

# St John's

Church of St John the Evangelist, Princes Street  
[www.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)  
[www.cornerstonecentrestjohns.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonecentrestjohns.org.uk)

## Annual Report 2022

- Looking back on the year at St John's -

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting to be held on  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm



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SC012836

WELCOME TO THE ST JOHN'S  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022

THIS BOOKLET PROVIDES A LOT OF INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE MANY AND VARIED ACTIVITIES WITHIN  
OUR CHURCH DURING 2022

NONE OF THE REPORTS IN THIS BOOKLET TO BE  
DISCUSSED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.  
THEREFORE, PLEASE READ THE REPORTS AND, IF YOU  
HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR QUERIES, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE PERSON CONCERNED. ALTERNATIVELY, IF YOU DO  
NOT HAVE CONTACT DETAILS FOR THAT INDIVIDUAL,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE WHO WILL PASS IT ON.

A SEPARATE BOOKLET WILL BE PROVIDED WITH THE  
AGM AGENDA AND SUPPORTING PAPERS

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**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
14TH NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.00pm for 7.30PM  
IN CHURCH & ON ZOOM**

**AGENDA**

1. Prayers and Roll of the Dead
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021
4. Matters Arising
5. Elections
  - Lay Representative
  - Alternate Lay Representative
  - Vestry – 3 vacancies
6. Presentation and Adoption of the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022
7. Annual Report and Matters Arising (See separate document)  
Special focus:
  - a. Safeguarding
  - b. ECCCT
8. Order of St Columba
9. Result of elections
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11. Any other business
12. Date of next AGM: 19 November 2023
13. The Grace

# DATA PRIVACY NOTICE

## The Vestry of St John's Scottish Episcopal Church Edinburgh EH2 4BJ, Charity Number SC012836

### 1. Your personal data – what is it?

Personal data relates to a living individual who can be identified from that data. Identification can be by the information alone or in conjunction with any other information in the data controller's possession or likely to come into such possession. The processing of personal data is governed by the General Data Protection Regulation (the "GDPR").

### 2. Who are we?

Resolution 1 under Canon 41 specifies that the rector is the data controller (contact details below). This means they decide how your personal data is processed and for what purposes.

### 3. How do we process your personal data?

The rector complies with their obligations under the "GDPR" by working with the administrative staff to keep personal data up to date; to store and destroy it securely; to not collect or retain excessive amounts of data; to protect personal data from loss, misuse, unauthorised access and disclosure and to ensure that appropriate technical measures are in place to protect personal data.

At St John's, we use your personal data for the following purposes: -

- To administer membership records;
- To fundraise and promote the interests of the charity;
- To manage our employees and volunteers;
- To maintain our own accounts and records (including the processing of gift aid applications);
- To inform you of news, events, activities and services running at St John's, the Just Festival, and the Cornerstone Bookshop;
- To share your personal data with other members of the congregation and diocesan and provincial officers only if in compliance with GDPR, eg only with your explicit permission.

### 4. What is the legal basis for processing your personal data?

- Explicit consent of the data subject so that we can keep you informed about news, events, activities and services and keep you informed about diocesan events.
- Processing is necessary for carrying out legal obligations in relation to Gift Aid or under employment, social security or social protection law, or a collective agreement;
- Processing is carried out by a not-for-profit body with a political, philosophical, religious or trade union aim provided: -
  - the processing relates only to members or former members (or those who have regular contact with it in connection with those purposes); and
  - there is no disclosure to a third party without consent.

### 5. Sharing your personal data

Your personal data will be treated as strictly confidential. We will only share your personal data with other members of the charge in order to carry out a service to other members or for purposes connected with the charge and only if we have received your permission to do so. We will only share your data with third parties outside of the charge, such as the diocese and its officers, with your explicit consent.

### 6. How long do we keep your personal data?

We keep data in accordance with diocesan, provincial, and OSCR guidance.

Specifically, we retain gift aid declarations and associated paperwork for up to six years after the calendar year to which they relate; and parish registers (baptisms, marriages, funerals, confirmations) permanently, and any other membership details while they are current and for six years thereafter.

## **7. Your rights and your personal data**

Unless subject to an exemption under the GDPR, you have the following rights with respect to your personal data: -

- The right to request a copy of your personal data which the rector and administrative staff holds about you;
- The right to request that the rector corrects any personal data if it is found to be inaccurate or out of date;
- The right to request your personal data is erased where it is no longer necessary for the rector to retain such data;
- The right to withdraw your consent to the processing at any time
- The right to request that the data controller provide the data subject with their personal data and where possible, to transmit that data directly to another data controller, (known as the right to data portability).
- The right, where there is a dispute in relation to the accuracy or processing of your personal data, to request a restriction is placed on further processing;
- The right to object to the processing of personal data, (where applicable).
- The right to lodge a complaint with OSCR.

## **8. Further processing**

If we wish to use your personal data for a new purpose, not covered by this Data Protection Notice, then we will provide you with a new notice explaining this new use prior to commencing the processing and setting out the relevant purposes and processing conditions. Where and whenever necessary, we will seek your prior consent to the new processing.

## **9. Contact Details**

To exercise all relevant rights, queries or complaints please in the first instance contact the current rector: The Revd Markus Dünzkofer, St John's, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ, markus@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk, 0131 229 7565

You can contact the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) via <https://www.oscr.org.uk/contact-oscr/>

Dear members,

In order to comply with secular and ecclesiastical regulations, we ever so often need to contact you to make sure that all our records are up to date. Please fill in the attached form and return it by the end of this calendar year (31 December 2022) with your signature to

**St John's Church - Membership Office - Edinburgh EH2 4BJ**

Thank you! Your help is more than appreciated! Thank you indeed!

As ever,

The Revd Markus Dünzkofer, Rector

*Please print. Please fill in as much as possible and as much as you are comfortable with. Please fill in a form for each member of St John's living in your household. Thank you!*

1.	
First name	Surname

2. Address		
Street Address	City	Postcode

3. Contact info	
Telephone	Email

5. Please tick as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/> I herewith give permission for my name to be published in a church directory
<input type="checkbox"/> I herewith give permission for my address to be published in a church directory
<input type="checkbox"/> I herewith give permission for my email to be published in a church directory
<input type="checkbox"/> I herewith give permission for my phone number to be published in a church directory
<input type="checkbox"/> I herewith give permission for the diocese and its officers to access my information.

6. Please sign	
Date	Signature (legal guardian if minor)

# Statistics

## Baptisms

Nov 2021 - Oct 2022	3
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## Weddings

Nov 2021 - Oct 2022	9
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## Funerals

Nov 2021 - Oct 2022	9
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## Confirmations

Nov 2021 - Oct 2022	5
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# Introduction from the Rector

## Markus Dünzkofer

Dear friends,

Another year...

I know, this sounds oh-so-very-platitudinous. But the AGM is indeed a time to look back at what we have accomplished and where we need to improve. Moreover, it is a time to look forward. And we all do so, with a God, who is Lord of the past, the now, and the future, and who has blessed us richly and abundantly. There is a lot for which to be grateful. So, this year, I would like to begin by saying thank you!

