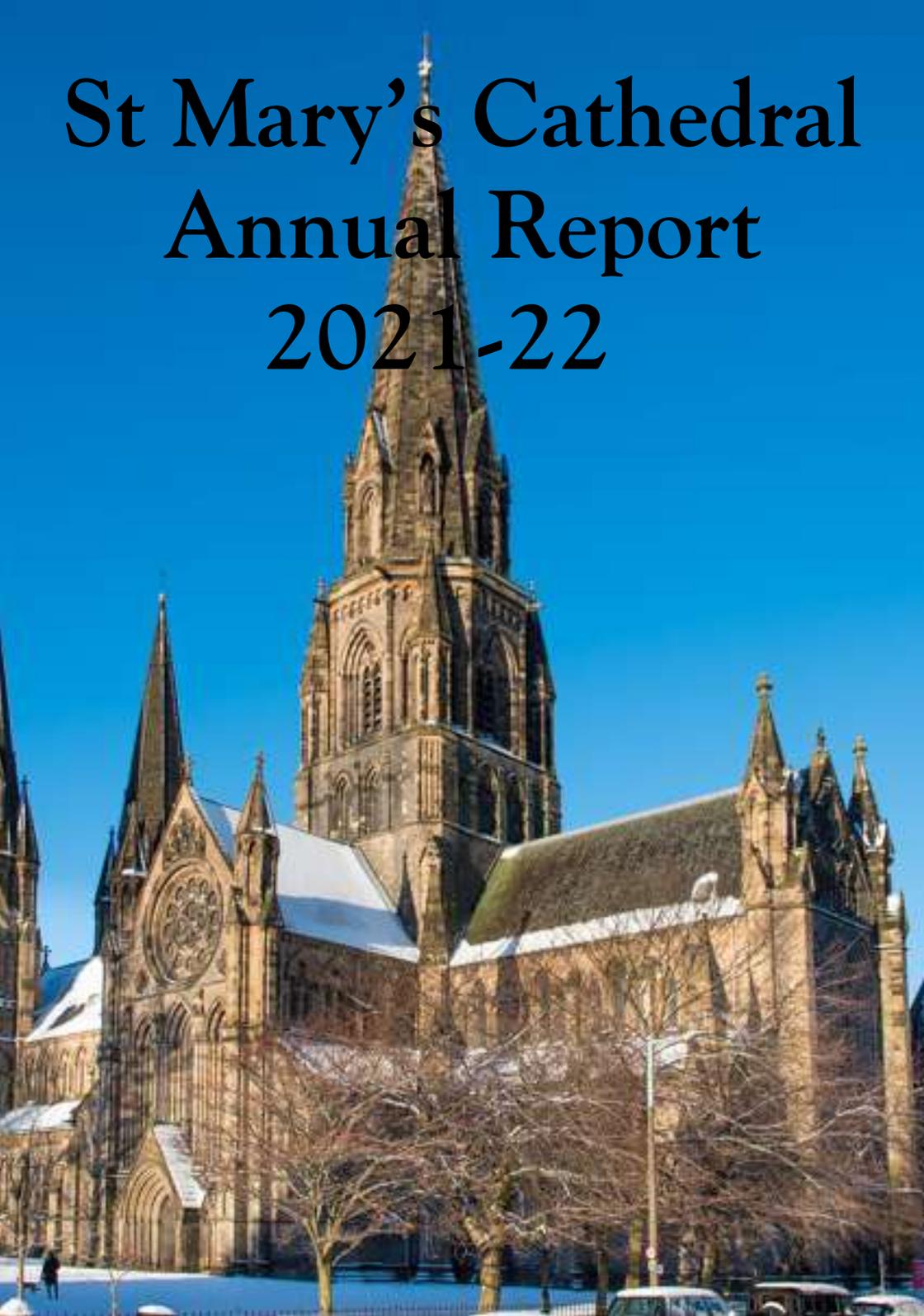


St Mary's Cathedral Annual Report 2021-22



St Mary's Cathedral Annual General Meeting

Sunday 20th November 2022, 12noon

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Commemoration of the departed
3. Approval of the Minutes of last year's AGM
4. Provost's Report
5. Lay Representative Report
6. Cathedral Reports
7. Presentation of Cathedral accounts
(An abstract of the Cathedral accounts is available on a separate sheet.)
8. Election of Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative
9. Re-appointment of Auditor
10. Questions to the Provost, Lay Rep and Treasurer
11. AOCB
12. The Lord's Prayer

Nominations for Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative, with an appropriate Secunder, need to be received by the Cathedral office (office@cathedral.net) by **Sunday 13th November**.

The Provost's Annual Report

It seems hard to remember that at the start of the year under review in this Annual Report, we were heading toward a winter of further lockdowns and Covid uncertainty. Christmas 2021 saw restricted numbers able to attend our services, and we were still grappling with many Covid measures. I am pleased to report that the year as a whole has seen the Cathedral, alongside wider society, emerging from those restrictions, if still living with the affects of the pandemic on our thinking and finances. That emergence has allowed us once again to focus on the Vision for the Cathedral, adopted before the pandemic:

St Mary's Cathedral - where all are nurtured in faith and hope and love:

through transforming encounter with God in word, music and beauty;
and with one another in the warmth of welcome,
the depth of theological engagement
and in generous action for our community and city.

The *transforming encounter with God in word, music and beauty*, is at the heart of the Cathedral's life and mission. It is seen in our daily sustaining cycle of prayer and worship, in the centrality of our choir to that cycle, and in the response to our building from regular worshippers, visitors, and partners. After the disruptions from Covid, the past year has seen the choir reach once again their heights of excellence, as choristers and Lay Clerks benefited from a return to regular services. I would like to thank the Cathedral's Master of the Music, Duncan Ferguson, for his steadfastness and persistence in seeking after that excellence. We have benefited too from the enthusiasm and skilled organ playing of our Assistant Master of the Music, Imogen Morgan. Recruitment of both choristers and Lay Clerks remains a challenge: we have worked hard with St Mary's Music School to promote our chorister programme, and to demonstrate its openness to all with musical potential irrespective of financial means; and to promote the opportunities for singing in our back row to students and others. The benefits of such regular singing are clear,

in the excellence attained, but it is a large commitment that we continue to need to promote.

A new Music Committee was established this year to help that promotion of the choir, and to develop opportunities for it to enter into partnerships across our city more generally. Our choir is something of a hidden jewel within the city, and whilst attendances at weekday Evensong, in particular, are undoubtedly rising, it will be good to find new ways for people to encounter the transforming power of music at the Cathedral.

