship might be lifted. That makes planning hard. And yet, we are in this together, and through it all the Cathedral has been a place of prayer, where we have held each other before God, remembered the vulnerable, and those who have **responded to the challenges of the pandemic, and sought for God’s** strength and wisdom to guide us through. In person, and online, the Cathedral is committed to continuing that vocation.

Very Reverend John Conway, Provost



*The Revd Canon
Marion Chatterley,
who took up the
post of Vice Provost
of the Cathedral in
January 2020.*

CATHEDRAL COUNCIL

This report covers activities in the Cathedral's financial year from June 2019 to June 2020. In that time the Council met 5 times. Since March and the advent of Covid, it has not been possible to meet face to face but there have been email exchanges and our first Zoom meeting in September worked well and will be repeated.

Membership of Council remains the same. We were sad to say good bye to John McLuckie but, at the same time, happy to welcome Marion Chatterley as his successor. At our November meeting, Duncan Ferguson gave an interesting and challenging presentation on Cathedral music with a focus on the choir. This raised a number of issues which now, of course, have to be viewed through the lens of Covid and the resultant reduction in our musical offering. Covid poses clear challenges but also the possibility of a more radical, fresh approach.

In February, the Vice-Provost presented a thought provoking initial vision paper setting out her early reflections on the Cathedral estate, music, congregation and links with the local community. One decision flowing from this was that a new Ministry to Visitors committee should be set up and this is in hand.

There has been no real progress on the capital project proposal during Covid but this will be revived in the current, ie 2020-2021, financial year. Arrangements for a permanent contactless giving machine have stalled but we are now in negotiation with another company and hope the machine will be operative by Christmas. A handheld device continues to be available. During the year we considered papers and proposals relating to the Cathedral as an Eco-congregation and Jonathan Baxter continues as our artist-in-residence. The labyrinth he created in the Resurrection Chapel has been a helpful additional spiritual resource in these Covid times.

Concerns about the ongoing financial deficit continue to dominate our thinking and Covid has in many ways made this more complex with reduced visitor income. On the other hand, the use of social media and the regular **online services have extended the Cathedral's reach, opening us up to a** wider audience which is something we can build on and explore further. A Financial Recovery Strategy paper drafted by the Finance and Risk Committee and approved by the Board was circulated to Council in June for comment. This produced a range of specific proposals for generating income, as well as support for radical measures, if necessary, in relation to staffing and the choir. All of these will be followed up, either as part of the autumn Stewardship appeal or the capital projects programme.

Looking ahead, we have identified three main priorities for action.

1. Tackling the financial deficit over the next two to three years – this includes stricter budgetary controls, a more broadbased stewardship campaign and a refreshed Legacy campaign which will be launched at the AGM.

2. Identifying how we take forward our musical offering in a way which both broadens its appeal and generates fresh income. The Friends of the Cathedral have agreed to fund new and more sophisticated audiovisual equipment which should help both in terms of broadcasting services and streaming quality concerts and other musical performances.

3. Reviving the capital projects proposal, linking this with the Art and Ecology project, and seeking to maximise use of and income from the whole of the Cathedral estate.

The current uncertainties present us both with new challenges but also new opportunities to raise the profile of the Cathedral as a focal point of worship and spirituality within the diocese and the city. I am standing down as Lay Representative and Chair of Council at the AGM after three years in post. I am grateful to Council for its willingness to engage so constructively with the issues facing us and wish it and my successor well as we move forward as a congregation.

*Gill Stewart,
Lay Representative and Chair of Council*

PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS (PVG)

PVG Scheme Membership

Since my last report to the AGM, David Lewis has had his existing membership of the PVG Scheme updated. Claire Innes-Hopkins, also an existing member of the PVG Scheme, had her membership updated to allow **her to work with the choristers during Duncan Ferguson's sabbatical.**

Training

The Lay Clerks received their annual Safeguarding Training in September 2020, later than anticipated due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Sunday Groups

The Sunday Groups have been meeting regularly online during the current restrictions whilst adhering to SEC Safeguarding guidelines.

*Suzy Morrison,
PVG Co-Ordinator*

PASTORAL LINK VISITORS REPORT

The Pastoral Link Visitors have continued to play an important part in the life of the Congregation.

Thirty five members have visited and delivered magazines. Some members have spent a longer time each month with the housebound. At Harvest last year we delivered plants with a card made by the Sunday groups. A member of the PLV paid for the plants.

Once again at Christmas we hosted the PLV Party, transported those who needed it and, mindful of the Cathedral finances, covered the cost of catering ourselves. Unfortunately there were fewer guests than expected because of illness. My thanks to all those who helped in any way.

When lockdown came in March the Pastoral link lists in postal code order became very useful. We could not visit but could keep in touch by telephone. New offers from members to link with others came along (which have been recorded). They have been much appreciated and made life a little better for all.

During lockdown some of our original Pastoral Link Visitors (dating back to 1990) died: Charlotte Henney, Joyce Docherty (Sturrock), Robert Cloughley, and Lyn Dodson. Our sympathy goes to their families.

Recently Ljubica Erickson has had to step down from visiting after many years of service.

We are at present reviewing the role of the Pastoral Link visitors and the magazine delivery link.

Carole Barclay PLV Convenor.

FAITH AND GROWTH

The Faith and Growth committee continues to organise and encourage a variety of retreats, talks and activities aiming to inspire and involve our congregation in their faith, the cathedral, and each other.

Much in this year has been stopped in its tracks or deflected online by the pandemic lockdown in March, and subsequent social distancing, but the essential aim of the committee continues to hold and inspire us.

Membership of the committee has become smaller. We thank Steve Chatterley who joined last year, but has withdrawn this year now that Marion has become Vice-provost. We will be looking for at least one more member this year.

Retreats:

Susan Christopher has kindly taken over the management of the biennial

cathedral retreat. This year's was due to take place in May at The Cathedral of the Isles Retreat Centre on Cumbrae, with Andy Philip leading. The deposit has been deferred to next year and it is hoped that the retreat will be able to take place in June 2021.

The much looked-forward to cathedral retreat to Alnmouth in June was also cancelled while the brothers closed the priory to safeguard their older members. Again this will be re-established as soon as circumstances allow.

Sunday Introductions:

This series of occasional talks following Sunday services continued; with Bishop Brian Smith speaking on *The Song of Songs* in June; Miriam Weibye on *Christian Unity* in September; John Conway on **St Matthew's Gospel** in December; and an *Introduction to Intercession* in February; and Marion **Chatterley's** well-attended **"Remember you are dust"**, on questions of death and dying, was the rather apt last introduction which took place in March. Future plans are currently on hold, but these have been popular events and may translate to online if necessary.

