



BLACKHALL  
ST. COLUMBA'S  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



*To glorify God... to proclaim Christ... to serve others.*

**STATED ANNUAL MEETING  
SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021  
1130am - via Zoom**



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 the congregational Treasurer, 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 this time. I would also like to say a sincere thank you if you increased your offering following my letter last year.

Our accounts for 2020 show a deficit of £7,072 but it could have been much worse. It is that amount only because we received a legacy and because the Elders responded generously to an appeal to make a gift to the church to help cope with the effects of COVID on our finances.

Our Budget for 2021 is included in the SAM papers. The Finance Working Team had to be tight in the budget made available for such things as fabric expenditure. Much of our expenditure is pre-determined and essential, such as staff salaries and heating & lighting. These known costs rise year by year through inflation. Despite that care, the budget predicts another deficit of £8,299. This can only come out of our reserves which are not inexhaustible.

The only way that we can balance our budget and ensure the financial future of our church is if our faithful members review the amount they give to our Church and if it is possible, increase their giving, to meet our increasing costs.

The majority of our members now give by standing orders and an increasing number have completed a Gift Aid declaration. Both actions are hugely beneficial in that standing orders give the Church a regular monthly income which helps with the cash flow and Gift Aid increases the value of your offering by a quarter if you are a taxpayer. Gift Aid cannot be used by non-taxpayers.

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

**BLACKHALL ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND EDINBURGH STATED ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2021**

This year's Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the 1030am morning service at 1130am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March - via Zoom. In this connection the following papers are attached.

1. SAM Agenda
2. Reports on the Agenda.
3. The 3 financial statements are separate documents: Accounts for Year End 31 Dec 2020, The Budget 2021, and BfTF Appeal. Both the SAM report and the 3 financial statements can all be found on our website under the Stated Annual Meeting folder within the main menu.

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**AGENDA**

1. Apologies
2. There are no minutes pertaining to the SAM 2020 due to cancellation.
3. Moderator's Report
4. Session Clerk's Report
5. Congregational Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts
6. Freewill Offering Convener's Report
7. Gift Aid Convener's Report
8. 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, Edinburgh Stated Annual Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

### **STATED ANNUAL MEETING REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR – REV FERGUS COOK**

As the majority of the ongoing work of the Congregation is covered in the various reports attached, this report will provide an overview and mention some of the 'highlights' of the year.

As the Congregation will be aware, I was ordained and inducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, the day before lockdown. Whilst, owing to the severe restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, the occasion was a necessarily small affair, it was nevertheless a meaningful Service. A great many people, from both sides of the country, were disappointed not to be able to celebrate the occasion as we intended but we were able to capture sections of the Service on film which are available on our website.

This unusual start to ministry here at Blackhall has led to our engagement with technologies that had previously not been tried. We have created a Church Facebook Account as well as a YouTube Channel and Services have been brought into people's homes via the internet. For those who do not have access to IT, a written 'Service' is produced and delivered weekly by Elders.

On that note, one of the positives of the pandemic and there have been some has been the sterling work of the District Elders in maintaining contact, and in some cases re-establishing contact, with the membership of the Church. Other interaction with technologies, notably 'Zoom', has led to different approaches to how we carry out our functions. After-church Fellowship on Zoom has allowed people to speak with and get to know others to whom they had not previously spoken. Other activities on Zoom include two Bible study groups, a book club and some new social activities. In addition, the regular business of the Church has been maintained with Kirk Sessions, Presbytery Planning Meetings and many other team meetings continuing on-line.

This openness to engage with technology pre-dated the pandemic though. As a result of the foresight of the Congregation in their Sanctuary refurbishment plans, we are now in a position to 'live-stream' Services direct to the world wide web at a time when many churches are just seeking to investigate such possibilities. This same technology has allowed people to see the finished result of the Sanctuary refurbishment though its magnificence can only fully be appreciated from within. The pandemic has made introducing myself as the 'new minister' hard not only for the Congregation but also for our wider community. Nevertheless, the use of technology has initiated a number of promising relationships with nurseries and the local Primary School. Although restricted at present, throughout the year there have also been fruitful meetings with many of our hall users such as the Scouts, the Edinburgh Dance Academy and the Playgroup. We have also managed to introduce some new initiatives with a 'Blue Christmas' bereavement Service in December and some Advent Conversations held jointly with a number of our neighbouring churches.

