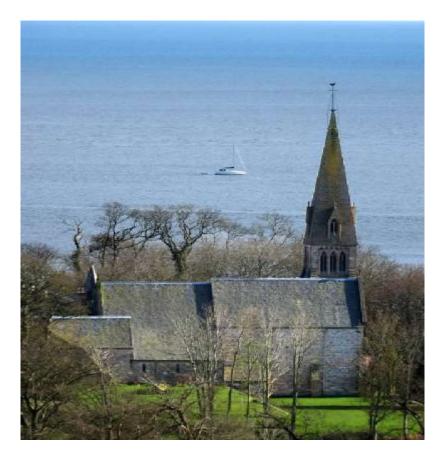
Friends of The Cathedral of The Isles and The College of the Holy Spirit

Patron: The Bishop of Argyll and The Isles

NEWSLETTER January 2017

Scottish Charity No: SC030311





Everyone at the Cathedral of the Isles and the College of the Holy Spirit wish the Friends a very Happy New Year.

The January Newsletter provides a report from the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday, 29th October 2016

Bishop Kevin welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.

<u>The Minutes of the 2015 AGM</u> were approved as accurate: Proposed by Nick Roe, Seconded by Arthur Rafferty and agreed nem con.

• The **Bösendorfer piano**, following a total refurbishment, arrived back at the Cathedral and Angela Brownridge, a world-renowned pianist, played its inaugural return to the Summer Concert programme. The appeal for financial help had been extremely successful and Alastair thanked everyone including the 'Friends' for their donation of £6,500.



Report from the Chair of the AGM

Bishop Kevin informed the meeting that a favourite biblical text of his had been part of the service at Morning Prayer in the Cathedral. He also thought that the much-loved words, "Be not afraid little flock" (Luke 12:32), were appropriate for the work of witness in both the Cathedral and College especially when addressing the financial difficulties associated with the operational deficit. This dilemma has to be addressed by the board of IRL along with everyone else concerned with this continuing problem.

The Cathedral continued to struggle financially due to a decreasing congregation, mainly due to ageing and illness, while the College were forced to address the continual rise in the cost of electricity, the cost of oil plus the recent government plans for fiscal equity in work-place employment legislation. Bishop Kevin suggested that the 'Friends' need to assist the Wardens' in their efforts to make the facilities and the vocation of the College better known. He also thanked the Wardens Amanda and Andrew for the excellent progress they had already achieved.

However, we all need to appreciate that the product we have to 'sell' is first class and the refurbishment programme must be undertaken to continue the excellent work previously set in motion. There is a good future to look forward to because ..."where your treasure is there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Bishop Kevin, Argyll and the Isles



Report of the Chairman of the Friends Committee

This has been an interesting year for the support the Friends have provided. The Friends have given donations towards the refurbishment of several rooms, as requested by the Warden last year, including the carpets in the library and common room. At the last Annual Meeting the Warden also asked for help with the problem of renewing the washing machines. The Friends subsequently donated two machines which have been of great benefit. The Friends also gave a donation towards the renovation of the Bösendorfer concert grand piano. Along with the successful Music Fund appeal the piano will now continue to attract high calibre concert pianists to come and play at the summer concerts. As many visitors come to these concerts and, as a result, visit both the Cathedral and College, the Friends can be pleased that their grant has been put to good effect.

The Friends through their aims and objectives continue to take their place in the ministry and mission of the Cathedral and College. The Friends have supported our new Wardens in an outstanding year of growth with its redeveloping retreat programme.



The Friends have supported many services and events including the 'Music for a Summer Afternoon' concert series throughout the summer, the 140th Anniversary of the Cathedral and The Festival of Lights during the September Weekend.



The Committee recognises the problem of our declining membership. With this in mind the Treasurer has developed a new website which the Committee is keen to see develop. The committee are also hoping to introduce a new professionally produced Friends leaflets.

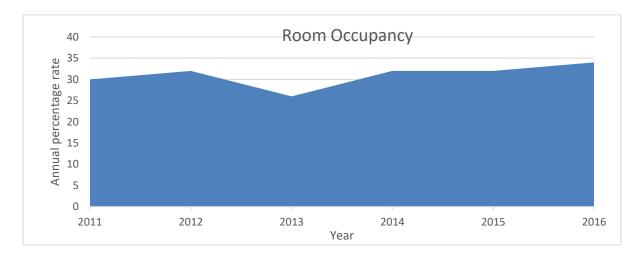
We have also discussed fundraising events and creating a Diary of Events for the Friends, both for those on the island and those from further afield. Your ideas on what might be successful events will be greatly appreciated. But with fewer active Friends able to help run fundraising events the Committee appeals to everyone to offer their support at any functions. Any Friends who wish to run personal events at home to help raise funds and support the work of the Friends are warmly encouraged to do so. This also affords us free widespread local publicity. If church congregations can be involved then their donations will be greatly appreciated also.

