

FOCUS

On St. Andrew's Cathedral
April 2018



Happy Easter — He is risen indeed!

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to be able to wish you the richest of God's gracious blessings as we rejoice in the peace of the Risen Christ we celebrate this Eastertide. This Lent had been very special and in a way felt very short, thanks to God's disruption with another very special blessing in the form of our new Bishop Anne. The season was further shortened by the Diocesan Synod which I believe is a turning point for the diocese. The Cathedral, the Diocese and our Bishop will be and should be surrounded and sustained by prayer in the coming weeks, months and years as we sense God's particular Call to us and we do not know where this would lead us. I am only confident that the one who calls us in love will be with us and lead us to the place we are called to go. Go, we must and it will be great adventure full of surprises and joy.

We began the month of March with the Consecration of Bishop Anne and we ended the month with Easter Accla-

mations. The message of hope and the promise of 'I will make all things new' do have challenges. In the diocese we have challenges and it is a joy to witness God's transforming presence and power operation. In the Cathedral we have challenges to which I would like to briefly draw your attention. Dr Claire Woods, our Provost's Warden and 'General Secretary' had given a summary of our current Financial state which calls for prayerful action and response.

In March 2017 we launched our 'Catheda' appeal and some of you gave enthusiastically and generously which as equally matched by friends from the diocese. This did not however receive full support from the Cathedral congregation as it was from parts of the diocese. Alongside this, we had several unexpected challenges resulting from historic liabilities. For example, the boiler in the John Skinner Centre gave up its ghost in the middle of the winter. We worked through the season with short

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term supply electric radiators which resulted in large electric bills. In addition to this our entertainment license, a good income stream, which is renewed once in three years came up for renewal and a lot of work was required to get our license renewed. We have successfully managed to acquire a good property for the Cathedral Rectory which resulted in some savings from the rental.

The net impact of all these works has resulted in our operating balance in a very delicate balance which requires a prompt action both short term and long term. To address this challenge systematically, the Trustees would like us all to embark on a Whitsun Appeal. There are details in this Focus and there will be small group work between Easter and Pentecost.

I am writing this at the end of Good Friday services with the Service of Tenebrae, Latin for darkness, to be sung later tonight. It is poignant that we

focus on the darkness from the Good Friday meditation on the suffering and death of our Lord on the Cross which ended in darkness. As we acknowledge the darkness, in the extinguishing of the light, the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, we observe this not in fear but with abundant hope. It is with that hope we launch the Whitsun Appeal i.e. an appeal for the light of hope to be shone through our lives. The appeal will be focused and I appeal to you in anticipation for your prayerful participation.

Earlier today, the young people from the Cathedral congregation made a pilgrimage from the Passover Meal in the Upper Room to Golgotha. There were about 50 children and this is what we are seeking to strengthen and support through our appeal. We want to secure a Cathedral with a brilliant future for our next generations. God bless you as you pray and prepare for this Whitsun Appeal.
God bless,
As ever, Isaac

A new era – a fresh start

By Mark Edwards, People's Warden

I'm sure that almost everyone has noticed a change in the Cathedral? The arrival of Bishop Anne and the need to present to her a Cathedral of which she, and indeed all of us can be proud, spurred me on to make some changes that I have long pondered.

Well before we knew the date of the Consecration and Installation I began a process of consultation within the congregation regarding the general state of housekeeping and presentation. Not I must emphasise the cleanliness; our unsung heroes that clean and polish the Cathedral week in – week out do a magnificent job often around hurdles that we put in their way.

Without exception, everyone that I spoke with voiced agreement that the Cathedral was cluttered and did not present a good image of us to our visitors; nor did it always offer a peaceful setting for prayer! So, with the imminent arrival of Bishop Anne, I with the aid of a

few helpers [thank you to you!!] cleared the Cathedral of surplus furniture [into hidden storage] and literally crates full of accumulated rubbish, promotional flyers, papers—you name it, it was there. We de-cluttered!! Most of the clutter had been placed there for a good reason – at some point – but had not been cleared away or disposed of afterwards.

