



STATED ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday 24 March 2024
1130am – Sanctuary



Dear Member,

And they came, everyone whose heart was stirred, and everyone whose spirit was willing, and brought the Lord's offering (Exodus 35:21).

As I do each year at this time, I am writing to ask you to review your offerings to our Church. This is something that the Kirk Session has asked me to do each year at the time of our Stated Annual Meeting. If you have increased your offering recently, I would simply like to say thank you.

Our accounts for 2023 show a surplus and you may be surprised that I am still writing asking you to increase your offerings. However, the largest part of that surplus arose from legacies and yet again, a considerably lower expenditure on Fabric than had been budgeted for. Some of that expenditure will now take place this year.

Our Budget for 2024 is included in the SAM papers. The Finance Team have tried to be as realistic as possible in the budget and despite taking considerable care, the budget predicts a deficit of £28,963. This will have to come out of our reserves.

When you have a standing order set up, it is very easy to leave it unaltered for many years. Or if you have been in the habit of giving a set amount, it is difficult to remember to change that. I would ask you to consider prayerfully whether you are in a position to increase your giving to the work of our Lord and his Church. Inflation impacts the church's costs which rise each year along with everyone else's.

If you contribute to the Church through a standing order and wish to increase your payment, the easiest way is to go online, if you can, and increase the standing order. If you don't have online access to your bank account, the next easiest route is to telephone your bank and ask them to make the change. If all else fails, please speak to me or the church office and we can give you a new standing order form that will set up the new amount and cancel the old order.

For St Columba's Church to be an effective witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Blackhall community and for it to carry out its mission in the parish, we rely on your support and commitment as a member of our church. The vast majority of St Columba's income comes from the giving of our members. With this in mind, I would ask you to respond to this reminder.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Johnston
Treasurer

STATED ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2024

This year's Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the 1030am morning Worship Service on Sunday 24 March 2024 at 1130am in the Sanctuary. This meeting will not be livestreamed. Participation in the meeting will require members to be present in the Sanctuary.

1. SAM Agenda
2. Reports on the Agenda.
3. The 3 financial statements are separate documents: Accounts for Year End 31 Dec 2023, The Budget 2024, and BfTF Appeal. Both the SAM report and the 3 financial statements can all be found on our website under the Stated Annual Meeting section within the Resources folder (Main Menu).

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. SAM 2023 Minutes
3. Moderator's Report
4. Session Clerk's Report
5. Congregational Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
6. Gift Aid Convener's Report
7. Fabric Convener's Report
- 10 Premises and Staff Convener's Report
11. Any Other Competent Business
12. Closing remarks
13. Benediction

BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, EDINBURGH
MINUTE OF THE STATED ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
HELD ON SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023 AT 11.30 IN THE CHURCH

Those attending were welcomed by the Minister, the Reverend Fergus Cook who then constituted the meeting. Papers for the Stated Annual Meeting and the Financial Report for year ending 31 December 2022 had been made available online on the Church website. Reports referred to below are in the appendix to this Minute.

Sederunt: The Reverend Fergus Cook and 67 members of the Congregation were present. There were 7 apologies for absence.

Minutes: Nothing was questioned about the SAM 2022 minutes, and they were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Moderator's Report: The Minister highlighted some items in his report saying that the Church had returned to full operation during the year after the pandemic restrictions.

Worship was extending especially with live-streaming, regular services in Care and Residential Homes in the parish and further developing the relationship with the Monte Cassino Society. In addition, contact has been set up with the local Nursery, Primary School, the Playgroup and the Parent and Toddlers Group. The use of the Sanctuary had been enhanced by the installation of an accessible toilet and blinds fitted to the rear of the choir gallery. Several social events had been hosted to extend to the wider community.

The Presbytery Plan has led to a new Parish Grouping and discussions with Drylaw Church with a view to forming a Union of the two parishes. The Minister thanked our Session Clerk and the Treasurer for overseeing the smooth running of the church and for all that is done unseen, and the Kirk Session for their support for the minister.