We continue in 2021 with a degree of uncertainty as to what the 'new normal' will look like for us as a Church. However, with the ongoing vaccination programme, we can see real light at the end of the tunnel. Our goal must be to examine what we have learned over this last year. We must keep hold of the positives, our connectivity, our sense of community and our faith whilst at the same time seek to return to those aspects of our lives that were positive in the pre-covid world. I am certain that whatever the following year holds we can approach it with confidence that as long as we continue to adhere to our mission statement 'to glorify God...proclaim Christ...to serve others' we shall thrive.

**Fergus Cook**

## **2021 SESSION CLERK'S REPORT**

### **Membership**

The annual statistical return as of 31 December 2020 to The Presbytery of Edinburgh shows a fall in the Communion Roll – from 626 to 612. During 2020 we welcomed 3 new members, compared to 2 the year before. Sadly 14 members died during the year and 3 members left us as a consequence of moving to another part of the country.

In normal course a census is carried out two or three times each year to ascertain Sunday morning attendance. However, it would be a gross understatement to say that 2020 was an exceptional year what with the early part of the year seeing us worship in the Large Hall and after the 23 March Lockdown due to the Covid-19 Pandemic only having a few Services back in the Sanctuary. Prior to the move out of the Sanctuary the average Sunday morning attendance was running at circa 205. If we can maintain that level of regular attendance we will remain amongst the best attended churches in Edinburgh although with a higher proportion of our regular attendees over the age of 65 than the national average that presents us all with a challenge.

### **Kirk Session**

During 2020 there were no Elders ordained or inducted. Mike Galloway retired from active Eldership during the year after a long period of faithful and diligent service to the Congregation.

Violet Troup, a long standing Elder and someone who had carried out many roles, all with great dedication and commitment, sadly passed away in October. Violet had retired earlier in the year from the role of Flower Convener, after twenty-seven years of faithful service.

Our Congregation is no different to others in depending upon an army of loyal volunteers who continue to play a vitally important role in the smooth running of Church life and the many activities carried on for the members and the Parish community. While there are too many individuals to name in person, I should wish to record grateful and sincere thanks to those who directly support me in my role: -Sheila Mackintosh (Roll Keeper), Jacquie Lowe (Safeguarding Officer), Jim Laing (Communion Convener), Jim Logan and Frank Morrice (Minute Secretaries for Session meetings), Joy McGonigal-Paget for her assistance and the efficient maintenance of minutes. I am particularly grateful to Jim Logan, who readily stands in for me when I am on holiday.

On Sunday 16 February Mr Fergus Cook preached as nominee for the vacant charge. After the Service, the Congregation voted 228 to accept Mr Cook as our Minister with no votes against. Mr Cook was subsequently ordained and inducted as our Minister on the evening of Sunday 22 March at a special Service at Cramond Kirk. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 restrictions there were only seven people, including Mr and Mrs Cook, in attendance.

As the Nominating Committee had only been appointed by the Congregation in August 2019 it was a creditable performance to identify and appoint a new minister within a period of six months. Brian Duffin and Ruth Laidlaw were the Convener and Clerk respectively and both discharged their responsibilities with great diligence and dedication.

The Presbytery of Edinburgh had appointed The Very Rev Dr Russell Barr, Minister of Cramond Kirk, to be our Interim Moderator throughout the period of the vacancy. We were truly fortunate in having a minister of Dr Barr's experience to lead us through the period of vacancy and his wise and ready counsel was greatly appreciated.

Following the departure of Rev Benjamin Abeledo, the Kirk Session appointed Rev Gordon Farquharson as Locum Minister. We were indeed fortunate to have Gordon in situ and during the period of the vacancy he was a very popular preacher and greatly assisted in keeping the Congregation together.