St John's has been majorly understaffed since the pandemic. Yet, we continue to manage on a level of engagement that is life-giving to the community, but that at times is not sustainable for those in fulltime employment. My first thank you, therefore, goes to Iain Herbert and Rosie Addis, our operations manager and associate rector respectively. They have kept us afloat, and more so. With a steady hand, focused mind, and amazing creativity they have both contributed. Our administration would be in bad shape and our ministry would be so much less rich if wasn't for Rosie and Iain. Thank you so much indeed!

With the same breath, I need to mention also our treasurer Nicky Benn, who has manoeuvred us through choppy waters, setting out a plan for getting out of our financial troubles and for achieving so much in such a short time.

Without music, St John's would not be St John's. It is indeed a blessing to have three wonderful organists in Caroline Cradock, David Goodenough, and Peter Horsfall. In addition, David's leadership of our music ministry has inspired not just our choir, but it has contributed profoundly to our worship and proclamation of the Gospel. Thank you indeed.

I also want to thank the members of vestry – each and every one of them. Sometimes we need to make hard and unpleasant decisions, but there was a real sense of collegiality and respect present as we discerned the right way forward. It is a wonderful group, not always of one mind, but always having the best interest for the congregation, for our intra-vestry relationships, and for our community-at-large at heart. The past year has been a real pleasure to share leadership with these incredible lay people and our associate rector.

I also would like to thank every member of the ministry team for their contribution that helped us pastorally and liturgically. We are very blessed by the presence of Kenneth Boyd, Clephane Hume, Eileen Thompson, and Tim Tunley. Often their tremendous contribution go unnoticed behind the scene. Thank you indeed.

We have indeed accomplished a lot over the past year. You will see from the financial reports that we are not out of the woods, but we did end up with a surplus, to which all of you contributed. Thank you so much! Money is an important part of our lives. How we utilise it is at the core of Christian stewardship, indeed of Christian identity. And this not only goes for churches. It goes for us as individual members of the Body of Christ as well.

Yes, we have indeed grown over the past year. This is not just about “bums on the seats” – even though I do find that phrase rather disrespectful. Increasing membership and attendance is an important part of our *raison d'être*. This is not an institutional argument, but it is about keeping our community alive,

- so we can proclaim the Good News of God's salvation in Jesus Christ even more loudly,

- so that we can worship our triune God even more beautifully,
- so that we can minister and take of one another more lovingly,
- so that we can assist those in need more widely,
- so that we can continue to help building God's kingdom of justice and peace more powerfully,
- so that we can take care of each other in more lovingly,
- and last (but definitely not least!) so that we can be good stewards of God's good creation more impactfully.

This leads me to remind you of the St John's five AMEN-S, which have guided me over the past few years and which will continue to be at the heart of my leadership.

- **A**ffirming the faith that is in us.  
We have added several formation events for all ages. More can and surely must be done. But just like anything, this cannot be just done by clergy or paid staff. It cannot even be done by a few volunteers. It is a communal effort.  
Next year, I hope we can revisit developing new ways of ministry for families and youth and developing some additional formation programmes. I also believe it is time for us to consider additional ways of worship at alternative times. We have a rich tradition already (which I would not want to abandon), but I believe our location challenges us to develop other forms of worship, so that more people can join us in what should be at the heart of our community: prayer.  
What do you think? What would you like to see happening?
- **M**aking new disciples of Jesus Christ.  
This is something that does not come easy for Episcopalians. But these changing times of growing secularism will provide a great opportunity for us to share the greatest story ever told with a world yearning for healing and searching for answers. The diocese has set aside £750,000 for new ministry and mission initiatives and hopefully this is something we can tap into in our spiritual outreach next year.  
How can we be bolder in proclaiming the Good News of God in Jesus Christ to the unchurched?
- **E**mbracing eco-justice.  
We seem not to be running out of ideas to remind everybody of the climate crisis we are facing. There have been really good initiatives over the past year, thanks to our own Green Ginger Group (thank you indeed!), and our ecumenical eco-justice partners in the Together Churches. But how do we change the narrative so that this really is a major aspect of our identity? This cannot be left to the GGG and the ministry team...
- **N**ursing those hurt in body, mind, and soul.  
The coming winter will be a challenge. The energy and cost-of-living crisis (what a misnomer...) will be hard on every one of us. There are actually conversations at Government level that factor in deaths from starvation or hypothermia... What are we called to do? The outrageous war on Ukraine continues. How are we called to support refugees – and not just from that part of the world. Loneliness and isolation are a pandemic in our society. How can we support and refresh the wonderful work Phyll Hoskyns-Abrahall is doing as coordinator of the pastoral scheme?  
I do believe our pastoral ministry needs some focused attention. I do believe that we must continue our outreach to refugees. And I do believe that we need to listen carefully to what

we are hearing from beyond our community about the needs of those affected by the current economic situation.

Proactively, we can feed into this focus of our ministry and mission by trying to avoid hurts in the first place. For example: Let us all take on board the very idea that we are a family. We are not a co-operation, nor a club. We are a family of faith. And just like in any functioning family, our prime responsibility is not about getting things right (even though I know I get things wrong – regularly!), but our prime responsibility is fostering our relationships with God as much as with each other and consequently interacting with each other in an ever-deepening love. Only then we can work on getting things right.

- **Standing up to power.**

St John's has a great history of advocacy. I celebrate what has been accomplished in the fields of justice and peace. And I believe we are not done, because the powerful still too often dance with the devil for personal gain and might. We need to be watchful and vigilant. I believe the Just Festival and other organisation will need our support – not just in prayer. There are wonderful volunteer opportunities available, which is not just “doing the right thing,” but is also very rewarding and often great fun. Can you help in this endeavour? How else can we challenge the powers and principalities of this world?

To be honest, looking at all this is head spinning. Add to this our ongoing financial recovery programme, questions about the future of ECCCT, and the lack of staff and volunteers, and we do have more than a mole hill to climb in the years to come.

And would be easy to despair.

But that would indeed be to overlook the amazing achievements, the outstanding generosity, and the deepening connections and relationships within our family that is St John's. And it would overlook that we have God on our side: God, who loves us, who empowers us, who strengthens us, who encourages us, and who never leaves us alone.

Yours as ever,

Markus

# BETHANY SUPPORT GROUP

**Tony Falconer and Fiona McLuckie**

The challenges that providing crisis intervention and care for homeless people in the city of Edinburgh over the 2021-2 period has continued to be significant despite the efforts of both the City Council and the Scottish Government.

Covid continued to have a profound effect on the way that care was provided and importantly on the ability of volunteers to interact with clients and provide a supportive dialogue. The venue for care was provided at the Hub Hotel in Haymarket where there was a mixture of clients, some supported by Bethany and others by the city council. Indeed it was difficult for volunteers to know which individuals they were providing services for.

Currently the catering team for the evening perform their catering functions at Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse church near Tynecastle and when cooked the food is transferred to the Hub Hotel at Haymarket in insulated containers.

Last season the team of very willing volunteers, under the leadership of Fiona Mcluckie, provided four nights of catering. On each night there was a team of cooks, drivers and servers, the servers being the only group to interact with clients. A two course meal is provided together with some provisions for breakfast.

Last year in Edinburgh about 70 faith communities provided the food for the eight months of service, 8904 interventions were possible with an average of 49 people per night being helped.

Bethany has a budget of £7.8 million, of which 32% is from donations. For every £1 donated, 80p goes directly to services dealing directly with homelessness, 14p goes to develop the charity shop arm and 6p goes to assist raising the next£1.