Session Clerk's Report: The report by Eddie Thorn had been available online prior to the meeting. There were no questions.

Congregational Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts: The Trustees' Annual Report had been provided by Adrian Johnston before the meeting. He thanked his Financial Team, in particular Dianne Fulton (Clerk), Sheila Mackintosh (statistics) and Sandy Weir (Gift Aid and tax reclaim) for their valuable contributions.

The Treasurer reported that despite member numbers falling and Freewill offerings being slightly down we are in a fairly healthy position with a small surplus due to open plate giving rising since covid restrictions were relaxed, legacies which were gifted, an increase in hall-letting revenue and less Fabric expenditure.

Total Funds stand at £165,500. It is advisable to have six months funds in reserve, so we are in a healthy position at the present time.

Expenditure was more than the previous year but under budget due to lower fabric spending.

It will be necessary to maintain the levels of giving despite the dwindling Congregation, so members are asked to review this regularly. With a projected deficit of £12,000 in 2023 it may

be necessary to dip into reserves to balance the books. However, £8,000 has been added to the Fabric fund to bring it up to £38,000.

Building for the Future Fund sits at £75,500 after purchasing blinds to address glare on the AV screen and installing a new accessible toilet beside the office. When final pledges are received in October 23 it should be approximately £78,000.

Gift Aid Convener's Report: Sandy Weir's report had been posted on the website. There were no questions.

Fabric Convener's Report: Mike Whiteside's report had been made available on the website and there were no questions.

Premises and Staff Convener's Report: Frances Douglas' report had been made available and there were no questions.

Any Other Competent Business: There were no points raised.

Closing Remarks: Eddie Thorn said that Blackhall St Columba's Church is in good heart with many achievements, but the major challenge is the age profile of members. However, it is encouraging to have 15 new members and some more young people encouraged by the welcome received and the ministry in the church.

The Session Clerk thanked Fergus, now in his 4th year in Blackhall for his fine ministry, excellent pastoral care and strong leadership. He referred to the proposed union with Drylaw as an opportunity to learn and strive to achieve the 5 marks of mission.

The Reverend Fergus Cook thanked the Session Clerk then closed the meeting with the Benediction.

2024 REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR –REV FERGUS COOK

Each year, the Office Bearers of the church prepare reports regarding the ongoing work of Blackhall St Columba's. I have great pleasure in adding my own report which, in addition to providing an overview, focuses on just some of the highlights and achievements of the year.

I am delighted to say that, I feel, we, as a church as a whole, are working well with a healthy balance of both ongoing and new initiatives. More and more the pandemic is being committed to a mere memory of something we collectively went through. As with all experiences, both good and bad, the pandemic has had residual effects, but I think most people now feel it is a thing of the past.

Worship

Our livestreaming of services continues to be popular and has broadened our reach throughout the world as well as allowing for those closer to home to join us in worship when they are unable to get to church due to holidays, illness, or some other reason.

We continue to offer a monthly service to Strachan House residents, and this has now been extended to include Queens Manor Care Home. Residents of Queen's Court have increased their services to one every two months which I conduct. Lyle Court, whilst having a monthly service, has participation from us every fourth month. Looking ahead, the Lyle Court model is one that we will try to expand to include more locations. A number of care homes receive our weekly service sheets, and they are invited to join us online weekly. At Christmas, the Junior Singers attended at Strachan House and sang carols which was greatly appreciated by staff and residents alike.

This year, on Saturday 18th May, we will be hosting our now annual Monte Cassino Remembrance Service on behalf of the Monte Cassino Society. This year will mark the 80th anniversary of the battles.

Our Annual Youth Service, when we mark 'Thinking Day' and 'Founders Day' for the Guides and the Scouts, is now well established. In addition, it is one of the many services that the 'Junior Singers' come to and sing their latest praise at.

