



# GLASGOW CATHEDRAL

(ST MUNGO'S OR HIGH)

SCOTTISH CHARITY, NUMBER SCO 13966



# A brief introduction:

Glasgow Cathedral is the 'Mother Church of Glasgow'. Its history is long and the present building, now the largest Church in Scotland, dates from the 12th century. It has been a major centre of Christian worship in Scotland. This began with Saint Mungo in the 6th century, was reformed in 1561 onwards and continues to the present day as part of the presbyterian Church of Scotland. Traditionally the Reformed cathedral church (and its parish) was known as The High Kirk of Glasgow.

The Cathedral plays an important role in the city. It is a significant tourist destination and is open each day. Admission is free and visitor numbers are buoyant - approximately 600,000 per year. A team of volunteer guides organised by the Society of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral is present every weekday to assist visitors.

The building is maintained and operated by Historic Environment Scotland. The Cathedral is fully integrated into city life and hosts annual services for The High School of Glasgow, The Glasgow Academy, Hutchesons' Grammar School, the City of Glasgow College and the University of Glasgow. We hold more than 25 special services each year, some of which form part of regular Sunday morning worship, to support a range of institutions and organisations.



These include: the Kirking of The Council, The Merchants' House and The Trades' House, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Cancer Research UK, Scottish Cot Death Trust, SAAFA The Armed Forces Charity, and many others. In the last 5 years we have hosted national services to mark Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, the centenary of the outbreak of WW1 and Opening of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. We will be holding the national service of Remembrance on the 11th of November 2018 marking the end of the first world war.

The Cathedral also hosts major services at very short notice. We were able to support those affected by the Clutha Helicopter crash and the Queen Street Disaster within 48 hours of these incidents.

The Cathedral has a well-established core congregation numbering about 250 and it serves a larger population of regular adherents and visitors. We are immediately adjacent to Glasgow Royal Infirmary and have regular visit from patients, relatives and staff.

The congregation is certain of its calling to use the building:

- For the worship of God
- Welcome everyone equally
- Provide a service to our surrounding community, the city and the nation at large
- Provide an awareness of different theological perspectives while affirming the foundational importance of the central truths of the Christian faith.
- Express our commitment to outreach and ecumenism
- to refresh our sense of mission to meet the challenges of the future

## **Worship in Glasgow Cathedral**

Our style of worship is both Catholic and Reformed. The main order of Sunday divine service is derived from the traditional Book of Common Order ('Knox's Liturgy') of the Church of Scotland. While our style of worship is characterised by a formality appropriate to the historic nature of the building, our intention is to be welcoming, understood and relevant to everyone who worships with us.

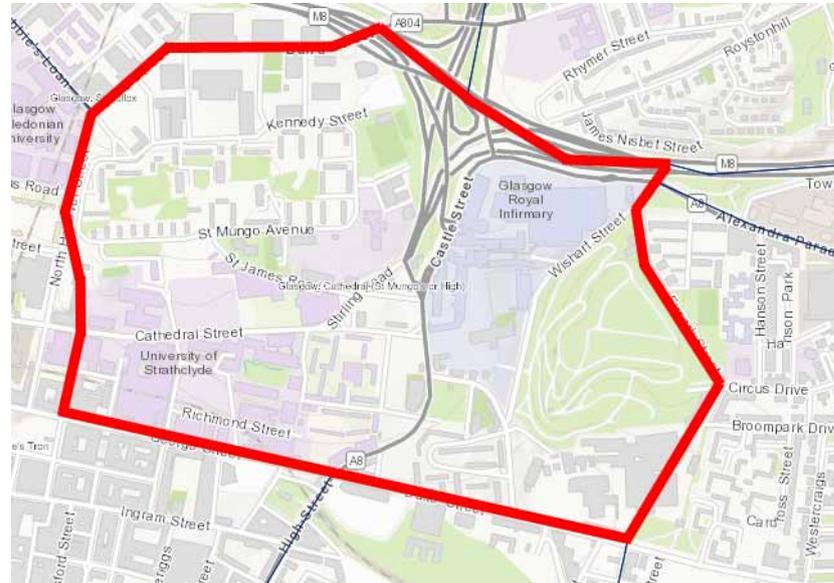
The Cathedral has many spaces available. We can accommodate up to 1,500 at major events. Normally morning services are held in the Quire, seating up to 700. Choral Evensong is conducted in the Nave and some special services are held in the Lower Church or in one of the range of smaller side chapels where small, private groups can be accommodated. We have professional-standard sound and lighting equipment.

Our aim is to use the Cathedral to provide an environment which is appropriate and enhances the worship and fellowship.



# The People of Glasgow Cathedral

The parish boundary reflects the layout of the medieval city. It lies across the High Street and extends south to Duke Street, north to the M8, west to North Hanover Street and east to Firpark Street.