Pilgrim Course:

The Men's group trialled this successfully in November 2018; and the plan was to run a second Pilgrim course based on The Eucharist in May this year, to fit in with the Discipleship Explored course being offered by the PPC Outreach committee. It was felt that this level of introductory course would be too impersonal online. The current plan is to bring it back when social distancing allows.

Praying Together:

In June last year some kind of cathedral prayer group was mooted, and a sub **committee explored the possibility of running a "School for Prayer" with John McLuckie. His move to become rector at Old Saint Paul's put this idea** on hold, and a small core group began to meet under the title *Praying Together*. The times and venue for these meetings were a matter of experiment to see what might suit people wishing to attend. The format was also fluid, but included read prayer; silent prayer; and praying the intercessions left by our cathedral visitors. The last meeting of the group was in the Lady chapel on the 17th March as the cathedral closed its doors. A small group read out loud all of the prayers written and left on the prayer tree. We do feel that prayer is a central part of our existence as a cathedral and this is an area we would like to seed and grow. Anyone also feeling that

they would like to explore and grow their prayer life with the cathedral please send an email address to faithandgrowth@gmail.com so that we can keep in contact.

Lent:

Lent started this year as last year, with joint bible studies with PPC led by John Conway at Annan house. The topic this year was *The Book of Ruth* and the first two of six meetings were well attended and much enjoyed.

Unfortunately lockdown brought these to an end, but this approach is proving to be popular with both congregations and is a valuable way for us to be together during Lent.

A dozen people attended our Lent Quiet Day led by Revd Andrew Bain at St Salvador's, Stenhouse. Andrew's title was **"Be not afraid"**: *An invitation to keep Lent in the company of Jesus* and his inspiring leadership in a beautiful and comfortable venue were much appreciated by the participants.

Poetry Close-up.

Poetry continues to be a quiet but vital part of cathedral life this year, with the popular Poetry Close-up group led and hosted by Elizabeth Mathison, continuing to meet monthly to enjoy selected poems by an individual poet.

Lockdown moved the meetings onto Zoom, and they were even more **appreciated under those restricted circumstances. This year's subjects have been: W.S Graham; Thomas Hardy; Carol-Ann Duffy; Robert Frost; Eliot's "Burnt Norton"; W.B Yeats; the wonderful Australian poet Les Murray; Shetland-based Jen Hadfield; and the "Splash of words" compilation by Mark Oakley.** The sheer variety of century, style and geographical location has been as exhilarating as ever. The Poem of the month has re-appeared at the door of the cathedral now that we are receiving visitors again.

Book Group:

The Cathedral Book Group met every couple of months up to March and since then has met every 6 weeks via Zoom to discuss a wide range of books including both theology and fiction. Most, but not all the regular members have been able to continue online, whilst for some the possibility of joining the discussion without leaving home has perhaps made the group more accessible. New members or people wishing to join the discussion for just one particular book are always welcome – please look out for notices in the weekly email.

Social Media:

The cathedral Instagram account got up and running with #Lentword; with an **underlying theme of “Blessings” encouraging people to engage on this** platform. Some of the pictures people sent in were used for the online service of the word. Social media is obviously an area with enormous potential to develop, and the cathedral Facebook and Instagram presence has taken on more importance since the pandemic has changed the way we are able to interact.

None of these events or activities could take place without the goodwill, time and energy of our cathedral clergy; many individual members of the congregation; and unpaid speakers and leaders from outwith the cathedral. As always we are enormously grateful to every one of them.

Bryony Faraday, Faith and Growth Convenor

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY GROUP

OUR PURPOSE: The Social Responsibility Group (previously known as Outreach) endeavours to bring the needs of the world – from both near and far – into the Cathedral so that – individually and as a congregation – we can consider, reflect and respond practically to these needs.

THE PAST YEAR’S ACTIVITIES

Inevitably the Covid19 Pandemic has impacted on our activities since March 2020 with the commencement of a lockdown and then subsequent and ongoing restrictions.

A new initiative for the Cathedral

In October 2019 a team of people from the Cathedral, led by the Chaplain, Andy Philip, joined the rota at the Bethany Christian Trust Care Shelter. Anthea Taylor from the team has joined the Social Responsibility Group and Helen Parker, existing group member, is also on the Care Shelter team. The project is run by Bethany staff and a team of volunteers from different churches who take turns to provide an evening meal for about 75 homeless people in the city. Over 70 churches and faith groups from across Edinburgh and the Lothians are involved and sign up to a rota so there is provision every night from late September until early May. A group of 15 from the Cathedral has become involved with the project with 6 to 9 people assisting on catering nights. They provide the food, cook it on the premises and then serve it. Each catering team meets the cost of the food; thanks to fund-raising

efforts by members of the Cathedral's team, as well as some donations, we were well able to cover the cost of the meals we provided. Initially meals and overnight accommodation were provided at Gorgie-Dalry Church but the opening of the Diadem Centre in January 2020 offered a safe bed for the night as well as a hot meal. The lockdown in March 2020 resulted in the Council offering accommodation in a hotel to homeless people and the service returned to serving of evening meals. It is anticipated the Cathedral will be involved again in the project this autumn and winter.

Christmas Shoebox Collection

In December 2019 we held our annual Christmas shoebox collection for young homeless people aged 16 – 25 years and there was a most generous response. The boxes containing small gifts were passed on to the Rock Trust and the local Stopover hostel. As usual, the shoeboxes were appreciated greatly by the recipients, most of whom receive no other Christmas gifts.

Lent appeal

At Lent we usually have an appeal linked to supporting one or more agencies working with homeless people in the city. It had been planned this year to focus on Fresh Start with the intention of re-commencing a monthly collection of household goods for them. Unfortunately, this was not possible as the Cathedral was closed, and Fresh Start were no longer accepting goods due to health and safety issues linked to the Pandemic. At the time of writing, this continues to be the case with Fresh Start.

Fair Trade – Elaine Appleby runs our One World Stall which normally has been available every Sunday at the end of the 10.30am service. Elaine writes the following:

“From November 2019 until March 2020 the One World Stall was continuing to do a steady trade in fair trade food. The three Christmas Fair Trade Sundays were very well supported with over £680 worth of goods sold. Customers were offered the loan of a cotton shopping bag if they needed one. These had been donated for this purpose by a member of the congregation. Fairtrade Fortnight in February focussed on stories of women **cocoa farmers and 25 ‘story bombs’ were hidden in the Cathedral for people** to find with more information on the display boards. Other events in Edinburgh were publicised and well-attended. There have been no further sales since the Covid-19 lockdown apart from donations made in exchange for out-of-date food being cleared from the boxes. No donations have been made this year. The Cathedral has formally renewed our commitment to Fair

Trade and received a certificate to demonstrate completion of this **process**".