### **Achievements and Performance**

At the start of the year little did we know what lay ahead with the Coronavirus Pandemic and the impact on Sunday worship, all that happens in our halls and the life of the Congregation.

Immediately after 23 March we recognised the need for resilience planning and a Resilience Group was set up to make sure that our members were being offered help as required. Elders provided the vital link between the members in their Districts

and the Church by regular communication and relaying details of the Sunday Services delivered through the medium of You Tube.

This Watch Committee started supporting local charities in 1992 and has subsequently raised the superb sum of over £280,000. As all fund-raising events involve large gatherings it was not possible with Covid-19 restrictions to function during the year.

The proceeds from retiring collections at Christmas and February Communion, albeit these were severely restricted, were passed to a number of charities thereby continuing our proud record of charitable giving and the fact that we can look out beyond our own walls.

The refurbishment of the Sanctuary, which commenced in August 2019 with John Dennis & Company (Scotland) Limited as contractor, was completed in September. Completion was delayed due the Lockdown, but it was pleasing that notwithstanding over 200 variations to the contract the works were all satisfactorily completed within the budget of £1.1m. The management of the variations, while time consuming, evidenced the close control we exercised over the project. The project was funded entirely from Congregational resources and donations graciously made by members of the Congregation.

There was a Steering Group responsible for the project (Building for the Future) with thirteen members. We owe them all a debt of gratitude for their unstinting commitment to the project with special thanks to Fay Stirling who acted as Project Manager throughout the period of the work. This was no mean task involving a great deal of time commitment and Fay can look back on a job well done. We were fortunate to have Jim Bishop on hand to provide his experience as a quantity surveyor.

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. Christine Denham and Barbara Wilson, respective Editors, both do an excellent job in producing these publications. Delivery of these magazines as before was not permitted under Scottish Government regulations and after March publication continued but online.

An Alpha Course was run by our Director of Music, Donald Cameron, from January through to March and held in Costa Coffee, Craighleith Retail Park and on one occasion in Northcare Suite, on Telford Road. This mission initiative was considered as a success and attracted 25/30 attendees at each weekly session.

During the year two of our Elders along with the Minister have taken part in discussions relative to the new Presbytery Plan. Our Congregation is part of a 'Cluster' along with the congregations of Cramond, Davidson's Mains, Drylaw, Old Kirk Muirhouse and Granton. As decreed at General Assembly all Presbyteries, as part of the Radical Action Plan, are required to produce robust and realistic future Presbytery Plans that take into account the reduction of ministry numbers being anticipated, while at the same time seeking to encourage growth in the Church by supporting and training viable and sustainable local congregations. The Presbytery of Edinburgh has adopted a 'bottom up' approach to this exercise by giving congregations the opportunity of working in local groups (a cluster) to bring forward their plans in this regard.

In November the Kirk Session agreed to the recruitment of a part time Youth Worker. The person has been identified and will start work once the Church opens up fully again. This is seen as a positive step not only to assist the Minister but as a mission opportunity by giving dedicated attention to the youth across our local communities.

Covid-19 has played havoc with our lives and 2020 saw us starting the year worshipping in the Large Hall. From the end of March, we were closed up completely until Sunday 29 November when we were permitted to have a total of 50 in the Sanctuary for worship. Then on 27 December we were restricted to 20 persons in attendance only to be instructed to close again early in January. All these changes brought huge logistical challenges, and these were professionally managed by Ian Templeton, our Hall Convener. We were fortunate to be able to draw on the skills and talents of Iain King and Jonathan Coy to set up the required sound systems in the Large Hall and then in the Sanctuary.

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Last year was difficult for us all with the real challenges brought about by Covid-19 and the disruption to daily routine coupled with the impact on our general wellbeing. While our Church building was closed for the great part of the year, we were still able to worship due to the sterling efforts of our Minister using the attributes of You Tube and Zoom.

As mentioned earlier in this report, Rev Fergus Cook, was ordained and inducted on 22 March, the day before the start of the UK Lockdown. This meant that Fergus was deprived of the normal celebration to mark such a joyous occasion with his new Congregation.