The beauty of the Cathedral is dependent on the hard work of ongoing maintenance. My thanks in that task to our Vergers, Colin Campbell and Brian Pickering, and to HRH Stonemasons, who now occupy our stonemason's yard in exchange for helping to maintain the Cathedral's fabric. We obtained this year a part grant, part loan from the Energy Saving Trust to upgrade the Cathedral's lighting to LED, which is both more effective and cheaper to run. I am delighted that over the summer, Edinburgh City Council's cycle lane around the Cathedral began to take shape, and that as part of that, the Council restored the historic paths across the South Lawn. It was a delight to open the South Door in the Resurrection Chapel over the summer months, and to welcome people into the Resurrection Chapel and the various exhibitions it has housed.

We have welcomed increasing numbers of people back into the Cathedral – both for worship and to visit and pray at other times. We have worked hard to develop that warmth of welcome which is vital to growing our community of faith. My thanks to our Welcomers and Stewards, our Coffee Helpers and the Praying Together group, for their help in honouring all those who enter our doors. Our Sunday Club leaders, and our creche provision, do a fantastic job in ensuring that children too are welcomed and drawn into our community of faith.

Our Faith and Growth group, and the Art and Ecology project have offered that depth of theological engagement, that our Vision seeks. Jonathan Baxter, our artist-in-residence, has developed the A+E centre in the Chapter House, and also continued to develop our thinking about how our

grounds too might be a site of that engagement. The Cathedral recognised the depth of our current environmental crisis with its own Declaration of Climate Emergency at the Diocesan Big Walk event at the Cathedral in May. That context is shaping our response in our grounds, and I am delighted that we recently received a grant from Garfield Weston that will go a long way to enable that development.

Finally, the easing of Covid restrictions has enabled us to further develop our generous action for our community and city. The Cathedral's Social Responsibility Group has continued to co-ordinate our help at Bethany's Homelessness Hub, and has developed our links with St Salvador's Community Food Initiative. We have also managed to greatly increase the community use of the Walpole Hall and now regularly host post-addiction therapy groups there, Street Assist (who provide immediate support, advice and first aid to a wide range of people in Edinburgh City Centre on Friday and Saturday nights), and are looking to partner with Soul Food to provide lunches for the isolated or elderly. We are excited by the possibilities for partnership working that are emerging through that varied use of the hall.

The emergence from Covid restrictions, and the return of visitors and events – not least this year's Festival – has helped the Cathedral finances to continue to recover. As the Treasurer reports, the Cathedral even made a small surplus in general running costs this past year, although the performance of our investments (in common with turbulent financial markets around the world) means that the bottom line remains parlous. A path to financial sustainability is emerging, however, not least thanks to the continued generosity of our members. For that we thank you all.

Another substantial reason for our eased running costs this past year was the absence of the need to pay for a curate and their housing. For the Cathedral to operate with only 2 full-time clergy is far from ideal, however, and so my thanks to Hannah Draper (our Administrator in the office until the end of August), Liz Mackie (also in the office) and Paul Foster and Esther Elliott (both part of the ministry team) for their support during the

year. Our particular thanks are due, however, to the Vice Provost, Marion Chatterley, for her indefatigable efforts in promoting the Cathedral and developing those partnerships that are at the heart of regenerating the Cathedral's life and mission.

We start this new financial year in good heart, therefore, even as we are mindful of the challenges that are likely to be with us, and the most vulnerable in our society more widely. Janet Spence has now joined us as Chaplain, and Tim Coleman has been appointed to the publicity brief in our office, so providing the basis for a team able to grasp the opportunities opening for us.

Very Revd John Conway, Provost



Music Report

Following the resumption of regular choral services in September 2021, the Service of Music and Readings for Advent, and Nine Lessons and Carols on 22 and 24 December felt even more special. Many of our choristers had not sung for these services before and, while a number of lay clerks and choral scholars ended up with the Omicron variant just in time for the Christmas Day Eucharist (and their Christmas holiday), the Christmas services were otherwise mostly unaffected and went very well. Throughout 2022 the choir has been continuing to rebuild with further highlights including the BBC broadcast in August which featured music to mark the 450th anniversary of the death of Robert Parsons, a Tudor composer whose life was sadly cut short. During the Edinburgh Festival the choir sang a concert of music with connections to royal occasions, from Byrd's *O Lord make thy servant Elizabeth our Queen* from the 16th century to Francis Jackson's *Te lucis ante terminum* from 2003's 'Choirbook for the Queen', and even a piece attributed to Henry VIII. The choir had already marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a service of Choral Matins – said to be the late Queen's favourite liturgy. A few months later, as the late Queen's coffin left Edinburgh and made its way to lie in state in Westminster, the choir sang Harris's *Bring us O Lord* and Stanford's *Justorum animae* at a special service.

The 2022 Festival included two recitals by international recording artists: Calum Huggan (marimba) and Maximiliano Martin (clarinet). While audience numbers were disappointing, those that were there were treated to two outstanding concerts. John Bryden made a most welcome return to perform two Coffee Concerts, and the series of free weekday lunchtime recitals also returned.

The Cathedral hosted several 'Be a Chorister Afternoon' events, giving opportunities to children interested in becoming choristers to sing with the Cathedral Choir. There has been significant time and effort given to recruitment events and the number of choristers is stable or increasing.

With universities back to a normal schedule, increasing choral scholars is a priority, with a noticeable drop-off in number of students coming forward to audition for the choir. With the cost-of-living crisis, and competition between UK cathedrals for a seemingly ever-smaller pool of singers willing to commit to singing daily choral services, reviewing the offer that is made to lay clerks is important as we go forward in securing the future of the choir.

Duncan Ferguson, Master of the Music



Cathedral Council Report

The Cathedral Council functions in an advisory and consultative capacity to the Cathedral Board, with a remit to provide a channel of communication between the Board and the congregation.

Cathedral Council has met five times in the period from June 2021 to June 2022, and has continued to use Zoom as its forum, although we are exploring the possibility of holding some meetings in person in the coming year.

At each meeting, the Council receives updates from the Provost and Vice-Provost on topical matters and follows up on action points identified at previous meetings. There is an opportunity for conveners of the groups and committees to share news, and we have recently introduced a focus on the activities of a different nominated group as a regular agenda item.

These are the additional key issues discussed at our meetings during the course of the year.

September 2021

- A paper updating on the activities and plans of the “A+E at the Cathedral” project
- News of “Experiencing the cathedral,” a working group set up in summer 2021 to explore people’s experience of interacting with the Cathedral and consider questions about how we tell people about the life of the Cathedral and extend a welcome to the building and grounds

November 2021

- Plans for Christmas services, including logistics of ticketing and stewarding
- Reports on the A+E pilgrimage and other activities in the lead-up to COP26
- Arrangements for AGM

January 2022

- Feedback on arrangements for Christmas services
- Reintroduction of coffee and other opportunities to meet in person

March 2022

- Response to the conflict in Ukraine
- Report on the formation of a new music committee
- Focus on children's groups

May 2022

- Discussion of worship in the light of relaxation of Covid regulations and consultation on when/how to reintroduce communion in both kinds
- Focus on Faith and Growth

Special thanks are due to Edith Spencer, who stood down as convener of Social Responsibility (formerly Outreach) in May 2022, after 25 years of dedicated service to the Cathedral Council in this role. Thank you also to Andrew Reddish, who retired as Lay Representative in November 2021, for taking up this position last year after a term as Alternate Lay Representative, and (on a personal note) for his mentoring, advice and support, both this year and in 2020-21.