The 'Blue Christmas Service' was again well received and continues to offer an outlet for many people as they come together to remember loved ones at what a difficult time of year for many is. We have a high proportion of non-members attend this service and I also view it as a form of outreach.

For the second time since coming to BStC's, I was able to lead worship in Inchcolm Abbey on Inchcolm Island. Between 40-50 people embarked on a pilgrimage by the 'Maid of the Forth' out to the island where, after a short communion service, we enjoyed lunches and walks until it was time to return. It is planned to offer a different, but similar, pilgrimage event each year in the summer.

Our regular Communion services have now settled into being on the first Sunday of February, June, and October. They are now always followed by an afternoon communion, at 3pm the

same day, which is geared towards those who need additional assistance to get to the church. This is followed by an equally important time of fellowship which is catered for by the Pastoral Team.

Our relationship with Blackhall Primary School continues to grow with Christmas and Easter Assemblies held within the sanctuary. I am now invited to participate in School Assemblies at other times such as Remembrance and have also been invited to take classes for a number of the primary year groups which have been working on specific projects. In December 2023, the whole of primary 7 attended the church to participate in 'Follow the Star'. This was a highly successful Nativity Trail which included Escape Rooms, crafts and other activities whilst teaching those who attended the story of the birth of Jesus. Following the school visit, the trail was open to the public and, in total, over 300 people attended. It was a fantastic effort by all involved and many of the congregation played a part in making it such a success. It is hoped to repeat this event in December 2024.

The monthly 'Storytime' continues for Blackhall Nursery, the Playgroup and the Parent and Toddlers group. It is well received and has allowed us to reach a whole new group of younger people. It is through these contacts that we are able to advertise services such as our Family Christingle Service on Christmas Eve which attracted around 250 families with a large number of young people.

Social

Socially, we continue to offer a wide variety of events to cater for all members of the community. The Outreach Team has planned many different events and is seeking to publish these so that people can plan ahead. We have obtained the relevant licences and Film Nights are planned for differing age groups. Our Burns Supper was a sell out and it is expected that this year's Murder Mystery Evening (with a fish supper tea) will be likewise. 'Music @ St Columba's' secular events continue to be popular with classical guitar, concert pianists and even a 'Foot Stomping Gospel Band'. There continue to be too many clubs, activities and organisations which regularly use our buildings to mention here but they are all important to keeping our buildings and 'the Church' at the centre of the community. Our social activities are an important part of who we are and how we form a welcoming community. I have said before that often people 'belong before they believe' and these events are a great way for members to invite their family, friends, and neighbours into our community of faith.

Union

I have mentioned the Presbytery Plan previously and few, if any, can now be unaware of our plans to unite with Drylaw Parish Church. This has dominated a large part of the year with many members of the congregation giving up their time to plan and prepare for this event. This has involved joint services of worship as well as several joint ventures where both Churches have come together to help one another. There are many plans for this to continue including a number of social events in order that members of both congregations can get to know one another better. It is hoped that the congregation will get sight of firm proposals for the union soon. Personally, I see this as being a fantastic opportunity, for both Churches, to build on one another's strengths and to improve our joint ability to serve our communities in the northwest of Edinburgh.

On a personal note, I am grateful for the support I have received from the Kirk Session and from members of the congregation as I have sought to become a Chaplain in the Royal Naval Reserve. It is a big commitment but, I believe, one that will provide benefits to all concerned. I thank you for your forbearance when I am committed some Sundays to being away training at naval establishments down south.

I am also indebted to all who contribute to the worship and life of the congregation. So many people offer their services, many go unseen and unnoticed by the majority. On behalf of the congregation, the Kirk Session and myself, I thank you. I also send my thanks to all those elders who work so hard at keeping contact with their districts.

The BStC's mission statement is 'to glorify God, proclaim Christ and serve others'. I am happy to report that, this last year, we have done all three and I am confident in our future plans that we will continue to do so for many years ahead.