The future in ministry and mission lies in our support and encouragement of the Wardens to continue to deliver the famous hospitality the Cathedral and College give which is enjoyed by so many visitors. We await future project ideas from the Wardens and continue our support for the conclusion of the current room renovations.

Rev'd Canon Alexander J Boyd

Report of the Wardens of the College

This has been a busy year at the Cathedral & College. The graph below will give you an idea of this – we have had the highest room occupancy rate over the last 12 months of any year in the last 5 years, which is most encouraging.



We have worked with 52 different groups over the course of the year, some regular returners and some new. I would draw your attention to 4 of these groups: the Suzuki Music Studio from Edinburgh, 2 school groups from Teesside and Godly Play Scotland's first Annual Conference. It is wonderful to be beginning to develop ministry amongst those working with children & young people, an area of work that the Cathedral & College hope like to develop further. We have presented and run a larger programme of Open retreats this year, which have attracted a good number of participants from across the globe, many of whom had no previous connection with us. Our Open Programme for 2017 has now been published; please do take copies of the leaflet away for your own locale. Other developments this year

include working with Millport Art Group (MAG), who now occupy one end of the College Annexe – a relationship which is proving of great mutual benefit. Several groups visiting the College have enjoyed the facility and MAG were instrumental in bringing around 1000 visitors to the Cathedral as part of the island Festival of Light, which they initiated and planned. To see the Cathedral illuminated as the final point on the festival light trail was wonderful.



We also launched cathedraloftheisles.org, a dedicated website for Cathedral & College, as well as Facebook and twitter pages. The Cloister shop now stocks a wider range of goods, including a 2017 calendar of the cathedral – so make sure you buy a couple to take away with you! In October we were given a silver 'Green Tourism' Award. This came with helpful advice on how to improve our environmental sustainability which we will be exploring over the coming year.

We are immensely grateful for the financial support of the Friends this year. Over the winter we refurbished several rooms which had become rather tired and were not up to the standard required of a 3-star guest house. Retaining this Visit Scotland grading is essential to our Bed & Breakfast business which, as well as being an important part of our ministry of hospitality is essential for our financial wellbeing. In all 7 rooms received new carpets, 4 rooms had recycled carpet laid and 11 rooms were repainted. This cost is £10500, of which £4600 came from the Friends. This was in addition to the generous provision of 2 new semi-commercial washing machines which replaced 2 domestic machines that had broken down and were beyond repair.

Having reported all of this I feel it important to add a word of caution. Despite growing numbers the amount of business that the College attracts is still not sufficient to cover our costs and despite the generous grants and donations, which have supplemented that income, the college this year will have run at a significant deficit. If we were not a part of Island Retreats the College quite simply would not be sustainable. So, I put it to the Friends



-we need your help

How can the Friends help? Firstly, by keeping the work and mission of the Cathedral & College in your prayers. Secondly, by taking part in what we have on offer here and encouraging others to do the same. Thirdly by helping us to tell our story better and to a wider audience and finally, (for now), by launching a campaign to raise the funds for us to complete the refurbishment work that was begun earlier this year. The draft budget that the College is currently working on includes costing for essential safety-critical repairs and maintenance but in addition to this we have 2 bedrooms that still require new carpet and the hallway, stair and lounge in North College also require re-carpeting. Without this the buildings will continue to deteriorate and become increasingly shabby, which will cost us dearly if it results in a downgrading to just 2 stars by Visit Scotland. The cost of this work is estimated at around £4.5K, a sum which is beyond the scope of the College right now. Once this refurbishment work has been completed ongoing maintenance and refurbishment will be much more manageable and the Friends will be able to focus on other projects that are in the pipeline, such as the restoration of the chancel ceiling and east end of the cathedral.

Thank you once more for your invaluable support over this year. We look forward to working together with the Friends to continue the growth and development of this important and valuable centre of mission and ministry.

