

FOCUS



On God @ St. Andrew's Cathedral

Cathedral Newsletter—May 2019

- The Provost Ponders**
- Choir Visit to Bradford Cathedral**
- Children's Ministry News**

And much more!

The Provost Ponders

By The Very Rev'd Dr Isaac Poobalan

Dear Friend,
Thank you for making our journey from Candlemas to Easter a great blessing and a time of renewal in the spirit. Each of you gave yourself wholly to the journey with our Lord who gave himself on in love. The Passiontide launch of 'Giving in Grace', the Palm Sunday participation in the Procession and Passion, the events of the Holy Week and the glorious celebration of Easter, each of our coming together was greatly blessed, thanks to the discipline and hard work of many in the back ground. Our participation in the Life of God is one of deep exchange of love, God's love for us reciprocated in our love for God.

Our journey through this season of Lent and Easter was punctuated by a break in and break down. The break in of the John Skinner Centre and the breakdown of the Heating System caused major disruption to our life. Both were distressing and very costly, both emotionally and financially. We are hard pressed on every side but not crushed. We responded to both with prayer.

The JSC break in resulted in our Cathedral Office space being

transformed. Billy and Fiona have been working tirelessly and have transformed our facilities with beauty and splendour. They seem to have grasped the essence of our faith in a God who gives in love and liberally. A desert is blossoming into a well-watered garden. And the heart of the matter is, beauty and joy comes from the brokenness and fragility, like the cross of Christ. We rejoice in this gift of transformation. We can say with confidence that we are more than conquerors – for we follow the Conqueror, our Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

You would recall from our AGM in November that we have a challenge ahead of us in the current financial year. The Trustees committed themselves to prayer and resolving this challenge through engaging each of us to our Christian vocation. Our People's Warden Mark Edwards and the Finance Sub Committee (FSC) have been working very hard to identify and understand our patterns of giving and responsible use of the same. It is clear that we are called to diligence in our stewardship of our resources. There is a summary in this issue of the Focus. Please

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read through it carefully, commit yourself to prayer, review your financial giving and commit to a role in the life of our Cathedral.

Here is an astonishing fact. Our numbers are growing but our giving is declining. We have a challenge and a way through it. One of the Friends of the Cathedral, prayerfully committed to give a pound to match each pound the congregation makes through direct giving, a fund raising activity at home or with friends. The LaRCs in their most ingenious ways are doing various fundraising activities. Please support each of them generously. A few of us are engaged in organising small hospitality events in our own homes, with friends outside the cathedral to raise money. Please plan and activity, invite your friends, raise money and double it till we reach our goal of £16,000 which will be match funded. Why should I? you wonder!

Children's Ministry is one area of significant growth in our cathedral alongside the most precious gift of music through our Cathedral Choir. Our spirits are lifted, our souls recharged and we are set ready to face another

week with confidence, through our worship week by week. While many of us give of our time and talents generously to these ministries, it costs to service these. We must support this growth and may God give you grace to Give in Grace. Trustees have been diligent in focusing on the essentials of life at the Cathedral which you will find in the Trustees meeting summary. Please study it carefully and engage in every way possible.

Dates for your Diary: Please note that there will be two Confirmations on Sunday the 19th of May from the diocese. On Ascension Day, Thursday the 30th of May, Bishop Anne will be with us to the launch the 11 days of prayer for 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Please engage with this fully and commit to pray for 5 people during that period. Haddo House Chapel Service this year will be on Sunday the 2nd of June. We hope to make this a Cathedral Family Day and more details will follow. Please keep the day free to spend it with one another in a beautiful place in the North East of Scotland. Pentecost celebration of Giving in Grace Appeal will be held on Sunday the 9th of June. 8th of June is our **Cathedral Gift**

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Day when all our gifts will be gathered in preparation for the offering on Sunday the 9th of June. Please plan your giving and be prepared with the Gift Day. Diocesan Choral Festival and the celebration of Dean Emeritus Emsley Nimmo will be on Sunday the 16th of June. Choir breaks for Summer on the 16th of June and resumes on 25th August.