We also removed our Bibles from the Pew shelves and placed them on the shelves in the Porch. Most of them are in a poor state of repair having been knocked from the pews onto the floor. When viewed from the West Doors they themselves presented a tired and sorry sight!

I must admit I was apprehensive taking action, but I am delighted to say that no-one has voiced any objection; on the contrary, I have received numerous comments recognising the transformation and voicing a hope that it stays as it is. The

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most heartening was a comment from a lady who attended the Consecration and Installation; I assume she is in our Diocese as her [unsolicited] comment was that it was a joy to return to the Cathedral and to see it looking like a Cathedral, not a second-hand shop!!!

So where now?

Quite simply, I am asking for your collective help in keeping the Cathedral as it is now. I will be working with the COLT to look at how we use the Cathedral and manage its space and I will work with the Stewards to ensure that everything we need is available for Services and cleared away again afterwards.

However, everyone can help when attending services and events; as you leave your seat, please look around you and if there are leaflets or rubbish on the floor or the pew, please pick it up and take it to the back where Stewards will col-

lect it and dispose of it appropriately. We have a growing team of young helpers who do a marvellous job helping the Stewards at the end of Eucharist; thank you to you!!

The tables and associated piles of flyers and papers [some dated from 2016!!] have gone and I am exploring ways to better use our Porch for such material. When we do, if you place flyers or put up posters, please take the time to remove them once the event has passed. The Stewards do review material but are reluctant to remove items that are "not theirs".

If you do have concerns please let me know, otherwise I will continue to help make our Cathedral of place of which can all be proud.

May I wish you all, your wider family and your friends a blessed and peaceful Easter-tide.





Each year, the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Council confers Honorary Awards on those who have made outstanding contributions to church music. We are thrilled that our Organist and Master of the Choristers, Professor Andrew Morrisson has been made an Associate of the Royal School of Church Music (ARSCM).

The award is conferred for achievements in church music and/or liturgy of national

significance. Andrew's citation, which is published in the March 2018 edition of Church Music Quarterly, reads:

Andrew Morrisson has, for over 35 years, nurtured the music of the Episcopal Cathedral of St Andrew in Aberdeen as Organist and Director of Music, and especially the choir of children, choral scholars and lay clerks, and contributed more widely to church music in Scotland. He has combined this with the demands of being Associate

Choir News

Head of the School of Pharmacy and Life Sciences at Robert Gordon University.

Congratulations Andrew! The award will be made to him in person at Salisbury Cathedral at the RSCM Celebration Day on 8th September.

Congratulations to Ross Cumming!

Congratulations to current Bass Choral Scholar, Ross Cumming, who has won the Chris Cadwur James Concerto Competition 2018 at the University of Aberdeen. Ross will be singing Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel* in a concert next academic year accompanied by the University Orchestra.

Sacristy and Cleaning

By Margaret Buyers

A big thank you to all who came along to help clean the cathedral for the Consecration and Enthronement of Bishop Anne. It certainly makes the job easier when there are extra pairs of hands.

I would also like to thank Audrey Parkes for sewing extra Purificators and Lavabos in the run up to the Consecration and making any necessary alterations to our new Albs which we will hopefully be wearing on Easter Day at the Eucharist.

Amu kindly organised some fundraising events, most notably the very successful Pancake Party and Silent Auction which enabled the Cathedral to purchase these Albs, so thank you Amu.



Cathedral Mothers' Union Branch News

By Florence Cal-Anglia

Members of the congregation, friends and neighbours, you are welcome to join us to hear our Speakers at any of our meetings held on the second Tuesday of every month in the John Skinner Centre at 14.00 pm except the month of July when usually we have an outing.

Members of our organisation raise funds to help families worldwide. We help in many ways, some that can be achieved at home such as knitting wear for new born babies or, in contrast, fishermen's hats. Other interests are parenting, literacy, food and clothing for any emergency disaster whether at home or overseas, holidays paid for families (inclusive) sorely in need of a complete change from caring for someone at home.

