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After a short break over the summer months, your Newsletter returns with stories to tell of events yet to come, as well as – of course – events which have taken place in recent weeks. Our Chief Steward, John Andrew, has written a personal perspective of the behind-the-scenes work to stage manage St Giles' role in the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, and we have collated some images, mostly unique to St Giles', of the people and preparations involved.

Life, of course, goes on; our guest photograph was provided by the City of Edinburgh Council, and shows just what that means for the Royal Household. In St Giles', too, we have much to do. The Neighbourhood Group are gearing up for a busy winter and are reporting back on recent activities. We bid farewell to Hazel in Heritage & Culture, and say hello in our profile interview with Sam, our new Assistant Minister; and there is lots more too!



## Autumn reflections



At the beginning of September I saw the first mince pies in a shop. I am always a bit shocked how early they appear every year. It seems, now that the summer holidays are becoming a distant memory, and the days are getting shorter and darker, many begin to look forward to the lights and the joy of the Christmas season.

But maybe we should not wish these autumn weeks away. They have their own glory, their own rhythm, and their own purpose. At our Harvest Thanksgiving Service at the beginning of October we take time to reflect on the many reasons we have for giving thanks to God. And the reflectiveness continues. In November, when many churches mark All Saints and All Souls, and with Remembrance Sunday following right behind, not all our thoughts will be focused on Christmas lights. We remember those who are not with us any more, those who died in the wars of recent times - those whom we might still miss terribly.

Autumn for many is the time to remember because the distractions of summer are no more. We withdraw into our homes – doors and windows are firmly closed. This more quiet time, maybe more thoughtful time, is just as important as the times of laughter and light and bustling activity. We all need time to reflect on life, on what has been, on what it all means; time to remember.

But this is also the time to look out for each other. When the doors are shut and the curtains drawn it is very easy not to be aware that a neighbour or friend is not just being quietly reflective, but that they are lonely or sad, unwell or without food or heat. There will be those among us for whom remembering will be painful, or for whom being on their own is difficult. And the worry over slippery leaves on the pavements, or sudden gusts of wind that could knock a frail person over, can be cause enough for someone to feel they cannot go out.

There may be many reasons why we don't have as much time for each other during these months. For some this is the busy time of preparation, of meetings and planning, for others it is the time for withdrawal and reflection. But let us remember to keep in touch with each other, to look out for those who seem to have "disappeared". Let us not underestimate the value of a chat on the phone, a card, a visit.

May we never assume we know how other people are, unless they have told us. There will be some among us who are carrying burdens of which we have no idea. And in our shared life, let us remember that caring for one another usually goes both ways. Giving and receiving are so often closely interwoven. We need each other.

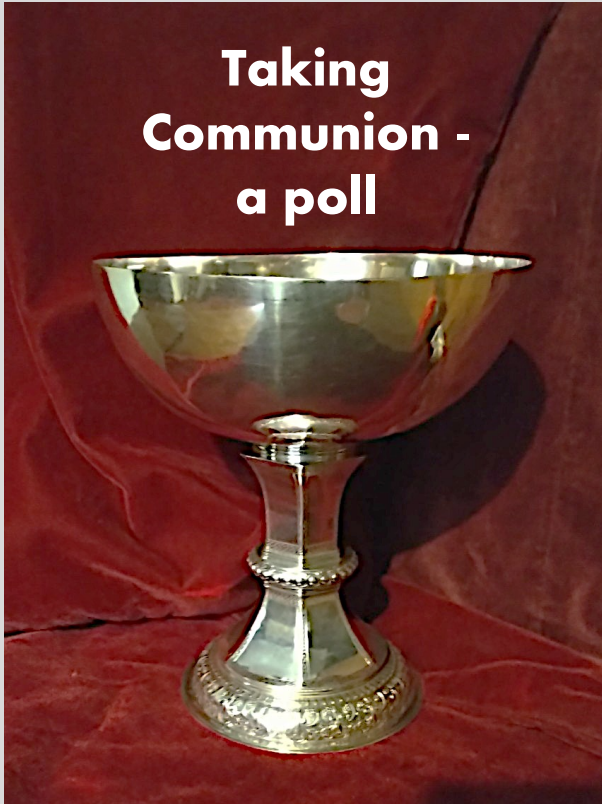
In our life as a congregation and as Christians in this world, may we reflect what is expressed in the words of a song from our hymnary:

**"Brother, sister, let me serve you, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too."**

With many blessings,  
Sigrid



## Taking Communion - a poll



The Minister and Kirk Session are conscious that, in our response to the challenge of Covid-19, we are no longer offering the congregation the wine as part of our celebration of Holy Communion.

