Glasgow Cathedral
Chronicle

AUTUMN 2020
Glasgow Cathedral (St Mungo's or High), Church of Scotland
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Dear Friends,

If you visit the Cathedral there is currently a ‘one-way’ system in operation. The system brings you in through the South West Porch. You travel east, north, west etc. There are limited opportunities to stop and take a seat, a picture or just enjoy the space.

The restrictions seem odd. For those of us who have attended the Cathedral for years the restrictions are limiting and prescriptive. There is no opportunity to linger too long in front of your favourite window, soak up your favourite view or just be still in your favourite spot. The need to keep people moving is gently enforced through tickets, timing, and encouragement from those in attendance. This is how it needs to be!

When inducted as Minister at the Cathedral last April, part of my understanding, vision and ambition was the opportunity to engage with the congregation, parish, community and the 500,000 guests who visit each year. The Corona virus, Covid -19 and related conditions have stopped my ambition in its tracks! Who would have thought we would have closed the door to our ancient place of worship and restricted access to those seeking this spiritual destination?

We have heard throughout lockdown and the closure of Church buildings the Church is not closed down because the building is closed. We know this to be true through the pastoral support offered by many within the Cathedral family. Being new meant my personal knowledge of the Cathedral family was limited and I am grateful to all who helped me identify those in need or desiring support.

We have found a new path when the old road is closed. We have communicated in different ways and have been grateful for the opportunity to watch the Cathedral service online, on the BBC or listen to it in various ways.
We have been mindful of those who have been excluded because they do not have access to these digital resources and are grateful to those who have reached out to support those who may otherwise have missed out.

We must continue to find new ways of being the Church. We may need to invest in supporting the continued online provision of services. We may need to be more intentional in connecting with those who have been excluded. We may need to find creative ways to demonstrate our love for our neighbour.

Historically our ancestors made provision for difficult times. There have been few historical occasions, in living memory, as difficult and trying as the past six months. We may need in gratitude to use resources set aside for a rainy day. We must do this in faith, honesty and with integrity. Those in a position to support the ongoing work of the Cathedral will feel challenged to do so. For their response we are grateful.

I long for the time when we can once again open the doors of the Cathedral wide and welcome home all who are currently at a distance. When we can shake hands, embrace, and share a personal word or two. Within the Cathedral we may not be able to sit where we once sat, we may not be able to sing what we once sang, we may not be able to step over the threshold of the place we call our spiritual home.

I have confidence, I have faith and I trust God is making a new way in the wilderness of this pandemic. If you would like to discuss how you can support the ongoing work of the Cathedral, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me directly. In Jesus name, through prayer, worship, giving and service we can all make a contribution to the spiritual wellbeing of the city of Glasgow.

Isaiah 43:19

See, I am doing a new thing!
   Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
   and streams in the wasteland.

Kindest regards

Revd Mark E Johnstone DL, MA, BD.
THE CATHEDRAL IN SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} September
11.15am Worship in the Cathedral with Reverend Johnstone

Sunday 6\textsuperscript{th} September  14\textsuperscript{th} Sunday after Pentecost
11.00am Online Worship with Reverend Mark Johnstone

Wednesday 9\textsuperscript{th} September
11.15am Worship in the Cathedral with Reverend Johnstone

Sunday 13\textsuperscript{th} September 15\textsuperscript{th} Sunday after Pentecost
11.00am Online Worship with Reverend Johnstone

Wednesday 16\textsuperscript{th} September
11.15am Worship in the Cathedral with Reverend Johnstone

Sunday 20\textsuperscript{th} September 16\textsuperscript{th} Sunday after Pentecost
11.00am Online Worship with Reverend Johnstone

Wednesday 23\textsuperscript{rd} September
11.15am Worship in the Cathedral with Reverend Johnstone

Sunday 27\textsuperscript{th} September 17\textsuperscript{th} Sunday after Pentecost
11.00am Online Worship with Reverend Johnstone

Wednesday 30\textsuperscript{th} September
11.15am Worship in the Cathedral with Reverend Johnstone

Sunday 4\textsuperscript{th} October Autumn Communion
11.00am Online Worship with Reverend Johnstone

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If you wish to participate in our Wednesday morning worship, please contact Heather Beadling, our administrator. Due to current regulations, our numbers are restricted, and admission cannot be given without confirmation from our administrator.