Matters for Prayer: The life of our Lord was fully anchored in Prayer. He is calling us to such life at the Cathedral. Our communal prayers on Sundays are at the very heart of our life. Between Sundays is your Christian duty to pray. Please pray for Giving in Grace appeal and do what the Spirit says to you in prayer. Please commit to pray for 'Thy Kingdom Come' and name five people in

your prayers. The Cathedral will be **Open for Prayer** and Visit from Pentecost (June 9) to Holy Cross Day (September 14) 10am to 3pm. This is a splendid opportunity for engaging with visitors and pilgrims. Please pray and speak with Bill Henderson and commit to Stewarding in a 2.5 to 3 hour session. Finally, pray for the recruitment of a new Director of Music and for blessing on Andrew and Claire as we prepare to celebrate their years of service on the 16th of June. Andrew and Claire will always be part of the Cathedral family through regular visits and strong support. Please pray for God's blessings upon them as they prepare for a new life of retirement while continuing to serve God both here and beyond.

As ever, Isaac

June Focus Deadline, **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS!**

The deadline for the June 2019 issue of the Focus magazine is the 30th of May.

We have a NEW Focus email account! Please send your articles to Amber at **saca.focus@outlook.com**. The University email account that we used previously will no longer work, so make sure to use the new email address so that your articles can be included! Many thanks to all those who contributed to make this issue of the Focus Magazine possible.



Easter Bake sale: A BIG Thank you to everyone who baked, bought and helped at the Easter bake sale, first of many in the 'Giving in Grace' Appeal period. On the day **£245** was raised and the money is still coming in as we keep finding coins/notes on the table! Thank you to Christine, who has replaced the regular raffle on Sundays to the alternate raffle to facilitate 'pound for pound' matching by a benefactor.

Forthcoming events in 'Giving in Grace' period..... get it into your diaries and details will follow soon!

- **Curry Night:** 24th of May; 7-10pm in JSC. Tickets will be on sale soon with Christine or please let me know
- **Bingo Night:** 7th of June; 7-10 pm. Details will follow soon

If LaRCs from other congregations would like to join in for curry night and/or Bingo, please do let me know

Other news/events

'Just Friends' – Food with Friends meal: Last Friday of the month (31st of May) at 6.30 pm in JSC. This is an opportunity to spread the Kingdom of GOD. Please come and support people who are going through a difficult journey with mental health issues, substance abuse and loneliness. I will send a reminder again.

Evensong at Haddo House: Sunday 2nd of June is our Annual Evensong at Haddo House. We will do our 'Fish Supper' at Ashvale again! Watch the space.

Choir News: Congratulations!

By Andrew Morrisson



Congratulations to our tenor choral scholar, David Walsh, who was joint winner of the prestigious Aberdeen University Ogston Music Prize.

David entranced the audience in the final concert in King's College Chapel last month which was judged by broadcaster: Fiona Kennedy,

Head of Music: Phillip Cooke and Cambridge academic: Sarah MacDonald. The prize was presented by Professor Ogston himself who is pictured with David in the photograph.

We are delighted that Lisa Johnston, one of our soprano choral scholars, also reached the final.



Choir News: Visit to Bradford Cathedral

By Andrew Morrisson



On Low Sunday, a number of the adults in the choir joined with former choir members to sing the weekend services at Bradford Cathedral. We were delighted to see our former Assistant Organist, Ed Jones, who is Associate Organist at Bradford and accompanied the choir.

We were made most welcome by the Dean and clergy who were extremely happy to have choral music for the services.

These included a special St George's Day event at the main Eucharist which was followed by a 600 strong uniformed organisation procession with marching bands.

A big thank you to Claire, Bill and the trebles for providing music at the morning service at St Andrew's in our absence. The trebles gave their first performance of a mass setting by Josef Rheinberger.

MU Update

By Kathy Priestley

The members of Cathedral Branch Mothers Union are saddened to learn of the death of Margaret Whitaker after a long illness. Margaret has been a lifelong member of the Mothers Union. Cyril and family are in our prayers as we give thanks for the life of Margaret. May she rest in peace.

Tuesday May 14 2pm in JSC:

This session will be devoted to making banners to decorate the pillars in the Cathedral for Whit Sunday. Bring along your creative selves and materials, glues and sewing things will be

provided.

SAVE THE DATE - our annual outing for members and friends will be on **Saturday June 22** in the afternoon. The highlight of the afternoon will be afternoon tea at Doubletree Hilton (Patio Hotel) and the Committee are working to organise a very enjoyable afternoon for you. Please let us know if you are interested. Again let me say that all friends, be they ladies, gentlemen or children are welcome to join us. Details to follow.