The Lockdown restrictions also deprived the Congregation of the opportunity to celebrate the work carried out in our Sanctuary by way of a formal Service of Rededication to acknowledge and give thanks for all that achieved.

In late March we welcomed Fergus and Shona into our midst as members of our church family and it was unfortunate that the normal welcome could not be extended. Despite all the restrictions Fergus has set about getting to know his flock and preaching the Good News of Jesus in the best way possible in the prevailing times of great challenges.

With the vaccine programme well underway it must be reasonable to conclude that we should see some return to normality, in whatever form that may be, and then we can be back in our beautiful, refurbished Sanctuary. It will be important that we build on the momentum that brings to reach out and bring new people into the fold. The average age of our membership is higher than the national average and it is vitally important that we bring new members, especially young families, into our faith community to secure the future.

Finally, I believe that there is a lot to do this year in terms of both resuming normal worship and looking after the wellbeing of our more vulnerable members. However, with the leadership of Fergus coupled with the support of the Kirk Session and Congregation, all blessed by the Holy Spirit, I am confident that we will achieve the right outcome.

**Eddie Thorn**  
**Session Clerk**

## **FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2020.**

This is the Finance Working Team Leader's report into the financial position of the Church. When I presented the budget for 2020, in this report last year, I had to budget for expected spending being £25,742 more than we expected to take in as income. As I said then, a sobering figure. We had hardly started the year when the Pandemic hit, services had to be suspended and the users of the halls had to cease activities. This, of course, was countered on the happy side by the arrival of Fergus as our new minister.

### **COVID Appeal**

As the year progressed it was clear that whilst our expenditure would be lower, our income would be even lower. The Kirk Session decided that an appeal should be launched to ask the members of our church, who were able to, to make a gift to the church over and above their normal offerings. As we were not yet worshipping together in our refurbished sanctuary, it was decided that the appeal would be done in two stages. The first stage was an appeal to the Elders of the Kirk Session and that took place in May. That raised the superb sum of £27,495 that you will see in the accounts under "COVID Appeal". This year we will benefit from a Gift Aid Tax reclaim on those gifts of around £5,700.

The intention of the Kirk Session was that the second phase of that appeal, which will be to the Congregation, would take place once all COVID restrictions are removed and we are once again able to worship in our church as a whole congregation. This will be discussed again by the Kirk Session before any appeal is made and no final decision has been made.

### **Overview**

Our Offerings in 2020 were lower than in 2019 and well below the budgeted figure and this both continues and accelerates the trend of the last 4 years. Freewill Offerings made through envelopes, cheques and standing orders were £2,137 down in 2019. That is a fall of 1.58%. However, due to the awareness and generosity of so many of you, who increased your giving last year, that reduction was a lot less than it might have been.

When other offerings including the Plate and the gift aid recovery are included, our total income from offerings fell £17,257, a fall of over 9%! That excludes the COVID Appeal gifts so we can see how essential they have been.

When we look at Other Ordinary Income, it is difficult to compare 2020 with the previous year as so much changed as a result of the Pandemic lockdown. The big differences between the years, were:

- The use of premises by external bodies, mainly hall rentals dropped from £29,532.84 in 2019 to £12,379 in 2020. This was not as bad as it might have been as a few of the hall users, donated their rent even though they could not use the halls and had to suspend their activities. This is greatly appreciated.
- Our Church Officer, Dorothea and Director of Music, Donald were furloughed for a considerable part of 2020 and we received payments under the COVID Job Retention Scheme to cover the main part of their salaries which we met in full. Those payments are included in the accounts under "Grants".

Once again, the Church received a very welcome donation of £10,000 from the James & Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust and this is included under legacies. This has made the deficit considerably smaller than it would otherwise have been.

The accounts show that we ended the year with a deficit of £7,072. It is difficult to take meaningful conclusions from that as there were so many unusual circumstances. These include the loss of offerings due to the pandemic, the loss of hall income for the same reason, fabric expenditure on the manse that was needed to bring it up to standard, but which will not be repeated on a regular basis and a much lower than normal fabric expenditure on the church and halls.