We hope during the early winter to talk to the congregation and explore additional funding for this vital work. St John's Church has always supported this part of our service with great commitment

## BOOK GROUPS

**Tuesday Evening**

**Valerie Lobban**

The Tuesday evening Book Group with its 10 members continues to appreciate being able to meet monthly in members houses as opposed to Zoom. Last year we enjoyed a range of books both fiction and non-fiction resulting in lively discussion. One meeting in the year is devoted to poetry.

## CDEL

**Iain Herbert**

The year has seen a marked improvement in room bookings and general footfall across the Cornerstone areas. There still tends to be short lead times for events particularly when looking at

larger events probably still due to nervousness of any resurgence of Covid or other disruptive elements. Tourism bosses across Scotland saw a good level of early year business but again late confirmations for summer bookings. UK residents are booking foreign trips in large numbers however this market is somewhat uncertain due to shortages of trained staff. This general shortage is seen across the entire industry, and we are recording the highest number of unfilled vacancies in Scotland leading to business disruption and reduced service levels.

The Craft Fair went ahead however in August 2021 it was at around 50% capacity which resulted in a lower payment for the event. Although the fair was smaller it did still have a successful season with traders reporting increased sales which was put down to higher numbers visiting and an increased propensity to spend following the periods of Covid lock down. The end of this financial year saw us allowing an earlier than usual fit out on the terrace and a secured full payment for the following financial year and reports of 75% occupancy. We also worked with the Edinburgh International Film Festival who booked out the hall for 9 days in August as well as other new contacts such as Ofcom looking to use us as their 'go to' meeting and training venue (3 days recently completed) as well as the Fiscal Commission and a range of others. The rental charges have moved from an average of £45 per hour to £85 per hour reflecting our increased presentation of the space. This increase has not incurred any reluctance to pay the increased amount and actually enhances venue credibility.

The rented shop units now have the One World Shop paying £3,281 per quarter, Cafe £7,200 per quarter, Bookshop £2,466 per quarter soon to be joined by Pulse paying £3,600 per quarter. From these we are starting to see the value of the units developing with the new rates applied to the Cafe and Pulse however some reviews on the rents are required for the One World Shop and Bookshop to bring them into line based on square meterage.

While we have all staff employed directly through St Johns, we have reduced this spend considerably over the last few years. This was partly a result of Covid however it was also in response to a different type of working where we saw CDEL moving to a more 'landlord' approach than delivering services directly. This has seen the employment cost move from over £118,000 in 2020 to around £12,000 this year, administered through a recharge.

As we see the business increasing, we are looking at taking on a part time administrator mainly focused on dealing with inquiries, events, and general administration with a focus on CDEL.

In summary the accounts for this year against the two previous years demonstrate that we are moving in the right direction even with the Covid disruptions. CDEL carries a large overhead of depreciation, loan and interest amounting to circa £105,757 in this year and you can see we are progressing to reach a positive position taking this into account. We have additional plans for increased income generation, and this will be highlighted in the new 5 year Business Plan the CDEL Board is working on at present. The Board has also now been joined by two new Directors to assist as we move to take the next steps.

## CHURCH CLEANING

### Grace Durham

A small group – the numbers vary from week to week - clean the church after the 11 am Eucharist for about an hour, or hour and a half, depending on numbers. Jobs include cleaning brasses, vacuuming the carpets and floors, dusting pews and other furniture. It is a friendly group, and we welcome people even if they can only clean occasionally. A commitment to come every week is not necessary. At times like Christmas and Easter we need lots of hands!

# CORNERSTONE BOOKSHOP

**Susie Stevenson**

The year to 31 July 2022 was one of slow recovery. Sales in the year increased to £92,000 from £52,000 as we were able to open for much more of the year. However, this is still a long way short of the level of sales we have achieved in the past - and which we need to achieve in the future in order to cover our ever-increasing costs. Last year saw us collect over £45k of grant income from the furlough scheme and Edinburgh Council, which actually meant that we recorded a surplus of about £12k. We needed all of this, as we knew we would, to cover this year which saw a loss in our draft accounts of about £14,000.

Once again, our staff have been fabulous, and we could not achieve what we do without their loyalty and support.

As a Board we remain focused on trying to find ways to increase our takings, expand our markets - and improve our online presence.

We are also on the hunt for new Board Members. We have had some new blood join us in the year, which is fantastic - but we need more. In particular, we are seeking a new Chair, also someone with marketing and digital knowledge, and someone with finance skills.

We are, as ever, extremely grateful for the support of St John's and its congregation. However, now more than ever, we need you to support us by visiting the shop, buying your books and gifts from us - we can order any book, not just what we hold in stock - and spreading the word to your friends, family and contacts. You can browse the selection in the shop, order on the telephone or online. Anna and Amanda can give great advice on Christmas presents!

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**Rosie Addis**

In many ways, children and young people have suffered the most from the effects of the pandemic, with the impact of schooling on zoom and few opportunities to socialise still making itself felt in ways we are still only realising. For this reason, in the past year we have tried to encourage opportunities for families to meet and get to know one another, for example by meeting in the hall for lunch after the Sunday 10.30am service. There were also joint Advent and Easter gatherings for families from Old St Paul's and St John's, with the next one planned for Saturday 3rd December 2022. The children's area still provides a focal point for parents and their children during the services and a place to meet each other.

Recently, in response to a request from one of the congregation, we have offered a space for parents of trans children to meet and chat. These meetings are monthly, the first Saturday of each month, from 10.30am-12pm in the chapel.

For more information on any of the above, please contact [rosie@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:rosie@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)

## COFFEE AFTER THE 10.30 EUCHARIST

**Grace Durham**

Coffee is served after the 1030 Eucharist, usually in the Hall, so people can meet and catch up with friends and meet and welcome visitors or new members of St John's. We have tried to set up a rota but have had little success. It is an important part of our Sunday worship. Parking after 1230 is one problem; not wanting to commit to a regular time another. Volunteers are desperately sought. If interested, speak to whoever is serving coffee to talk about what is involved. We hope to get enough people so that one is on duty only every other month.

## CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE AND MONTHLY ROUNDUP

**Grace Durham, Robert Philp & Jeanette Rennie**

**The Cornerstone Magazine** is published four times a year under an Editorial Team of four members of the congregation: Grace Durham, Catie Gladstone, Robert Philp and Jeanette Rennie. Each magazine has certain fixed articles and the rest are either written by the team or commissioned. We welcome suggestions for articles and photographs. The magazine is printed in house on a photocopier. Christmas and Easter editions are posted or delivered to all members of the congregation. A small number of the other two is printed and posted to those who do not have internet access or find it difficult to read the magazine online. A few are printed and left in the porch.

**The Monthly Round Up** augments the quarterly magazine by inviting everyone to join in the life of St. John's. Information is given about the day to day worship and activities, and help is always requested. There are no barriers to any of this on grounds of age or otherwise. One item that jumped out from November 2021 to October 2022 was the restrictions relating to COVID. The edition in January reported on Christmas time and the return of signing in when coming into the church, wearing masks and roping off alternate pews. A negative flow test was requested but it was not necessary to book in advance and the choir were allowed to stand for some services.

They then record the gradual lifting of restrictions and increased socialising. Maybe we should be keeping them as a social history?