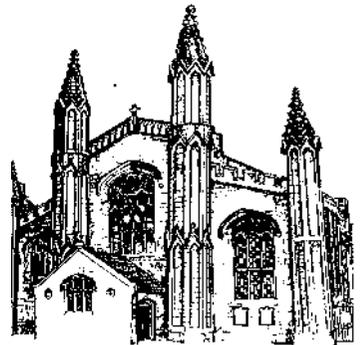
Cathedral Cleaning

By Margaret Buyers, Sacristan

A big thank you to the ladies and (1 gentleman) who helped clean the cathedral in the run up to Easter.

Thanks also to those who polished the brass candlesticks and plaques and steam cleaned the Lenten Hanging.

It is much appreciated.



Cathedral Flowers

By Moira Middleton (Flower Secretary)

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the Easter Flowers. To the small team of helpers who did a wonderful job in making the Cathedral beautiful for you all to enjoy on Easter Sunday—well done. We are so lucky to have such dedicated helpers at the Cathedral who turn up time after time. There is still room for more and if you want to join the Flower Teams please let

me know. More help is always welcome.

Did you know that you can sponsor a Sunday for memorial or anniversary Flowers? All you have to do is put some money in a Gift Aid envelope with a note of the details inside or speak to me personally. A great way to celebrate the life of a loved one or a special occasion.

Thank You

By Moira Middleton

Thank you to all my friends at the Cathedral for their cards, calls, emails and visits during my recent hospital visit and recovery. I am now 4 weeks post op and more mobile and hope to be back with you in the next couple of weeks. I followed the Easter services on line and was there with you in spirit and it was great to watch from the comfort of my armchair and not miss out on the Easter Eucharist. I miss my Cathedral family and can't

wait to get back to see you all again soon.

God bless,
Moira



A Note of Thanks

By Victoria Angoe

Many thanks to all my friends at the Cathedral for your kindness, good wishes and all the love that have been shown to me. It was rather humbling to receive the emails, phone calls, text messages and visits to encourage me to hang in there. The many lifts and the numerous offers to help during the long period of illness (thirteen long months) have been very much appreciated.

It was heart-warming to know that I was prayed for most of the time by friends within and outside of the Cathedral. It is good to realise that despite



our weaknesses the Lord always “surrounds his people both now and forevermore”. So that no matter what happens the Lord will continue to be with us.

All your efforts have gone a long way to make me well again. Thank you very much indeed.

Children’s Ministry

By Moira Middleton

The Children have had a busy time over Easter period and thanks have to the team of helpers who made all this possible. Godly Play is back after the Easter break and sadly we are losing both Stephanie and Lucy as leaders

due to other commitments. Although they will still be around to help, the group is badly in need of more helpers in order to survive. If you can commit to helping out on a Sunday morning once a month or so please get in touch with Fr

Children's Ministry (and Creche Rota)

By Moira Middleton

Isaac, Stephanie or Lucy for more details. We owe our children the best spiritual education the Cathedral can provide and for this we need

more helpers. Please pray that the right people will come forward, men, women, young or old all are welcome to join our small team.

CRECHE ROTA MAY -JULY 2019

MAY 5	Christine	Davika	Faustina
MAY 12	Kathleen	Chioma	Catherine
MAY 19	Christine	Mimi	Oge
MAY 27	Kathleen	Nan	Blessing
JUNE 2	Moira	Davika	Chioma
JUNE 9 PENTE- COST	Christine	Catherine	Faustina
JUNE 16 TRINITY	Kathleen	Mimi	Blessing
JUNE 23	Moira	Nan	Oge
JUNE 30	Christine	Davika	Linda
JULY 7	Kathleen	Catherine	Faustina
JULY 14	Moira	Chioma	Mimi
JULY 21	Christine	Oge	Blessing
JULY 28	Kathleen	Nan	Linda

If you cannot come on your allocated Sunday, please arrange a replacement or a swap. You should be in the JSC by 10.30 to welcome parents and children and set out the toys.

Children's Work

By Stephanie Brock



The last children's work meeting was held in the JSC on Monday 29 April. The team gathered to make plans for the rest of this term and the next academic year. Didi Odeh and Julie Nwaijuba will be taking over as leaders of the ministry after Lucy and Steph step down at the end of this term.

Several issues were discussed as matters arising from the last meeting, including health and safety aspects of setting up the children's space for Sunday mornings. Christine and the Provost will set up on Saturdays to reduce the workload on Sunday mornings. We discussed keeping the temperature warm in the JSC for the crèche, and ways to

communicate to people who book the JSC on Saturdays how to leave the space so it is ready for Sunday mornings.