In an effort to revert, in some manner, to full participation by all, we have acquired a number of individual communion glasses from another congregation. While they would not be enough for the very busy services such as Christmas and Easter, they may suffice for more normal attendance – though there would, of course, be a new task of washing them all up afterwards!

We are also asking whether there is demand simply to return to the use of a Common Cup, either to drink from directly or by intinction – dipping one's bread in the wine that is in the Common Cup. If there was strong support for intinction, it might be that we would need a separate cup for this, to reduce the risk of contamination; while our Communionware is, of course, silver, it cannot of itself prevent the spread of infection.

In order to determine the best and most efficient way forward, we have prepared a short poll, with four suggested answers to the question "How do you feel about taking wine at Communion?":

1. I would prefer to drink from a Common Cup
2. I would prefer intinction of bread using a Common Cup
3. I would prefer to use an individual glass
4. I would prefer to continue taking only the bread.

The Kirk Session will then use the results of this poll to inform their decision about future practise.

It may be found at this [link](#); if you are reading this in the print version and would like to participate, please email [comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk) for the link to be sent to you, or simply answer the question in the body of your email. Written responses should be addressed to Amanda Forsyth, Communications Convenor, St Giles' Cathedral Edinburgh EH1 1RE.





## Meeting the the new Assistant Minister

**We sit down for a chance to meet Sam Nwokoro.**

*Let's start by journaling your travels. We already know that you hail from Nigeria, and that you studied in Copenhagen – where else have your studies taken you, and what brought you to Edinburgh?*

I have had short study trips to Germany, the Netherlands, and Ireland, during my time here in Edinburgh. I came to Edinburgh in September 2018 to pursue a postgraduate doctoral study at New College.

*St Giles' has a profile in tourism, as a performance venue, and most recently, and obviously, civic duties. How does that affect your view of our church as a place of worship?*

There are very few places of Christian worship that can attest to a steady stream of visitors, outside of its core congregation. The gift of Christian worship is given both for solemn edification and the blessing of the world. I would like to think that being a Christian sanctuary does not limit the blessings that St Giles' can afford to civic and cultural life. If the witness of Christian spirituality is made manifest to the member as well as the stranger in things as little as silence or as grand as the sound of the organ, then St Giles' retains a unique potency in its multiple functions.

*Hopefully you've found time to have a quiet moment in our beautiful building. Do you have a favourite space, window or view that helps you pause and think?*

I find the whole of St Giles' deeply inspiring. However, whenever I am sat on the eastern or western flank of the marble altar during worship, I tend to easily drift away. I like to stare at the stained-glass window at the top view, while listening to the choir right behind me. Sometimes, I shut my eyes in utter meditation during worship. Thankfully, so far, I have not missed any part of my ministering role on account of that!

*We're in a place of change and challenge, as a church, a faith, and a country. What is the issue that – for you – presents the most difficult questions?*

There will always be challenging times for faith and country. What is not always in great supply is the sustained effort at creating the right space, listening will, and graceful exchanges that are crucial to making it through any difficulty, whatever that may be. The most pressing issue is whether we, as church and society, are willing to stay open minded and have difficult conversations with grace and dignity. The church can attract great respect when it takes its rightful place in promoting courteous conversations around difficult matters and social change.

*Finally, our unashamedly curious question. When you escape from the crowds and the noise of the city to the peace of a book and a beverage, what's in the book, and what's in the glass?*

That would probably be some Drambuie and one of Rowan Williams' theological rants.





## Feeding a Thousand

**On Sigrid's theme of service in her Reflection, a member of the Neighbourhood Group describes a very specific service.**

Over 22,000 meals served last winter, 1,137 individuals accessed the service: the statistics tell everything and nothing.