## EFM

### **Rosie Addis**

EFM, or 'Exploring Faith Matters' has begun its second year, meeting weekly on a Monday evening. The overall aim of this course is to encourage people to relate their faith to their everyday life. The Year 1 cohort is reading through the Old Testament, Year 2 through the New, and the one brave soul who is in Year 3 is reading through Diarmaid MacCulloch's 'A History of Christianity'. Each year the reading is done through a 'lens', with this year's focus for all groups being on 'living in a multicultural world'. Measurements of success would be not only that there is an extremely low attrition rate throughout the year, but also from one year to the next, and that there is lively participation each week from everyone.

## FABRIC COMMITTEE

### **Alan Martin**

Although there have been no major works or alterations to the fabric this year, quite a lot has gone on under the surface, probably invisibly to many of the congregation.

There has been a complete electrical inspection of all circuits in the church, the first for many years. We feared the worst but were pleasantly surprised that rather little remedial work turned out to be needed. This work has now been completed. The existing fire alarm system was obsolete, some sensors having failed and repair or replacement being impossible. Hence a new up-to-date system has been installed, covering all areas of the church. With our electrical circuits in good shape and a modern alarm system in place, we no longer need worry if our insurance cover is valid!

A different aspect of security is protection against intruders. We have recently installed a new CCTV system with high-definition cameras trained both inside and outside the building and capable of being monitored remotely. Following a recent intrusion we were able to give the police good-quality images of the perpetrators.

As part of our efforts to reduce gas consumption, the heating controls have been reset and adjusted, so that the level of heating in different parts of the building is now more controllable.

Turning to the churchyard and grounds, Frontier Forestry have recently carried out a complete tree survey, identifying all trees needing work done. The most urgent action needed is to remove the large plane tree near the Ramsay cross, which could cause major damage if it fell. It will be taken down in December. Suitable replacements will be planted. We must thank Fred Mobeck for his amazing work in keeping the grounds looking so splendid throughout the year.



Finally, I will mention that Edinburgh City Council has agreed to repair the railings between St John's and the steps from Princes Street down to St Cuthbert's, and cover the entire cost. Since these railings are jointly owned by the Council and us, this is a pleasing result!

## FINANCE (including CDEL)

**Nicky Benn**

## FLOWERS GUILD

The Flower Guild goes into overdrive at Christmas and Easter but we try to have flowers at other times as well. Fred keeps us well supplied with flowers and greenery from the grounds so we are in a lucky position not to have to buy flowers on a regular basis. We try to have fresh flowers in the porch every week to welcome people to St John's. If you would like to help with this or make a contribution to the flower fund, please get in touch with the Office

## GARDEN GROUP

**Fred Molbeck**

It has been an interesting Year in the garden especially during the Summer, when I tried to keep plants alive during the warm spell, using a Watering Can!

The Tubs on the Terrace have done well and have been admired by many. Begonias do produce a riot of colour in rain or shine, they just keep going, of course one has to attend to the watering, and they are fed once a week with Liquid Seaweed. Dahlias have also performed favourably and have been admired from all the Visitors and of course the Roses too.

Trees:

All the Trees in the garden have been surveyed, and our manager arranged this with Frontier Forestry. As a result of this two Trees must come down, the London Plane beside the Dean Ramsay Cross. It is pushing the retaining wall over which is not good. Basically, the person who planted it did not do their homework in checking what size it would ultimately grow to! The other one is Sorbus aria near the path from Princes Street to St Cuthbert's.

We will be planting new trees to replace them and any others that must be removed, thus looking ahead for future generations. Remembering the quote from Ecclesiastes Chapter 3: Everything has its time; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted. Last October we planted three new Trees and at present we have two new ones in large pots in the Dormitory Garden.

When the large Plane Tree is removed new plantings will happen in the area, something to look forward to.

David our Verger has been attending to the grass area and doing a good job, also giving me a hand with larger jobs in the Garden.

# GREEN GINGER GROUP

**Andrew Wright**

The Green Ginger Group exists to help St John's at all levels keep environmental concerns high on our priorities. We have undertaken 2 major pieces of work over the last year:

For St John's as an institution, we submitted to Vestry an audit covering a broad range of aspects of the life of the church. Vestry gave their approval to this audit be circulated wider and the relevant sections sent to different groups within the church. Please do get in touch if you'd like to see a copy of what we have recommended or download the report from the Climate & Creation section of our website.

For members of the church individually, we worked closely with our Together neighbours to produce The Big Green recipe Book which was launched at an ecumenical event in St John's at the end of Creationtide. The aim of the book is to encourage and help us all as individuals to cook and eat in ways that are more sustainable, it will also raise money for St Salvador's and Edinburgh City Mission's food banks as all the costs involved in producing the book were covered by the Together Trust. Copies are available during coffee after the Sung Eucharist each Sunday.

Anne Pankhurst has recently stood down from membership of the group and so we place on record now our thanks to her for all she has contributed over the years. If you'd like to know more about the work of the Green Ginger Group, or are interested in joining us, please have a word with any of our members. We are Andrew Wright (convener), Rosie Addis, Grace Durham, Eleanor Harris, George Harris, Susan Hollins, Liz Marsh, Alan Martin, Eileen Thompson & Nancy Van Kirk.

# GUARDIANS

**Josephine MacLeod**

The guardians started again on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 with 2 guardians on at a time from 12-2pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays. There is a service at 11am on a Wednesday so the church is already open for that.

We have 16 guardians who are on duty every other week and a reserve list of 6 who can be called upon if someone is unable to do their shift.

We would be delighted to welcome more new guardians. It is a rewarding way to spend a couple of hours, our beautiful church is much admired, and we meet interesting people from all over the world.

Most of the visitors are both pleased and surprised by how many different language information sheets we have. These were originally produced by Marjorie Curry and have recently been photocopied again by Iain Herbert.

Even during the comparatively short time that we are open a surprisingly large number of people have come into the church especially in August and September when numbers each day were often up to or even over 100.

Approximate numbers are; February 56, March 469, April 360, May 480, June 549, July 674, August 1,500, September 1,300

It has been very good that donations can now be made electronically as well as by cash.

## HOME COMMUNION

**Phyll Hoskyns-Abrahall**

The Ministry of Home Communion is greatly valued by those who are unable to attend church in person. It is such a privilege to be involved in this Ministry – I really appreciate sharing Holy Communion within someone's home

## LAY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

**Anne Martin**

Two meetings of the Diocesan Synod were held as usual over the last year. The meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 was again held by Zoom. Following Eucharist, remembrance of those who have died, the Bishop's address and elections, the majority of the meeting was devoted to financial matters and the appointment of a Ministry Development Officer. Largely due to cancelled or postponed activities, the General Fund resulted in significant surplus, the first time for many years. As of June 30, there was a surplus of £42.8k. However, some significant expense falls into the second half of the year including the clergy conference. There will still be a surplus which will be used to restrict a quota increase in 2022 (it will be restricted to 2%) and balance out a deficit budget in 2022.

Planned outgoings for in 2022 included an increased Provincial Quota, four new posts and possible contribution to the Lambeth Conference if it goes ahead. There will also be increased contingency to provide for possible unknown legal costs and recruitment costs. It was proposed to appoint a half-time ministry development officer should be appointed to oversee ministry training and to give to and aid the development of clergy and a second half-time post would be made for a dedicated administrative assistant.