Online worship visit.  glasgowcathedral.org
**In this time of Pandemic**

...pray without ceasing...’ (1 Thess. 5:16-18)

We believe in God’s love and the important contribution prayer can make to the life of the world. Through prayer to Father, Son and Holy Spirit the benefit may be pastoral, practical and is often inspirational to those who pray or those who know prayer is being offered. At this time, we encourage you to pray for those lives affected by this current pandemic. We encourage you to ‘…. pray without ceasing….’

**SUGGESTED PRAYER**

_Living God, we pray for those affected economically with situations that have arisen out of this pandemic. We remember those whose sense of security has been compromised by employment changes and the evaporation of opportunities. Living God bring comfort and hope, help uncover a path that may give direction for the future. Through your presence may they know they are never alone, and, in your eyes, they are truly valued. Scripture reminds us, even in the most difficult time ‘…the hairs on our head are numbered…’ (Luke 12:7)_

_In Jesus name Amen._
(Charles Scott has served the Cathedral for many years as treasurer. We are grateful for his continued work and guidance at this time of ‘financial challenge’)

**Note from Charles our Treasurer**

What strange times! And aren’t we all fed up with the ongoing uncertainty stretching out ahead waiting for a proven vaccine?

Practically, the Cathedral’s income fell off the proverbial cliff in April but has been slowly and surely regaining some of the lost ground in recent months.

This better news for the church’s very low liquidity is due to members finding all sorts of projects with which to keep busy—namely, finding a concertina of “saved cash or notes” sitting in Free Will Envelopes.

Sensibly most of those “finds” has been converted into a cheque sent to yours truly and I try to get out to the bank weekly to deposit.

Even more efficient have been those comfortable with tele- or on-line banking setting up replacement Bank Transfers. Heather can help if you wish to take the initiative.

The monthly bank statement now runs to 5 pages [v’s 2 before CV19] with all these individual donations to the works of the Church—so thank you all.

The monthly income is now getting up to near 60% of what would have come in had we been in a “social church setting”—long may that aspiration endure I hear from all the calls I have made to congregation members!

I trust all are keeping safe and out of harm’s way.

Kindest
Charles

‘Where possible please continue to financially support the work of the Cathedral’

To contact Heather regarding giving to the Cathedral.
Telephone Office and leave a message on 0141 552 8198 and you will be contacted within 24 hours or Email administrator@glasgowcathedral.org
COVERING CORONAVIRUS
ANDREW KERR, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, BBC SCOTLAND

It’s the news story that affects every area of our lives and has brought the biggest disruption to this country since World War II. It’s been a tragic issue to cover because of the loss of life - yet also fascinating and, at times, frustrating.

There’s been a huge amount of interest from the public with viewing and listening figures leaping up. It’s been very old-fashioned in a way, with families gathering round the television once more to watch the news or the latest government briefing.

My colleagues and I have never covered a story for such a long time that has had such a big impact on our own lives and our own working practices. As we have all faced the closure of shops, churches, schools, workplaces, and places of entertainment, we’ve all had to adapt.

You’ll have seen more interviews on videophone to save meeting people face-to-face, we no longer travel with the camera person in the same car and you’ll have heard or seen more broadcasting from home.

But we’ve also been out there in the Intensive Care Units, seeing the incredible work performed by medical staff. The Cathedral’s organist, Dr Malcolm Sim, is an intensive care consultant and has featured in our reporting.

Volunteers have also been playing their part. After using the Give and Go service at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for a relative, we featured the hard work of the “red shirt” volunteers. Masked up, I went with the volunteers to the ward as they delivered a few longed-for items from home.

It’s not been all work. Once travel was permitted, I was in York and saw the Minster organ was out of commission for extensive repairs.

The Glasgow Cathedral organ may have been silenced by coronavirus but, at some point, Dr Sim has now been able to play the organ. It will be a moment of respite and reflection - as we all continue to avidly watch this ever-unfolding story. Andrew Kerr.
From Malcolm,

As you might imagine the past few months have been particularly busy for us in Intensive Care. In fact, I have never encountered anything like it in my career. In addition to our primary aim of supporting the organs of critically ill patients with COVID-19 it was very important to recruit patients into studies trying to identify treatments. Thankfully we know a lot more about this disease through these and other trials than we did 6 months ago. It is encouraging that some drugs are showing promise in modifying the course of the illness. We are all hoping that there is no significant rise of new cases throughout the winter months.