Few people live permanently in the parish as a result of modern town planning. Importantly however, the parish includes Glasgow Royal Infirmary, City of Glasgow College, Strathclyde University and extensive student accommodation.

The congregation is gathered from the parish, other areas of the city and many other parts of the West of Scotland. The roll includes about 300 members. This does not reflect the larger number who attend services as adherents, visitors, members of city organisations or join us on-line. The congregation values traditional forms of worship but recognises that these must adapt and be complemented by modern approaches. Being in the Reformed and ever-reforming tradition, we acknowledge the need to evolve and adapt.

The average age of the congregation is high. In this way we resemble many other congregations. Within this group there are younger people of student age and parents with children. Improved public health also means that many of our older members remain active and vigorous. We recognise the challenge of meeting the wide range of needs of the congregation. We also recognise the need to provide a significantly broader outreach. We have resources and we are open to new approaches.



## More on Our Services

There are two services on a typical Sunday. Morning Service is at 11am with a stable congregation of 200 to 300. Choral Evensong is held at 4pm with a congregation of up to about 120. In addition to duty Elders, we have a loyal crew of Deacons to assist with welcoming tourists to the service. Evensong is broadcast live via the Cathedral Website. It is available for the following week. The weekly on-line congregation is about 650 rising to 1200-1500 for major seasonal services at Christmas and Easter. Our on-line congregation is growing steadily.

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

Once a month there is a short time of prayer after the morning service when the needs of individuals are remembered, particularly those who are in hospital or in care homes. Cards are sent out to people on the prayer list and requests for prayer left by tourists and other visitors to the Cathedral are read out.

## Ministerial Team

The Cathedral is busy each week of the year. The Kirk Session supported the former minister by appointing an assistant minister. Retired ministers in the congregation and students in training have also assisted. The Kirk Session fully recognise the need for additional support to provide pastoral care.

There are offices and a meeting room in the St Mungo Museum, within the precinct, and the Kirk Session employ an administrative assistant on a part time basis.

## Choir

Excellent organ and choral music are a key feature of our worship. We believe it adds a special dimension to our worship. The standard is high and services have been broadcast by the BBC in recent years.

The Kirk Session employs a Director of Music who is assisted by a volunteer organist. Generous endowments provide funds toward the employment a professional choir of around 12 choral scholars mostly from The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



The Choir is joined on occasion for special services by the Choir of Glasgow University and the choirs of other churches in the City and the Cathedral Choral Society. These special musical events are another part of our outreach and community commitment. The musical programme of the recent Cathedral Festival attracted more than 3,000 people to the Cathedral. In addition, the cathedral hosts a wide range of musical events though the year.

## Church Organisation

The Kirk Session has decided at this time to adhere to the traditional position of the Church of Scotland in our search for a new Minister.

Our constitution is Unitary [in respect of all things, spiritual and secular]. We have specialist sub-committees responsible for managing finance, flowers, linen & fabric, outreach and music.

The congregation does not own the Cathedral, neither do we contribute to any of the fabric costs. The building is maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. The congregation has guaranteed rights of occupancy. The congregation does pay a proportion of the heating and lighting charges. We have a good working relationship with Historic Environment Scotland and their local staff. Access to the Cathedral in the evenings for appropriate events is by arrangement.

# The Kirk Session

There are 33 elders in the Kirk Session of Glasgow Cathedral. We are not a normal parish church and because of the high work load, we operate with a team of 4 joint session clerks. There are 3 teams of "duty elders" to assist at services. The Session generally meets monthly during the winter season depending on the volume of business requirement..

In addition to the Director of Music, Choir and Organist, the Kirk Session employs a Church Officer and an Administrator. We have access to two offices and a hall in the St Mungo Museum.



## Other congregational Activities

### Children and Young People

We have identified strong links with schools and higher education organisations earlier. Families regularly approach our Minister seeking baptism/blessing of their children. Given the age profile of the congregation we are glad to have even a modest number of children associated with the congregation. We have a small Sunday school currently in search of new leadership, and until recently have had a Girls' Brigade and a Boys' Brigade Company which ceased because of a shortage of children in the parish, rather than those willing to serve as leaders (there is only one primary school and no secondary).

The Cathedral accommodates 15-20 weddings each year. Some people are attracted by the physical surroundings and few maintain links with the congregation. We have experimented with special services for younger people, events for local students and so forth with some degree of success.



### The Cathedral Players

The Cathedral Players have produced and performed in several Glasgow theatres in recent years. The company works hard, and the productions are very well received. It reaches a wider group of people and helps balance our somewhat formal image.

### The Thursday Club

This social group meets in the St Mungo Museum adjacent to the Cathedral for fellowship. They invite guest speakers. Attendance is typically twenty with a mixture of congregation and people from the immediate vicinity.