Christian Aid

Alison Dickson, our Christian Aid representative, reports the following:

"The Christmas Eve service appeal for Christian Aid raised over £3,000 to help women in India and Afghanistan overcome inequality. Wives, mothers and girls in developing countries have no say over their own healthcare, experience gender-based violence and die every day from preventable **causes due to pregnancy and childcare. This year's Christian Aid week was** a virtual affair, with the global communities facing the coronavirus disaster compounding the crises already facing them benefitting from the appeal. The Cathedral set up a link via the Just Giving site for Christian Aid and this raised donations of over £1,155 plus gift aid. Thank you to all of our supporters who continue to give generously. The Forth Bridge Cross usually held at the end of May was cancelled, but hopefully will go ahead next year. Our group discussed and proposed that we hold an afternoon quiz on Zoom to replace the afternoon tea event we had planned for the summer. Those who took part all agreed that it was a worthwhile and a fun way of keeping in contact with each other. Optional donations for Christian Aid were invited and totalled £50. The annual Art Sale is set to go ahead at **St Andrew's and St George's West Church from 22/24th October with safe** Covid preparation in place. If you can consider donating a work of art, **please contact Mary Davidson on 0131 556 2168 or 07714 186 754."**

Harvest Collection for the Trussell Trust Foodbank

This year we were unable to arrange a collection of foodstuffs for the Edinburgh NW Foodbank. The congregation were encouraged to donate directly to the Foodbank. A few bags of foodstuffs were brought to the Cathedral and these have been passed to the Foodbank. Thank you to those who shared their harvest.

FUTURE PLANS

So much is unknown at present about the duration of the Pandemic and how life will be in the coming months but we hope to find ways of continuing to support people in need, here and abroad, in the coming year.

Edith Spencer, Social Responsibility Convenor

ECUMENICAL OFFICER REPORT

Close working with Palmerston Place Church (PPC) has continued throughout the year and there were two meetings of the PPC/Cathedral **'ECU' Group of clergy and lay representatives from our two congregations** in the autumn and one in February of 2020.

The calendar year got off to a good start in January with a well-attended joint Sunday morning service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Palmerston Place Church building. This was followed, just a week later, by members of PPC taking part in the service of installation for Marion as Vice Provost.

We began Lent with John Conway leading our joint evening Bible studies with PPC, using a resource developed by the Corrymeela Community and adapted by John. Based on the Book of Ruth, it explores themes very relevant to our times such as borders and belonging. The first two evenings drew a largish group of folk from both congregations to the comfortable surroundings of Annan House, all keen to engage with the Book of Ruth. Sadly, the impact of Covid-19 **meant the series couldn't continue beyond those first two evenings, and at that early point in the crisis, we weren't** ready and able to move meetings online. However, the original Corrymeela material is a downloadable resource, making it possible for those who wished to follow up the discussions in some way.

Young teenagers from both congregations met together once a month for lunch and discussion following the Sunday service until the beginning of March, usually preparing the food themselves. Shortly before Christmas this group was joined by some of the younger children for a sponsored *Wee Sleep Out* overnight in the Cathedral, through which they raised £4,000 including gift aid to support Social Bite.

Since March, we and PPC have kept in touch via email etc. As our Morning Prayer and Eucharist service is now at 8am rather than 7.30, Cathedral **clergy are less able to attend the PPC 'Earlybirds' prayer meeting on a** Tuesday morning, also at 8am. But I continue to attend (they currently meet via Zoom) on the first Tuesday of each month.

Once the Cathedral was able to open for individual prayer, three members of PPC offered to help with the volunteer stewarding. This was in **recognition that, since PPC was not open, we at St Mary's were offering our building on behalf of 'the Church' in this part of Edinburgh, and PPC** members wished to support us in doing so.

Finally, in relation to action on the climate crisis, our Eco-Congregation **group and the PPC 'Green Team' are in touch to share information and** ideas, and are scheduled to have had their first joint meeting by the time of our AGM.

Helen Hood, Ecumenical Officer

STEWARDS

As I am sure you will appreciate this has been an unusual year for the stewarding teams. On a happy note the Christmas services were well attended and, thanks to the stewards on duty, ran smoothly. Indeed until the Cathedral closed in March, the stewarding of the main Sunday services had been routine and free from problems.

Since the Cathedral opened up again, initially for private prayer and then for services, the task of the stewards has changed somewhat. Following **Government's instructions and keeping the Cathedral Covid secure are** essential but this has been achieved without diminishing our role as welcoming all into the Cathedral.

For the main Sunday service at 3.30 pm, a team of 5 stewards' welcome worshippers, ensuring the Test & Protect forms are completed, show them to their seats and control the flow of communicants when communion is administered. Even at times when there are no services, a member of the congregation would be on duty to welcome visitors and ensure the Covid rules are followed. My thanks to all stewards (official and unofficial) who have given up their time this year, especially during the present crisis. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we can return to full services. However, I rather fear that some stewards, for good and sound reasons, may decide to retire. We do, therefore, need to attract new stewards and if you would like to help in this important work, please contact the Cathedral office or me on 0131 551 3136 or email me at morrison574@btinternet.com, or indeed, see me on any Sunday.

Iain Morrison, Convenor of Stewards

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CHURCH

This has been an unsettling year for the Cathedral's work with children and young people, given the constraints that Covid-19 has placed upon us. However, our team of leaders has really risen to the challenge.

Highlights before lockdown included the Wee Sleepout, in which young people from Palmerston Place Church as well as the Cathedral and the diocese took part. Our children and young people also helped to tell the Christmas story at the crib service on Christmas Eve and many of them have continued to read lessons for the online services, including the Provincial service that was broadcast from the Cathedral in June. Caitlin Conway has also been involved in work on climate change at a provincial level.

When lockdown hit, the Chaplain began sending out weekly emails to the children, parents and Sunday Club helpers with a short reflection and resources to use at home. We have continued these emails, which now include some information about what will be happening on the Sunday Club online that week.

Sunday Club has been very busy on Zoom since April. Each week has involved a lectionary reading, craft, game and snack. Some weeks we do Godly Play, which we started before lockdown was imposed. We have had between four and 10 young people in attendance each week. Many thanks are due to Christina, David, Sheila, Katharine and Lizzie for how swiftly and well they adapted to working online instead of in person.

This year's provincial youth week, Glen 2020, was also held online. Three teenagers from the Cathedral attended. The Provincial Youth Network also held online youth worship throughout lockdown.