For me the Cathedral and music have never been more important. I was very glad to be able to come into the building once this was permitted for solo organ practice and play the Cathedral’s wonderful Willis/ Harrison organ. The stillness and calm was a terrific antidote. The organ also had stayed remarkably in tune! Thanks to the wonders of technology we have been able to have online worship and I think this has been hugely important. It was a joy to be back playing for the first midweek service in the Cathedral a couple of weeks ago and I sincerely hope that it will not be too long before we are all worshiping together again on a Sunday morning.

I will finish with this reflection. I will never forget the sheer delight on the face of my four year old when he realised that the swings in the park were open again for the first time in several months. Sometimes in life it is being able to do the simplest things that bring the most joy and for which we should be most grateful.

Best Wishes,
Malcolm
The Cathedral congregation have an important partnership with Historic Environment Scotland. Historic Environment Scotland maintain the Cathedral in Trust for the people of Scotland. Stuart Holmes is one of our main partners.

My name is Stuart Holmes,

I work for Historic Environment Scotland (HES) as the Regional Visitor Operations Manager for the South and Central area. Glasgow Cathedral is within my remit and as part of my role I act as the main point of contact between the kirk session and HES. I remember visiting the Cathedral when I went to university in Glasgow and thought then it had a captivating charm. One of my favourite parts of my role is arriving at the Cathedral first thing in the morning and walking through the testament of time with no one else there. Shhh.

Thursday 4th April 2019. Seems a lifetime ago. On this day I was given the great honour to be part of the Induction Service to Reverend Mark Johnstone and presenting Mark with the key to the Cathedral.

Since then myself and Mark have developed a trusted, honest and open partnership. During these testing times I have had numerous phone calls, zoom calls and correspondence with Mark to work together to inform, discuss and update each other on what has been going on and how we can work together to welcome members of the congregation and public to the Cathedral. I look forward to growing this working in unison post COVID.

From Stuart Holmes (HES)
Flower Power!!
Or
the Power of flowers!!

CATHEDRAL FLOWERS

Government restrictions introduced to contain the Coronavirus pandemic have impacted all aspects of our lives, including worship at The Cathedral, and we have had to adapt and be creative in working out different ways to give expression to our Christian witness.

For the Flower Committee this has meant suspending the usual weekly arrangements of fresh flowers in our sanctuary, and turning instead to designs of artificial blooms to comply with the restrictions and guidelines in order to “ride out” the pandemic and provide floral dressings at the Chancel and the Crossing for the streamed Sunday services brought to us through the wonders of modern technology.

We are most grateful to patrons who have continued to donate to the Flower Fund at this time, and record our appreciation to the following donors who have contributed to the lockdown floral arrangements for the on-line services and our first tentative openings for worship in the Nave:
Mr. A. White in memory of his wife, Pamela.
Mrs. A.M. Findlay and her sister, Mrs. J MacCallum, in memory of their mother.
The fiery red Pentecost arrangements were donated by Mrs. Ailene Hunter in memory of her parents, Bob and Olive Cunningham.

Special thanks are, as always, due to our florist, Enid Reid, who has provided the lockdown floral arrangements - the initial ones at very short notice just as the original government edicts were announced and came into immediate effect.

The Flower Ladies hope viewers feel these “alternative flowers” have added some beauty and brightness to your online worship and hope you all continue to keep safe and well during these times of continuing uncertainty.
MUSIC IN THE CATHEDRAL
(Andrew Forbes is our Director of Music)

As I write this, it is exactly five months since the Cathedral Choir last sang together. Recording the Sunday services on the 22nd March without congregation was an odd experience indeed, but even at that moment we had no idea quite how drastically – and for how long – the world was about to change. Whilst much about the past months has been immensely troubling, especially for those working in the arts sector, we all have our own difficulties and therefore I thought it might be heartening to give you an update, instead, on the positive things which have emerged during lockdown.

You have been able to hear the choir twice a week, on our broadcast and podcast, but the eagle-eyed amongst you may have also spotted a couple of our musicians on STV News. Malcolm Sim, our organist, has been working hard in Intensive Care at the QUEH throughout lockdown, and was interviewed early on for the news. Beth Taylor (an alto choral scholar with us from 2012–19) also made an appearance a few days later, when she was filmed singing arias in a hospital ward, having taken up work as a cleaner when all of her operatic contracts were cancelled. Jonathan Kennedy (Bass Choral Scholar) has been supporting Beth by cooking wonderful French cuisine for the two of them (from the culinary bible that is Larousse Gastronomique) and, after his online singing teaching, has even been hosting online whisky tastings.