Fergus Cook
Moderator

SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

Membership

The annual statistical return as of 31 December 2023 to The Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian shows a fall in the Communion Roll – from 573 to 537. During 2023 we welcomed 8 new members, compared to 15 the year before. Sadly 28 members died during the year and 8 members left us as a consequence of moving to another part of the country or for other reasons.

A census was carried out four times in 2023 to ascertain actual Sunday morning attendance. It has been pleasing that the outcome from these exercises have revealed that our average attendance has remained at circa of 130. This means that our church remains one of the best attended across the Presbytery. Members still have the option of watching the Service being live streamed or catch up via You Tube at some later time. Our Christmas Eve Services were extremely well attended especially the Christingle when the duty Elders again struggled to put out sufficient chairs for the welcomed attendees.

Kirk Session

During 2023 there were no Elders ordained or inducted. Ian Hunter and Sandy Horn retired from active Eldership during the year after long periods of faithful and diligent service to the Congregation and in particular to the members in their Districts. Fay Stirling resigned as an Elder as a result of a move of house. Fay played a huge part in the Building for the Future project.

The smooth running of Church life and the many activities carried on for members along with the Parish community depends on the leadership of the Working Team Leaders and Conveners, who all continue to do good work with great dedication. In my capacity as Session Clerk, I am dependant on the support and assistance of many Elders and members, in particular Sheila Mackintosh (Roll Keeper), Jacquie Lowe (Safeguarding Officer), James Burr

(Communion Convener), Jim Logan and Frank Morrice (Minute Secretaries for Session meetings), Lindsay Duguid (Health & Safety Administrator) and Joy McGonigal-Paget, our Church Secretary. I remain grateful for all their support, and I am particularly grateful to Jim Logan, who readily stands in for me when I am unavailable.

During the year Judith Mair took over the Editorship of Kirk News from Fay Stirling and continued the fine work of all previous incumbents in that role.

Achievements and Performance

- The Warm Space project initiated in December 2023 to offer a warm space for fellowship over refreshments was continued until the start of Spring. This was provided on a Wednesday and every second Friday.
- A Burns Supper was again held in January.
- The stage curtains received a much needed clean and repair in February generously funded by Hamish Stears.
- A bicycle stand was installed late in the year.
- In April we commenced Soup 'n' Chat with a lunch being offered to the community every second Friday – on the Fridays that our CAMEO club does not meet.
- In May the Sanctuary was opened on the Coronation Day for the community to watch the coronation of King Charles III with a lunch provided.
- The second defibrillator installed on the wall of the large hall and funded by the Presbytery become operational.
- We continued to live stream the Sunday morning Services.
- In May the annual Service of Remembrance was held for the Monte Cassino Society.
- In June we took part in a Pentecost Service at Cramond foreshore.
- We again supported the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal and were pleased to send 136 (127 last year) boxes from the Congregation.
- It was decided that no further work should be carried out under Building for the Future given the Presbytery planning exercise. The residual monies have been placed in a Restricted Fund in the Congregational Accounts for future fabric project work in the Church buildings.
- Considerable work was done by Lindsay Duguid in updating our Health and Safety policies.
- Throughout the year mission work continued in terms of Services at local care homes and work with schools.
- Work has started to provide Wi Fi across all the church halls.
- A number of Saturday musical evenings were held in the Sanctuary throughout the year.
- On Friday 22 December we held our first ever Nativity Trail called "Follow the Star". This was a real team effort with 60 members involved in all aspects. Over 300 members of the local community visited the project and £245 was donated for Ferryhill Primary School.
- Throughout the year occasional joint Services were held along with Drylaw.
- During the year from Retiring Offerings, we supported the following charities.

February Communion	The Yard
Easter Services	Rainbow Day Care
June Communion	Mary's Meals
October Communion	Mission Aviation Fellowship
Christmas Services	Scottish Bible Society and Fresh Start
Special	Morocco & Libya Appeal

The WATCH Committee continued the proud record of supporting deserving causes out with our own walls by during the second half of the year raising £10,000 from various activities for Hopscotch.