### **Income**

Income from Congregational Giving (including Gift Aid Tax Recovery) was £169,769, a fall of £17,257 (-9%) against 2019. When the COVID appeal is added on, the income in 2020 was £197,264, a rise of £10,238 over 2019.

Other Ordinary Income, which includes use of premises by outside Organisations, Congregational Organisations, Weddings, Funerals, Interest and Dividends amounted to £31,816 a fall of £11,417 (-26%) on the previous year.

Our Total General Income for 2020 which includes the COVID appeal and legacies was £239,080, a fall of £2,028 on 2019.

### **Expenditure**

Our overall General Expenditure in 2020 was £246,152, a rise of £6,091 (+2.5%).

Within that our Ministry & Mission Charge was £109,770 and our Presbytery Dues were £3,670.

### **Deficit**

Although we finished the year with a deficit of £7,072, we can praise God that it was not considerably more. The budget had predicted a deficit of £25,742 and despite the upheaval of the pandemic and the ongoing building work on the church, the legacy, and the excellent response by the Eldership to the COVID Appeal meant that the final deficit was manageable from our reserves.

### **General & Restricted Funds**

Our total funds including General and Restricted Funds on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 amount to £106,621. That is a fall of £7,072.

### **Budget 2021**

Our Ministries & Mission contribution is £100,511 for this year. The Church of Scotland have made a one-year reduction in the amount they ask congregations to pay. Edinburgh Presbytery have also made a one-year reduction in their dues. The Fabric Team Leader has informed me a realistic estimate for Fabric expenditure would be £4,000 on the Church, £9,500 on the Halls and £8,000 on the Manse.

I have assumed our freewill offerings return to 2019 levels and that there is some recovery in Ordinary Offerings with the likelihood of returning to normal church services in the second half of the year. As always, this will require members to increase their giving to offset members who leave or die. We cannot assume we will receive a legacy each year and I would ask you sincerely to respond to my letter on reviewing giving and make that a reality. It would be good if we could generate a small surplus without relying on legacies.

I have kept most items of income and expenditure close to the actual experience of 2020 with inflation adjustments where I thought appropriate.

The outcome is another deficit. I have had to budget for spending being £8,299 more than we will take in. Unless we receive legacies to bridge that gap, this can only come out of our reserves. If this situation continues or gets worse, we will eventually use up our reserves.

### **B4tF Accounts**

You will also receive a copy of the B4tF appeal accounts. They are very simple and should require no explanation, so I present them without comment. However, I would be happy to answer any questions at the SAM.



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 audit 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**  
**Congregational Treasurer**

### **2021 Freewill Offering Convener's Report**

At the time of the last Stated Annual Meeting there were 39 users of Freewill Offering envelopes in the Congregation. As a result of Covid 19 and the consequent temporary closure of the Church for Sunday worship, donations using envelopes have all but ceased. Those that used to drop their envelopes in the collection plate on Sundays, have mostly found other ways to donate to the Church. Some send in cheques to the Treasurer whilst others have raised Standing Orders for a regular amount. The latter method allows the Treasurer to forecast income, and budget appropriately and more accurately.

This change in the method of payment is highlighted in the reduction of users requesting envelopes for the next 12 months, from 39 to 10.

This is welcome, as it results in a lower annual printing cost for the Church, and it is hoped that this figure will reduce even further in the future.

**Roderick Dee**  
**Freewill Offering Convener**

### **2021 Gift Aid Convener's Report**

For the year to 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020, we claimed on Gift Aided Congregational General giving of £118,208 (previous year- py £124,075) resulting in tax recovery of £29,581 (py £33,046). In addition is the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme claim for undocumented small cash donations of £8,000 producing a further £2,000 (py £2,000). That is £31,581 towards our day-to-day congregational expenses.

The claim also included Building for the Future (BfTF) donations of £90,065 producing £22,516 for this specific purpose (py £213,880 and £53,470).

Our aim continues to have as many of our donors as possible use the Gift Aid scheme which adds 25% to their donations. Our last claim was in respect of 234 donors (previous year 251) but included 7 donations for BfTF only.