Most of the music department have taken up new hobbies to give them a break from the monotony of online study and practice. Tim Edmundson (Bass Choral Scholar) has rediscovered his love of cycling, as well as giving several ‘live’ performances online from his house, accompanied by his wife Jennifer (to whom he was married in the cathedral last August). In a similar vein, Michael Yeoman (Tenor Choral Scholar) has taught himself sound engineering, setting up a mini home studio—you may have seen a video he recorded with Tilly Green (Soprano Choral Scholar) singing Tallis together, despite being 500 miles apart.
However, the award for ingenuity must go to our newest choral scholar, tenor David Lee. David works for the Dunedin Consort and is one of the few members of the arts world who hasn’t been furloughed: he has been busy planning for the consort’s recordings and foreign performances which remained in the diary despite all the chaos. He won the group major media coverage last week when, in order to get the musicians home from a concert in France before the quarantine came into effect, he chartered a fishing boat (called Valkyrie, no less) to sail them across the channel, back to the UK! If anybody needs a travel agent once things return to normal, look no further.

Despite all of these new activities and skills, the overwhelming feeling is that we are all desperate to get back to making music together in the cathedral. Back on the 22nd March I remarked that the novelty of a few Sundays off would soon lose its appeal, and how right that was... We hope to see you soon!

Andrew Forbes
22nd August 2020

* * *

Lights, Camera, Action!!!

Preparing for worship has been different during the time of lockdown. Although we have continued to prepare in line with the Revised Common Lectionary the style and manner of the delivery of prayers and sermon has been quite a challenge and very different.

The weekly workflow was to prepare on Monday and Tuesday by writing the prayers and the sermon and considering the bible readings. On Wednesday, once we could re-enter the Cathedral, we would record to camera the newly prepared elements of the service for broadcast.

Certain parts of the broadcast were pre-recorded and used for several weeks. Elements like placing the bible and reciting the apostle’s creed were regular components recorded and reused. To record everything every week would have been a major undertaking. Between preparation, recording, producing and editing it took a week for each broadcast. We have been fortunate to have ‘in-house’ professionals at hand. For the ‘eagle eyed’ there are some continuity ‘blips’. You may notice the pulpit fall changes colour during the service, as do the flowers sometimes. Please do not let this distract you from your worship when you watch online! This has been an attempt to give you a glimpse behind the preparation of weekly worship at Glasgow Cathedral during lockdown.
Praying for Those in Need – with Some Advice from Martin Luther

Considering that he died nearly five hundred years ago, you might not think that the Reformer Martin Luther would have much to say that was relevant to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Yet Luther lived in a world that was no stranger to pandemics. Most notorious of all was the bubonic plague known as the Black Death which swept through Europe in the fourteenth century, eventually killing some twenty million people. Though scientific understanding of the nature of contagion was lacking, officials at one port in Sicily had the inspired idea of containing the outbreak by forcing sailors on incoming ships to remain on board until it was clear that they were not infected. This enforced isolation was extended to a period of forty days, or quarantino in Italian, giving rise to the word ‘quarantine’ with which we are all now so familiar.

Further outbreaks of plague occurred in Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries and in August 1527 the dreaded malady reached the German university town of Wittenberg, famous for its associations with Luther and the Reformation. Churchmen sought Luther’s advice on how to respond to the crisis. Should they stay in the town or should they take refuge elsewhere?
This led Luther to publish a pamphlet entitled ‘Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague’. Obviously, he was writing in very different times, and he makes the then novel suggestion that there should be more public hospitals for the care of the sick, rather than simply looking after people at home. Yet much of what he has to say is still relevant to our situation today as we seek to discern the best way of maintaining the church’s work in the world while coping with the current restrictions.

In pre-Reformation times plague was often interpreted as a punishment from God and many believed it to be a sign that the end of the world was imminent. This had the danger of giving rise to the attitude that “whatever happens is God’s will, so there is nothing we can do about it.” Luther takes a less extreme and more balanced approach. “This is not trusting God but tempting him,” he says. Sensible guidelines for preventing the spread of infection should be followed: “God has created medicines and provided us with intelligence to guard and take good care of the body so that we can live in good health.”