Our work not only includes Mothers as our traditional name implies it also includes male as well as female helpers concerned in "Christian Care for Families Worldwide" based

at Mary Sumner House in London. Once a year members from all over the world meet, at different venues (this past year it was held in Edinburgh), to discuss our projects for the following year.

As always we are in need of more volunteers—would you like to become a member of the Mothers' Union to add your skills, whatever they may be, to join in our effort to help Families Worldwide?

Diary Notes 2018

Tuesday 10th April:

Speaker Rev'd Vittoria Hancock, Rector of St Thomas' Church Aboyne.
Tuesday

Tuesday 8th May:

Rev'd Alison Harvey, Chaplain to HMP and YOI Grampian Prison, Peterhead

We are blessed to have such inspirational speakers coming. Hope you will be able to come.

A Singing Career Run Full Circle

By Peter Smail

It's now nine months since I sung my last service with Tewkesbury Abbey choir. I'm kept very busy as churchwarden in an organisation as big as many cathedrals with a seven-figure annual turnover, more than a dozen paid staff and an army of volunteers. My predecessor did combine this with remaining in the choir but it's not easy especially on Sundays. Only 7 of the 21 English Cathedrals make a profit and annual losses of some of the others amount to several hundreds of thousands of pounds, so we're doing pretty well looking at a £6k deficit this year! The focus is on celebrations for 2021, the 900th anniversary of the consecration of the Abbey and 550th of the Battle of Tewkesbury.

It was a delight to sing with the St. Andrew's choir in Rochester last summer and Belfast recently but I was reminded that well into one's eighth decade the voice is just one of the aspects of singing in church. Trying to sing while processing in a cassock round a dimly lit

church wearing varifocal spectacles needed for reading the music and watching the conductor while trying to look out for steps appearing from nowhere with not a rail in sight is quite an ordeal so I think that has to be my swansong!

My first choir rehearsal as a probationer was on the first Tuesday in September 1952 at St. Mary's church Harrow-on -the-Hill, a Benedictine foundation consecrated by St. Anselm in 1094. The spire is visible from all over West London and from planes landing at Heathrow over the city. The new choir-master was John Dussek from the musical family of Hungarian origin. We started learning some new music, Stanford in C canticles and O Thou the Central Orb by Charles Wood.

1952 was a momentous year for St. Mary's choir. Edgar Broadhurst had recently retired at 80 after serving as organist since 1907. He was recruited to get the choir up to cathedral standard but the plan to base suffragan bishops in the dio-

A Singing Career Run Full Circle

By Peter Smail

case of London in pro-cathedrals never came to fruition. He had been organist and choirmaster at St. Michael's College Tenbury for eleven years and before that assistant to G.R. Sinclair at Hereford Cathedral for four. (Age was no bar to cathedral organist positions in those days. Sinclair was appointed to Truro Cathedral at the age of 17.)

I've sung in a variety of choirs since then when medical duties allowed including 26 years with St. Andrew's choir and af-

ter retiral seven splendid years with Edinburgh Festival Chorus. Then by serendipity the music for my last Evensong in Tewkesbury was where I began—Stanford in C canticles and O Thou the Central Orb!

I was sorry to miss Bishop Anne's consecration due to the weather but enjoyed watching it online. We hope to catch up with some of you over the summer.

*Peter Smail, St Andrew's 1980-2011
West of England correspondent*

Photo of the month: Mothering Sunday service, 11 March 2018



Photo taken by Micah Furlong

It's time for the Kiltwalk!



Have you heard of KILTWALK before?? Here you go!!

JUST WALK IN YOUR KILT AND RAISE MONEY FOR YOUR CATHEDRAL!

Kiltwalk is organised by The Hunter Foundation (<http://www.thekiltwalk.co.uk/>) to help small organisations like us raise funds. Several entrepreneurs are part of this initiative and the Foundation adds 40% to all the money we collect.