We had been due to have a meeting about our vision in March. This did not go ahead because of lockdown. At present, we intend to meet the teenagers to discuss their ideas, then the families and finally the congregation once everything is nearer normal.

Under the current regulations, we are considering whether we can start meeting in person again after the October break. The leaders are designing materials to be used in the Cathedral or on Zoom until Christmas. Andy is also exploring what scope there is to resume our joint youth group with Palmerston Place Church, whether in person or online.

Fritha Kelly, a longstanding member of the Sunday Club team, has decided to step down. We thank Fritha for her faithful service over more than 20 years.

There is always room for more helpers on the rota so do let us know if **you'd like to be involved!**

*Andy Phillip, Chaplain;
Christina and David France, Children's Church Co-ordinators*

MUSIC REPORT

Before the lockdown in March, this year had already been slightly different to normal for the cathedral choir, with the Master of the Music away at the beginning of 2020 on the first part of his sabbatical. Adam Wilson (formerly our Organ Scholar) had rejoined as Acting Assistant Master of the Music for 2019-2020 and he was in charge of the choir during January and February. The choir was conducted on Fridays by Ms Claire Innes-Hopkins, Director of Chapel Music at University of St Andrews. We also greatly appreciated organ playing from Mr Paul Stubbings, Director of Music at St Mary's Music School, and Tom Wilkinson from St Andrew's. Duncan Ferguson returned at the end of February from a break from the usual routine, teaching at the University of Edinburgh and a time observing and working with choirs in Lithuania.

The choristers had a good year despite lower than usual numbers and changed voices which meant no Senior Choristers who were singing treble. Towards the end of 2019 there was a flurry of reviews celebrating the choir's recording of Kenneth Leighton, and highlights included the performance of the Victoria Requiem for All Souls, the Service of Music and Readings for Advent and, of course, the Nine Lessons and Carols. It was particularly disappointing that the planned performance of Bach's St John Passion with the SCO had to be cancelled: the rehearsals were sounding fantastic.

It has been a very difficult period for the choir (individually and collectively) since the suspension of cathedral services and, since they returned, the continued curtailment of singing. In response to this and the Cathedral's existing financial difficulties the Cathedral reduced numbers of lay clerks to just four: considerable uncertainty remains about the future as we look to try and rebuild. The remaining lay clerks' commitment to adapting to circumstances - be it preparing solo arias for Sunday services or recording music for our online services - has meant we can provide some musical offering.

A silver lining in all of this has been the restoration of the Cathedral Organ which was out of use from September 2019 and then returned in September 2020. The Viscount digital was installed as a temporary replacement. It is wonderful hearing and playing the fine 'Father' Willis/Harrison instrument once again, and we are grateful to all those members of the congregation who contributed in however small or large a way.

Duncan Ferguson, Organist and Master of the Music



Working on the new pedalboard for the Cathedral organ at the workshop of Harrison & Harrison in Durham.

ECO-CONGREGATION GROUP

Christianity affirms our faith in God the Creator of all things.

The Cathedral is a registered Eco-Congregation.

The Eco Group helps to shape our response to the current climate and ecological crisis through practical and positive responses.

As a group we have certainly missed being able to gather together for meetings but thankfully we have been able to continue our discussions using zoom. We have also recently had an online meeting with members of the Green Team from Palmerston Place Church, to start thinking about some joint initiatives.

Hopefully our regular magazine articles and monthly eco tips (on our noticeboard and in the weekly newsletter) have encouraged you to take some practical action. Here is an update on our other activities:

Cathedral grounds

Work has been ongoing in order to increase biodiversity in the grounds, and to attract a wider range of insects and other wildlife. In early summer we sowed wildflower seeds along the edge of the unmown strip in the north lawn, and in the autumn and spring we plan to sow and plant more native species in that area. Jo Hargreaves has done a tremendous amount of work: installing planters outside the west door and in the Garden of Remembrance, as well as creating a pollinator-friendly rainbow garden and two small wildlife gardens outside the nursery in Old Coates House. It was also wonderful to see the appearance of a small apple orchard, masterminded by Elizabeth Mathison and funded by generous donations.



The new orchard outside Old Coates House

Energy saving

An assessment by Resource Efficient Scotland identified areas for saving energy and proposed changes in insulation, lighting and heating. With that in mind, an application has been made to Local Energy Scotland for an Enablement Grant to employ a building services engineer to assess the feasibility and costs of installing a Ground Source Heat Pump.

Ethical Investment

The Cathedral has divested from fossil fuels and there is a statement to that effect on our website. We're pleased that the Finance Committee is exploring ethical investment opportunities.

Recycling

The Cathedral now uses the local company Green Star Recycling in order to improve its waste management and increase what can be recycled.

Season of Creation-time

The services during September incorporated material produced by Eco-Congregation Scotland and involved a fruitful collaboration between our group and the intercessors. We have enjoyed welcoming Jonathan Baxter, our artist in residence, to our meetings and were delighted to support his Edinburgh Seed Library project, launched at the end of this season.

Finally, we decided to apply for an Eco-Congregation Bronze Award and have just had our assessment meeting via zoom. The assessors were so impressed with our application that they decided it merited a Silver Award, a lovely surprise. This award requires active participation in local and global environmental concerns, and care for creation incorporated regularly in worship, so reflects the contribution of the whole Cathedral family.

Anne Backhouse, Convener, ecocongregation@cathedral.net

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

I was honoured to take over as Secretary of the Friends last year, and **would like to record my appreciation of my mother Helen's 14 years** service as Secretary immediately before me. The highlight of the last year was undoubtedly the Festal Evensong on 27th October 2019 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Friends, coinciding with the installation of three new honorary canons, including our former Provost and Chair, the Very Revd Dr Graham Forbes CBE, alongside the Revd John McLuckie, our former Vice-Provost. The service music was a wonderful all-Leighton affair – including the famous Preces and Responses written for **Dennis Townhill and the choir of St Mary's in 1964 and the anthem 'What love is this of thine?' dedicated to Dr Townhill on the 25th** anniversary of his appointment as Organist and Master of the Choristers in 1986. At a reception afterwards Bishop John paid tribute to the work of the Friends, **and the choir's latest CD, Kenneth Leighton – Sacred Choral Works**, was launched with a short talk from the Master of the Music, Duncan Ferguson. An informative commemorative display about the Friends was arranged at the west end of the Cathedral north aisle by Judith Lewis. The only

subsequent event held by the Friends prior to the coronavirus **'lockdown' in March was the Epiphany party, which the Provost kindly hosted at Lansdowne Crescent in January. Outings to St Mary's RC Cathedral and Dunfermline Abbey had to be deferred.** However, in terms of projects given significant financial support by the Friends, progress continued, and it has been a pleasure to see the completion of the cathedral organ renovations in September, on top of the installation of improved lighting in the Song School last year. Enquiries about the Society can be sent to the Secretary at friends@cathedral.net

Mark Godfrey, Secretary

CATHEDRAL ARCHIVIST

Unsurprisingly there have only been 5 enquiries this year, 2 of these related to the now defunct Dalry House Teacher Training College which was originally for student teachers who would go on to teach in **the Episcopal Church's own schools. Another enquiry was about Orwell Place Normal School** which was next to Dalry House and used by the students for classroom training.