Luther further lays down an important principle for church leaders. “Those who are engaged in a spiritual ministry such as preachers and pastors must remain steadfast before the peril of death. . . One must admonish the people to attend church and listen to the sermon so that they learn through God’s word how to live and how to die”. The Cathedral has endeavoured to do this in recent months via online services as physical attendance on Sundays has not been possible.

The responsibility of the individual believer is also made clear by Luther: “you shall love your neighbour as yourself” (Matthew 25:40). “If you wish to serve Christ and to wait on him, very well, you have your sick neighbour close to hand. Go to him and serve him, and you will surely find Christ in him. If you do not wish or care to serve your neighbour, you can be sure that if Christ lay there instead you would not do so either and would let him lie there.”

In 1527 the authorities urged the university of Wittenberg to relocate some eighty miles away at Jena, but Luther remained to minister to the town’s sick and frightened population, leading daily services of worship and prayer. And in this latter respect, at least, we can follow the example of the Reformer. Though our monthly service of Prayers for Those in Need has necessarily been suspended recently, many of us have continued to remember the needy in our private prayers, and cards have continued to be mailed to those who are housebound or in care, reminding them that they have not been forgotten.
Philippians 4:6 says: “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” The following suggestions may be of assistance:

- pray for those in long-term care;
- pray for older members of the congregation who cannot go out and who have been feeling isolated;
- pray for those for whom the Cathedral fellowship plays such an important part in their lives and who miss being in attendance;
- pray for healthcare workers on the front line, especially those known to us personally;
- pray for researchers working to find more effective treatments for the virus;
- pray for those whose livelihoods are threatened and who live in fear of an uncertain future;
- pray for Mark, our Minister; Charles, our Treasurer; Andrew and Malcolm, in charge of the music; our joint Session Clerks, Elders and all others involved in maintaining the work and witness of the Cathedral in this time of difficulty.

Andrew G. Ralston

The full text of Martin Luther’s pamphlet can be found at:
(Image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Martin-luther-1532.jpg)

** **

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many Happy Returns to Margaret Grant who recently celebrated her 100th birthday. A few of Margaret’s friends, as well as Reverend Johnstone, helped her to celebrate this wonderful achievement. The ladies of the Flower Committee organised a beautiful floral arrangement. The Minister was able to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Reflections on Margaret by her friend Malcolm Lochhead

Our fellow member Margaret Grant celebrated her one hundredth birthday on 18th August this year. She was brought up in Townhead by her mother and grandmother whom she adored. Grannie took her on long and interesting country walks which always began with a mystery bus journey. This love of the countryside may have prompted her to become a 'Lumber Jill' on Loch Awe side in 1941. The work must have been gruelling and on one occasion a huge log rolled off the lorry glancing her face as she jumped into a...
ditch. She lost all of her front teeth. It was here at the age of 21 that she started smoking. This was allegedly to keep hunger pangs and midges away. She still smokes four cigarettes a day, today. As she and Grannie had made little models together, this may well have put her on her career path. This included architectural model making; some of which was shown in the Festival of Britain in London in 1951.

She joined the School of Art as a student during the war and ironically she was a fire warden there. Having completed her diploma she soon joined the staff teaching interior design.

She visited Italy regularly and on one occasion she had taken a party of students to Venice. They had gone off, leaving her alone. She met a very handsome young man whom she assumed to be Italian because of his black hair. They got chatting and it turned out that he was, in fact, from Inverness and was a student of graphic design in Glasgow. They returned to Glasgow and met occasionally until she realised she had fallen in love with this 'boy' fourteen years her junior. She was in a terrible state until she visited her doctor who advised her to 'do something about it'. She did and she and Kit were married in 1955 and were gloriously happy, driving to San Gimignano in Tuscany almost every year until his untimely death at the age of 52. Their houses were beautiful as befitted the (by now) Head of Interior Design and their parties were legendary and the epitome of style.

Kit had always 'done the driving' so as a widow of 67 she passed her driving test so that she could drive to the Cathedral which she still loves (almost as much as the ruined School of Art). She was not only attending services. She would arrange flowers, dress the Nativity Scene (pity help any elder who placed hymn books in front of it), attend committees and, of course, star in Drama Club productions. She is now frail but her eyes still glitter with intelligence and though painfully deaf can still comment on things she holds dear. What a woman, we are all blessed to have her.

The Minister received the following sad news from Maureen McNeil.