The spring Diocesan Synod was held in person on March 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at St Paul's and St George's York Place, with a Zoon option for those who felt unable to attend in person. It was chaired by the Dean, Frances Burberry as the Bishop was unable to attend. Following Eucharist, new

members were welcomed and remembrance was made of those who have died. The Bishop delivered his address by Zoom and outlined his Lent Appeal, this year being for 'The Welcoming', which supports refugees, asylum seekers and migrants to help them feel at home in Edinburgh.

The first part of the morning dealt with administration, receiving annual reports from Committees and other bodies, followed by elections. This was followed by General Synod Business, the first being alterations to the Scottish Liturgy, presented by the Rev Rosie Addis. These were primarily concerned in replacing gender oriented language where it was appropriate. A complete review of the Liturgy is due in 2025. Dr Bethany Nelson then presented the intentions of the Diocese in becoming carbon neutral by 2030. SEC toolkit was due to be updated and online during the weekend. Time was given for discussion of the challenges facing churches. Synod was reminded of the Big Walk for Net Zero taking place on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The morning concluded with a report from the Mission and Ministry Committee presented by the Rev Dr Canon Sophia Marriage, which acknowledged the need to look at the development of lay ministry.

The afternoon session opened with an update on the 2021 accounts and current financial issues presented by the treasurer, Ian Lawson. 2021 ended with a surplus due to the effects of Covid but this would be offset by a deficit budget during 2022 and restricting a rise in Diocesan quota to 2%. (The Provincial rise will be 11%.) The meeting concluded with the Dean's Report and confirmation of the Acts of Synod.

## JUST FESTIVAL

### **Janet Rennie**

At the end of my report on the 2021 Festival, I reported that the Just director had resigned in order to undertake postgraduate study, and that another member/Trustee of our Board had just resigned, as her work had taken her away from Edinburgh. In the light of this, the Board spent some 3-4 months reviewing all the work and aims of the Just Festival and concluded that in the New Year we should advertise for more trustees and a new Festival Manager. We were very fortunate to appoint Miranda Heggie as Manager, although unfortunately she couldn't join us until July. She worked heroically to draw our programme together in a very short time. We were delighted to appoint Sarah Armes Dow and Cate Chen as new Trustees, as well as, the previous Director Helen Trew, so we did not lose her invaluable experience.

With a revitalised Board, we set about creating a Festival programme with more music than in previous years; with six Conversations, and with an art exhibition in St John's Church. We had two themes this summer: the mental and social impacts of Covid and lockdowns, and Conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

The exhibition "Art in Lockdown" featured some 40 paintings illustrating how 4 local artists had responded in their work to the confines of lockdown. The paintings were for sale, and 3 were sold. 8764 people visited this exhibition during the 3 weeks.

We hosted 3 one-hour lunchtime concerts presented by Live Music Now Scotland, an organisation founded by legendary violinist Yehudi Menuhin which gives outstanding young artists the opportunity of performing at the start of their careers and enables high-quality live music to reach a broad range of people, especially those who wouldn't normally have access to it. These showcased the work of 5 young graduates of conservatoires: Matt Carmichael and Fergus McCreddie played a jazz programme on piano and saxophone; Siannie Moodie played Scottish traditional music and her own compositions on the clarsach. We also featured the baroque duo Cordes en Ciel. The Nevis Ensemble returned to play at St John's, performing new works composed during the lockdowns called Lochan Sketches, in two early-evening concerts. St John's own organist performed a lunchtime concert for solo organ, and we concluded this music programme with a performance of "Quartet for the End of Time", composed by Messiaen during his time interned in a Polish concentration camp. The total of attendees at the music programme was 242.

A key part of Just Festival's August programme is always the conversation series, and this year they were all held in person, in St John's Church. These public facing debates featured prominent speakers including Derek Mitchell, CEO of Citizens' Advice Scotland; Dr Lesley Orr, Honorary Fellow in the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, University of Edinburgh; and Tommy Sheppard MP. They covered topics as wide ranging as the role of gender in war, the current cost of living crisis and the effects of lockdown on the arts. All conversations were free to attend, and were live-streamed in order to allow as many people to engage with these topics. 63 attended; we do not have a record of the number who followed online.

Of course, none of this could happen without our funders, partners and sponsors, and I'd very much like to thank St John's Church; The Diocese of Edinburgh; the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Centre for Theological and Philosophical Studies at New College, the University of Edinburgh; Arts and Business Scotland; the Nimar Trust; Live Music Now Scotland and the Just Festival Board of Trustees for their financial and invaluable practical support given to this year's festival.

## LAY REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

**Anne Martin**

All synod meetings during the last year have been held by Zoom. **The Edinburgh Diocesan Synod** met in March. The first part of the meeting was devoted to the Bishop's address and administration. In his address, Bishop John covered four specific areas, these being the responsibilities of every congregation during the Covid Pandemic, Safeguarding, COP 26 and financial planning for the future.

In relation to the Covid Pandemic, he reminded Synod that every congregation needed a simple, workable plan of action so that no-one is forgotten and we remember our love for our neighbours. He reported that training for safeguarding had been well-supported. All clergy, lay readers and those in ministerial leadership would be required to attend a safe-guarding course every 2 – 3 years. A provincial group had been set up to prepare for COP 26 and he hoped that every congregation

would get involved. Bishop John pointed out the importance of financial planning for the future. Two congregations had closed and one had opened. Bishop John, the Dean and the Diocesan Secretary were always available to discuss concerns of individual congregations.

Administration dealt with minutes and committee reports from the Standing Committee, Finance and Management, Cathedral Accounts, Safeguarding and announcement of election results. A substantial part of the meeting was devoted to feedback from Area Councils concerning the proposed revisions to Canon 4 relating to the election of Bishops. Councils were split between those in favour of change and those who felt strongly that the principle of a diocese choosing its bishop should be maintained. The problem of confidentiality was highlighted.

The rest of the meeting covered Mission and Ministry, the Financial Report and the Dean's report. A short video was shown about different and imaginative activities that had happened around the diocese during the last year and a report was made on activities with children and young people. Regarding finance, the Diocesan Treasurer reported that over the last year there have been both losses and gains. Losses included income from the clergy conference; financial gains included reduced staff costs. Office costs has been reduced by £15k, which balanced with the same amount for supporting the Newcraighall development. The Diocese anticipated a 10% reduction in quota for 2021. The Treasurer also reported on recovery funds. Provincial Funds will be available to support quota over three years. £52,000 received in 2021 allowed quota to be reduced by 10% across the board. Diocesan grants would be available for struggling charges utilising the 2018 Quota Support Fund (£12,000), 2020 and 2021 Dunderdale grants (£13,000), 2021 'Covid Support Fund' (£11,000 pledged by 16 charges) and the Provincial Recovery and Renewal Fund. Loans to cover immediate cash-flow difficulties would also be available.

For the second year running, **General Synod** was held by Zoom in June, a sadness for those of us elected in the last 18 months, unable to start getting to know fellow members. There were, however, four breakout group sessions, the members of which remained consistent for the whole period, which helped us to feel we were talking with familiar faces. The Synod consists of 62 clergy members, 62 lay, the seven Bishops and a small number of other members, including members of the Anglican Consultative Council. From St John's, Markus, Alistair Dinnie (ACC) and myself (an Edinburgh Diocese Representative) are members.