Despite the gradual easing of COVID restrictions and precautions, much about the life and work of St Mary's remains unpredictable. We continue to encounter a good many changes and challenges as individuals and as a congregation, as each of us moves forward at our own pace. In this climate, I am especially grateful to all the members of the Cathedral Council for their commitment, resourcefulness and adaptability, their constructive contributions at our meetings, and all that they do for the Cathedral.

Helen Parker, Lay Representative

Faith and Growth Report

The Faith and Growth Committee continue in our role to engage the congregation in their faith and with each other in a number of different ways:

Cathedral Conversations

Cathedral Conversations (which succeeded Sunday Introductions) are about engaging people in learning about, and discussing topics of interest to us as a congregation.

This year we've had so far:

- Luke's Gospel – January
- The Daily Office – February
- The Creed (part 1) - May (in which the first 5 words were covered!)
- The Creed (part 2) – September
- The Church in a Digital Age - October

These (online) sessions are proving to be popular – good numbers and genuinely enjoyable and fun!

Lent

Lent study evenings this year were in collaboration with Palmerston Place Church and took place at Annan House, using a 2010 Lent course called "*People on the edge of his pain*" which focused on one person from the Passion story each week: Mary Magdalene, Judas, Mary the mother of Jesus, and Peter.

They were well attended with 20 – 30 people each time, and everyone really enjoyed the exercise of trying to identify with these characters.

Retreats

Our occasional small retreats to Alnmouth Priory stopped during the pandemic and have not yet started up again – although people can now visit as individuals again if they want.

Our biennial retreat, which has alternated between going to Iona and to Cumbrae, was due to go to Cumbrae in 2021. but had to be cancelled. We are hoping to re-arrange this for 2023 (at time of writing).

Most people who have been on a congregational retreat agree how very valuable they are for *building connection and community* together.

Praying Together

There is now quite a solid group of people who meet (online) every two weeks, alternating between a morning and an evening session. The main purpose is to pray together and the main focus is to honour the prayers that our cathedral visitors leave on our two Prayer trees (one for children too). These are extremely well-used (over 3,000 prayers in the past year), and there is a notice explaining that there is a group who take and pray these prayers regularly.

(There is also a “virtual” prayer tree offered on the website which is prayer@cathedral.net - though it isn't used very much so far.)

Social Media

The Instagram account within the Cathedral's social media profile has fallen under the auspices of Faith and Growth for the last couple of years. There has been a regular project at Advent (the international #Adventword) and Lent (our own #Lentword) where members of the congregation are invited to contribute pictures and words on a daily theme to share.

Book Group and Poetry Close-Up

Faith and Growth also supports a number of independent groups meeting amongst the cathedral organisation. These include the Cathedral Book Group and Poetry Close-up, both long-running and continually popular ways of meeting up together. Poetry Close-Up meets in person on the last Monday of the month, the Book Group has less frequent Zoom or 'hybrid' meetings.

Interfaith Activity

Interfaith activity is included on the Faith and Growth agenda. We attempt

to keep an eye on the many projects and programs offered by Edinburgh Interfaith Association, and the Cathedral is a member of this organisation. Our aim is to communicate about particularly interesting and important events.

Notably in April we had a visit to the cathedral from the Shia Muslim community in Edinburgh during evensong – for a blessing on and sharing about Ramadan - which a number of the congregation attended. It was a very warm and inspiring time together, and we would like to build on this experience.

None of these events or activities could take place without the goodwill, time and energy of our cathedral clergy; members of the Faith & Growth Committee and many individual members of the congregation. We are enormously grateful to every one of them.

Helen Hood



Sunday Groups and Young People's Report

We have had a very busy and challenging year again due to Covid, Ukraine Crisis, Queen's death, Climate Change and reacting to these issues. Hopefully the following article will give you an idea of how varied our syllabus is.

During Advent, we learnt more about different women in the Bible. We then had to suddenly change the Crib Service into making a film of the Nativity Story. Thanks goes to the Provost for producing a script and Si for filming as well the young people who took part. Everybody enjoyed themselves and the comments we got from people around the world were wonderful. Sunday Groups had made the characters.

In January and February we followed the Lectionary, choosing one of the readings each week to concentrate on. We also welcomed Palmerston Place young people for joint activities.

Lent became very busy. We decided to look at relationships in the bible and our everyday life Mothers, Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, Friendships. As the Ukraine War started at this time we planted blue, yellow, red and white bulbs at the North end of the Cathedral to show we all care and pray for everyone. Red Nose Day saw a joint effort Choristers, Sunday Groups and Palmerston Place raising £200 for Comic Relief by baking cakes or biscuits. They had pizza and games afterwards together outside.

Before Easter, we built the Easter Garden with the help of the Vergers and Workshop. We laid out an Easter Trail of Holy Week and every young person received a Wonder Through the Easter Story book that suggested walks, activities and wondering questions for today.

The summer term saw us discussing the Gospel readings each week before another outside joint activity for all and a well earned rest of 6 weeks.

During the Summer, some of our young people met with the Bishop to give their views on questions Lambeth raised and some went to Yeek, the Provincial Youth Week.

This term we have studied Creation by looking at the Cathedral and its grounds. We had Cathedral members come and discuss different aspects of this with us. The Altar Frontal was made in response to the idea that Land and Nature will bring Peace (in all senses) to the world. Everyone drew something to go on it and we all worked together to make it. The flowers were to show the World will become a better place. The Octopus with its tentacles open to show God cares for us whatever the difficulty and with its tentacles closed to show we need more care from God.

The Children's Prayer Tree allows them to put their own prayers up in their own way for the Faith and Growth group to pray later.

We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. If anyone would like to join us as a young person or a leader we would love you to come along and see us in action.

Christina France

Coffee Report

Volunteers serve coffee, tea, juice and biscuits to members of the congregation every week after the 10:30 Sunday service. This provides an opportunity to welcome new people and for members of the congregation to catch up with one another. Coffee time was suspended during the pandemic but was resumed from February of this year, initially on an occasional basis. We were able to resume weekly coffee from the beginning of May, with suitable Covid precautions.

We use Fairtrade supplies wherever possible. We now obtain most of our supplies from an organisation that specialises in supplying churches, and which is committed to Fairtrade and environmental awareness.

Numbers of people staying for coffee are still lower than pre-pandemic, but are gradually increasing, so more volunteers are now needed to join the coffee team. This is an excellent way to get to know other members of the congregation. If you would like to help please contact me via the Cathedral Office, or speak to a member of the clergy.