Good Morning,
I am writing to inform you of my father John McNeil's death on the 7th August he was 91 years, as he had been an Elder of the Cathedral for many years my parents were also married there on 28th December 1951 and I was christened and also married at the Cathedral.

We have lived in Inverclyde for the past 20 years and always attended the midnight service for Christmas until just a few years ago when their health prohibited this.. I would be grateful if you could let anyone who knew my father of his passing.

Thank you, Maureen McNeil
Dear Supporters,

As our churches begin to consider the steps to take towards opening up and programmes are being drawn up for the year ahead in organisations, such as the Guild, here is what is going on at LHM.

Here at LHM we are preparing and planning, as best we can, for the next steps. The continuation of temporary housing support for the homeless via Government funding is uncertain but we shall continue to respond dynamically to the unfolding situation by delivering pastoral, advocacy and sustenance support wherever we can.

Many of you will be aware, through our daily updates on our Facebook page that we continue to provide food and toiletries parcels to the frontline street outreach teams from our partner agencies. If you have not visited our page we would encourage you to ‘like’ and ‘share’ and help us to raise awareness of all the work going on to make a difference in the lives of individuals with a lived experience of homelessness across the city.

We ask for your continued prayers for,

- the Lodging House Mission Family; our staff team, our dedicated volunteers, and our agency partners during this transition time.
- our vulnerable client group, who face uncertain futures.
- wisdom and compassion from those in positions of authority as they consider amending the temporary housing support for the homeless
- our wider church family and decision makers, as they consider what form Harvest worship and collections may take this year.

Let us look to the assurance of God’s blessings amidst all the uncertainty.

Deacon Claire Herbert      Chaplain LHM
Support to other charities too

Miranda and Hazel recently collected all the items of clothing stored in our cupboard in the museum. When they got to the LHM it was closed so they approached the Salvation Army across the road who were happy to take the items for the men and said that they would pass on the items for women when the LHM re-opened. 2 carloads of clothes were delivered and will be put to good use.
An opportunity to welcome a new member of the Cathedral family.

WELCOME AARON HAWTHORNE

We are delighted to welcome Aaron Hawthorne as the cathedral’s inaugural Organ Scholar. Our endowment campaign, established in memory of the late Rev’d Dr Laurence Whitley, has recently reached its fundraising goal thanks to several generous donations from members of the congregation, allowing us to expand our scholarship programme to include – for the first time – an organist. We are extremely grateful for all who have supported this endeavour so far, and hope this proves to be a worthwhile addition to the cathedral’s music department.

Aaron holds an MA(Hons) in music from Glasgow University and is best known for his work with theatre organs; he is the 2017 winner of the UK Young Theatre Organist of the Year Competition, and the 2019 winner of the International Young Theatre Organist competition, held annually in Rochester, NY. He is the organist at St Bride’s RC Church, Cambuslang, and although familiar with church organ playing he is looking forward to the opportunity to hone these skills in the setting of the cathedral, and to gain experience accompanying choral music.

Besides playing, Aaron is actively involved with the Scottish Cinema Organ Trust, leading several initiatives to promote Scotland’s only Wurlitzer organ (Pollokshaws Burgh Hall) and the Compton organ in Summerlee Museum. His enthusiasm for the instrument came across in abundance at his interview for our organ scholarship, and we are thrilled to be adding such an energetic young organist to our team—we look forward to what the year ahead may hold!

Aaron’s first service is on Wednesday 16th September, and he will play at three services each month.
Dear friend,

I am writing to all ministers and session clerks following our latest Presbytery meeting. At that meeting, we thanked a variety of people on behalf of Presbytery for the work they have done over the past few months. I wish to extend that thanks.

I am acutely aware that the work and witness of Presbytery is primarily carried out by congregations. In most congregations, the Session Clerk and Minister carry a large share of the responsibility for making sure that the congregation is an effective witness. I am writing to express both thanks and encouragement for the work you are doing.

We heard at Presbytery about the number of church buildings opening following lockdown. We are also aware of the innovative ways in which churches have been bearing witness to the Good News of Jesus while we were unable to use our buildings. It is a privilege for us to do this work in the name of our Saviour, nevertheless we all value encouragement and thanks – hence this short note.

Wherever your congregation is at in terms of re-opening buildings, online witness etc., it seems appropriate to remind one another of the encouraging words of the apostle Paul as he wrote to the Philippian believers. Together as leaders in congregations of Glasgow Presbytery, we may want to take time to follow his example as we support and pray for one another.

