

STATED ANNUAL MEETING Sunday 27 March 2022 1130am The 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 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 2021 show a substantial 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 a gift appeal, neither of which we can expect to be repeated. 2021 was a so a year in which our expenditure was a lot lower than normal, and we are expecting it to return close to previous year's levels, particularly the spending on Fabric of the Church, Halls and Manse.

Our Budget for 2022 is included in the SAM papers. The Finance Working Team have tried to be as realistic as possible in the budget. 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 taking considerable care, the budget predicts a deficit of £14,671. This will come out of our reserves, but they are not inexhaustible.

The budget assumes that members will increase their offerings by 5% and allows for the reduction in offerings that we know of from members who have left the congregation and unfortunately for those who have died. So once again, to meet our budget and ensure the financial future of our church we ask our faithful members review the amount they give to our Church and if it is possible, increase their giving, to meet our increasing costs.

This year, inflation is higher than it has been for many years and the church's costs rise as a result. To counter that, members are asked to increase offerings by a suggested 5% if they can. To give examples in cash terms, £30pm would rise to £31.50, £50pm to £52.50 and £100pm to £105.

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 27th MARCH 2022

This year's Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place after the 1030am morning service on Sunday 27th March 2022 at 1130am. 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 2021, The Budget 2022, 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.

<u>AGENDA</u>

- 1. Apologies
- 2. There are no minute's pertaining to the SAM 2021 due to cancellation.
- 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

2022 REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR – REV FERGUS COOK

As was the case last year, much of the ongoing work of the Congregation is outlined in the various reports that have been prepared by the Office Bearers of the Church. Therefore, it is my intention that my report will provide an overview of some of the things we have achieved this year.

As the year has been dominated largely by the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, it would be easy to feel that we have been in 'limbo' and that not much has happened this year in the life of the Church. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We have continued to be adaptable in our offering of worship. Due to our ongoing process of 'livestreaming' our Services, we have regular viewers from near and far including some of our members living in care homes. However, we also have people from all over Scotland and abroad, in countries such as South Africa, tuning in on a weekly basis and even becoming members of our Congregation. Remaining with the subject of livestreaming, our Audio -Visual Team has gained experience with our system's capabilities and, with the addition of two new cameras, we are able to offer an enhanced viewing experience.

Work is presently going on to convert part of the office into an accessible toilet which is, in my opinion, a much-needed addition to our facilities allowing people ready access from the Sanctuary without either having to manage a flight of concrete stairs or exit the building to access our existing accessible toilet. This facility will make our claim to be welcoming of all a greater reality as we continue to look for ways in which we can attract members of the Blackhall Community into our Church. One of the ways in which we are doing this already is by hosting a variety of secular events within the Sanctuary which have been enabled by the flexibility that has been created by the removal of the pews. We have had a number of musical evenings offering a variety of styles of music and showcasing the talents of different musicians as well as our first Dessert Island Discs. There have also been other events such as the extremely successful Christmas Tree Festival.

Although the Coronavirus restrictions have continued throughout the entire year, they have varied in their severity. When we have been allowed, we have continued some and begun several other initiatives. We continue to develop links with The Monte Cassino Society and plan again to offer another remembrance Service for them in May. Our 'Blue Christmas Service' was held again for a second year and has been well received with many people finding benefit from taking some time out from the business of Christmas festivities to remember a loved one. Last year was the 1500th anniversary of the death of our namesake, St. Columba. We marked this with a special Service in the Sanctuary in October and with a 'pilgrimage' to Inchcolm Island where we held a short Communion Service in Inchcolm Abbey. We were joined by several visitors to the island and also by a member of Historic Scotland staff who commented on how nice it was to see the Abbey back being used for its original purpose. This outing was well supported, and we will consider whether or not it becomes an annual feature of the Blackhall St Columba's calendar. We have also attempted to re-established links with the youth organisations. Many people have commented on the large attendance of both Scouts and Guides at the last Remembrance Sunday Service and we are proposing to have a specific youth Service each year to mark Thinking and Founders Day. The final item I would bring to your attention is the now successful 'story time' that takes place on the first Tuesday of each month with both the Blackhall Playgroup and then the Blackhall Toddlers. This involves my going along to the groups and reading a story about values to the children. In addition, at Christmas, I told the story of the nativity and will be doing similarly at Easter. Although unable to participate at present, Blackhall Nursery have indicated their intention to join in this enterprise.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks, both personal and on behalf of the Congregation, to our team of Elders who have and continue to work so hard at maintaining contact with the Church membership. I would also include in those thanks, all the people, whether an elder or not, who contribute to the life of the Congregation in the numerous ministries that are ongoing. This includes the many 'backstage' people who help to organise, promote, cater, and facilitate the numerous activities we engage in. There has been an increasing number of new groups created often with a heavy emphasis on fellowship. I have encouraged encourage this type of activity and continue to do so. Blackhall St Columba's Church has a deep sense of community which is essential to our future and to our ability to attract new members. I feel this sense of community has already allowed us to weather some of the issues of the last couple of years and will only continue to serve us as we grow closer together and face the undoubted issues that will present themselves in the future.