We continue to publish and distribute two fine magazines, namely Kirk News and Blackhall Bulletin which allow us to reach out and communicate across the Parish and to our members. Judith Mair and Barbara Wilson, respective Editors, both do an excellent job in producing these publications.

We have continued to work towards a Union with Drylaw Parish Church with a draft Basis of Union document prepared for consideration in the new year (2024) by the Steering Group consisting of six members from each Kirk Session. The union would be the coming together of the congregations to create a new entity. It is not the case of one taking over the other - it would be a marriage of equals. The combined parish will take in a sizeable area giving great scope for mission. We all have to be mindful that the Minister alone cannot take on this responsibility – this will require a committed team effort.

Finally, on behalf of the Kirk Session, I should like to thank Fergus, our Minister, for his ministry and leadership over the past year. As we move through this year Fergus' workload and responsibilities will considerably increase and we should all be ready to be of assistance and support.

With the forthcoming Union 2024 will be a year of major change for us all. The good Lord will be with us and let us all face the future with positivity and confidence.

Eddie Thorn
Session Clerk

2024 Congregational Treasurer's Report

FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2023

This is the Treasurer's report into the financial position of the Church. For the third year running, we finished the year with a surplus having budgeted in each of those years for a sizeable deficit. This may look like poor budgeting especially as we are once again budgeting for a sizeable deficit in 2024, so it is worth commenting on. In 2021, we benefitted from the response to the National Giving Day appeal. That combined with a number of legacies put us into an unexpected surplus of £50,210. In 2022, we again budgeted for a deficit but a much lower level of fabric spending than budgeted for meant that we operated at a small surplus. Once again that was increased by legacies, and we ended 2022 with a surplus of £8,720.

In 2023, the year now being reported on, we budgeted for a deficit of £10,356 but ended the year with an operating (excluding legacies) surplus of £2,526. When legacies are added in, the surplus is increased to £70,076.

These surpluses, and especially the legacy element, have enabled the church to rebuild its reserves after the expenditure on Building for the Future. At the start of 2018, the church had total funds of £188,000. By the end of 2020, that was down to £106,622. By God's Grace, our total funds at the end of 2023 are £235,628.

Overview

Our Freewill Offerings in 2023, made through envelopes, cheques and standing orders, were 5% lower than in 2022. When all offerings including the Plate and the gift aid recovery are included, our total income from offerings fell by £2,792, a drop of 1.5%. However, this was £4,341 more than our budget and is explained partly by our Open Plate offerings shown in the accounts under "Ordinary Offerings" being higher than expected and partly by two donations we received which are included in "Other Offerings".

The fall in Freewill Offerings is an ongoing trend that is troubling the Finance Team. It means that each year we fund less of our expenditure from regular offerings and more of it from unpredictable one off or other forms of income.

Our Other Ordinary Income was both higher than last year and £10,000 ahead of budget. The main areas where we beat expectations were in Deposit Interest & Dividends, Fund Raising and Weddings & Funerals. Excellent examples of unpredictable income. Interest rates rose further and faster than expected, the money raised from the Burns Supper and Music@StCs could not be quantified in advance and unfortunately Fergus has to regularly carry out funerals, although the way he does so is clearly appreciated by families as we receive a steady stream of donations from them.

Yet again legacies played an important part in the Church's finances. The James & Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust donated £10,000 and six other legacies took the total to £67,550.

Expenditure in 2023 was higher than in 2022 and £1,489 over budget.

The net effect is that we ended the year with an operating surplus of £2,527 and when legacies are added in, a surplus of £70,076.

The continuing trend we might draw from the accounts is that our income from Freewill Offerings is slowly declining whilst our expenditure across a range of headings, such as salaries, is rising due to the effects of inflation. However, we have been helped enormously by less predictable income, especially legacies.

Income

Income from Congregational Giving (including Gift Aid Tax Recovery) was £178,241, a decrease of £2,792 (-1.5%) against 2022.