During August and September 2020 the Edinburgh and SE Scotland branch of the Scottish Tourist Guides Association ran a series of walking tours entitled West End Stories which followed a route from Charlotte Square to Palmerston Place. We were asked if we could provide information about Old Coates House, those who lived there, Sir Patrick Walker and White Rod, which we were happy to do.

Among the many items added to archive these last 12 months were two **large boxes of Philip Crosfield's papers which, among other matters,** gives a very interesting insight into the founding of the Music School, papers relating to Christian Aid and a book written by Stuart Donald (Keeper of the Aberdeen Diocesan Library and Honorary Archivist) on the life of The Very Rev. James Nicolson (1830 – 1889) who was rector **of St. Salvador's church in Dundee and Dean of the Diocese of Brechin.** My ongoing thanks to the Cathedral office staff who are always very helpful. Hopefully I will have more to report next year!

Iain Morrison, Archivist

THE CHAPTER HOUSE SINGERS

The Chapter House Singers (CHS) is an amateur adult choir of some 30 voices, and our main role in the life of the Cathedral is to deputise for the regular choir on some 5 or 6 Sundays a year, particularly during the

Music School's holidays. Some of our singers are loyal members of the congregation, but we also have singers from outside the Cathedral faithful, which brings new people into the building to be part of Sunday worship.

In 2019-20 we planned an ambitious programme of music under our Musical Director Les Shankland. In November, we gave a performance in the **Cathedral of Sir James MacMillan's work 'All the Hills and Vales Along'**, which is a setting of World War 1 poetry. It was a powerful and unforgettable commemoration of Armistice, and was attended by the composer and his family. We also sang a winter concert of Christmas music, and a Christmas service for Mercy Ships – an international charity which funds hospital ships to deliver vital medical care to some of the **world's poorest countries.** And of course since last year's report we have continued to sing Sunday services in the Cathedral, on five occasions before lockdown.

In March 2020 however, the world changed for everyone with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic. Lockdown forced the cancellation of an imminent visit to sing Sunday services at Durham Cathedral, and all musical activity by CHS was suspended. Since then, our objective has been to keep the choir together in readiness for a resumption of musical life. This prospect is sadly still some way off, but CHS are now singing again online, and preparing some new works from the liturgical repertoire.

Our membership is holding up well in spite of the long layoff, and our singers have reappeared in good numbers to support the online rehearsal programme. We are still seeking some new tenors and one or two basses as a result of normal turnover in our membership: do see our website www.chapterhousesingers.com to find out more about what we do, and how to get in touch if you would like to consider joining us.

We are happy to acknowledge once more the generous support of the **Provost, the Chapter of St Mary's, the vergers and the office staff** – particularly in the use of the Song School for our Wednesday evening rehearsals, and in the planned use of the Cathedral building for this now that Covid-19 precautions for the choristers mean that the Song School is no longer available to us. All of our singers are very grateful for the privilege of **singing for St Mary's, and for the opportunity to be part of the life of this special place.**

BELLRINGERS' ANNUAL REPORT

St Mary's bellringers were having a good year up to March 19th, when we lowered the bells for lockdown. We had well attended practices with everyone enthusiastic and keen to learn, with a few regular visitors coming to support. We had a dynamic group of people learning to handle a bell, and were giving them extra tuition on Saturday mornings. Sunday morning service ringing was well-attended and the ringing was improving. Ian Bell began to organise Quarter Peals for our improving ringers on special occasions in the Cathedral calendar. This is a great way of improving our general ringing and increasing physical and mental stamina and confidence.

Of particular note were Diana and Inge's first quarter peals, Wilma and Alex's on Remembrance Sunday (half-muffled) and one to celebrate Marion Chatterley's Installation as Vice Provost. We were very pleased to have enough ringers to ring for all the Cathedral Services at Christmas. One peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus was rung on our bells during the past year, by the Ancient Society of College Youths conducted by Mike Clay (an Edinburgh ringer).

On 19th March, when ringing had to be suspended due to Covid-19, a small group of ringers rang all the bells down. While ringing has been **impossible up in the tower, we have been holding "virtual ringing" sessions** on an internet platform called RingingRoom. This has kept us together socially as a group and kept at least our minds on ringing. Unfortunately all training has come to a halt, and we can only hope that our learners return to ringing, when we can eventually teach them.

During the lockdown period we were very sad to hear that Bill Brotherton had died. He was Steeple keeper and Tower Captain at the Cathedral for many years, and the driving force behind getting the bells augmented to twelve, the first ring of twelve in Scotland. He was tireless in teaching people to ring, and remembered fondly by our band.

It was with great joy that we returned to the belfry on 19th July, to ring for the afternoon service. After a thorough inspection of the bells and fittings, and an even more thorough risk assessment by Mark Hutcheson, we feel safe to ring in our spacious ringing room, even though it has been necessary to space ourselves out and ring a pentatonic mix of bells! Since then we have rung each Sunday for a short time. Thank you to everyone at the Cathedral and beyond for your enthusiastic response to hearing the bells again.

Barbara Bell, Tower Secretary

COFFEE

Unfortunately, it will not be possible for members of the congregation to meet for coffee after the Sunday service for the foreseeable future. In the past, volunteers have served coffee, tea, juice and biscuits to about 80 people every week after the 10.30 Sunday service. This has provided an excellent opportunity to welcome new people and for members of the congregation to catch up with one another. We have used Fairtrade supplies wherever possible. Donations have covered the costs and made a small profit for Cathedral funds.

Just before lockdown we were considering proposals to set up an information stall at coffee time, where different Cathedral groups would have an opportunity to explain what they do and encourage people to participate. We thought this would be a good way to welcome new people and encourage involvement in Cathedral activities. This project has been put on hold for the time being, but we hope to implement it when we can eventually resume our coffee time.

Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way with coffee arrangements in the past year, particularly Susan Christopher who brought in supplies of biscuits etc. Thanks also to those members of the coffee teams, and others, who helped with providing refreshments for other events during the past year.