It would be wrong to finish this report without mentioning one of the things that has dominated the last year- the proposals and potential impact of the forthcoming Presbytery Plan. A dedicated team from the Church had worked extremely hard to build up connections and make initial plans with our nominated 'cluster' of Churches. As we now know, the initial attempt to create a Presbytery plan was rejected by the General Trustees and a much more radical suggestion with much larger 'Mission Districts' has now been proposed. Alongside these much larger Mission Districts, is a plan that every Church in the Edinburgh area will have to form a union with at least one other Church. Although this suggested plan is presently in the form of a 'Consultation Draft' and is by no means certain, the one thing we can be sure of is that there are big changes to come in the way we do ministry throughout Scotland.

Personally, I am encouraged that the pandemic has shown us here, at Blackhall St Columba's, that we are flexible, adaptive, and innovative and, consequently, although I do not know with any certainty what the future will hold, I am certain that we will respond in a Christian manner and continue to glorify God, proclaim Christ, and serve others.

Fergus Cook Moderator

2022 SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

Membership

The annual statistical return as of 31 December 2021 to The Presbytery of Edinburgh shows a fall in the Communion Roll – from 612 to 592. During 2021 we welcomed 8 new members, compared to 3 the year before. Sadly 16 members died during the year and 12 members left us as a consequence of moving to another part of the country or for other reasons.

In the past a census was carried out two or three times each year to ascertain Sunday morning attendance. However, 2021 was not without its challenges in terms of members ability to attend Sunday worship and any survey of attendance would have been meaningless. Members at times had the option of attending in person, watching the Service being live streamed or catch up via You Tube at some later time. Prior to the March 2020 Lockdown the average Sunday morning attendance was running at circa 205. At that level we would be 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 2021 there were no Elders ordained or inducted. A number of Elders retired from active Eldership during the year after long periods of faithful and diligent service to the Congregation. It is only fitting to record here the very significant contribution made by the following Elders: - Anne Burton, Bill Davidson, Lynda Davies, Iain King, Phyllis King, Pat Morrison, Lesley MacKenzie, Moira Purves, Hamish Stears, Elizabeth Stuart, and Evelyn Watson. Ian Templeton resigned as an Elder due to him and Aline moving to the south of England.

During the year Alan Notman, Margaret McArthur and Muriel Morton passed away. All three had retired from active Eldership but each had made a huge contribution to the life of the Congregation.

Blackhall St Columba's like all congregations depends 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 members and the Parish community. While there are too many individuals to name in person, I should wish again 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), and 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 unavailable.

During the year there were a number of changes in roles: -

- Mike Whiteside succeeded Jim Bishop as Fabric Convener.
- Ruth Laidlaw took over as Halls Convener from Ian Templeton.
- Donald Stirling assumed the role of Health and Safety Officer.

We are grateful to those incoming to these important roles and those that have retired.

Achievements and Performance

The year ended 31 December 2021 was a further period of disruption to normal life with resultant challenges for the Church all due to Covid in its various forms. We coped with the various restrictions imposed by the Scottish Government which allowed us to get back to normal Sunday worship albeit in controlled numbers. Throughout the year our Elders and the Pastoral and Prayer Working Team worked hard to maintain connections with our elderly and housebound members. This included relaying details of the Sunday Service which was live streamed and appreciated not only by our own members, which includes one faithful member in South Africa, but by many others as we know from the positive feedback.