What do we do... quite simple.... WALK IN YOUR KILT and collect sponsorship!!!

When: We Walk on Sunday 3rd of June 2018

Where: You have two options:

- Walk with the Provost (If you are brave enough to risk that!!) in Aberdeenshire. Details will follow.
- Our choir are singing at Haddo House that afternoon (3rd June). Like last year we can go to Haddo house and walk around the grounds of Haddo, listen to choir and have Fish and Chips at Ashvale!

What to do: We will be asking you to participate at the refreshments after the morning Eucharist on Easter Day and we will have the sponsorship forms ready for you soon. Sign up to the Kiltwalk.... Fill it with pledges and collect the money!

We want all of us to get in there... CHOIR, LaRCs, Aberdeen Christian Men, Mothers Union...

Let's do it... PLEASE SIGN UP.... WILL BE FUN.

1. OPENING PRAYER AND COMMENTS BY THE PROVOST

The Provost reported that Dr Nicola Mills, a member of St Mary's Carden Place, had been appointed to fill the Diocesan Trustee vacancy at the Synod on 17th March and welcomed her to the Board of Trustees.

2. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

Claire Morrisson had circulated a briefing paper showing the projected balances in both accounts at 1 April 2018, assuming all obligations were met (i.e. no accruals at 1st April).

The Trustees agreed that we should build reserves in the General Fund to £15,000 at the start of each month, giving us a buffer to cover exceptional expenses incurred from time to time in routine operations. They noted that the actual amount required is £28,000, because the General Fund currently owes the Development

Fund £13,000 of gift-aid and VAT rebates.

3. BISHOP'S FEEDBACK ON CONSECRATION SERVICE

The Provost reported that the Bishop was very pleased with her service of Consecration and Installation on 1st March and with the services on Sunday 4th March.

4. REPORT ON DIOCESAN SYNOD

Andrew Morrisson (Lay Representative) reported Bishop's Charge to the Diocesan Synod held on Saturday 17th March 2018 at Doubletree Hilton Hotel, Aberdeen.

Bishop Anne intends to:

1. Lay the foundations of Episcopal Pastoral Ministry in the Diocese: to plant a staff of prayer in our midst;
2. Get to know the ordained, authorized and licensed ministers of the Diocese and their needs; to grow new forms of trained lay ministries;
3. Plan for mission; to identify

what God has next for us to do; to identify where mission resources are to be located;

4. Network beyond churches; to identify mission partners - ecumenical, government, 3rd sector (volunteers and charities), university, business and private individuals;

5. Build trust after a troubled time; to move past what has gone on in the last weeks to a fresh beginning.

A video of Bishop Anne's Charge to the Synod is available on the Diocesan Website.

5. EXHIBIT AT THE 79th GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The 79th General Convention will be held from July 5th – 13th, 2018 at the Austin Convention Center. Texas. The Provost reported that he has committed St Andrew's to a booth at the convention, at the suggestion of Canon Chuck Robinson. The Bishop hopes to attend. Jane Russell (ACVO) will attend for five days to represent us. She may

be able to minimise costs by staying with relatives nearby. Stephanie Brock will also be in the USA concurrently and may be able to attend for some of the time. There was discussion of developing a pilgrimage package combining visiting Scottish Episcopal Churches and golf.

6. KILTWALK/HADDO HOUSE FUND RAISING EVENT

The Provost will participate in the annual Kiltwalk which will take place in Aberdeenshire on the 3rd June. The date coincides with our visit to Haddo House for Choral Evensong. Participants who will be at Haddo House will arrange sponsorship for our tandem event, which will be transferred to the Provost and any other cathedral participants on the Kiltwalk route, thereby qualifying for the 40% uplift from The Hunter Foundation.

7. DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN

Mark Edwards talked the Trustees through the updated

Informal Summary of the Trustees Meeting, 21 March 2018

The Cathedral's Financial Situation

draft, and asked for the Trustees feedback by 28th March. The Fund Raising Strategy will be generated from the Business Plan. Three tactical documents will be created, one for each of our three strategic aims.