The figures give some idea of the enormity of the task undertaken each winter night by teams of volunteers from church congregations throughout Lothian, under the aegis of Bethany Christian Trust, cooking meals and serving them to homeless folk at the Hub Hotel, Haymarket.

The statistics, however, give no sense of the practical logistics of the whole operation. Each night kitchen has to be provisioned, a task which always requires more than half a day's shopping. The food and equipment have to be assembled in a compact and orderly car-load for the church hall whose kitchen has been assigned to the particular team of volunteers. The cooking has to be done within a strictly limited time-scale, so that the finished two-course meal can be loaded into insulated carrying boxes and transported to the Hub where, kept warm in the heated serving unit gifted by the Neighbourhood Group some years ago, it is served to the guests. A former team-leader said that one of his most fervent prayers was "God grant that the rice will have cooked in time!"

Throughout the past 11 years, a team from the St Giles' Neighbourhood Group has participated in this operation. The shift begins at 5.30pm and ends after 10.30 pm. It requires everyone to work willingly together as a team, 7 or 8 strong. And we always do – despite the demanding nature of the work, there is never any difficulty in finding volunteers for each of the three catering nights assigned to us, usually in November, February and March. To serve in some small way by providing, preparing and

presenting food to our fellows has importance for us. Each winter, the three night kitchens are accomplished for under £400, paid for out of the Neighbourhood Group's fund-raising efforts.

We have always been impressed by the professional dedication of the small number of Bethany staff who are present each night, supporting, counselling and befriending individuals who sometimes arrive in a distressed state, occasionally aggressive, at times escorted by the police, taking them to the Welcome Centre for their own safety and well-being.

It is a privilege to play even a small part in this whole operation. On one level, it is a matter of serving a plate of lasagna or moussaka or bangers and mash, followed by St Giles' trifle which always draws requests for second helpings; but there can be more to it than that, something unspoken yet significant.

Lighter moments too. One recalls the little Nigerian lady who, having had her meal, smilingly approached the serving table, bowed and said quietly "Compliments to the chef." There was also the dashing young Pole who taught one of our ladies to say 'Good evening' in Polish – and then proceeded to kiss her hand. Rumour has it that she didn't wash that hand until the following weekend.



**Bethany  
Christian  
Trust**



## Breathing space for the choir – but not much!

As we move into autumn the music team is gearing up for a busy few months. Nothing will I suspect quite beat the intensity of the few days at the start of this month when we suddenly found ourselves immersed in Operation Unicorn. It was a huge privilege for the choir and organists to be part of the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of HM The Queen, and a few days of pulling all the long-prepared details together came to fruition in a very moving way.

Now things are somewhat calmer we are able to return to a project which began in February 2020, which is the recording of a CD based on settings of the psalms by Scottish or Scottish-based composers from the Renaissance to the present day, including some never-before recorded psalm paraphrase settings by Jean Servin, a Huguenot composer based in Geneva who presented a set of these compositions to the young James VI in 1579. Among the contemporary works on the disc is a setting of Psalm 148 by Judith Weir, Master of the King's Music, which is scored for choir and solo trombone; in this the choir are joined by trombonist John Kenny.

It will be good to finally have this recording completed, and it should appear in the New Year on our Aegidius label. In the meantime, please remember that the rest of our recordings on the Aegidius label are available from the St Giles' shop.

We have also begun planning for Christmas, when we will be returning to our pre-pandemic pattern, with a concert of Christmas favourites and Carols for all on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 5.30pm, and the annual Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm. We look forward to welcoming you to these two popular events.

Michael Harris,  
Master of the Music





## Operation Unicorn – A St Giles' Perspective

John Andrew, the Chief Steward gives us his view of Operation Unicorn and we take the opportunity to share some photographs recording the transformation of the building for this historic event.

The news that was released at lunchtime on Thursday 8 September 2022 that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was in poor health, followed by the announcement that the close members of the Royal Family were travelling to Balmoral to be with her, started a chain of events that would place St Giles' Cathedral at the centre of international mourning for a much-loved monarch.