Judith Lewis

Ecumenical Officer Report

It has been good to be able to meet with our friends from Palmerston Place Church (PPC) in person this year and we were delighted to host the annual joint Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service in January. During the service we together spoke words of commitment from The St Andrew Declaration which had been signed by Lord Jim Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Bishop Mark, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, at a special service in the Cathedral on St Andrew's Day 2021.

We were also able to return to in person meetings for our joint Lent studies (see the Faith and Growth report for more detail) and to welcome a large contingent of PPC members to the Easter morning Vigil Eucharist following which we shared breakfast in the Walpole Hall.

Along with Bryony and Faz Faraday, I had great pleasure in attending the morning service in Palmerston Place Church (PPC) on Sunday 29 May 2022, which was Colin Sinclair's final Sunday as Minister before he and Ruth retired to Peebles. On behalf of St Mary's I thanked Colin for his commitment to working together and to deepening the relationships between our two congregations, and thanked them both for the warmth of their friendship over the past 26 years, saying that they will always be welcome at the Cathedral.

It is testament to the strength of the relationship between the two congregations that, at the first meeting of the PPC/Cathedral 'ECU' Group of clergy and lay representatives since Colin's retirement, with changes all round in the membership of the group, there was a very warm atmosphere and enthusiasm for continuing to work together. Edith Spencer and Andy Reddish, Cathedral representatives from the very beginning of the ECU Group, have both stepped down this year. Very many thanks to them both for their contribution to building mutual understanding and warm friendships. Anthea Taylor has succeeded Edith, joining John Conway and me, and Janet Spence also attended this

meeting. PPC has a new team too, with Bill Taylor, Interim Moderator, and Douglas Reid, newly ordained Associate Minister, joining Mairi Graham, original member of the Group.

The long-term future for PPC is still unclear, but they will be coming together with Gorgie-Dalry and Stenhouse Parishes. We are glad that they remain committed to working with us and will continue to support them in whatever ways we can. An important part of that support is in our regular prayers for each other. Please also remember PPC and our working together in your prayers.

Wider ecumenical engagement has not yet regrown since the pandemic, but it was a pleasure to welcome Iain Greenshields, this year's Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, as guest preacher at one of our August Festival Sunday services.

Helen Hood



Eco-Congregation Group Report

Cathedral Net Zero Plan

The installation of LED lighting has been completed and we are now looking at insulation and draught proofing. Following the SEC's commitment to reach net zero by 2030, resources have been produced to help churches – a toolkit with a checklist and an energy footprint analyser. When we registered as an Eco-congregation in 2019 we worked through a similar checklist and it has been useful to look afresh at what has already been done and consider what our priorities for future actions should be. The Provost had the unenviable task of submitting our energy usage to give us baseline data.

Cathedral Grounds

Work on the cycle path continues and the new path to the south door has given structure to the south lawn. In March volunteers helped to remove the sod and dig the soil in preparation for the wildflower labyrinth, designed and marked out by Jonathan Baxter, our artist-in-residence, with seeds being sown in April. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together to create the labyrinth and many thanks to Melissa for her ongoing maintenance. The swift caller was set going again to alert passing swifts to the nest boxes in the NW tower and we will have to wait and see if there were any takers this year!

Eco-Congregation Scotland

I attended their Annual Gathering in April in Dunblane on the theme Caring for Creation: Unlocking the Future. It marked their 21st birthday and there were excellent speakers and workshops. The churches in the Edinburgh network continues to share information about events.

Diocesan Big Walk to Net Zero (28th May)

To mark the Year of Pilgrimage people made their way to the Cathedral from different parts of the diocese, in order to come together and reflect on our collective journey to net zero. As part of that event the Cathedral

made a formal Declaration of a Climate Emergency which now appears on our website and the Climate Emergency Toolkit website.

Following on from this event, we will be hosting On the Road Together: Responding to the Climate and Ecological Crisis on 22nd October. This is a collaboration with the Green Christian community to consider a faith-based response to the crisis through discussion, workshops and worship.

Anne Backhouse, Convener

A+E Report

It's been a strange year for A+E – partly informed by various personal ups and downs (work, health and childcare related) but also due to the political disappointments of COP26, where a hoped-for commitment to keep global warming below 1.5°C failed to materialise. A median value of 2.4°C is now predicted for 2100. This will have devastating consequences for both people and planet.

Despite these personal and political setbacks, A+E has been focused on positive change. To this end A+E delivered two co-design workshops. One exploring the Cathedral's role in the city as it responds to the climate and ecological crisis (developing an initial timeline that extends to 2100), the second asking how the Cathedral grounds can be used to maximise biodiversity and cultural diversity in line with the above (with specific proposals to inform a 'peace with nature' narrative). The co-design workshops are ongoing, with a third workshop due to take place later this year/early next year to inform a RIBA Works Stage 0 report.

In addition to the formal co-design workshops, A+E also supported a further series of Little Earthlings workshops (nature-based learning for toddlers and their parents). This had the wider aim of developing a child-friendly community garden on the North Lawn. Due to the aforementioned

ill-health, initial planting of the garden didn't happen this year – albeit the raised beds are ready and waiting in the Chapter House – but a willow tunnel and pea tepee did get planted (with the tunnel surviving but the pea tepee failing due to the enthusiasms of visiting nursery children – a problem we'll need to address later this year by fencing off an area for the community garden).

In keeping with this initial planting, A+E also worked with members of the Cathedral congregation to cut and sow a wildflower labyrinth on the South Lawn – a collective undertaking lovingly tended by Melissa W-H. These small-scale interventions and the learning gained from spending time with members of the Cathedral and other visitors have been invaluable for A+E's development.

A+E also got to grips with the Chapter House this year. The space is now equipped to serve as a gallery and workshop space, with our first exhibition and two art and craft workshops having taken place in August. Other exhibitions and art projects are planned, as are further developments of the Chapter House to extend its usability. We also welcomed Annie Lord, storyteller and artist, as part of the A+E team this year. Annie is developing a deep time and climate change themed story for the Cathedral – with initial outcomes due in December.

More broadly A+E continues to support the Cathedral's eco-group and the work of the diocese – the latter by organising Scotland's first Green Christian event on the 22nd October. We also support a wider community of concerned citizens including Pilgrimage for COP26 participants and Extinction Rebellion's Art and Regen group, this by hosting occasional walks and other events in the Chapter House. As for the coming year ... my wordcount prohibits expansion! You'll have to wait for the Cathedral's 2023 Annual Report to find out!