Judith Lewis

THE WALK & TALK GROUP

Purpose - the Walk and Talk group provided an opportunity for Cathedral people to get to know each other while giving the opportunity to enjoy a walk together. Unfortunately, this is in the past tense – since with the Covid19 pandemic it is difficult to predict when we will be able to continue operations as usual.

Walks took place all year round – usually on the first Thursday of the month, weather permitting – and new participants were most welcome. All walks were accessible by public transport and latterly we ceased the picnic lunches in the open air and opted for indoor lunching together. I have been organising the Walk & Talk Group now for 10 years, having started in September 2010. Over those years I have appreciated the assistance of many different people helping me with the recces for the planned walks. I also have some good memories of walks such as our 100th walk on 1st August 2019 when I recall standing – taking the required group

photo – just before watching the 100mph Steam Engine Tornado and its carriages pass by at Falkirk. That same day we walked from the Kelpies to the Falkirk Wheel, which was new territory for some of the group. Some walks proved especially popular and so were repeated – such as Longniddry to Haddington by the old railway line, Winchburgh to Linlithgow along by the Union Canal, East Linton to Haddington along by the Tyne and Cramond to Laurieston Castle and Silverknowes.

Since the last AGM we had to cancel the December 2019 walk due to gale-force winds but otherwise we were out on the first Thursday of each month from September to March 2020. On average 10 people walked on each occasion – though numbers have varied from 8 to 13. Over the past year 17 different people in total have participated in a walk. The average distance walked has been 5.25 miles. I have really enjoyed organising and being on most of the walks in the last 9½ years. Little did I think in the Spring this year that our walks would end so abruptly. Obviously if there is an opportunity to re-instate the walks in the future then I would be delighted.

John Spencer

CATHEDRAL KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Up until the end of March our group continued to meet over the winter months in the Chapter House. Our get togethers are a great time to meet up and continue with our individual projects over a cuppa and biscuits. Inevitably all this ground to a halt in March and we agreed to keep in touch with all our various members if possible. It was finally accepted that a fortnightly Zoom group would be the best option and these have continued over the past months. We are aware that some of us have difficulty with this method, but we have kept in contact by phone with those who wished to be involved. Our discussions include many topics and it has been great to see each **other's projects and** enjoy our time together. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. Contact Alison via the Cathedral office.

Alison Dickson

BANNER GROUP

Banner Group has been busy on 2 new banners for the Year of Pilgrimage. Sections of one have been completed but we have not been able to meet since March.

We were due to host a Diocesan Banner making day in July. It has been postponed until groups can meet again. We would always love to have more members.

Christina France

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year to 30 June 2020. The Summarised Accounts (see insert) are based on the full accounts which remain draft and subject to audit. Once finalised, copies of the full accounts will be made available on the Charity Regulator website - oscr.org.uk (ref: SC014741).

The key point to remember in this summary is that the financial year **was effectively split into nine months of 'normal' operations and three months of lockdown.** Comparing the financial results of 2019/20 with 2018/19 is therefore not straightforward for some elements of income and expenditure, whereas for other elements the decrease is more evident.

INCOME

Total income for the financial year was £617,175. This is split between £518,629 of recurring income and £98,546 of non-recurring income. Recurring income comprises donations, congregational giving by offering plate and by standing order, gift aid, grants, rent and use of Cathedral property and investment income. The chart below, Fig.1, is an analysis of the main types of recurring income. Congregational giving and donations were £94,009 in the year, the decrease from the previous year reflecting the lockdown in the final months of the financial year, though some donations were made instead via Paypal. Giving by Standing Order, though, increased to £105,821 in the year (c.£9,000 a month) and this remained stable during the period of lockdown.

Overall, all forms of giving and donations make up approx. 38% of the **Cathedral's recurring income. Rent from Cathedral property was £147,568, similar to the year before.** Aside from a couple of car park spaces being vacated and tenants of the Torphichen Street flat leaving in lockdown the rental income has held up. As expected, use of the Cathedral and Walpole Hall was reduced in the final quarter. Overall, income from Cathedral property and premises now represents 33% of **the Cathedral's recurring income.**

Grants from The Walker Trust, All Churches Trust ('ACT') and the Diocese of Edinburgh were received in the year which was a little higher than last year partly due to one instalment from ACT being received early.

Dividend income for the year was £60,805, a reduction of £12,000 from the previous year. This was partly due dividends in the final quarter being lower but also that 25% of investments were realised during the year to finance the general fund deficit and to provide security for potential overspends on the organ restoration project.

Of the total £518,629 of recurring income, the income that is accounted for in the General Fund was £460,049, **a similar figure to last year's** recurring income of £458,213 in the General Fund. Non-recurring income for the year was made up of; a legacy of £3,580, further donations into the Organ Appeal fund of £4,673 and furlough grants from HMRC of £27,295 and VAT reclaimed on the organ restoration through the Listed Places of Worship scheme of £62,998.

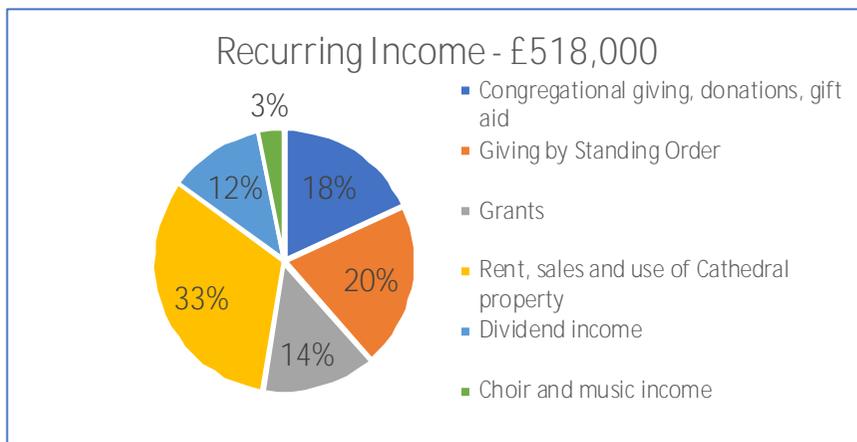


Fig 1. Recurring Income

EXPENDITURE

Total Expenditure for the financial year was £690,369, split between £642,523 of recurring expenditure and £47,846 of non-recurring expenditure. The chart below, Fig.2, illustrates the main categories of recurring expenditure, being clergy stipend, salaries for lay and music staff, other music costs, Cathedral property costs, the quota to the Diocese,

professional support fees, and office admin and running costs.