We then discussed the recent meeting of the Godly Play/Sunday school team, and matters arising. Didi will do the rota, and will be asking for people to commit to taking sessions so that the rota can be filled out more easily. We discussed the possibility of having two Sunday school classes, one for younger primary aged children and one for the older ones (i.e. P1-3 and P4-7, for example), but this will only be possible if enough people commit to being on the Sunday school rota.

Those present agreed that we are all committed to using both the space and the resources that we have well, and to trying a "hybrid" approach to Sunday school, meaning there will be different methods used according to the people leading each session, with the aim of broadening the children's experience of

Children's Work

By Stephanie Brock

learning from the Bible together.

To this end, the Provost would like to have an informal gathering of the parents and children after church one Sunday before summer to discuss the new approach, and to allow people to commit to the rota. Details of this gathering to follow in notices.

We also discussed needing a "map" of sorts to better get to know the children involved in Sunday school and their families. In the coming weeks we will be asking families to pose for a photo to go into a Children's Ministry Directory. This will help all those who work with the children to better know the family units and to pray for them all by name. Steph will be doing the photos, so keep an eye out for her and the camera to point your way soon!

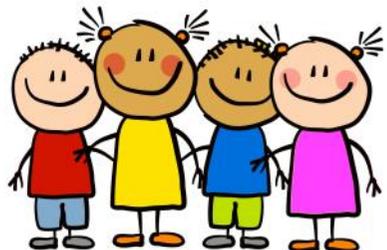
On the first two Sundays of June we will be trialling the new "two-class" model of

Sunday school. Depending on how that goes we will know more about the feasibility of continuing this model after summer, including on Sundays 16 and 23 June. On the 30th of June will be the final children's party and a Cathedral Family celebration after church. Watch out for details to come in the notices about this as well.

Finally, over the summer there will be NO children's ministry in the JSC. In place of these sessions, the children will be invited to sit up in the front and the Provost will be able to teach them as he has done in the past.

Thank you all for your continued support of the children's ministry and our young people.

Steph (for the team)



Financial Update and Clarifications—Part III!

By Mark Edwards

With apologies, in my last update I omitted to provide a specific point of clarification which I had committed to do, and which I do now.

Since the AGM of 2018, the work of the Board of Trustees has been focused on addressing the challenge of bridging the gap between our annual income and expenditure. As previously announced a Finance Sub-committee (FSC) was formed with a remit to:

analyse the current practice in accounting;

study and understand the patterns of income generation in recent years;

identify the causes of the gap between income and expenditure;

establish a form of regular reporting to the congregation which was asked for at the AGM.

Initial work was completed with the following recommendations made to

the Board of Trustees early in the New Year:

That a re-alignment was required to upgrade the current financial management and governance practice. This required the adoption of a business model for accounting and the implementation of defined financial procedures and clear roles and responsibilities for all involved in the financial process;

That there must be a fundamental look at how we fund our expenditure in the future whilst always maintaining focus on our costs, working to minimise their impact whenever and however we can;

There must be a range of reporting capabilities that provide meaningful and timely data, appropriate to the intended audience.

The Sub-committee also noted that our current spending is focused in alignment with the Budgets set and services the

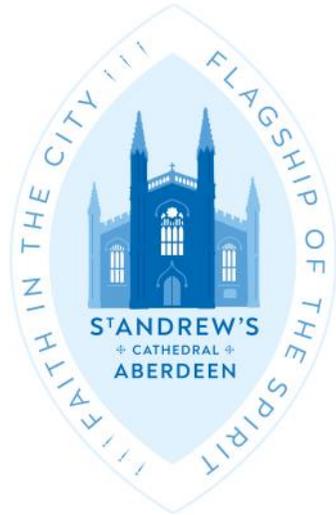
Financial Update and Clarifications—Part III!

By Mark Edwards

essential requirements of running the Cathedral. Initial indications are that our spend is significantly lower than other comparable Cathedrals.

Further to this, the Sub-committee is pleased to report that our Accounts for FY17/18 have been independently examined and approved. Our Treasurer has completed the formal submission of our accounts, along with the Annual Report, to the Diocese and to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator [OSCR]. The latter is a statutory Return and was completed well ahead of the submission deadline.

The Sub-committee will work to have these Accounts made available for public examination, however please be advised that they are available to view online on the OSCR website in the meantime; members are happy to answer any queries arising - please contact the Chair and People's Warden,



Mark Edwards.

This current financial year and the start of the next represent a period of significant transition which will involve much work by several people. A programme of addressing this challenge is being led by Prof. Ferdinand von Prondzynski through the Giving in Grace campaign. Please pray and give your full support to this campaign.