Jonathan Baxter, A+E Curator



Social Responsibility Report

This year has seen a number of changes to the Social Responsibility Group, most notably the retirement in May of the Convenor, Edith Spencer. Edith convened the Outreach Committee (later renamed the Social Responsibility Group) for 25 years and during that time she has shown tireless dedication and commitment to the many causes that have been supported in various ways by the Cathedral. We are extremely grateful to her for her long service and leadership. Helen Parker also stood down from the Group this year after some twenty years' service and our warm thanks for all she has done in that time are also extended to her. Over the summer we have welcomed two new members to the Group - Brenda Coney and Melissa Witney-Hunter - and Kimberley Munro has also agreed to join us. It was very good to be able to hold our first 'in person' meeting in September after so many months on Zoom.

The Social Responsibility Group seeks to find ways for the congregation to respond to social needs, whether local, national or international. With the easing of Covid restrictions we have been able to resume our programme of activities.

Support for the Work of Christian Aid

Many thanks to Alison Dickson, the Cathedral's main contact with Christian Aid, for all she does throughout the year to highlight their work and to raise money for it. She has supplied the following information on activities in 2021/22:

- The 2021 Christmas appeal towards helping families in poverty and those facing the effects of climate change raised £637.
- During May a group of Cathedral walkers took part in the 300,000 step challenge. Through their wonderful efforts, they exceeded their target and raised the magnificent sum of £830.
- On Christian Aid Week Sunday, donation envelopes raised £282 and hopefully more would have been donated on line directly.

- The May Book Sale at St Andrew's and St George's was again very well supported and a number of our Cathedral members volunteered to help with sorting and selling.

We shall, of course, continue to support the work of Christian Aid through the coming year.

Collections for St Salvador's Episcopal Church, Stenhouse

On Palm Sunday we organised a collection of items – toiletries, period products, and nappies – for St Salvador's Hygiene Bank. St Salvador's run a weekly Community Food Initiative which is open to anyone experiencing financial difficulties and provides food and other essentials. Our appeal for donations was well-supported by Cathedral members and the items were very much appreciated by the staff at St Salvador's. We, therefore, decided that this year's Harvest Festival collection should also be for them and should focus on cleaning items, toiletries, nappies etc. Due to the recent increased demand for their services, St Salvador's are having to concentrate all their resources on the provision of food so the non-food items we were able to deliver to them were extremely welcome. Many thanks to all who donated so generously.

We were also able to respond to an urgent request from Volunteer Edinburgh for baby clothes and other baby equipment for two babies born in September to Ukrainian mothers currently in Edinburgh. Seven large bags of clothes, pram blankets, and nappies, were delivered to Volunteer Edinburgh for the new mothers.

One World Stall

Elaine Appleby continues to organise and run the Cathedral's One World Stall selling Fairtrade goods, which include not only food but also seasonal items such as Advent Calendars and Christmas gifts. We are most grateful to her for the considerable time and effort she puts into this. She reports: "The One World Stall held two successful Christmas sales in December 2021 and resumed monthly sales from April 2022. We are now able to take payments by card as well as cash. Support and interest from the congregation and visitors remains high; Fairtrade benefits workers' rights,

safer working conditions and fairer pay, while for shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products.

Catering for the Homeless

On four evenings during the winter months the Cathedral's team of catering volunteers once again provided, cooked and served a hot evening meal for the homeless at the Bethany Welcome Centre at the Hub Hotel in Haymarket. The meals have been much appreciated by the guests, with many coming back for second helpings - but we have also had a lot of fun as a team working together to prepare the food. With an enlarged team of helpers, we are planning to cater on six evenings in 2022-23. Our efforts have been supported by a number of donations from congregation members for which we are most grateful.

I think we are all very aware of the many needs in our world, whether due to climate change, conflicts, or the cost of living crisis, and we can only hope to make a very small contribution to helping to alleviate them. I hope that by continuing to concentrate our efforts on a number of specific causes we can make a small difference to people's lives.

Anthea Taylor, Convenor, Social Responsibility Group

Pastoral Link Visitors Report

As the Provost has reminded us often, caring for one another belongs to the whole congregation. During the past year the web of care has continued with lifts to church, weekly phone calls and visits, then alerting the clergy when necessary. During this time two of our founder members have died, Ljubica Erickson and John Lister. Our condolences go to their families.

Frances Cunningham, Alan Treloar, Moira Dierson, and John Spencer have retired after many years. Thank you to them all.

Last year the Provost wrote to a group of Pastoral Visitors to consider a review but this has not been activated yet. I would like to thank all those remaining and new visitors for their time and concern with our members. My motto is 'keep connected'.

The next challenge is to get to know our new and our younger members and encourage their own way to contribute to the life of the Cathedral.

Carole Barclay, PLV Convenor



Walk & Talk Report

Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Walk & Talk Group was unable to meet from April 2020 until November 2021. Sadly, during this time some of our regular members had to withdraw from the group due to increasing infirmity. It was with much excitement that we looked forward to our first outing again in November 2021 when we walked from Barnton via Laurieston Castle to Cramond. Unfortunately, I had suffered a serious health problem and was unable to participate in the walk. I am extremely grateful to Anthea and Alasdair Taylor who took on the leadership for that walk, and indeed for all the group outings through to April 2022 while I was recovering.

Outings during that period included Hillend to Mortonhall in December, and sections of the Water of Leith Walkway - from Balerno to Slateford in January 2022, and on towards Inverleith in February. A new route in March took participants from the Royal Commonwealth Pool to Leith Links, though wet weather forced the cancellation of our April walk.

In May 2022 I led a walk from Ocean Terminal to Craighleith via the old railway lines and in June a small group enjoyed a walk from Cramond Brig around the Cammo estate and along by the river Almond ending at Davidson's Mains. The impact of Covid on bus services was felt in July when we walked along the Union Canal from Winchburgh to Linlithgow and there were some challenges in the group managing to reach the starting point. A planned walk in August in East Lothian was cancelled due to lack of participants, but in September Anthea and Alasdair organised a walk along the sea front from Fisherrow to Cockenzie. Unfortunately, I had a further health problem and, at time of writing, remain in recovery mode. Anthea and Alasdair have stepped up again, and I very much appreciate their willingness to take this on and ensure the monthly walks continue. A fine and sunny (if windy) day in October saw walkers follow the former railway route from Longniddry to Haddington.

The Walk & Talk group is an opportunity for Cathedral people to have some social contact while enjoying a walk in various locations around Edinburgh and the Lothians.

Walks take place on the first Thursday of the month and are accessible by public transport and suitable for most - being of 5 to 7 miles length and on firm paths with no scrambling. There is an opportunity at the end to partake of lunch together and enjoy a chat. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

John Spencer



Archivist Report

There were 4 enquiries this year, two of which were about past members of the choir.

Information was requested about Joseph Hislop who was a chorister from 1884 to 1894 and went on to become a world famous operatic tenor, and Cecil Coles who was neither a chorister nor a lay clerk.

We had an inquiry from a research student at Edinburgh University's Business School as to whether the Cathedral had been more affiliated with the Festival Fringe rather than the International Festival during the early years of the Festival up to 1969.