Clergy stipend and lay staff salaries were £180,712 and accounted for **around 28% of the Cathedral’s recurring costs.** The Music Costs of £201,973 comprise the salaries of the organists, the lay clerks, scholars and Music School fees for choristers. This was a slight reduction on the prior year with lower Music Society costs incurred. These costs represent 32% of recurring expenditure for the Cathedral. Staffing costs continued to be paid during the period of lockdown, covered somewhat by the furlough grants from HMRC.

The other main recurring expenditure was Property, accounting for 19% of costs. This was a decrease of around £25,000 on the previous year, though costs in 2018/19 were higher than average (repairs to the Song School and costs associated with the Workshop being borne by the Cathedral), but partly due to no repair work being booked in or carried **out in the final three months of the financial year.** These ‘reactive’ maintenance costs do tend to fluctuate each year.

Of the total recurring expenditure of £642,523, the amount accounted for in the General Fund was £567,983. Non-recurring expenditure was carried out in relation to necessary repairs and maintenance costs following a review of the Manor Place property prior to the Vice-Provost moving in.

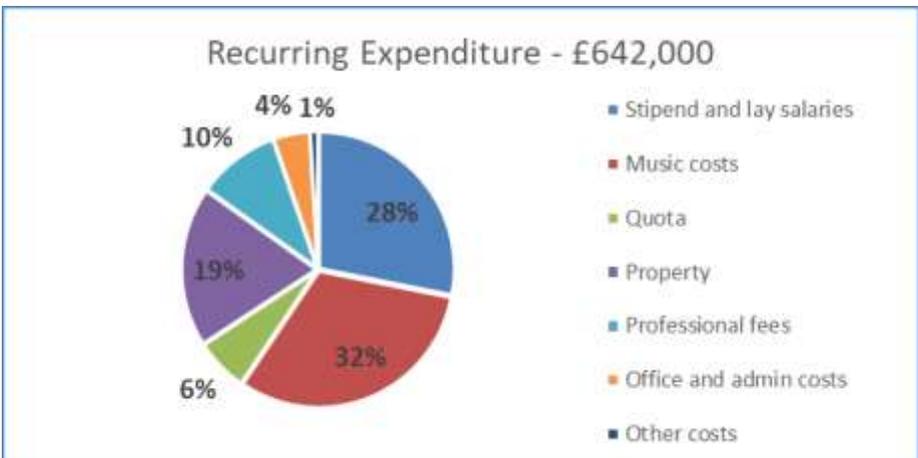


Fig 2. Recurring Expenditure

ORGAN RESTORATION

In August 2019, work started on the organ restoration and by 30 June 2020, £380,803 had been spent on the project. In accordance with accounting rules, these costs are classified as Fixed Assets and can be seen on the Balance Sheet (lower section of the Summarised Accounts). Work stopped temporarily in March 2020 but started up again in June/July and, as at 30 June 2020, at least a further £150,000 has been incurred.

SUMMARY

Whilst the Annual Accounts includes non-recurring items (ie, one-off income and expenditure), it is perhaps more informative to consider the level of Recurring Income versus Recurring Expenditure.

In the year to 30 June 2020, this was £518,000 against £642,000, a shortfall of £124,000. This compared with the figures in the year to 30 June 2019 of income of £530,000 against £674,000 in expenditure (a shortfall of £144,000). The recurring deficit in 2019/20 is a reduction from that reported in 2018/19. And it is worth noting that the **lockdown did result in estimated 'lost' income of approx. £25,000** in respect of Sunday collections, visitor donations, rent, and use of Cathedral and Hall in the final three months of the financial year. However, a significant recurring deficit was reported once again.

Total Funds reported in the accounts at 30 June 2020 was £2,778,152. It should be noted that £651,868 of this balance is classified as Fixed **Assets. These relate to historic 'sunk' costs and this should be disregarded in assessing the strength of the Cathedral's available funds.**

Fig 3 shows the level of Unrestricted Funds that excludes fixed assets but includes investments. Unrestricted Funds are those reserves that are available for general use by the charity. This is distinct to Restricted Funds which are funds raised or received that are **'restricted' in their application by the donor: for instance, the Organ Appeal fund money was restricted to being spent only on the organ restoration project.**

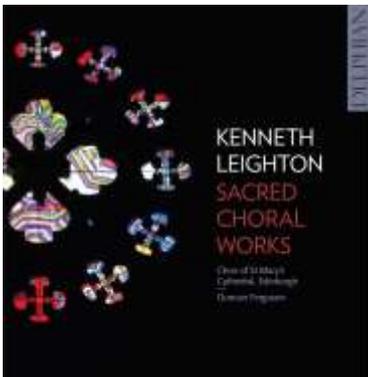
The total balance of these available Unrestricted Funds at 30 June 2020 is £660,643 and the chart illustrates how total available Unrestricted Funds have come down in the last few years.



Fig 3. Unrestricted reserves

David Jeffcoat,
Treasurer

Cathedral AGM 2020
For details of the AGM, with abbreviated accounts,
see the separate insert.



Cathedral Choir CD
The Cathedral Choir's latest CD, Kenneth Leighton's Sacred Choral Works can be obtained from the Cathedral Office. Price £15. A suggested donation of £1.50 per CD would cover postage costs.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, held on
Sunday 24th November 2019 at 12 noon,
following the Cathedral Eucharist

Present: Some 60 members of the Cathedral, with the Provost in the Chair.

Welcome and apologies

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Pat Beazley, Anne and Kenneth Hughes, Christina and David France, Allan Hood, Iain Miller, David Bassett, Elizabeth Mathison, Carol Bull, Nancy Steel, Rosamund Robertson.

Commemoration of the departed

Members of the Cathedral congregation who had died during the year were remembered.

Minutes of the AGM held on 25th November 2018

The minutes were approved.

Provost's report

A written report had been included in the Annual Report that had been circulated. The Provost said that it had been a year of consolidation to put into place structures to help to achieve the vision and mission statement that had been developed in the previous year, in particular through the full establishment of the Cathedral Council.

He highlighted some particular developments:

The restoration of the organ was proceeding on time.

Duncan Ferguson would be taking a sabbatical during two periods in January/February and May, during which Adam Wilson would stand in as

deputy Master of the Music, and Paul Stubbings from St Mary's Music

School would be playing the organ for Sunday morning services.

The decision to close the Workshop had been taken with great sadness but it had been unavoidable because of the financial circumstances. It was unfortunate that the stonemasonry industry had not been prepared to support the training of apprentices at the premises. The closure meant that stonemasons were no longer available for maintaining the Cathedral.

Progress was being made with appointment of a new Vice-Provost

following John McLuckie's move to Old St Paul's.