Synod business included regular items, such as the budget and confirming appointments, and a number of significant discussions and votes. These included relations with the Church of Scotland (the St Andrew's Declaration), a steer on Canon 4 (the canon dealing with the appointment of bishops), climate change and ethical investment. Establishing a complaints procedure and policy for bullying involved significant discussion and the passing of a number of amendments. Regarding climate change, Ten Points of Guidance and a programme of action were set before Synod members. Concerning the appointment of bishops, a majority supported the maintaining the tradition of Dioceses choosing their own bishops but there was strong support for improving the system, which would be looked at further.

## MINISTRY TEAM

**Kenneth Boyd**

Theology Symposium

The annual St John's Theology Symposium was held in the Cornerstone Centre on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The theme was *Theologies of Violence and Peace in Ukraine-Russia*, with reference to the Visual Arts, Film and Literature. The speaker was Professor Jolyon Mitchell, of New College, School of Divinity, Edinburgh University who skilfully introduced three richly illustrated and imaginatively explained sessions on: 'Theologies of Violence and Peace in Ukrainian and Russian Visual Arts', 'Theologies of Violence and Peace in Ukrainian and Russian Film', and 'Theologies of Violence and Peace in Tolstoy's Work'. The symposium was well attended by highly appreciative participants from St John's and elsewhere, who gained a much wider and deeper understanding of the historical and cultural context of the current war in Ukraine and are immensely grateful to Professor Mitchell for this.

## MUSIC

### David Goodenough

During the past twelve months we have continued to transition to 'normal'. The Autumn of last year saw several weeks of fully choral services, but we were not able to sing in the stalls. Physical distancing still was the name of the game and we had to observe one metre – sometimes two – of distancing right through to mid January. My first Christmas as Director of Music saw a large choir occupying the entire space between the front of the nave and the High Altar for all the various big services. The return to what we recognise as 'normal service' came in the early spring, and it was with some relief that we returned to the choir stalls, which is altogether a much more satisfying way for a choir to sing!

And that's where we still find ourselves now: our regular musical routine is well and truly embedded once again; our singers and organists have now recaptured that crucial musical momentum; our music lists no longer make any compromises for numbers or availability; and the standards of musicianship from all of those involved in the musical ministry of St John's are fully recovered. We're in very good shape!

That good shape is heard every week of course, but, alongside the provision of the music for Choral Matins, Sung Eucharist and Choral Evensong each week, there have also been some notable highlights which are worth rehearsing here: the Fauré Requiem at All Souls last year; everything which was sung and played at Advent and Christmas; Stainer's 'Crucifixion' on Good Friday; Howells' 'Collegium Regale' Matins canticles and Vierne's mighty 'Messe Solonnelle' on Easter Morning; the season-closing 'St. Paul' evening canticles by Howells and 'Blest Pair of Sirens' by Parry at the end of June; and a month-long magnificent effort by the choir and organists during the Festival. Incredible!

The choir has just returned from a weekend away in Aberdeenshire. There was excellent fellowship of course, with late nights and early mornings, paddling in the sea, lots of food and perhaps an odd dram or two. We sought, and found, refreshment in a variety of forms! But, the most important thing was that we took our choral tradition to places which don't have one; we had the considerable privilege of sharing what we have with others. And our hosts' appreciation that we had done so was tangible. In an emotional address at St. James The Great in Stonehaven, given whilst she clutched her Book of Common Prayer, the Rector said that hearing Choral Evensong in her church had brought her, and her congregation, closer to God. And as church musicians, that's what we're all about! Everything that's been sung or played this year has been about making that connection!

None of it could be done without the constancy, devotion and commitment of a very large number of people; every one of them (except me!) is a volunteer. Our singers have been amazing through the whole year. Their circadian dedication, amounting to around seven hours each week (sometimes more!) is incredible. Our two Assistant Organists, Peter Horsfall and Caroline Cradock, do that with everyone else, and then some more to prepare for the services that they're playing. It's been a remarkable team effort over another year, which has continued to define and enhance the enviable choral tradition for which St. John's is known.

## ONE WORLD SHOP

**Rachel Farey**

**[www.oneworldshop.co.uk](http://www.oneworldshop.co.uk)**

The shop has seen a steady rise in customer numbers and in sales this year which is a great step forward after 2 very quiet years. We are still not yet up to 2019 sales figures but not far away. Sales from our website have also been steady. The relaxing of restrictions has brought in many international tourists in the past 3-4 months, and this has been very welcome.

We were delighted with the return of the 3D/2D Craft Fair in August again this year, which was slightly bigger than last year and almost felt like pre-Covid years as the atmosphere was so positive. We erected a small marquee outside the shop to attract people in and this year we focused on textile products from Bangladesh, Guatemala and Malawi and knitted soft toys from Zimbabwe, all sold well.

A new member of staff called Anita Dumitra has recently joined our team as our Sales Manager and Volunteer Coordinator, she is from Barcelona and has worked for Oxfam Intermon, a large fair trade organisation, do drop in and say hello.

We have also revised our logo and branding to a fresh, modern look, it has attracted more young people into the shop who have walked past us many times but never been in.

Next year marks our 40th Anniversary, we will be preparing some celebrations to which you are all invited.

We are getting well prepared for the Christmas season, with lots of new products coming in all the time, especially a great selection of knitted hats, gloves and handwarmers from Nepal.

The shop is open 7 days a week from Mon – Saturday (10am – 5.30pm and on Sunday from 12 – 5pm.

## ONLINE STREAMING SERVICES

**Peter Horsfall**

Online streaming activities continue in much the same pattern as last year. We are now into our third year of sharing live and pre-recorded video events via Facebook and YouTube.

The online content includes Sunday Eucharist, Sunday Evensong, midweek Eucharist, and regular daily-prayer podcasts. The average number of viewers is steady – neither growing nor declining as the relaxation of social-distancing has allowed in-person congregations to return.



For Sunday worship, the streaming is supported by a small team from the congregation. Anyone interested in this activity would be very welcome to get involved.

## OPERATIONS

**Iain Herbert**

St John's income generation has remained steady despite the disruption across the financial year due to residual impacts of Covid highlighted by the loss of the Hogmanay bookings lost due to a last minute decision by the Scottish Government. Despite this and through the continued support of the congregation we saw our over profit increase against previous years. This was endorsed by CAF Bank: they provided the loans associated with the Cornerstone Development with the following statement:

*"I have shared the draft Management Accounts to the end of July 2022 with our Credit Risk Team, and we have calculated that based on these figures the Debt Service Cover Covenant will be met by a ratio of 1.4 : 1. A good result considering the difficulties over the past 2+ years. This will effectively be the first year that the covenant has been met (based on the consolidated activities) since the loan was drawn."*

Cost control has been key to ensuring a good outcome is achieved however this has not been to the detriment of constructive activity. A number of property actions have been undertaken over the past year including installation of a complete new fire alarm system in covering the church and lower corridors. Additionally we had a full electrical safety check carried out across the church which is a statutory requirement every 5 years which was a number of years behind.

The chapel and entrance were damaged by historic water leak and has formed a major part of the works with us erecting scaffolding allowing us to repair plaster works prior to a full repaint. During this we also took time to re-polish the wooden ceiling and carvings, bringing out the detailing and restoring its pride. The woodwork cleaning and repairs were then extended into the church with the lower wood panelling treated, including the gallery frontage, leaving only the high altar, organ loft and pulpit to be completed in the near future.