A lay clerk from the 1980s contacted the Cathedral looking for photographs of the choir from his period in the choir. There are very few photographs covering that period in the archive but I was able to pass him on to somebody who had what he was looking for.

We have had a few interesting additions to the archive this past year including more photographs from Wilma Macrae, a collection of post cards with many interesting views of the Cathedral and a copy of an engraving showing the Cathedral from a book entitled "Picturesque Scotland" published in 1884. This came from a gentleman in Queensland.

If anybody has anything which they think should be in the archive, no matter how obscure it may seem to relate to the Cathedral, I will be delighted to speak to them.

My thanks to the Vergers and office staff for all their help over the past year.

Iain Morrison, Hon. Archivist

Bellringers' Annual Report

During 2022 we have enjoyed a return to regular ringing, both on Sunday mornings and Thursday evening practice nights. This more consistent ringing has enabled us to rebuild our confidence and skill, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. In January a quarter peal – the first on our bells in 2 years – of Plain Bob Doubles was rung to mark a return to 'in-person' practices. We have also been pleased to ring for several weddings.

It has been a delight to welcome two new members to our band this year. In addition, we were approached by a beginner who expressed an interest in learning to ring – she has now had several lessons and is making excellent progress! We do remain short of ringers and plan to discuss recruitment at our upcoming committee meetings. It is always a pleasure to welcome visiting ringers to St Mary's - this year they have joined us from locations all over the globe, ranging from Scotland to as far afield as The Netherlands and New Zealand!

In May a group of us took part in the Scottish Association Striking Competition which was held in Aberdeen. We won the St Andrew's Shield, which is awarded for the highest placed call change band. However, the most notable event of the year was the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We commemorated this with fully muffled ringing, including a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples.

Thanks go to our dedicated team who run and contribute to the ringing and maintenance of the bells. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the Cathedral Clergy team, the Cathedral Office, and the Congregation, and hope that the sound of the bells is enjoyed as we continue to play our role in Cathedral life.

Susannah Ewens, Tower Secretary

Stewards

Over the past 12 months services have gradually returned to near normal. Having said that the main Christmas services were different in that the numbers attending were controlled using a ticketing system. There were one or two teething problems with the scanning of tickets but these were quickly sorted out.

Despite a few recent new volunteers we are still short of stewards. There are only 21 stewards available for the morning Eucharist, prior to the pandemic the number was 48. When the High Alter is once again in use for administering communion, another two stewards will be required this means that we will require 7 stewards each Sunday. The picture for Sunday Evensong is much brighter as we have 8 stewards available.

With the return to normality the number of visitors wishing to visit the Cathedral during the service is increasing especially during the summer months and Festival period. Most are happy to stand or sit at the back or even join in the service. However an increasing number expect to be able to wonder around the Cathedral taking pictures without thought for the fact that a service is underway. Tact and diplomacy are required and I thank the stewards for their handling of these occasions. Having said that all the stewards realise that it is important to providing a welcome to all our visitors and it is always interesting to hear what they have to say.

My thanks to all our welcomers and stewards, they are an integral part of what we offer on a Sunday.

If you would like to help please contact me through the Cathedral office or indeed, see me on any Sunday.

Iain Morrison, Convenor of Stewards

Edinburgh Festival Report

This year we were able to offer a busy schedule of Festival events.

Exhibitions

During the first week of the Fringe, we hosted *Outside In* which was curated and facilitated by Mousa AlNana, an artist from Homs, Syria. With support from a team who organised this interactive exhibition, Mousa worked with groups from L'Arche and Artlink, alongside interested members of the public. An installation was created which was then displayed in the King Charles Chapel until the end of August. Silvy Weatherall returned with her *Last Supper* installation on the High Altar and Peter and Heidi Gardner set up their *Peacemakers Loom* in the Resurrection Chapel. The finished Peacemakers weave was hung from the chapel ceiling for a month and has now been rolled into a ball and installed on the triforium in that chapel. All of the exhibitions attracted significant interest and footfall, and generated conversations with visitors from near and far.

Concerts and recitals

We were able to offer a full programme of lunchtime concerts and I am grateful to all those who gave time to act as stewards. This year our programme included a good number of younger musicians; we are keen to continue to offer an opportunity to early career musicians to perform within the Cathedral. John Bryden returned to offer two of his popular coffee concerts, which attracted a loyal and appreciative audience. We offered three organ recitals and three ticketed concerts. Of the ticketed concerts, the best attended by a significant margin was our choir concert who sang music by Purcell, Handel, Parry and Vaughan Williams marking important royal events. Audiences for the other two concerts (Calum Huggan, Marimba, and Maximiliano Martin, Clarinet) were disappointing.

Our experience with audiences was replicated across many venues. The free and by donation events attracted good audiences, whereas the ticketed events (with the exception of the choir concert) were poorly

attended. Overall, the numbers of people visiting the Cathedral during August was high. Our visitor footfall has increased noticeably and the exhibitions attracted visitors. The completion of the new South lawn paths allowed us to open the South doors and that has proved an inviting entrance for people who may have previously felt unsure about accessing the building.

Revd Canon Marion Chatterley, Vice-Provost



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for the financial year to 30 June 2022. I am particularly pleased to present a report that shows a Net Recurring Surplus for the year, and a surplus of Total Income over Total Expenditure.

The Summarised Accounts are based on the full audited accounts and copies the full accounts will shortly be available on the Charity Regulator website - oscr.org.uk

In this summary, as with the annual accounts, reference is made to figures in the previous financial year as a comparison. The previous financial year – running from July 2020 to June 2021 – contained different types of lockdown, and some of those restrictions continued into financial year under review. This makes the comparison from one year to the next difficult and requiring some explanation below.

Income

Total income for the financial year was £656,863. This is split between £606,863 of recurring income and £50,000 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 £148,821 in the year; an increase of approximately £37,000 on the prior year. Some of this was through increased donations into the Scholars Fund and Choristers Fund, and some through the Cathedral opening up and donations through the contactless machines, increased pledges online and a return to the Christmas services.

Restricted Donations into the Choral Scholars Fund and the Chorister Fund (part of the Mabel Townhill Bursary Fund), including associated gift aid, was approximately £40,000. This generosity is a hugely welcome contribution towards recurring costs of music and did not detract from the

amount of regular giving.

Standing Order giving increased a little to £115,213 in the financial year from £112,392 the previous year. This equates to just shy of £10,000 each month. Smaller legacies are also considered within recurring income and this was £10,000 in the current year. Total giving represents 43% of the Cathedral's total recurring income (up from 38% the previous year).