Andrew and Amanda Wright

Report of the Treasurer of the Friends

2015/16 has been an active year for the finances of the Friends of the Cathedral of the Isles. Membership stands at 197, of whom 79 are life members. 21 new members joined in 2015/16 and income is up this year by £5,207.09. In addition to the income stream from membership, the Friends received significant individual donations of £1,270, £250 and £100, in addition to many smaller donations. This enabled the Friends to assist with renewal projects such as new washing machines and carpets. In addition, a grant of £3,000 was received from a Trust to be used for the restoration of the Bösendorfer Piano, an important feature of the Cathedral's musical life. (See Appendices 1 & 2)

Nevertheless, a substantial increase in membership and donations is desirable to enable the Friends to continue and develop their work of supporting the Cathedral & College's work. The committee will be investigating new ways of generating income, such as corporate membership as well as specific development projects. New ideas are now essential.

<u>Subscriptions</u>

The fee for becoming a Friend was discussed and many thoughts about the cost were shared. No final decision was reached and people were invited to pass on their ideas to committee members. These would then be discussed at the next committee meeting along with **The Launch of the Friends Appeal.**

Nick Roe

Bishop Kevin thanked the goodly number that had attended the AGM and closed the meeting with everyone saying the Grace together.

Lunch was enjoyed by everyone and, in the afternoon, The Friends were joined by visitors to the Cathedral for a service of celebration, featuring Howell's Requiem:



Glasgow Chamber Choir





Anthea Clarke – Secretary to the Friends of the Cathedral of the Isles and the College of the Holy Spirit

Bridie: Great Shepherdess

A creative weekend of fireside exploration

February 2017



Friday 17 — Sunday 19 February 2017 led by Heather Upfield, with Mazda Munn

Spend a creative weekend exploring this lustrous saint through the continuum of Brighid (or Britannia) the Ancient British Goddess, to the Christian Saint Bridget of Kildare and the enigmatic Saint Bride of the Isles. We'll explore Brigid's symbols, mythology and prayer as well as weaving a St Brigid Cross with local artist Mazda Munn

2 days full board for just £185, or non-residential for £50 Book online or call us to reserve your place

Outline schedule

Friday 17th: Arrivals from 4pm, Evening session

Saturday 18th: Sessions and social time

Sunday 19th: Cathedral Eucharist and departures after lunch

Heather Upfield lives in North Ayrshire. Her interest in Bridie began 30 years ago in Edinburgh, during the Celtic revival in the Church. In addition to her devotional life of 40 years in the Scottish Episcopal Church, she has followed a love of nature, engaging with the Calendar of Celtic Festivals. In 2010 she joined others on St Bride's Mound in Glastonbury, for a ceremony of dedication to Brighid. She has been recording sites dedicated to St Brigid/St Bride in Scotland for the past 8 years.

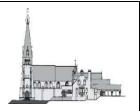
THE COLLEGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

at The Cathedral of The Isles, Cumbrae

Friends of The Cathedral of The Isles

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Scottish Charity No. SC030311



Accounts For The Year Ended 30th September 2016
Inland Revenue Reference CR49879

Statement of Receipts and Payments

Receipts	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2016	Total 2015
		funds	Funds		
Voluntary Receip	Voluntary Receipts				
Donations &		1162.69	4520.00	5682.69	1124.73
Gift Aid					
Bank Interest					
Receipts from Charitable Activities					
Membership		1970.00		1970.00	1380.87
fees					
Print sales		60.00		60.00	
Total Receipts		3192.69	4520.00	7712.69	2505.60

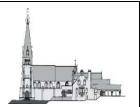
Payments	Note	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2016	Total
		funds	Funds		2015
Grants &		9850.14	4520.00	14370.14	7416.66
Donations					
Governance		278.45		278.45	97.00
Costs					
Total payments		10128.59	4520.00	14648.59	7513.66

Surplus/Deficit		- 6935.90	- 5008.06

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Accounts For The Year Ended 30th September 2016
Inland Revenue Reference CR49879

Statement of Balances

Funds	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2016	Total 2015
Reconciliation	Funds	Funds		
Cash at Bank	5459.05	3695.00	9154.05	
30/09/15				
Surplus/Deficit			- 6935.90	- 4708.06
Cash at Bank	1229.28	1000.00	2229.28	
30/09/16				

Bank Balances

Bank Current Account	2229.28	

Presented to the Annual General Meeting on 29 October 2016

Nicholas Roe

Treasurer

Lyndsay Thomson

Independent Examiner