8. WORK REQUIRED TO MAKE/KEEP SEABURY HOUSE WATER-TIGHT

Claire Morrisson had previously circulated a briefing paper on the external work outstanding on Seabury House. This comprises conservation of all the windows, rebuilding the eternal stone stair (fire escape) and repairing the leaking junction with the adjoining tenement building. The Trustees agreed that we should undertake the work to repair the leaking join between Seabury House and the adjacent building. The other two items are urgent but not essential, therefore they can be deferred.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Bishop Anne has asked to attend, therefore the date is dependent on her availability.

The detailed information below is provided as a background to the giving campaign which will run from Easter to Pentecost.

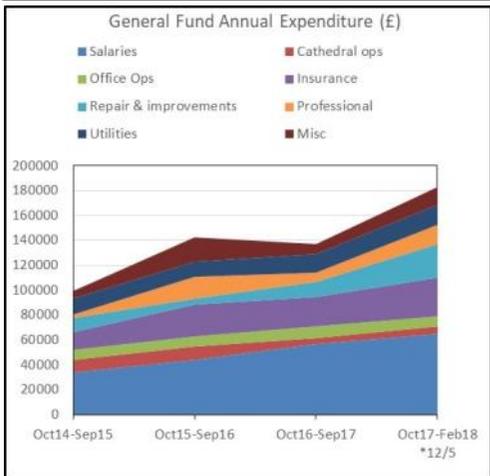
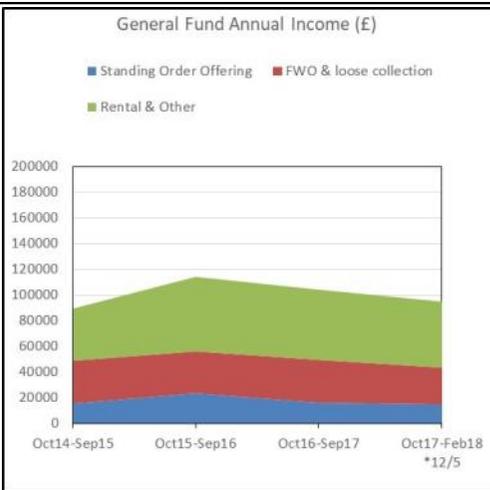
The two graphs to the right show the annual income and annual expenditure from the General Fund over the last 3 years and the projected figures for the current financial year. The graphs are plotted with the same vertical axis so that they can be compared directly. In the income graph, the category 'FWO & loose collection' is explained in the first of the pie charts below and the category 'Rental & Other' in the final pie chart. In the expenditure graph, several of the colours are similar. The entry at the top left of the legend is the bottom entry on the graph. The entry at the top right in the legend is the 2nd from bottom in the stack, etc, so the bottom right (last) entry in the legend is the top entry on the stack.

Income has declined steadily, whereas expenditure has increased. It is clear that expenditure exceeds income and that the deficit in the General Fund is increasing.

Some comments about income first. Donations (by standing

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By Claire Morrisson



order, collections during service, coffee takings etc) have decreased from £48909 to £43535 over the 4-year period. This is a reduction of 11%. The increase in the 15/16 financial year is due to a single, large, one-off donation. Inflation devalues the buying power of this money by a further 10% over the same period.

In contrast, expenditure has increased well above inflation, and the categories of expenditure that have increased significantly are Salaries, Insurance, Repair and Improvements and Professional.

'Salaries' includes the Provost's salary, NI contributions, SEC pension contributions etc, salaries and annuities for the Director of Music, administrators, sometimes an organ scholar and part of the choral scholarships. Some choral scholarships are kindly donated by individual benefactors. This item was unusually small in the 14/15 financial year, because we only had part-time support from Fr Emsley and the office was staffed voluntarily on an interim basis. It increased when we gained a full-time Provost in November 2015 and increased again when he and his family moved out of the St John's Rectory into rental accommodation. The item includes the rental on the temporary accommodation and the storage charges for the family's effects.