Following the confirmation of the death of Her Majesty the Queen during the early evening, a small team from St Giles' commenced preparations to deliver the fitting and dignified events in Scotland to celebrate Her Majesty's life and mark the accession of His Majesty The King.

Years of planning and coordination with partners and agencies across Scotland went into these events, as part of the project named Operation Unicorn. Although planned for years, their execution was compressed into days and hours; and as Her Majesty died in Scotland, the role of Unicorn within the overall 'London Bridge' was preeminent.

Following the sad news of Her Majesty's passing the plan was formally activated. Several initial phone calls began to bring the parts of the plan together.

The primary task was to secure the Cathedral and mobilise the requirements to broadcast the events. BBC outside broadcast equipment began to arrive and was set up in Parliament Square by 22.00 on the Thursday evening, with the remainder of the equipment and resources dispatched and enroute for commencement of the build first thing on Friday morning. We now had less than three days to prepare before worldwide television and radio broadcasts would commence. The BBC had a large team on site early on Friday morning and the rigging, cabling, lighting, sound and cameras all started to be installed. The quantities and scale of the equipment was significant including 13 cameras to cover all areas of the building. Other external cameras around the Cathedral were also installed.

As the operation proceeded a daily rhythm of meetings, discussions and decision making was put in place. This involved daily 06.30 meetings with Scottish Government and other agencies involved, collating all

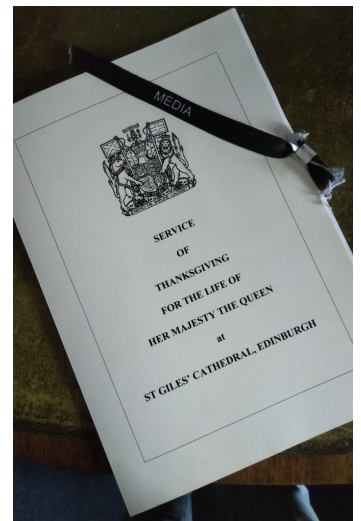
aspects of the plan and progress. These meetings, all virtual, and with various teams and partners were repeated regularly during each day. We also held regular internal progress meetings with our BBC colleagues and the other partners involved in delivering the Service of Thanksgiving and the Vigil to be held in the Cathedral. Working in the Cathedral became a routine with activities normally commencing before 08.00 and continuing until 22.00 or later as required.

The broadcast of the Proclamation at the Mercat Cross at noon on Sunday was our first focus, followed by the arrival of Her Majesty's coffin in Edinburgh from Balmoral that afternoon. During the Sunday afternoon as the majority of the build was completed inside the Cathedral, we commenced a series of rehearsals of the key components of the service. This involved further participation from key partners including the placing of the plinth; delivery and securing the Crown of Scotland for the service and vigil by Historic Environment Scotland, and rehearsals of the bearer party from the Royal Regiment of Scotland then followed. Our Master of the Music, Michael Harris, organist Jordan English – who had only left on holiday the day before the announcement and made a quick return – and members of the Choir held a rehearsal on Sunday evening, together with the other musicians involved in the service. The Minister, the Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland together with The Lord Lyon, who was responsible for the service and events, all rehearsed elements of the service.

All the while, the camera crews were checking on angles and preparing for the coverage for the service.

As would be expected for such a significant international event there were many last-minute changes, and revisions required on the minute details to successfully present and deliver the Cathedral to a worldwide television audience. We had removed one of the chandeliers to be upgraded to LED lighting; it had to be rebuilt and reinstated at the last minute so that the Cathedral was presented intact. The works required to dress the Cathedral and to mask and hide much of the temporary installation was significant and was done with care and sensitivity such that nothing unexpected appeared on screen.