He said that the key challenges identified in the previous year continued to be priorities:

- Welcoming new members.
- Pastoral care, which would be looked at again once there was a full clergy team.
- Action to make better use of the Cathedral and surrounding buildings and grounds – this was being looked at by the Cathedral Council.
- Dealing with the financial challenge. Stewardship material had been distributed with the Annual Report. There had been an increase in standing orders and congregation giving had increased by 10% in the past year, but other strategies were needed to deal with the continuing deficit.

Issues raised in questions were as follows.

- Intercessions – the Provost said that he welcomed new people offering to do intercessions and that there would be training in the New Year.
- Sunday parking – Edinburgh Council proposed charging for parking from 12.30pm to 6.30pm in the City centre. Edinburgh City centre **churches had made a joint response to the Council's consultation**, asking for the charging to start later, at 1pm. People could make individual responses to the consultation. Parking availability in Palmerston Place was also likely to be affected by the new cycle way.
- The decision to divest Cathedral investments from fossil fuels was in line with the policy agreed by the General Synod. Although the **Cathedral's heating was gas, the electricity was from renewable sources**, and consideration was being given to other means of heating.

Lay Representative Report

Gill Stewart, the Lay Representative and Chair of the Cathedral Council, reported that the Cathedral Council had been revived in January and had met 7 times during the year. Its remit was to: translate the vision and mission statement into practical action; act as a communication vehicle; make recommendations to the Board; and advise on matters referred from the Board. Short-term issues considered had included making the Cathedral a more welcoming space (such as by reorganising the information material at the back of the Cathedral) and reviewing the roles of stewards and welcomers. There had been a recent presentation by

Duncan Ferguson on issues relating to music and its funding, which would receive further consideration by the Council. In the longer term, there was an ambitious list of proposals to make better use of the whole Cathedral estate, including the Walpole Hall, which would require a feasibility study, an assessment of costs and consideration of how to raise the necessary **funds. However, the underlying deficit in the Cathedral's finances would** need to be tackled first. One way of increasing income was by contactless donations, and donation boxes equipped for both cash and cashless donations would be installed by Christmas.

Cathedral Reports

Written reports on all Cathedral groups, and by those with particular responsibilities, had been circulated. The Provost thanked all those who had been involved in the activities recorded in the reports.

Presentation of the Cathedral accounts to 30th June 2019

An abstract of the Cathedral accounts was circulated at the meeting, and a written report had also been included in the Annual Report that had been previously circulated. A report by Godfrey Robson, the Convenor of the Finance and Risk Committee, was presented by Gill Stewart. He said that the main issue was the deficit of £127,000. The Cathedral had spent more on its normal business costs than it could afford and this had also been true in the previous two years. The Finance and Risk Committee was looking at strategies to deal with the issue, including possible separate funding packages, e.g. for choral scholars, and a review of investments. There was also a proposal to identify budget holders who would be responsible for their own budgets. However, eradicating the deficit within the next 2 years could only be done with an increase in congregational giving. The average weekly contribution per communicant member of the Cathedral was the lowest in the Diocese, and the Cathedral needed to follow the example of other congregations that were much more generous in their giving.

The Provost agreed that it was essential to tackle the issue of the underlying deficit in order to achieve the true potential of the Cathedral. Robin Sherman had prepared a note for the Finance Committee and said that he thought that letters ought to go to all those in the congregation who were not giving by standing order. He was also aware as a steward that many people only put a small amount in the weekly collection. The Provost said that this would be noted, but that it was important that the

clergy did not know what individual people gave.

Other suggestions were:

That standing order forms should be available more regularly - the Provost said he would talk to the stewards about this.

That on-line giving should be made easier. The Provost said that a donations button would be added to the website very soon.

That the Cathedral should consider using an ethical bank. The Treasurer, David Jeffcoat, said that the account was currently with the Royal Bank of Scotland. A bank with a local branch was needed for paying in cash donations, but it was possible that arrangements could be made via another bank if necessary, and consideration would be given to this issue.

There was support for sending letters to encourage standing orders, but it was suggested that people should be asked at the same time whether they wished to continue to be members.

Ronnie Hunter Blair said that he had made some suggestions for investments but had not had a response. The Provost said that they would be considered, but there was no easy answer.

Election of Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative

There had been no new nominations and Gill Stewart and Andrew Reddish were re-elected as Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative respectively (Gill Stewart proposed by Kenneth Hughes and seconded by John Spencer and Andrew Reddish proposed by Helen Hood and seconded by Faz Faraday).

Re-appointment of Auditor

The re-appointment of BDO as auditor was approved (proposed by John Spencer and seconded by David Jeffcoat).

AOCB

Peter Lavers asked if the Cathedral had any continuing liability for the **Stonemasons' Workshop**. **The Provost said that the premises were owned** by Chester Street Properties. Only a small amount of expenditure was needed to keep the premises ticking over. In the longer term it was hoped that it would be possible to find a suitable use for it, such as commercial use by stonemasons. The premises were specifically designed for stonemasonry and so should be used for that purpose if possible.

It was noted that the Festival Committee welcomed any suggestions for new activities, exhibitions etc in the Cathedral during the Festival.

34 The meeting closed with the Grace.

CATHEDRAL SERVICES

Arrangements for Cathedral Services will be affected by Covid-19 restrictions for the foreseeable future. Full details of arrangements for all our services are on our website www.cathedral.net, together with guidelines on receiving communion and other Covid19-related aspects of managing worship.

We are currently able to welcome congregations to the following services (with a maximum of 50 people):

Sunday

8am Eucharist (Scottish Prayer Book) in the Lady Chapel

10.30am Eucharist

3.30pm Eucharist

The 10.30am and 3.30pm services include a variety of music played on **the organ, sung by a solo singer, and instrumentalists from St Mary's** Music School. We hope to include additional music content when possible under Government and Episcopal Church guidelines.

Monday to Saturday

8.00am Morning Prayer & Eucharist in the Lady Chapel.

5.30pm Evening Prayer in the Lady Chapel (not Saturdays)

Thursday 1pm Eucharist in the Lady Chapel

On-line services

We are continuing with a pre-recorded Service of the Word for each Sunday – please see our website for the link.

You can join our weekday Morning and Evening Prayer services on Zoom at 8am and 5.30pm. Please contact office@cathedral.net for details of how to use Zoom, and for the meeting ID.

Please keep in touch with us!

The Cathedral sends out a weekly circular by email, with details of services and a weekly newsletter. If you would like to be added to the circulation list, please email: office@cathedral.net. There are also regular newsletters, as well as details of the services, on our website: www.cathedral.net

If you do not have access to the internet please let us know. We are currently looking at other ways of keeping in touch with people.



*Above: Labyrinth in the Resurrection Chapel,
created by Jonathan Baxter, Artist in Residence*

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