It also increased in 2016 when we started to employ a part-time administrator to deal with the day to day running of the cathedral and again at the start of 2017 when we increased her hours to enable

The Cathedral's Financial Situation

By Claire Morrisson

her to support the cathedral's fund raising activities. The increases in the actual salaries (rates of pay) of all staff have been less than 2.5% pa. This item should decrease slightly now that the Provost and family have moved into a rectory, as we will no longer pay rental or storage charges. The decision to employ an Administrator and subsequently increase her hours was taken by the Trustees, we clearly needed a Provost and therefore, when explained, all these increases sound reasonable.

'Insurance' includes insurance premiums, council tax and the quota paid to the Diocese and is largely outside our control.

'Professional' includes all professional services from our accountants, payroll services, the auditor, the architect (excluding CDP2020 activities) and legal services from time to time. This increased when our previous treasurer departed for an overseas posting and, in the absence of a suitably qualified member of the congregation, the Trustees decided to outsource the annual financial reporting and auditing to Johnston Carmichael. Again, the increases sound reasonable when ex-

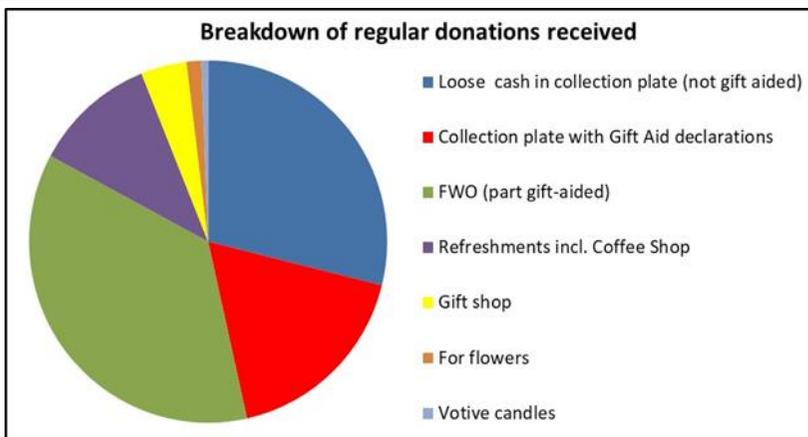
plained.

The category 'Repair & improvements' has increased since October 2014 as we have addressed the maintenance backlog created by many years of neglect. Corrective action, and therefore expenditure, have been forced upon us in many instances, for example when we have failed council inspections for renewal of our performance licence. The Trustees have a legal and moral duty to rectify unsafe situations. This is an ongoing task, as you are all aware. Again, when explained in these terms, the increases sound reasonable.

The remaining categories of expenditure have stayed fairly constant, year on year. The category 'Cathedral ops' includes organ and piano maintenance, music and choir costs, altar expenses, flowers, Godly Play and creche expenses. The category 'Office ops' includes catering, printing and stationery, telephone and postage, advertising and publicity, magazines (Focus), gift shop purchases, IT repairs, subscriptions etc. The remaining categories are self-explanatory.

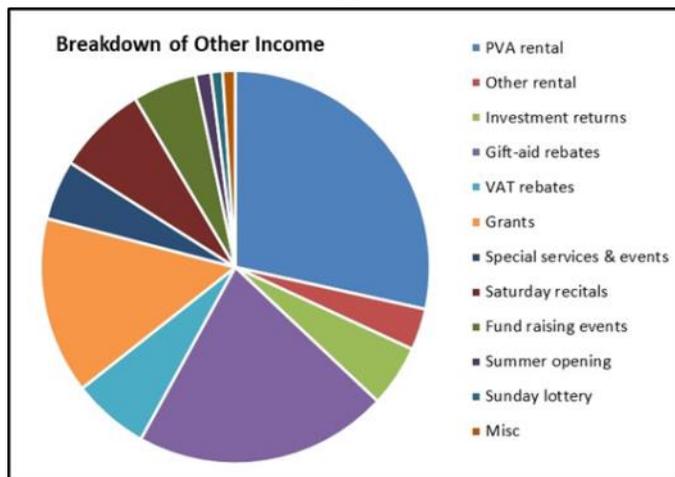
The Cathedral's Financial Situation

By Claire Morrisson



The graph above shows the breakdown of the income labelled 'FWO & loose collection' in the General Fund Annual Income graph. This breakdown has been fairly constant in recent years. Cheques for facilities rental, grants etc have been removed, so the pie graph shows the relative contribution from different categories of giving by individuals.