Other Ordinary Income, which includes use of premises by outside Organisations, Congregational Organisations, Weddings, Funerals, Interest and Dividends amounted to £41,380 a rise of £13,281 (+47%) on the previous year.

Our Total General Income for 2023 which includes legacies was £287,171. This is £71,544 more than in 2022. Almost all of the increase is from legacies.

Expenditure

Our overall General Expenditure in 2023 was £217,095 which is £10,178 more than in 2022 (+4.9%). This is £1,489 over budget although if the fund-raising expenses are taken out and netted off against fund raising income, the expenditure would have been £500 below budget.

Within the totals there are considerable variances. Staffing costs were above budget, fabric expenditure was well below budget, whilst most of the other local costs were above budget. In particular, expenditure on Congregational Organisations and Activities was £2,800 over budget but that was because of new initiatives like Soup-N-Chat and the very successful Nativity Trail.

Surplus

Thanks be to God that we finished the year in a strong position with a surplus of £70,076. The budget had predicted a deficit of £10,356. However, the mix of reasons explained above, especially the very welcome receipt of legacies, meant that we finished the year as we did.

General & Restricted Funds

Our total funds including General and Restricted Funds at 31st December 2023 amount to £235,629. That is an increase of £70,076. During the year, we added the 2022 surplus of £8,000 to the Fabric Reserve. One of the donations we received was for Fabric and that was added to the reserve and one of the legacies was added to the reserve. The result is that we have built our Fabric Reserve up from £30,000 at the start of the year to £56,000. The Finance Team think that we have quite a bit further to go with that reserve as major fabric projects of the past have called for 6 figure sums and have required special appeals.

Budget 2024

As mentioned last year, the Ministries & Mission contribution was replaced by a new arrangement called, "Giving to Grow". For 2024, our contribution will be £106,776. The Fabric Team Leader has advised that a realistic estimate for Fabric expenditure would be £7,200 on the Church, £11,700 on the Halls and £4,020 on the Manse.

The inflation that we are all experiencing is also experienced by the church so I have assumed our freewill offerings will increase slightly. As there is a gradual reduction in the number of people making freewill offerings, this really means that we are asking our members to raise their giving to make that possible.

In preparing a budget, we cannot assume we will receive legacies and I would ask you sincerely to respond to my letter on reviewing giving and make that a reality.

I have tried where possible to calculate what our actual income and expenditure would be but for those categories of income and expenditure where that is not easily done, I have budgeted close to the actual experience of 2023 with inflation adjustments where I thought appropriate.

The outcome is another deficit. This year the expected deficit is a lot higher than in the past at £28,963. The Finance Team are very uncomfortable to be presenting a Budget with such a high deficit and I would like to assure the congregation that over the coming months, the Finance Team will be going through our budget line by line in the light of experience. We cannot keep presenting deficit budgets and if in any year we did not have unexpected income and legacies and experienced a large deficit, we would be obliged to take quite drastic action to bring our expenditure in line with our income.

As it is, in the short term, should such a deficit arise, we are able to fund it from reserves.

Building For The Future

You will also receive a copy of the B4tF appeal accounts. They are very simple and should require little explanation. The last of the pledged donations has been received and the Kirk Session has decided that the remaining balance of £81,812.37 is to be transferred to the main

church account and held in a Restricted Reserve for Fabric work deemed by the Kirk Session to be in line with the original purpose of the Building For The Future Appeal.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Kirk Session, I would like to thank members for their continued support through your giving. The Kirk Session greatly appreciates the many people who give by standing order and who use gift aid which forms such an important part of our income. I would ask all members not yet using standing orders and / or gift aid to consider doing so if they can.

Our accounts will be presented under the rules of the charity regulations. The accounts are examined by an independent examiner who will examine the accounts in accordance with the regulations set by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator, (OSCR). A meeting of the Kirk Session will approve the annual accounts.