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry in on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

(Phil 1; 3-5).

God bless,

William

Rev William Wilson
Moderator
A visitor to Glasgow Cathedral said……

JAPAN’S ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY THAT HELPS US ACCEPT OUR FLAWS

Miriam shares in worship with the Cathedral congregation regularly. Last year Miriam was visiting Iona and met the Minister. Upon her return from Iona they met again at the Cathedral and have connected online during this time of lockdown. Miriam is in Brazil and it is wonderful to foster this international connection. Here are some thoughts shared by Miriam in respect of a lovely documentary on the BBC. An illustration used by the Minister.

Japan’s ancient art of celebrating broken pottery is rooted in an ancient philosophy of life that finds beauty in imperfection. Many believe it can help us accept our flaws and foster a sense of peace and fulfillment.

Video by Terushi Sho  BBC Reel (This may be found on the BBC Iplayer)
All things are created and destined to be broken someday. I think being broken or damaged is never a bad thing. All of us develop scars throughout our lives. But these scars should never be hidden. Our imperfections can be the birth of something new.

Kintsugi

Embracing the imperfect

It’s Japan’s century-old art of repairing broken pottery.

Hiroki Kiyokawa – Kintsugi restorer

I’ve been doing this job for 45 years. Kintsugi is the technique for restoring broken things with lacquer and decorating the cracks with gold. Instead of covering up the flaws, Kintsugi beautifies the breakage. The powdered gold highlights the fracture as an important part of the object’s history. The lacquered cracks are covered with gold to transform the pot into a special object which will be used and preserved for a long time. The restored ceramic becomes a symbol of fragility, strength, and beauty. Many see Kintsugi as a powerful metaphor for life where nothing is ever truly broken. Kintsugi is mainly used in pottery. It’s often used on pottery that’s been inherited or on people’s favourite pieces. So, it’s usually used to restore objects
that have sentimental value. The fractured part where Kintsugi is applied becomes a new landscape in itself.

The glue traditionally used to put the pieces together is lacquer... produced from the sap of an indigenous tree in Japan. It has been used in Japanese art since the prehistoric Jomon Period. Japanese people and lacquer have an inseparable relationship. The Japanese lacquer is extremely precious because the tree will be cut off after we extract a cup of sap from it. The sap is like their blood and extracting it ends the tree's life. So, we are always grateful to nature. We spend a lot of time to process the natural material by hand. I think that is a sustainable way to live with nature. The restoration process can take up to three months. The lacquer must dry and harden before it can be dusted with gold.

Many believe that Kintsugi teaches us resilience and helps us put together fragments of ourselves. This process can help with restoring our own broken parts, both physical and psychological. And I feel like through this job, I am also restoring the broken parts of myself. I think our broken parts can be mended. So we should never give up on life. The celebration of broken objects is an extension of “wabi-sabi”. It’s an eastern philosophy that finds beauty in imperfection. Try not to hide what you’ve gone through and your history, even if it was a big accident. You should embrace it and you will be reborn because of that accident.
There are many talented people who share their gifts in the life of the Cathedral. Gregor Smith serves on the Kirk Session and is an accomplished artist. Gregor offers an illustration for reflection. It is titled.

**WIND IN THE TREES, by Gregor Smith**

This is a small woodcut printed in three colours. The subject is a group of trees on the riverbank near my home. This is a reduction process where the wood is removed with small chisels and prints are taken at each stage, in this case three.

I called it "Wind in the trees." It was printed at home recently using relief inks, a small roller and wooden spoon. The wood used is Shina plywood and the paper is Madrid Litho, both of which are very sympathetic to the medium.
A Glasgow nonsense rhyme for Molly

Liz Lochhead

Molly Pin Li McLaren,
come home and look
at the pictures in your brand-new book –
a tree, a bird, a fish, a bell,
a bell, a fish, a tree, a bird.
Point, wee Molly, and say the word!

Oh, Molly, I wish
you the moon as white and round as a dish
and a bell, a tree, a bird and a fish.