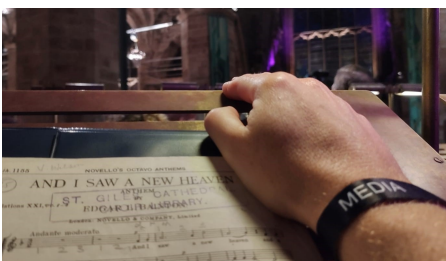
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Jacob King/Alamy





*Continued from page 7*

On Monday 12 September 2022 at 13.00 the live TV and radio broadcast from St Giles' Cathedral commenced, directed and controlled from the BBC outside broadcast unit to an international audience. This broadcast was directed by senior BBC TV director John Smith. John has become a good friend to St Giles' over the years and his personal and detailed commitment to the broadcast and the Cathedral was evident as the broadcast was aired. Working with commentator Sally Magnusson, providing the details of the service and the setting, this was the successful conclusion by a large team which had become friends over many years, collaborating to make the service memorable and a fitting tribute to the late Queen.

Following the conclusion of the service and the end of the live broadcast the St Giles' team worked swiftly to prepare for the vigil which enabled the public to file past and pay personal respects to the late Queen. This required the reconfiguration of the Cathedral's layout to enable two lines of mourners to file past over almost a 24-hour period. During this time in excess of 33,000 people attended to pay their individual respects, often queueing for hours throughout the night. During the vigil Her Majesty was guarded by four members from the Royal Company of Archers, the monarch's bodyguard in Scotland, who stood changing each 20 minutes at the four corners of the plinth throughout the lying-in-rest. During the evening the King, his sister and brothers held a personal vigil to pay respects to their mother. A similar guard was formed by four Knights of the Thistle later in the evening.

The events concluded on Tuesday afternoon when, following a short private prayer service, Her Majesty was taken from the Cathedral and then transported by road to Edinburgh Airport and flown to London for the state funeral in London and Windsor on Monday 19 September, the final journey.

Following the departure, the derig commenced on Tuesday evening, slowly returning the Cathedral to something like its normal appearance – with great credit to our BBC colleagues for leaving no trace of damage after their visit, despite the frantic activity involved. We were able to open the building to

visitors at lunchtime on Thursday, just under a week after the initial activation was announced. We preserved the area where the Queen lay at rest as a mark of respect to our late monarch until after the state funeral on the following Monday.

The week saw a fantastic level of cooperation and collaboration across all the agencies and partners involved and it was only with everyone pulling together that we were able to host such remarkable events that will live in everyone's memory. We had support from many external agencies including the Police, Scottish Fire and Rescue, Scottish Ambulance Service and Scottish Power.

We certainly ensured that Her Majesty the Queen was given the respect and farewell from Scotland that was richly deserved following a lifetime of service to the nation.

All the staff and stewards that assisted during the preparations, the delivery of the service of thanksgiving and vigil and that returned the Cathedral back to normal service deserve a huge thank you for a job well done. Special mention must go to the ministerial team, minister's secretary, Master of the Music, Assistant Organist and the members of the Cathedral Choir. The Beadles and the Heritage and Culture team deserve an additional mention for the works involved to prepare the building before, during and after. I must also thank Emma Caskie Potter for taking responsibility for arranging the stewarding team that assisted with the service and vigil.

The core St Giles' team comprising Alison Wylie, Sarah Phemister and Stephen Preston worked tirelessly over many years. They were at the centre of the operation and without their timeless commitment Operation Unicorn would not have delivered the successful outcome. St Giles' will be forever grateful to you all.

On a personal level I noted that I walked in excess of 12 miles each day during this period of hectic activity; each step was certainly worth it given the excellent outcome that St Giles' delivered for a treasured monarch and a grateful nation.



## St Giles' – the Costs of a Living Church

Friends, the General Convenor and I have taken time in recent issues of this Newsletter to talk about St Giles' participation in the ecumenical Eco Congregation Scotland movement which seeks to address climate change and promote conservation.

Shall we just say that our decision to sign up was timely? Given the way in which our bills are likely to rise this winter, it is more important than ever that we find ways in which to reduce our use of the planet's scarce resources. I thought it would be useful to bring you up to date on the measures that we are taking to try to mitigate the impact of our ever-increasing utility bills.

There are investments that we are making – in light, and in heat. Our late benefactor, Sir Angus Grossart, provided us just before he died with a considerable sum of money, which is allowing us to replace the bulbs in our beautiful chandeliers with LEDs, thus reducing their electricity usage. This work was necessarily put on hold during the formalities around the death of Her Majesty the Queen, but is now resuming at what we hope will be an accelerated pace. We are also replacing a very elderly boiler, which will again make the challenge of keeping the temperature in St Giles' at an acceptable level more affordable.