Mark Edwards
People's Warden
Chair, Finance sub-committee

Giving in Grace Appeal

By Prof Ferdinand von Prondzynski

As St Andrew's Cathedral continues to grow and develop its witness in Aberdeen, we must also ensure that our financial position is secure and allows us to plan for a future in which we, and the generations that follow us, can proclaim our faith in God, in this city and Diocese.

On Passion Sunday we launched the Giving in Grace Appeal, calling on all of our community, in prayer and thanksgiving, to contribute to the eradication of our financial deficit. We have a donor who will match every Pound given by the congregation, so that by Pentecost we will be able to look into the future with confidence.

Our success in the Appeal will also allow us to unlock support and resources from other sources, as we plan for the exciting development of the Cathedral.

The Trustees will support this campaign also by ensuring

that everyone in the congregation is given more detailed information about the Cathedral's finances and resources, so that you can see how our money is spent.

It is our task now to ensure that our deficit of £32,000 this year is paid off. And it is an entirely achievable objective. Every Pound given in addition will help, but if you can give an additional **£7.70 per week or more** to this appeal – the price of a couple of cups of coffee at Starbucks or Costa – we will have succeeded, and we can then plan for a confident future.

Please be part of this campaign, and with God's help, be part of the bright and confident future of this Cathedral.



Minutes summary of the recent Trustees' Meeting

Stephanie Brock, Trustee and Secretary to the Cathedral Trustees



The last meeting of the Cathedral Trustees was held on **Wednesday 10 April at 7pm** in the JSC. The Provost opened the meeting with a prayer and noted apologies from five Trustees.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 20 March 2019 were taken as correct and approved by all present.

The Provost gave an update on the work of the finance committee in Mark's absence. He confirmed that we are still on target to submit all accounts to OSCR and the Diocese on time, thanks to the work of the finance committee and Anne Corbin from ACVO helping out.

There was a general discussion about monthly cash flow amounts and the Provost referred to a spreadsheet done by Claire Woods showing what is in the Cathedral general fund and what is in the Development Fund. The budget committee will be looking to confirm the salary for the Director of Music for the next two years, and to streamline all accounting processes so that avoidable mistakes are not being made.

Next the Provost updated on the process for appointing a new Director of Music (DOM). He asked the Trustees to ensure that the interview process for this second round of applicants will be robust. A backup plan is being developed in the case that a new DOM is not appointed this time. The shortlist will have been done by the time of this Focus issue, and interviews will take place on Saturday 1 June.

Regarding the heating system, Michael had circulated notes

Minutes summary of the recent Trustees' Meeting

Stephanie Brock, Trustee and Secretary to the Cathedral Trustees

prior to the meeting for discussion. The heating has now been switched off prior to works being done in due course on the leaking pipes. All paperwork necessary will be submitted to the Diocese so that we can hopefully secure some funding towards these works.

The Trustees discussed the recent proposals from Omega Fire Ministries to lease/purchase Seabury house in part or whole. They decided to keep the relationship as it currently stands with OFM, i.e. not to rent or sell any part of Seabury House beyond the current hire of the hall twice weekly for their services. This is to maintain harmony with all our priorities and a good working relationship with OFM and our other users.

The Trustees then discussed the launch of the Giving in Grace appeal on Passion Sunday and its repeat on Easter Sunday, which in turn happened on Low Sunday. The Trustees will continue to make information

on Cathedral finances clear and available to all who are interested. The Decade of Development group would also like information on their accounts to be made available, including the fact that there is now £23K in the fund which can be used for development projects.

Finally, the Provost updated on security measures following the recent break-in to the JSC. Lighting has been improved, but we still need to have a security alarm installed. There was a brief discussion around making data on the computers safe from future break-ins. The Trustees agreed to have files moved to a software system purchased by the Provost, and also to invest in an external hard drive so that we have double security for any information the stored at the Cathedral.

The next Trustees meeting will be on Wednesday 15 May.

The meeting closed with prayers and the Grace.

May Diary

Weekly Services and Events

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
First Tuesday of each month at 6.00 pm	Fellowship: Prayer, Praise & Feast, Cathedral
First Friday of each month	Friendship Café, JSC 10am - 12 noon
Saturdays at 12 noon	Cathedral at Noon (30 minute recital followed by refreshments)

Cover photo: Breath of Spring

by Amber Shadle



Cathedral Church of St Andrew

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