Other activities included roofing repairs, installation of new CCTV systems and a range of other repairs.

## PASTORAL VISITORS

**Phyll Hoskyns-Abrahall**

The Pastoral Visitors continue to be very active, keeping members of the congregation connected through friendly and caring ways. With the greater use of Social Media, many of our younger members prefer this as a means of linking with each other. However, everyone really appreciates the chance to meet and chat with new people during coffee after the regular Sunday worship!

We plan to hold the PV Group Meetings in the spring. These small groups give PVs the opportunity to share their experiences and any concerns they may have. Each of these groups has

an appointed member of the Clergy Team who is their Chaplain so these small group get-togethers are greatly valued by all.

I really appreciate the very valuable support and care PVs offer within our congregation and I know the Clergy are also extremely grateful for all the connections this important Ministry provides.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

**Valerie Lobban**

For the last year again due to Covid restrictions, there have been no social events arranged by the Social Committee this year.

## WALKING GROUP

**Veronica Harris**

The Walking Group is now back to normal after Covid, although we haven't had so many 'far away' walks, involving lengthy car journeys, as previously. We have a shorter walk (about 4-6 miles on easy terrain) on the first Thursday of each month and a longer walk (7 to 12+ miles with sometimes more difficult terrain) on the third Saturday. The Saturday walk is often accompanied, because of demand, by a shorter alternative.

We put together a programme of walks for the whole year and before each walk I email group members the details of the walk, the leader, joining point and transport arrangements.

Some walks this year have been in Edinburgh. Most have been out in the country – in the Lothians, Fife, Clackmannanshire, Borders. At Christmas we had three walks of varying length in the Musselburgh area and these were followed by lunch at Crolla's restaurant.

If you are interested in coming on a walk or would like more information, do get in touch with me or speak to one of the group members. We are always pleased to see new faces. There is no obligation to come more often than you wish. Although we are a church organisation you do not need to be a member of St John's.

## WEDNESDAY LUNCHESES

**Josephine MacLeod**

The Wednesday soup and cheese lunches have continued on the first Wednesday of the month, upstairs in the main hall but at the earlier time of 12noon. Sue Goode and Rosemary MacLeod, assisted by anyone else who arrives early, help with the preparations and Hazel Gower continues to be in charge of the clearing up arrangements.

A very big thank you to all of them and also to the soup makers (Angela Horsfall, Grace Durham, Sandy Code, Val Lobban, Phyll Hoskyns Abrahall, Anne Usher and Markus).

We would be delighted if more people were able to join us, so please tell anyone else who might like to come. It is a good way to meet other members of the congregation!

## **Church of St John the Evangelist**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Held at St John's Church and also online, Monday 15 November 2021**

#### **1. Prayers and Roll of the Dead**

- 1.1 The meeting started with prayer.
- 1.2 The Associate Rector read out the Roll of the Dead.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

- 2.1 Five apologies had been received.
- 2.2 39 members of the congregation were present in the church. An unknown number attended online.

#### **3. Minutes of AGM held on 9 November 2020**

- 3.1 Adam Rennie, seconded by Austin Reilly, proposed the adoption of the minutes of the 2020 AGM. The minutes were **agreed**.

#### **4. Matters arising**

- 4.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Presentation and Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021**

- 5.1 Before turning to the accounts Nicky Benn, the Treasurer, thanked Charlotte Tucker and her colleagues from Prime Numbers for all their help in preparing the accounts.
- 5.2 Nicky said that the church was just days away from completing the audit but it had not been signed off in time for the AGM. Instead the meeting would be given a summary of the audit, an outline of the financial strategy and an operations update.

#### *Summary of audit*

- 5.3 Louise Presslie, Partner at Whitelaw Wells, began by recalling her own personal childhood connection with St John's. This was the first year that Whitelaw Wells had conducted the audit of St John's and CDEL and consequently some familiarisation had been necessary.
- 5.4 She explained the rules for the audit of a charity the size of St John's. This was more onerous than the independent external scrutiny given to smaller charities and involved a very thorough assembling of a body of evidence across a wide range of things. Work, some of it on-site, had been

carried out in August and September. There had been scrutiny by two partners as this was Whitelaw Wells' first year.

- 5.5 Louise thanked Nicky Benn and Iain Herbert, the Operations Manager, for their help, and also Charlotte Tucker and Alison Franks of Cornerstone Accounting.
- 5.6 The audit had picked up some procedural, governance and technical points. None was significant, however, and some were already being addressed.
- 5.7 There was a concern in principle that there was a material uncertainty relating to the loans from St John's to CDEL and from the CAF Bank to St John's. That uncertainty had been aggravated by the impact of Covid. That required a modification to the accounts and was being addressed through various financial control procedures.

### *Financial strategy*

- 5.8 Nicky reminded the AGM of the 5-phase strategy adopted by St John's to address the major challenges posed by Covid. These moved from Financial Survival through three phases leading ultimately to Mission Growth. There was no timescale for the phases. There were still major uncertainties about the potential impact of Covid regulations and the state of the economy. It would therefore be necessary to proceed through the phases in an orderly way.
- 5.9 The church had spent 2020/21 in the Survival Phase, but was now on the way to Phase 2, "Ground Zero". In surviving the year financially the church had been greatly helped by the congregation's generous response to two major appeals for funding. That had enabled tentative moves out of the Survival Phase. Nicky thanked the congregation warmly for their support.
- 5.10 Nicky then spoke to a snapshot of the financial year 2020/21. She drew attention to three things in particular:-
- Operating expenses had been reduced by 18%, but at the cost of staff redundancies, reduced opening hours and other economies.
  - Profit was up by 74.8%, despite income falling by 9.2%.
  - The church owed £765,259 to the CAF Bank. All the required loan payments had been kept up and the Diocesan Quota had also been met.

### *Operations update*

- 5.11 Iain Herbert said that the church and CDEL were operating in a tough and very challenging commercial environment, and normal events like weddings had not been possible. Things were now however improving, aided by investments and improvements made over lockdown, in particular the installation of full fibre broadband throughout the buildings, which was already reaping dividends.
- 5.12 Iain was trying to de-risk everything which the church did whilst at the same time keeping up the maintenance of the buildings. That had required some painful decisions. Looking ahead, he had just entered into a new three-year electricity supply contract which was - surprisingly – cheaper than the previous one.
- 5.13 The Unit lettings on the Lower Terrace were going well. Iain hoped soon to find a new tenant for the current vacant Unit. It had been good to see the Craft Fair back in the summer.

### *Next steps*

- 5.14 The Rector said that, once the accounts had been signed off by the auditors, they would go to Vestry. That would be followed by an EGM, which would probably be held after a 1030 service, probably in late January.

#### *Questions*

- 5.15 A question was raised about the reference in the Director of Music's report to the need for work on the organ. That would probably be expensive. How would it be paid for?
- 5.16 The Rector said that the first step was to get a thorough professional review of the organ's condition and recommendations on what was needed. That was in hand and the report should be ready in two months' time.
- 5.17 Thereafter the plan was to approach possible external funders, eg the Heritage Lottery Fund. The intention was to fund the work on the organ entirely outside the church's normal budget.