There are also, of course, the usual good housekeeping measures that any responsible householder is undertaking – where we can reduce, reuse and recycle, we are doing our best to do so. Switching off lights, too, takes on a whole new flavour; we are having to think very hard about whether this is the time to restore the Kirk's external illumination, or whether we should wait until there is greater financial security – for us, and for the community we inhabit.

I will end with my perennial message: please, as always, give what you can to help us meet these pressing needs. Help us be responsible stewards of our Kirk for our congregation, our city and our world.

**Niall Lothian, Treasurer**





## How our donations help New Scots communities



The Welcoming recently wrote to thank the congregation of St Giles' for all we are doing to provide funds to support refugees in our community. While we reported from The Welcoming in the last issue, we were keen to report their more detailed comments here.

Since the beginning of 2022 St Giles' has donated £2,100 to The Welcoming. The Welcoming gave us the following examples of how they are using this funding to provide New Scots with:

- teaching materials and room hire for weekly support sessions for newly-arrived Afghan refugee families in temporary accommodation
- games, art materials and crafting for the children of newly-arrived Afghan families and an outdoors picnic party to celebrate Eid
- a book of bus tickets for an asylum seeker, currently with No Recourse to Public Funds and who was experiencing isolation in temporary accommodation
- a contribution towards a new bed for a single mother from their community who was sharing a mattress with her disabled child
- money to facilitate a support and signposting session with the newly-arrived Ukrainian community

As The Welcoming say, our funds 'really do make a difference'.

## Farewell to our excellent designer

Heritage and Culture has said goodbye to Hazel Frost this month. Hazel joined us back in 2018 and will be remembered for her incredible design skills. She took us from very much a homemade look to a well-considered house style.

Hazel's work can be seen in various locations around the Cathedral on our interpretation and information boards but perhaps her biggest project of late was to design the new St Giles' website! We think everyone will be really impressed by the quality of design and content of the new pages, so keep an eye out for them as the new web page is due to launch very soon. Hazel has been an invaluable member of our team and will be sorely missed. Hazel leaves to continue her practice as a ceramicist having received a grant from Creative Scotland to pursue projects in her own studio, 'Studio Frostwood'. Her work can also be found at [www.hazelfrostceramics.com](http://www.hazelfrostceramics.com).

From all at St Giles',  
Thanks for all you did!



St GILES'  
CATHEDRAL



## St Andrew's Banners

The Banner Guild were delighted to see the banners used during the Queen's lying in state, which immediately identified St Giles', Edinburgh and Scotland.

The team received calls and emails from friends and family in Canada, USA, Switzerland and Edinburgh, asking if these were the banners, pulpit fall and Bible ties they had been part of making.

The team is so proud to have contributed to the dignified tributes to her late Majesty.



## Save the Date

### Volunteers for Neighbourhood Group Annual Can Collection

The Neighbourhood Group plan to undertake a can collection on behalf of the Rock Trust on Friday 16th December and Saturday 17th December. This is dependent on being granted a street collection licence by the Council. Collectors are asked to do one (or more) one-hour slots on Princes Street or in the Old Town. At this stage we are asking anyone who is interested in volunteering to be a collector to contact us via our email address

[Neighbourhoodgroup@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:Neighbourhoodgroup@stgilescathedral.org.uk)



## Digitally engaged!

One of the areas where St Giles' has seen rapid growth during this year is in the audiences for our live streaming of Sunday services. As we work to build on that important aspect of our ministry in the wider world, we are delighted to have been able to appoint a Digital Engagement Officer, whose job it will be to run the Sunday morning live streams, as well as exploring the ways in which we can improve the quality of our offering, and perhaps even undertake more extensive activities of this kind.

Tatra Blewett-Mundy is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, and is now starting an MSc in History. As well as her knowledge of the creation and editing of video content, she has worked as a stage manager – definitely useful when thinking on one's feet is required!