While Covid restrictions prevented the fund-raising activities of the WATCH Committee we continued our proud record of supporting deserving causes out with our own walls by supporting the following charities from the receipts of retiring offerings: -

| February Communion | Kids love Clothes |
|--------------------|--|
| Easter Services | Mary's Meals |
| June Communion | Mission Aviation Fellowship |
| October Communion | Bethany Trust |
| Remembrance Sunday | Poppy Scotland |
| Christmas Services | Scottish Bible Society and Fresh Start |

During the year the Kirk Session agreed to install an accessible toilet facility just off the Sanctuary and within the existing office area. All the requisite planning permissions have been obtained with the relative work to commence in January 2022 by John Dennis & Company (Scotland) Limited, the contractor for the Building for the Future work in the Sanctuary.

Significant good work was carried out during the latter part of the year in the Church Garden, all done by a dedicated team of our members. This opened up the garden and allows the entire area to be viewed from Columba Road.

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. Due to ongoing Covid restrictions the magazines were published only online.

Kirk Session had earlier agreed to the recruitment of a part time Youth Worker. While the person had been identified the ongoing Covid restrictions resulted in him seeking alternative opportunities. Recruitment is now on hold with everything else that is happening across the Church at present.

Following on from last year, discussions continued with our friends in the West Forth Cluster, namely the congregations of Cramond, Davidson's Mains, Drylaw, Old Kirk Muirhouse and Granton. As decreed at the 2020 General Assembly all Presbyteries, as part of the Radical Action Plan, were 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 initially 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 December a consultative document was released to all the congregations across Edinburgh Presbytery. In summary

- This is a consultative document and must be agreed following which it would become a Draft Plan to go forward to the Church of Scotland central committees for consideration and approval.
- The main thrust is the creation of unions of existing congregations.
- Insofar as Blackhall St Columba's is concerned it is proposed that we enter into a Union with the congregations of Davidson's Mains and St Stephen's Comely Bank with two Ministers resulting in the demission of a Minister.
- Going forward, there will be no such thing as a single charge Ministry. Congregational life as we know it will change.
- General Assembly has decreed that there will be a 40% reduction in Ministerial posts (not all Ministers of Word and Sacrament) here in Edinburgh.
- We need to be mindful that Presbytery will make the final decision on the content of the eventual Draft plan and that Presbytery is a collection of Ministers and Elders from across Edinburgh.

 The consultative document now proposes that Clusters be replaced with Mission Districts (We would sit in the Mission District D – West that encompasses the Corstorphine churches, Murrayfield, Gorgie, Dalry, Stenhouse, Palmerston Place, Cramond, Davidson's Mains, Old Kirk Muirhouse, Drylaw, St Stephen's Comely Bank and ourselves).

In March our Minister will go into the third year of his ministry here at Blackhall St Columba's. The past two years has been with its challenges due to the ongoing Covid restrictions. However, Fergus constantly strived to serve the Congregation as best he could throughout this period by offering alternative ways in which members could join in Sunday Services and by providing excellent pastoral support when required. The Kirk Session stands ready to support him in delivering the good news of Jesus Christ and as we move into a time that will see the biggest structural change across The Church of Scotland in almost one hundred years.

Eddie Thorn Session Clerk

FINANCE REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2021

This is the Finance Working Team Leader's report into the financial position of the Church. When I presented the budget for 2021, I had to budget for expected spending being £8,300 more than we expected to take in as income. This followed on from 2020, a year in which we finished with a deficit of £7,072. However, 2021 turned out to be a good year. Not only did services return to the Sanctuary but our income from exceptional items, as I explain below, was considerable and resulted in a very positive year for the church. This has allowed us to start rebuilding our Fabric Reserve. The reserve was totally exhausted when it was transferred to the Building for the Future appeal, but we have now taken the opportunity to place £30,000 from this year's surplus into that reserve.