Adrian Johnston
Treasurer

2024 Gift Aid Convenor's Report

Gift Aid was claimed on annual donations for the year ended 5th April 2023 producing a return of an essential £33,345.41 made up from: -

General Giving of £120,894 after prior year adjustment produced Gift Aid of
£29,827.50

B4tF Giving of £5810. Produced Gift Aid of £ 1,452.50

Small Donations Scheme £8000 gave Gift Aid of £ 2,000

HMRC interest £ 65.41

TOTAL £33,345.41

No figures for prior years are shown for comparison but in line with church membership they have been reducing. Our aim continues to have as many of our donors as possible sign a simple church form which adds 25% to their donations. If in doubt, please consult me.

It is appreciated not everybody can Gift Aid donations and all gifts are very gratefully received. To Gift Aid you must pay income or capital gains taxes and sign a Declaration specifically in favour of Blackhall St Columba's Church of Scotland. To satisfy the scheme's audit requirements the giving must be by any one or more of the following three ways: -

Banker's Standing Orders (our preferred option)

Cheques/cash (not open plate) banked by the Finance team.

Directly by online banking (see church website under Stewardship) including your name for reference.

Only individuals can gift aid, but this is regularly done by one of a couple for their joint giving. However, a surviving spouse or partner, who did not sign one previously, needs to sign a fresh Gift Aid Declaration if donations and the tax recovery on them can and are to continue.

What cannot be Gift Aided but can carry other tax advantages to the donor's estate and provide equally essential income to the Church is a future Gift in your Will. I will be pleased

to give general, confidential, unbiased information in this respect if you would like it. Otherwise please arrange now to make a gift in future when you cannot make it yourself by arranging to continue your support of the Church through your Will with a gift for General use or purposes you specifically wish.

All matters concerning individual giving including legacies are always considered personal, private, confidential, and strictly honoured as such.

Sandy Weir
Gift Aid Convenor

2024 Fabric Convener's Report

During 2023 the required annual servicing of the Fabric and Appliances for the Manse, Church and Halls was carried out.

This included Boiler Services and Gas Safety Checks, Security Alarm System, Portable Appliance Testing, Kitchen Equipment, Fire Extinguishers, and our Extensive Fire Alarm System.

Throughout the year, as required, there were repairs undertaken on Roof Areas, Electrical Items, Plumbing and Fire Alarm Equipment.

Other works carried out in 2023 were –

Installation of a Defibrillator Unit.

Installation of Bike Stands.

Installation of a Monte Casino Society Memorial Bench.

Mike Whiteside
Fabric Convener

2024 Premises & Staff Convenor's Report

Church Office

Our Church Secretary Joy McGonigal-Paget continues to cope extremely well with her blended/flexible working contract, both WfH and Church Office shifts. Thank you on behalf of the Church for all your hard work.

Church Organist /Director of Music

Donald Cameron has kept us going during the past year providing much needed music and we thank him, Elizabeth Smith, and the Choir for their contribution to this ministry.

Church Halls/Sanctuary

The Halls and Sanctuary have been maintained by Dorothea and Kevin. We thank them for their hard work and for standing in for each other during holiday and illness periods.

Kevin Russell's contract has changed from 20 March and increased to 20 hours per week which will be worked according to the requirements of the Church Halls and the Sanctuary.

We no longer require employing a cleaner. Thank you to both on behalf of the Church.

Health & Safety

Sincere thanks are recorded to Ruth Laidlaw who is our Halls Team Leader, Lindsay Duguid our Health and Safety Co-ordinator, and Betty Watt who manages our defibrillator, first aid boxes and wheelchairs. And thank you to Mike Whiteside our Fabric Team Leader and Fire Representative.

Beadling Duty Rota and Sound.

Thanks are recorded to Adrian Johnston, Jonny Coy and both the teams.

Finally, a thank you to all the gentlemen and ladies who assist with the jobs required to be done in and around the Church and to the Gardening Team of volunteers.

Frances M Douglas

Premises and Staff Team Leader