"I am delighted to be working in St Giles', which sits at the heart of the culture and history of Edinburgh. I visited often during my studies of Scottish History, and look forward to helping bring this beautiful building's ambience to an ever-widening audience," said Tatra.

The screenshot shows the website for St Giles' Cathedral. At the top is the cathedral's logo and the name "ST GILES' CATHEDRAL". Below this is a large image of organ pipes. A navigation menu includes links for Welcome, Worship, Music, Visit, Events, History, Podcast, Intimations, and a prominent pink "Donate" button. The main content area features a heading for "Harvest Festival Day – 11:00am" and a video player for "Morning Service from St Giles' C...". To the right of the video is a list of service details: "St. Giles' Cathedral", "Morning Service at 11.00am", "Harvest Festival Day", "Celebration of the Harvest", and "Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022". Below this is a section for "Organ Music" listing "J.S. Bach *Wir glauben all an einen Gott* BWV 1098" and "Louis Vierne *Romance* (Symphonie IV)". An "Introit" section follows with the text "O sing unto the Lord a new song". On the right side, there is a purple "Donate with JustGiving" button and a "SERVICES ONLINE" section listing "Sunday 2nd October" with "Harvest – 9:30" and "Harvest – 11:00". At the bottom right, the date "Thursday 29th September" is partially visible.



## Proclaiming a King



The end of an era, and the start of a new one: the public proclamation to announce the accession of King Charles III at the Mercat Cross. This photograph, reproduced with the kind permission of the City of Edinburgh Council, shows St Giles' position at the forefront of the national stage – figuratively and literally.



## Advent Appeal

The Minister has given his approval for the Advent Appeal, the eighth of its kind, to go ahead. This year's appeal will be on behalf of three local charities that help needy folk: the Edinburgh Food Project, the Edinburgh Clothing Store and Streetwork. More details about the way we will be asking for help will feature in the Weekly Bulletin - if you do not already receive it, please email [comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk) to be added to the mailing list.

## Contact information

The [@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:@stgilescathedral.org.uk) address has been rolled out to certain of the key contacts at St Giles' – some examples are shown below:

Calum MacLeod, Minister	<a href="mailto:minister@stgilescathedral.org.uk">minister@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Sigrid Marten, Associate Minister	<a href="mailto:sigrid.marten@stgilescathedral.org.uk">sigrid.marten@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Mark Batho, Session Clerk	<a href="mailto:sessionclerk@stgilescathedral.org.uk">sessionclerk@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Niall Lothian, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@stgilescathedral.org.uk">treasurer@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Michael Harris, Master of the Music	<a href="mailto:michael.harris@stgilescathedral.org.uk">michael.harris@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Sarah Phemister, Head of Heritage & Culture	<a href="mailto:sarah.phemister@stgilescathedral.org.uk">sarah.phemister@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>

As Communications Convenor, Amanda Forsyth monitors the [comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk) address, and is generally able to forward queries to other members of the Kirk staff and Session. She can also be reached directly on [amanda.forsyth@stgilescathedral.org.uk](mailto:amanda.forsyth@stgilescathedral.org.uk)

### Useful contacts:

Cathedral Secretary	0131 225 4363	<a href="mailto:corinne.macinnes@stgilescathedral.org.uk">corinne.macinnes@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Beadles' Office	0131 226 0672	
Cathedral Shop	0131 226 0673	<a href="mailto:shop@stgilescathedral.org.uk">shop@stgilescathedral.org.uk</a>
Finance Office	0131 225 8683	
Heritage & Culture	0131 226 0674	

## And Finally...

This edition marks the first anniversary of the Newsletter in its new format. We have had lots of positive feedback; we've also had some suggestions about things we could do differently in future, and we are always trying to incorporate those into our thinking when planning the next issue.

As a Communications Committee, we try hard to represent all the aspects of St Giles' life, and if we're missing something out, that means we're missing an opportunity to share part of our story with the world. As George Bernard Shaw once said, "The simple biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place." Please don't assume we know – tell us!

### Picture credits

As ever, we wish to thank Peter Backhouse, who has provided his photographic skills for a number of the images in the Newsletter. We would also like to thank Ivar Struthers, who has kindly allowed us to use his image of St Giles' at sunset on the front cover.