#### *Conclusion*

- 5.18 The Rector thanked Louise, Nicky and Iain for their presentations and for their work. He also thanked Vestry for all their hard work during another difficult year.

### **6. Annual Report and Matters Arising**

- 6.1 The Rector introduced the Annual Report and invited questions or comments.
- 6.2 He reported that Colin McEachran was stepping down as Co-ordinator of the Guardians. On behalf of the congregation Jeanette Rennie thanked Colin for all his work.

#### *Opening hours*

- 6.3 Concern was expressed about the church currently being closed so much of the time. Some people worshipped by coming into the church during the week rather than on Sundays and that was often not possible. St John's should not become "that church at the west end that's never open".
- 6.4 The Rector noted that before Covid the church was open from 9am till 5pm every day except Boxing Day. It was now open from 1 – 3 pm on weekdays and on Sunday at service times. Currently it was open from 10am till 4pm because Cards for Good Causes were operating, but that would end when they departed.
- 6.5 The challenge was that at present the church did not have sufficient staff to open for the previous length of time. It was important to have an adequate staffing presence at all times when the church was open because it was in such a prominent site and presented a security risk.
- 6.6 Iain Herbert noted the importance of continuing to keep costs down. That however had a big impact on staffing, particularly when resources were also needed for users of the Cornerstone Centre. He was aiming to put proposals to the Personnel Committee to enable more extended opening hours after Cards for Good Causes departed.
- 6.7 The Rector suggested the creation of some forum where these issues could be addressed. He would be happy to receive any thoughts and ideas.

#### *Sidespeople/welcomers*

- 6.8 A question was raised about what was happening about the sidespeople/welcomers now that in-person services had resumed. The Rector said that Harry Clark had a rota of people for these tasks.

## *Conclusion*

- 6.9 The Rector said that he was aware of concern about the church's opening hours. That raised difficult issue about finance and human resources.
- 6.10 He thanked everyone leading or co-leading Ministries for all the many types of work they did at St John's, as brought out in the Annual Report.
- 6.11 The 2021 Annual Report was **noted**, with thanks to all who had contributed and to Austin Reilly for pulling it together.

## **7. Safeguarding**

- 7.1 No business was raised under this item.

## **8. Wardens**

- 8.1 The Rector reported that, following discussions with members of the congregation and Vestry, it had now been decided not to proceed with the original idea of creating posts of Rector's Warden and People's Warden. Instead, the Rector would seek a person within Vestry, as it was currently constituted, to fill the proposed role of Rector's Warden.
- 8.2 The Rector noted that it was still necessary to identify a new Vestry Secretary to succeed Austin Reilly.

## **9. Canon 35 – North Aisle**

- 9.1 The Rector said that, as part of the church's gradual return from lockdown, the pews in the North Aisle had been temporarily removed and replaced with tables and chairs. That had worked well. He had invited views on whether to maintain this arrangement in the long term and had picked up some questions and comments about Cards for Good Causes and architectural compliance.
- 9.2 The Rector proposed that the North Aisle continue to be kept free of pews. In discussion two questions were raised.
- 9.3 First, how much would be lost from the reduction in capacity for very busy services, eg at Christmas? The Rector said that if a busy service were in prospect chairs would be brought in from the Cornerstone Centre.
- 9.4 Second, once the church had full use of the buildings, and Sunday coffee could again be served in the hall, what use would be made of the empty North Aisle? The Rector said that the aisle could be used by the congregation when the Cornerstone Centre was otherwise busy. In addition, he noted that experience of the current arrangements suggested that more people stayed for coffee after the service when it was in the North Aisle rather than in the hall.
- 9.5 The Rector thanked the meeting for their comments. He would refer the issue to Vestry for them to decide and take any necessary next steps.

## **10. Elections**

- 10.1 The Rector reported that there were no contested places amongst the various current vacancies. Four candidates had been duly proposed and seconded. The Rector invited the candidates for the vacancies to introduce themselves:-
- Lay Representative: Anne Martin
  - Alternate Lay Representative: Ioan Kettle
  - Vestry members: Andrew Wright and Susan Spilsbury.

- There remained one vacancy for a Vestry member.

10.2 All the candidates were approved by acclaim. The Rector declared them duly **elected**

## **11. Any other business**

### *AGM arrangements*

11.1 The Rector reported that some members of the congregation had asked him if the AGM could be held at a different time from an evening in mid-November, when it was dark and cold. He sought the meeting's approval to asking Vestry to address this issue. This was **agreed**.

### *St Cuthbert's Award*

11.2 The Rector reported that Vestry would be proposing to the Diocese four people for the St Cuthbert's Award – Shelagh Brand, Isabel Watson, Fred Mobeck and Austin Reilly – in recognition of their many and various services to the church over many years. This was greeted with acclaim by the meeting.

### *Ministry Team*

11.3 The rector reported that Tim Tunley, Chaplain to the Mission to Seafarers, would be joining the Ministry Team at St John's. He would focus mainly on Sunday evenings.

## **12. Thanks**

12.1 The Rector thanked several people. First, three valedictories:-

- Mo Grant, who had just stood down from Vestry having served two terms;
- Colin McEachran, who had just stood down as Leader of the Guardians;
- Austin Reilly, who had stood down as Vestry Secretary, having helped greatly to steer the church through some turbulent times.

12.2 He also thanked:-

- Pete Horsfall for all his help with IT and the organ over the last 18 months;
- Iain Herbert, who had gone way beyond the call of duty on many fronts.

12.3 The Rector presented them all with flowers. The congregation echoed the Rector's thanks.

12.4 On behalf of the congregation, Janet Rennie thanked Markus, Rosie, the non-stipendiary team of Clephane, Eileen and Kenneth, and Iain Herbert. In addition to Markus's thanks to Iain in the annual report, Janet thanked Iain for all that he had done with the clergy team to keep the church open and freshly maintained and the church's worship and pastoral support alive despite being so short-handed.

12.5 Turning to the clergy, Janet said that during the difficult previous year everyone in the congregation had benefitted from their care and support, delivered through various means as the Covid rules changed. They had all been stimulated by Markus' and Rosie's sermons and the weekly e-news updates. Janet noted that it was easy to take good things for granted, and also easy not to see all the hard work, thought and tender support that lay behind them. She reassured Markus and Rosie how much everyone appreciated all that they did for the congregation. As a small symbol of those thanks Janet presented Markus and Rosie with flowers.

12.6 The congregation echoed Janet's thanks.

## **13. Conclusion**

13.1 The Rector **closed** the meeting.

**14. The Grace**

14.1 The meeting concluded with The Grace.

**Church of St John the Evangelist**

**Extraordinary General Meeting**

**St John's Church, 11.30 am, Sunday 30 January 2022**

**15. Introduction**

15.1 The Associate Rector **opened** the EGM. It followed the AGM, which had been held on 15 November 2021.

15.2 Approximately 50 members of the congregation were present. There had been three apologies.

**16. Presentation and Adoption of Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021**

16.1 The Associate Rector noted that the congregation appointed the auditors and received the annual accounts. The auditors, the Treasurer and the church's accountants had all attended the AGM held on 15 November and had presented the near-final accounts.

16.2 The accounts had subsequently been signed off and had been made available to the congregation through the church's website.

16.3 The EGM unanimously **adopted** St John's Accounts and the Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2021.

**17. Close**

17.1 The Associate Rector **closed** the meeting.