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 audit requirements the giving must be by any one or more of the following three ways: -

1. Banker's Standing Orders (our preferred option)
2. Cheques/cash banked by the Finance team or directly by online banking including your name for reference.
3. Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes

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 are to continue.

If you have any questions at all about Gift Aid specifically or the tax regime generally please do not hesitate to contact me directly or through the Church Office.

What cannot be Gift Aided but can carry other tax advantages to the donor's estate and provide increasingly 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, literally and figuratively, continuing 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 Convener**

## **2021 Fabric Convener's Report**

### **Church and Halls**

Fabric expenditure on works related to the Church and Halls in 2020 was less than normal, due to the Building for the Future project which was completed and handed over in August and as a result of limited use of the Halls during the coronavirus restrictions.

Annual maintenance and repairs were carried out as normal, including routine roof inspection, cleaning out gutters and minor slating repairs, annual inspection, testing and servicing of fire alarms, fire extinguisher, kitchen, and other electrical equipment, etc.

Following on from an electrical inspection carried out in the autumn of 2019 which established several issues with the hall electrics, upgrading works which commenced during the latter part of 2019 continued during 2020.

A small amount of other fabric related works was undertaken in connection with moving the Office back to the Church.

### **Manse**

Following an inspection of the manse and preparation of a detailed condition schedule which was undertaken in 2019 as part of the vacancy process, various works were required to be carried out. The works included some minor repairs, partial redecoration, renewal of mains electric supply and lighting in garage, upgrading gas supply to boiler, renewal of kitchen fittings and appliances together with associated plumbing, heating, electrics, floor finish, tiling and redecoration.

Other works carried out during 2020 included renewal of the bathroom extract fan, upgrading of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms to comply with new standards, replacement of burglar alarm installation and renewal of heating programmer.

The annual service of the boiler and gas fire was carried out and the roof was inspected, gutters were cleared, and minor slating repairs undertaken.

Upgrading of the ground floor cloakroom to form a shower room, which was programmed for earlier this year, has been delayed because of the Scottish Government tightening of the rules around work carried out in private properties, with only work for "maintenance, upkeep and functioning" being allowed.

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After 5 busy but enjoyable years as Fabric Team leader and in my Building for the Future role, I have now passed on the Fabric baton to the capable hands of Mike Whiteside. I will however continue to liaise with the project design team and the contractor until the end of the one-year defects liability period in August.

**Jim Bishop**  
**Fabric Team Leader**

## **2021 Premises & Staff Convener's Report**

### **Church**

All work in the Church is now completed.

### **Church Office**

Julie Nicol our Secretary left the Church in February 2020 after overseeing the employment of Joy McGonigal-Paget and making sure we had a satisfactory hand over for which we thank her most sincerely and wish her well in the future. Joy has coped extremely well firstly with our temporary office, moving back to the Church, working from home and being on hand for all problems that were thrown at her. Thank you very much on behalf of the Church.

My thanks go to Ruth Laidlaw for acting as holiday relief and we have a small group of Ladies who are prepared to stand in if necessary.

### **Church Organist, Director of Music**

Donald Cameron has kept us going during the past year providing much needed music when he has been allowed.

### **Church Halls**

The Halls have been well looked after by Dorothea who since December has moved onto Job Share with Kevin Russell, he will work in the afternoons and Dorothea will cover the mornings. Dorothea has been furloughed on and off during the past year, my thanks to both for all the extra cleaning required when they were allowed in the buildings. Fran Phillips our cleaner retired after seven years and we wish her well for the future.

### **Health & Safety**

Sincere thanks are recorded to Ruth Laidlaw who is our Health and Safety Co-ordinator and Betty Watt who looks after our defibrillator, first aid boxes and wheelchair, also to Mike Whiteside as Fire Representative and Halls Convener.

### **Beadling Duty Rota and Sound.**

Thanks are recorded to Ian Templeton, Adrian Johnston, Jonny Coy and both the teams.  
Thank you to all the organisations that use the Church Halls for their patience and understanding.

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

**Frances M Douglas**  
**Premises and Staff Team Leader**