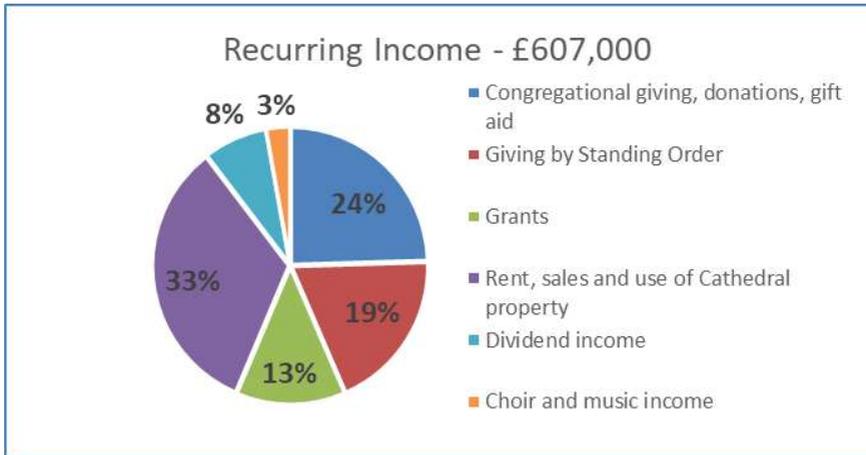
Rent from Cathedral property was £165,911, an increase of approximately £12,000 from the year before, through an increase in some charges and fuller occupancy of the Walpole Hall. Income from the Use of Cathedral almost doubled, though increased use and higher charges, to £35,068 in the financial year. Overall, income from Cathedral property and premises now represents 33% of the Cathedral's recurring income, up from 30% last year.

Grants continued to be received from regular sources such as The Walker Trust, All Churches Trust as well as a grant from Listed Places of Worship to reimburse VAT on eligible costs within the Cathedral. Overall, grant income was down on the previous year but that was expected with specific grants in 2020-21 from the Furlough scheme, higher Diocese of Edinburgh grants to fund the curate, and Friends of St Mary's.

Dividend income for the year was £46,013, similar to the previous year and a reflection of the continuing lower level of dividend yields since the start of the pandemic.

Non-recurring income for the year was made up of two legacies totalling £60,000. In the previous year, there had been capital grants of approx. £155,000 towards work on the Cathedral and its grounds - primarily from Edinburgh World Heritage Trust and Historic Environment Scotland - and towards costs to keep the choir going from Friends of Cathedral Music.

Fig 1. Recurring Income



Expenditure

Total Expenditure for the financial year was £606,009. A further £41,318 was spent on capital additions (such as the final payment for the organ restoration and the LED lighting).

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 £141,292 and accounted for around 23% of the Cathedral's recurring costs. This was a reduction on the previous year due to there being no curate in post for most of the financial year.

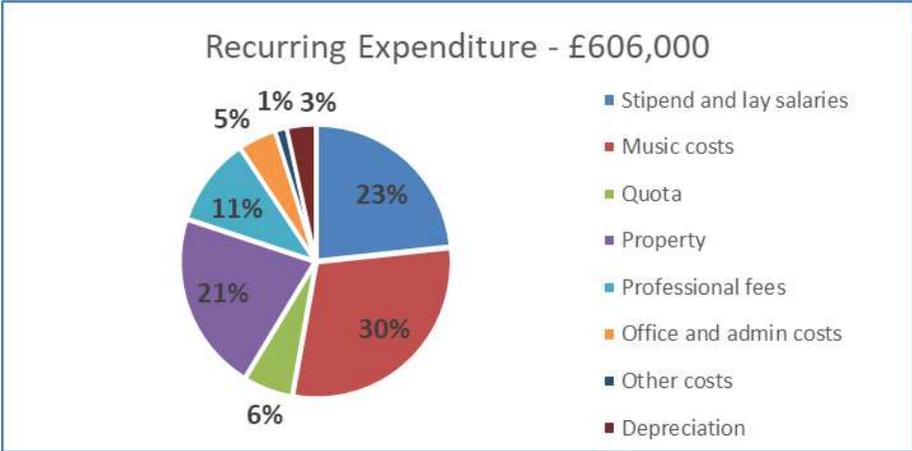
The Music Costs of £175,686 comprise the salaries of the organists, the lay clerks, choral scholars and Music School fees for choristers. This was approx. £5,000 up from the previous year but approx. £25,000 lower than the years immediately pre-pandemic. This is a result of the smaller number of choristers and lay clerks. Music costs represent 30% of recurring expenditure for the Cathedral, though an increasing amount of this is being covered by Restricted donations and not the General Fund.

The other main recurring expenditure was Property, accounting for 21%

of costs. These are gas, electricity, insurance, rates as well as routine repairs and maintenance within the Cathedral. These do fluctuate each year and whilst there was no single reason for overall costs being lower, one factor was lower gas/electricity costs, partly through some refund of charges from a previous supplier and capped costs agreed with the new supplier.

Non-recurring expenditure related to capital projects including costs of installing LED lighting. These costs are included in the summarised accounts schedule for transparency but these are accounted for as a fixed asset addition in the annual accounts with a depreciation charge brought into future accounts over the lifetime of the asset, so the capital cost is effectively spread over 15-30 years.

Fig 2. Recurring Expenditure



SUMMARY

As in previous years, this Report focuses on the level of day-to-day Recurring Income versus Recurring Expenditure and it is this benchmark that the Trustees are focusing on and bringing down an annual net recurring expenditure position.

In the year to 30 June 2022, this was **£606,863** against **£606,009**, a surplus of £854.

This compares with the figures for the year to 30 June 2020 which

reported a £94,000 shortfall and the year to 30 June 2021 which reported a £76,000 shortfall.

This is an extremely good position for the financial year, stronger than originally budgeted and certainly a large improvement on the previous two years. It should be noted those years themselves represented an improvement on the past couple of pre-pandemic financial years.

As noted above, the reasons for this is an increase in income through continued engagement with initiatives such as specific-purpose donations and giving, and an increase in use and charges for Cathedral property. And lower than expected costs due to savings on heat and light, in clergy stipend, and in choir costs.

The cost savings are not expected to be long-term and costs in these areas are likely to be higher in 2022-23 but income is expected to increase in 2022-23 through greater use of the Cathedral and retaining the level of giving seen in 2021-22.

When considering the Recurring Income versus Recurring Expenditure in Unrestricted Funds, the position was even stronger, with a surplus of approx. £27,000. This is in large part due to the level of donations into the Scholars Fund and Chorister Fund that are paying directly for music costs as well as the unspent funds from the Friends of Cathedral Music grant last year.

There is a loss on investments reported in the year of £119,814 and this ends up showing that total Net Assets are actually down compared to the previous year, but there's reasons not to be too disheartened by this. Firstly, this is not confined to the Cathedral's investment portfolio, and secondly, there was a gain on these investments of £208,047 reported in the previous year so the investments remain in a stronger position than they were two years ago. They will have come down further in the period since but this does not impact on the ability for day-to-day spending.