National Giving Day Appeal

2020 was a very different year to 2021 and the church was facing a large deficit. As I reported last year, it was decided to launch a gift appeal that would be supported by the Elders of the Church in 2020 the members of the Congregation asked to support it in 2021 once we were back worshipping in the Sanctuary. As it happened, in 2021The Church of Scotland decided to launch a National Giving Day across the whole church and allow congregations to retain the income without it forming part of the income on which our Ministries & Mission allocation is based on.

The Kirk Session decided to launch the second phase of our appeal under the banner of National Giving Day. That raised the excellent sum of $\pm 11,705$ that you will see in the accounts under "Gift Appeal". This coming year we will benefit from a Gift Aid Tax reclaim on those gifts of around $\pm 2,300$.

Overview

Our Freewill Offerings in 2021, made through envelopes, cheques and standing orders, were 1.75% higher than in 2020. The overall offerings were down slightly but only because the gift appeal to the Kirk Session in 2020 was supported so well and increased that year's figures. The awareness and generosity of so many of you, who increased your giving last year is reflected in this increase in Freewill Offerings.

When all offerings including the Plate and the gift aid recovery are included, our total income from offerings rose £7,587, a rise of 4.47%. That excludes the Gift Appeals to provide a more realistic comparison.

When we look at Other Ordinary Income, we can see the ongoing effect of the pandemic lockdown, particularly in the low level of income for the use of the halls. The main difference between the years, was the amount of Grant income. 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. They were furloughed for a much shorter period in 2021. Those payments are included in the accounts under "Grants".

What really transformed our finances this year were the very welcome legacies. The James & Jessie Shaw Charitable Trust made two donations to the church in 2021 totalling £15,000. Two further legacies were received giving an overall total of £30,148.

The accounts show that we ended the year with a surplus of £50,210. As in the previous year, it is difficult to take meaningful conclusions from that as there were so many unusual circumstances. These include the high levels of legacies,

the income from the National Giving Day appeal, the loss of offerings due to the pandemic, the loss of hall income for the same reason and a much lower than normal fabric expenditure on the church and halls.

Income

Income from Congregational Giving (including Gift Aid Tax Recovery) was £177,356, an increase of £7,587 (+4.47%) against 2020. When the Gift Appeals are added on, the income in 2021 was £189,062, a fall of £8,202 over 2020. Other Ordinary Income, which includes use of premises by outside Organisations, Congregational Organisations, Weddings, Funerals, Interest and Dividends amounted to £25,730 a fall of £6,085 (-19%) on the previous year. Our Total General Income for 2021 which includes the gift appeals and legacies was £244,941, a rise of £5,861 on 2020.

Expenditure

Our overall General Expenditure in 2020 was £194,731 which is £51,421 lower than in 2020 (-21%). This is very unusual with reductions in many areas but particularly in Fabric. It is expected that Fabric expenditure will rise back to normal in the coming year.

Within the expenditure figure, our Ministry & Mission Charge was £100,501 and our Presbytery Dues were £2,451. The Presbytery dues had been reduced by 30% for one year and will return to normal in 2022.

<u>Surplus</u>

Thanks be to God that we finished the year in such a strong position with a surplus of $\pm 50,210$. The budget had predicted a deficit of $\pm 8,300$ and despite the upheaval of the pandemic, the legacies and the excellent response to the National Giving Day Appeal meant that we finished the year as we did.

General & Restricted Funds

Our total funds including General and Restricted Funds on 31st December 2021 amount to £156,832. That is an increase of £50,210.

Budget 2021

Our Ministries & Mission contribution is £100,846 for this year. The Presbytery dues have gone back up to £3,544 after the one-year reduction. The Fabric Team Leader has informed me a realistic estimate for Fabric expenditure would be £4,500 on the Church, £9,350 on the Halls and £5,300 on the Manse.

The inflation rate that is widely reported is also experienced by the church so I have assumed our freewill offerings will increase by 5% and members are asked 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 expenditure would be but in those categories of income and expenditure where that is not easily done, I have budgeted close to the actual experience of 2021 with inflation adjustments where I thought appropriate.

The outcome is another deficit. I have had to budget for spending being £14,671 more than we will take in. Unless we receive legacies to bridge that gap, this will be taken out of our reserves, but the surplus of 2021 places us in the position to cope with that in the short term.