The graph below shows the contributions to our 'Rental & Other' income last year. There are many colours and some are quite similar. The top entry in the legend corresponds to the pie slice starting at 12 o'clock. The subsequent entries are slices on the pie chart in clockwise order. Whereas the previous 3 graphs are all for the General Fund only, this graph con-



The Cathedral's Financial Situation

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tains some contributions from the Development Fund. The relative sizes of the pie slices vary more from year to year than for the previous graph. The gift-aid and VAT rebate slices were larger than usual last year. Some of this gift-aid rebate is actually for the Development Fund. The rental from Peacock Visual Arts will decrease from £20,000 to £12,000 this year, because they no longer lease the Merchant's House from us. This will be partially, but not wholly, offset by rent from the Dance School that has moved into the ground floor of the building.

Returning to the deficit between income and expenditure in the General Fund. This has increased from £4000 in 2014/15 to £27,000 in 2016/17. Furthermore, unless we take strong and immediate action, it is projected to grow to £74,000 this year. We must address this both by increasing giving and by reducing expenditure.

The Trustees review the financial situation as the first item on their agenda each month and will be focussing particularly on expenditure at the next meeting. Hard decisions will need to be made on expenditure. Members of the congregation are welcome to

suggest areas where costs could be reduced, but the Trustees reserve their right to make the final decisions, based on their detailed knowledge of the working of the Cathedral.

Turning now to giving. Many of us have given and are continuing to give very generously to the CDP2020 appeal. There is a danger that people lose focus on the day-to-day requirements of the organisation because they are working (and giving) so hard towards the new project. We should aim to increase all our regular giving to the General Fund by at least 21%. This is the minimum that would bring the 'buying power' of our regular donations back to where it was in the 2014/15 financial year. In addition to this, we should aim for a once-off injection of £20,000 into the General Fund. This will enable the fund to operate with a 'float' of £15,000 at the start of each month and to repay the £5000 of gift-aid rebate it currently owes the Development Fund.



April Diary

Weekly Services

Wednesdays at 10.00 am	Holy Communion
Sundays at 8.00 am	Holy Communion (1970 Liturgy)
Sundays at 10.45 am	Sung Eucharist (1982 Liturgy) followed by coffee in the JSC
Sundays at 10.45 am	Crèche available in the JSC
Sundays at 6.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Weekly Events

Tuesdays at 6.00 pm	Fellowship, JSC
Fridays 10.00 am to 12 noon	Cathedral Coffee Shop (Teas/ Coffees, and a whole range of homebaking, as well as sandwiches available)
Saturdays at 12 noon	Cathedral at Noon (30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

Cathedral at Noon - April/first week May

7 Apr	Chris Black <i>Organ Music by Couperin, Frescobaldi and Bach</i>
14 Apr	Shannon Stevenson <i>Traditional Scottish Fiddle Music</i>
21 Apr	Matthew Crabb <i>Piano Music</i>
28 Apr	Claire Morrisson and Jeremy Coleman <i>Music for Voice and Piano</i>
5 May	Bowtied String Quartet and Friends <i>Robert Schumann's Piano Quartet Op. 47</i>

The **deadline** for the May issue of the Focus magazine is the **3rd of May**. Please send your articles to Amber at a.shadle.07@aberdeen.ac.uk. Many thanks to all those who contributed to make this issue of the Focus Magazine possible!

Cover photo: *Spring Daisies*, by Amber Shadle

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