I mentioned earlier that this report covers Recurring income and expenditure primarily and that the Annual Accounts does not separate non-recurring elements and so reports on total income and total expenditure.

In the Annual Accounts, total income is reported as £656,853 and total

expenditure £606,009, which is a Surplus of £50,804. There was an additional large legacy of £50,000 received in the year – not classed as Recurring Income above – and therefore this is the main contributor to the Surplus position reported in the financial year.

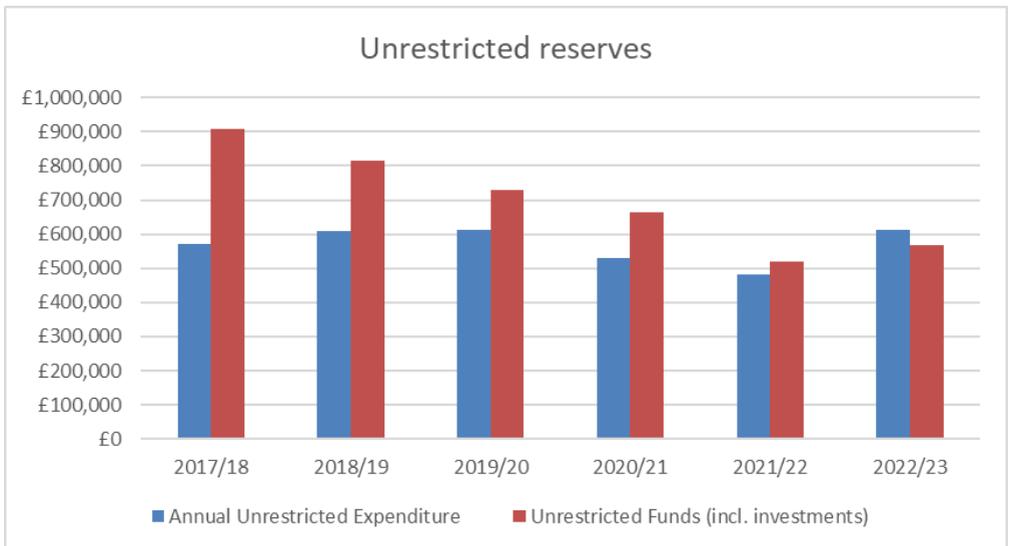
Lastly, I will cover the level of reserves held in Unrestricted Funds.

Fig 3 shows the level of Unrestricted Funds – excluding fixed assets such as property and historic cost of the organ - 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.

The total balance of these available Unrestricted Funds at 30 June 2022 is £566,263, an increase from £518,988 in the prior year, reversing the downward trend seen since 2017.

Fig 3. Unrestricted reserves



David Jeffcoat, Treasurer

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh, held on Sunday 21st November 2021 at 12 noon in the Cathedral and on Zoom

Present

Some 50 members of the Cathedral, with the Provost in the Chair.

Welcome and apologies

The Provost welcomed everyone to the meeting, and explained that this was a hybrid meeting with some members joining on Zoom. He Hannah Draper, the Cathedral Administrator, to take a minute. Apologies had been received from Anne Backhouse, Bryony Faraday, Faz Faraday.

Commemoration of the departed

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

Florence England, Michael Middleton, Mary Haggart, Sharon Hunter, Lindsay Sinclair, Sue Polson

Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd November 2020

The minutes were approved.

Provost's report

A written report was included in the previously circulated Annual Report. The Provost highlighted the following:

- That it had clearly been another turbulent year with the effects of the pandemic continuing. From Christmas until Palm Sunday the building had once again been closed for public worship, and much ingenuity and creativity had been required to enable a continued offering of public worship online.
- The installation of cameras, allowing the livestreaming of services,

was a huge step forward in that task. The Cathedral wished to thank the Friends of St Mary's for their contribution in funding that facility.

- The Provost expressed sincere thanks to the Vice Provost, and the Master of the Music, for their contribution to that task of ensuring the work and prayer of the Cathedral continued; to James Parsons, in the office, particularly for his work in editing videos for Sunday worship; to Colin, Andy and Charles, our Vergers; and to Adam Wilson, formerly Assistant Organist, Imogen Morgan, our new Assistant Master of the Music, and the choir, for all their efforts over the past year. The Provost commented on the exhausting nature of the continual changes required, and commended the whole staff team for their efforts.
- The recent COP26 Conference in Glasgow had been an important moment for our planet, and for Scotland within that. It had been important and fruitful to find ways to highlight the issues within the Cathedral, and to support those who were engaging with COP26.

Lay Representative Report

Andrew Reddish, the Lay Representative and Chair of the Cathedral Council, spoke to his report included in the previously circulated Annual Report. Andrew thanked the congregation for their support in his role as he stood down.

The Provost responded and thanked Andrew for his support, particularly during the Covid pandemic.

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, noting the difficulty of maintaining much of the Cathedral's usual activity. The Provost particularly thanked Suzy Morrison, who was stepping down as Safeguarding Co-ordinator, and welcomed Barbara Bell to that role.

Presentation of the Cathedral accounts to 30th June 2021

Summarised accounts were provided with a commentary from the Treasurer provided in the previously circulated Annual Report. Full copies of the audited accounts can be obtained from the Cathedral Office to those who want them.

The Treasurer noted the continuing financial challenges, represented by the deficit in recurring income/expenditure of £76,000. This was an improvement on previous years, and had to be understood in the context of the pandemic, but still represented a drain on Cathedral resources that was not sustainable for long. This was shown in the level of free reserves available, which continues to drop.

Election of Lay Representative and Alternate Lay Representative

Helen Parker was proposed as Lay Representative by Andrew Reddish and seconded by Jo Hargreaves. Allan Hood was proposed as Alternate Lay Representative by Helen Parker and seconded by Andrew Reddish.

Helen Parker was duly appointed as Lay Representative and Allan Hood was appointed as Alternate Lay Representative.

Appointment of Auditor

Chiene and Tait were re-appointed as the Cathedral's auditors.

AOCB

None

Closing

The Provost closed the meeting, giving thanks again to everyone who together shared the saying of the Grace.



Services & Music for Advent and Christmas

Sunday 27th November 6:30pm

Advent Carol Service

Friday 2nd December, 1:30pm

Children's Come and Sing Carols

Saturday 10th December, 1:30-7:30pm

Come and Sing Messiah alongside the Cathedral Choir

Thursday 22nd December, 7:30pm

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve

2:30pm Children's Service

A short telling of the Christmas story with carols, suitable for children of all ages.

7:30pm Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

11:30pm Midnight Mass

Preacher: The Provost

Christmas Day

8:00am Holy Communion

10:30am Christmas Eucharist

Preacher: The Bishop of Edinburgh

Please note that booking for some services may be required this year. Full details of services will be available on the Cathedral's website (www.cathedral.net) and on social media (@St MarysCathEdin).