Touch! Taste! Look! Smell!
(tree, fish, bird, bell)
And listen, wee Molly, listen well
to the wind,
to the wind in the tree go swish
(bird, bell, tree, fish)
to the shrill of the bird and the plop of the fish
and the clang of the bell
and the stories they tell
the stories they tell,
Molly, the tree, the bird, the fish and the bell.
# Worship Planner

## September & October 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Hymns</th>
<th>Music</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tr>
<td>20/9</td>
<td>Exodus 14:19–31</td>
<td>9 Praise to the Lord</td>
<td>2. A Batten – Deliver us, O Lord our God</td>
<td>Get what you give!</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Psalm 114</td>
<td>89 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah</td>
<td>3. H Howells – Behold, O God our defender</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Matthew 18:21–35</td>
<td>CH4 694 Brother, sister, let me serve you</td>
<td>Edwin Hillier (director), Andrew Forbes (organ)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>30 All creatures of our God and King</td>
<td>4. E Bullock – Give us the wings of faith</td>
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<tr>
<td>27/9</td>
<td>Exodus 16:2–15</td>
<td>936 Behold the amazing gift</td>
<td>2. HG Ley – A Prayer of King Henry VI</td>
<td>All are equal!</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Psalm 98:1–5</td>
<td>635 Almighty God, thy word is cast</td>
<td>3. CV Stanford – Magnificat in C</td>
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<td>Matthew 20:1–16</td>
<td>78 Jesus, lover of my soul</td>
<td>4. D Buxtehude – Gott will ich lassen raten</td>
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<td>34 Lord of all being</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>Exodus 17:1–7</td>
<td>139 I to the hills</td>
<td>2. A Gabrieli – Kyrie from Missa Brevis</td>
<td>Who is in charge?</td>
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<td>Psalm 78:1–4, 12–16</td>
<td>83 Rock of ages</td>
<td>3. F Guerrero – Ego flos campi</td>
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<td>Matthew 21:23–32</td>
<td>72 O God of Bethel</td>
<td>4. J Angus – O Lord, because my heart’s desire</td>
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<td>79 Just as I am</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Exodus 20: 1–4, 7–9, 12–20</td>
<td>10 Christ is made the sure foundation</td>
<td>2. T Tallis – Miserere à 5</td>
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<td>Psalm 19</td>
<td>241 There is a green hill</td>
<td>3. A Gabrieli – Gloria from Missa Brevis</td>
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<td>Matthew 21:33–46</td>
<td>450 Saviour, teach me</td>
<td>4. Gabriel Jackson – In all his works</td>
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<td>if needed: 397 O god thou art</td>
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<td>18/10</td>
<td>Exodus 32:1–14</td>
<td>294 How glorious Zion’s courts</td>
<td>2. H Schütz – Also hat Gott die Welt geliebt, SWV 380</td>
<td>You are invited!</td>
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<td>Psalm 105:1–5, 23–26</td>
<td>35 O worship the King</td>
<td>3. C Wood – Nunc dimittis in B flat</td>
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<td>Matthew 22:1–14</td>
<td>24 God is our refuge</td>
<td>4. P Hadley – My beloved spake</td>
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<td></td>
<td>135 The Lord of heaven confess</td>
<td>James Slimings (director), Andrew Forbes (organ)</td>
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<td>25/10</td>
<td>Exodus 33:12–23</td>
<td>1 All people that on earth</td>
<td>2. CHH Parry – Hear my words [EXTRACT]</td>
<td>Render unto Caesar!</td>
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<td>Psalm 99</td>
<td>289 Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious</td>
<td>3. CHH Parry – I was glad</td>
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<td>where’er the sun</td>
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<td>88 God of grace and God of glory</td>
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</table>
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Historic Environment Scotland
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SERVICES IN THE CATHEDRAL
Sunday:
Recoded Morning 11:00
Podcast 4:00

HOLY COMMUNION
Due to restrictions these are subject to change.
12:15 on the first Sunday of each month
11:00 on Christmas Day, Easter Sunday, Pentecost, on a Sunday in March and October, Epiphany, St Kentigern’s Day (13th January), Ash Wednesday, Ascension Day, All Saints (1st November), St Andrew’s Day (30th November) and Maundy Thursday Evening.

When desired, Holy Communion can be celebrated privately in hospital or the home.

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session-clerk@glasgowcathedral.org

BAPTISM and FUNERALS
Contact the Cathedral Minister.

CONGREGATION MATTERS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS
SHONA FRENCH

OPENING TIMES
See the Cathedral Website glasgowcathedral.org for current opening times outside of services and notices of closure, or phone the Cathedral Custodians