### Local Charities and Mission

The congregation supports the work of the Lodging House Mission on a regular basis and other local charities with a Christian connection. In a wider context we also support Christian Aid, The Trussell Trust, and Crossreach.



## **Outreach**

We use a variety of strategies to show that Glasgow Cathedral is an inclusive, lively and welcoming congregation. Posters and leaflets are distributed locally in: The University of Strathclyde Chaplaincy Centre, student residences, The Clock Tower Café, local shops, Townhead Village Hall and the St. Mungo Museum. We also delivered a leaflet to every house in Townhead, in the heart of our formal parish. Recently, the Outreach Committee has embarked on a new initiative to help the homeless in Glasgow. Once a month, volunteers from the congregation have been distributing hot drinks and a selection of toiletries and other items for those sleeping rough.

We have also adopted more modern approaches to communication through our website and facebook.

## **Society of Friends of Glasgow Cathedral**

The congregation and the Society of Friends work together. The Friends is a distinct organisation which is ecumenical. The aim of the Society is the care of the Cathedral and its preservation for posterity. Over the years it has pursued this object and others in numerous ways including guided tours, arranging lectures and choral recitals.

## **The wider vision of the congregation**

Given the history of division in the city we are clear about the importance of an inclusive view. This is delivered through Glasgow Churches Together. We host an ecumenical service each year on St Mungo's Day. We include representatives from most Christian denominations in Glasgow. In addition, we host a Hogmanay Watchnight service with Hope Alba.

## **Finances**

Our financial position is sound. The 2016 contribution to Ministries and Missions was £62,950 and has been paid in full. Our total income for 2016 amounted to £188,227. We carried forward to 2017 a total sum of £1,936,348. This includes restricted and unrestricted funds. We hold a general fund of £523k and music/organ fund of £781k, with other designated and restricted funds being the difference. Additionally, there is, as a result of property and other historical transactions approximately £800k held by The Church of Scotland General Trustees available, if approved, for relevant projects. The church has luckily been well endowed over the past 50 years or so and needs to rely heavily on income arising from all these

## **The Manse**

The Manse meets the requirements of Glasgow Presbytery. It is located at 41 Springfield Road, Bishopbriggs. It is 3.4 miles from the Cathedral and takes approximately 12 minutes to make the journey by car.

It is a traditional detached sandstone building with gas central heating and double glazing.



# Mission, Vision and Strategy

As a Christian congregation, our fundamental calling, mission and vision consists in individual and collective witnessing to a living faith in Christ as well as doing good for the benefit of others and neighbours. All our activities need to be governed by this apostolic belief and principle.

As regards current specific strategy and assessment of needs (and with the future in mind), reconsideration is somewhat on hold due to the transition period between two full-time ministries. There have, however, been some informal and provisional ideas complementing those in our statement about Congregational activities above. Four key features have emerged.

First: while priorities may be identified, concern for our neighbours, the Cathedral parish and neighbourhood in particular ought not to be restricted to select age groups, interest groups, organisations, and people "like us".

Second: our ambitions of service and commitment need to be realistically related to the capable human resources we have within the congregation and associated organisations.

Third: any setbacks, disappointments and dead ends should not result in pessimism, rather in optimistic, prayerful requests to be shown fruitful and new ways through the inspiration of the Spirit.

Fourth, the value and effectiveness of hidden, spontaneous, and discreet personal Christian service has to be acknowledged – bearing in mind that such valuable activity cannot be factored in to a 'parish strategic plan' etc.

## The Challenge

Whilst Glasgow Cathedral, in common with all other churches has a parish, it is immediately obvious we are not a typical parish church. We serve the whole city and beyond; attracting visitors from far and wide as we have done for almost one thousand years. Within our congregation, Kirk Session and associated organisations we have many dedicated, talented and hard working people. We have the resources to support our new minister. We seek the guidance and leadership to:

- Continue to provide a meaningful pastoral ministry to the existing congregation
- Develop new ways of reaching out to those living in the parish area
- Encourage greater involvement of the membership in the work of the congregation, particularly regarding children and young people
- Communicate the Christian faith in ways which are relevant to the 21st century while maintaining continuity with our heritage
- Fulfil our unique function as a church which serves the whole city and beyond, a role which Glasgow Cathedral has performed for almost 1000 years.

**Perhaps you are our new Minister, out there, waiting for our call.**

If you would like additional information, or wish to forward an application in the form of a CV with covering letter and the names of two referees, please contact either:

Rev David Easton, Interim Moderator  
interim.moderator@glasgowcathedral.org  
0141 - 634 9775

or

Dr Andrew Ralston, Clerk to the Nominating Committee  
nominations.clerk@glasgowcathedral.org

Our accounts are available via the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator [oscr.org.uk](http://oscr.org.uk)