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.

2022 Gift Aid Convener's Report

| For the year to 5 th April 2021, we claimed Gift Aid on | | | | | |
|--|----|-------------|------------|--------------|--|
| General Giving | £1 | 18,775.50 = | tax reclai | m £29,693.88 | |
| B4tF Appeal | £ | 48,120.00 | u | £12,030.00 | |
| Congregation App | £ | 23,580.00 | " | £ 5,895.00 | |
| Total | £ | 190,475.50 | | £47,618.88 | |

Congregational General giving of £118,775 (previous year- py £118,208) resulted in tax recovery of £29,693 (py £29,581). The Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme claim for undocumented small cash donations could not be claimed this year due to very limited cash collections and a consequent reduction of £2000 in tax reclaim receipts.

The claim also included Building for the Future (BftF) & the Congregational Appeals which cover more than one year but produced this year significant tax rebates totalling £17,925.

Our aim must continue to have as many of our donors as possible use the Gift Aid scheme which adds 25% to their donations. 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: -

- 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 are very rarely used but old supplies are available.

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

What cannot be Gift Aided but can carry other tax advantages to the donor's estate and provide 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

2022 Fabric Convener's Report

In general, during 2021 the required annual servicing for the Manse, Church and Halls was carried out and included Gas Safety Checks, Security Alarm System, PAT Testing, Kitchen Equipment, Extensive Fire Alarm Systems and Fire Extinguishers. There were repairs for roof leaks, lighting, and plumbing.

Other works carried out in 2021 were – the upgrading of the Manse downstairs cloakroom to a shower room was completed within budget. This following delays for Covid restrictions on domestic working. In August the Sanctuary, Halls and Manse had their Quinquennial (5 Yearly) inspection by a Presbytery appointed architect. The received report was favourable with no urgent issues highlighted. The Fabric Budget allows for progressing the 'desirable' repairs. The Sanctuary 12-month defect resolution period ended in September. Following on site meetings and assessments it was agreed that the retention

payment could be released to John Dennis, Principal Contractor. The ongoing spend and upkeep for the Sanctuary is now our responsibility. It is worth noting that the good relationships formed during the construction process are still in place. Following Kirk Session approving the provision of an AWC (Accessible Water Closet) for Sanctuary users a small group carried out a feasibility study. They recommended the option of converting some of the office. The detailed design and drawings were completed. and a Building Warrant obtained. Work has started and is ongoing. The Manse, Church and Halls Fabric Condition, facilities and usage has been subject to two extensive Asset Management of Building Audits initiated by Presbytery as part of their developing plans. Finally, can I acknowledge the ongoing support of my predecessor Jim Bishop who has always been approachable and encouraging with any issues I've had.

Mike Whiteside

Fabric Team Leader

2022 Premises & Staff Convener's Report

<u>Church</u>

We are now able to enjoy the benefits of all the alterations completed in the Sanctuary.

The Church Office

Joy McGonigal-Paget has coped extremely well both working from home and with weekly visits to the Office to take booking calls and being on hand for all that was thrown at her. Thank you very much on behalf of the Church for all your hard work. My thanks go to Ruth Laidlaw for acting as holiday relief for the office.

Church Organist Director of Music

Donald Cameron has kept us going during the past year providing much needed music and we welcomed back the choir with great pleasure.

Church Halls

The Halls have been well looked after by Dorothea and Kevin. Dorothea was furloughed but returned in August, my thanks to both for all the extra cleaning required when the groups were allowed back in the building.

Health & Safety

Sincere thanks are recorded to Ruth Laidlaw who was our Health and Safety Co-ordinator but since October has taken over as Halls Team Leader and Donald Stirling is now our Health and Safety Co-ordinator. Thanks also to Betty Watt who looks after our defibrillator, first aid boxes and wheelchair, and to Mike Whiteside as Fabric Team Leader and Fire Representative taking over from Jim Bishop who has done a power of work during the refurbishment of the Sanctuary and Manse.

Beadling Duty and Sound

Thanks are recorded to Ian Templeton (who has now moved down South) 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 and to the Gardening Team of volunteers.

Frances M Douglas Premises and Staff Team Leader