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Welcome to the December edition of the St Giles' News, in which our Interim Moderator reflects on our journeys in Advent.

Advent also marks the start of our celebrations of St Giles' 900th Anniversary. St Giles' News will highlight different elements of our celebrations over the coming year, starting this month with the relaunch of the St Giles' Cathedral 1124 Society and a very exciting project entitled '900 Voices: What Do You Believe In?'.

The Neighbourhood Group have been particularly busy and are continuing their excellent work in the festive season. We have news of the annual Advent Appeal (now in its 9th year), the Christmas Can Collection, their work with Fresh Start and more besides. We have an update from the General Committee, who valiantly and competently face the challenge of maintaining a building which is, in parts, 900 years old. We hear from our Heritage and Culture team on a project which Alms to cross the boundaries of the last 900 years.

There's much more, too – details of our Christmas musical offerings, a 'meeting' with our new Treasurer, membership updates and a thanks for 'Heavenly Penneys'. We hope you enjoy reading it!



Reflection from the Interim Moderator

One of the challenges of leading worship at this time of year is to find space for Advent amidst the secular world's version of Christmas. This struggle has a certain appeal for thrown ministers such as myself.


Edinburgh's Christmas is mainly about the past – there is a corner for the Little Town of Bethlehem but ranged around it there is a feast of tradition and nostalgia. The “quaint” Christmas market, the mulled wine which no-one would ever touch during the rest of the year, the squaring up to the turkey dinner (and the family) because that's we always do, remembering old friends with or by a Christmas card, eating mediocre meals with work colleagues because we always have a night out in December, buying the usual presents that people expect and so on. Then when it is actually Christmas the populace are so exhausted by the six weeks of habitual jollity they want to hurriedly move on to New Year.

Advent, on the other hand, is about the future. The bible readings point ahead, we sing “O come, O come Emanuel” looking for the final return of Christ in all his glory. The bible readings resonate with prophetic voices including Jesus himself telling the crowd, “Beware, keep alert: for you do not know when the time will come.” Providing the backdrop for worship are the same purple-coloured banners we use in Lent signalling that this is a time for reflection and restraint in anticipation of the day when the long story of God's engagement with his creation is brought to fulfilment.

So, while we might have to walk through “A Winter Wonderland” to get to the church let's appreciate even a couple of Sundays of Advent this year. We can take stock and pray for the world to be made whole – a better future, peace on earth. And when it is actually Christmastime may we celebrate God's decisive intervention towards that end – his coming amongst us in human form.

Rev Dr George Whyte

ST GILES' ADVENT APPEAL 2023



Rampant Inflation. Retail Price Index. Food Poverty. In present day journalese, these terms are volleyed to and fro in a game of points-scoring which is no doubt important to democratic debate.

More immediate, however, is the worried woman, desperately clutching her handful of re-usable shopping bags, collecting her allocation for her family in the local food bank. More immediate, too, is the ill-kempt lad collecting an emergency parcel of food, because he has nothing on which to cook in his Council-sponsored B&B. For these - and there are more of them than we think - each day and each week sees the same wretched struggle to survive.

We approach the 9th annual Advent Appeal. As always, we try to do something, on however limited a scale, to help people in need. We aim to do so through the agency of two local charities with their own infrastructure and who operate, mostly, through unpaid volunteers to ameliorate the lives of people in need.

For the past 11 years, the Edinburgh Food Project has run 7 food banks in the city, supplying balanced allocations of food to clients referred by social services. This allocation of food and hygiene products is a lifeline to many who would otherwise go under. Far from diminishing, the numbers of clients applying for help have risen dramatically over the past year and this summer saw acute shortages in the warehouse food stock on which the whole operation depends. During one month, the amount of food being dispensed in the city was 150% of what had actually been contributed.

In the face of many such demands, the EFP has continued in a very resourceful, resilient way, not only managing to cope but diversifying in new ways to deal with problems. For several years, an FCA-regulated service has operated with trained counsellors in food banks, listening to clients' problems and advising them on how better to manage their lives, dealing with issues such as utility bills, energy consumption, debt management, welfare rights and social benefits. This year also, a new 'pantry' food bank has been set up in Craigmillar, whereby individuals 'shop' from the food stock, choosing within a set formula what they need, rather than the table d'hôte allocation of 12 kg of food per person.

For eight years past, St Giles' has supported the EFP and we intend to continue so to do. We hope your financial donations will enable us to supply weekly deliveries of food to the EFP warehouse on Broomhouse Road, seeking to plug gaps in the food stock.

As well as helping feed people, we are trying to support those who have been given the choice of a new life through a council tenancy. The Gateway Project, through Bethany Christian Trust and Fresh Start, does wonderful work in helping formerly homeless folk settle in to make a new home. New tenants are provided with donated furniture, beds, floor covering and seating and new microwaves and fridges.

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Through Bethany, St Giles' earlier this year funded the purchase of microwaves for 100 households, making a difference to people's lives. Now, in the middle of winter, we would like to fund, through Fresh Start, complete sets of brand-new bedding for 100 people: a bed with clean bedding is a reasonable expectation, surely.

Of course the problems are huge and we are under no illusions about our own limitations. It is surely right, however, to try to do something to help in a practical way, as we approach the time of year when we remember One born into homelessness and who, in His own words, "had nowhere to lay his head."

Yellow overprinted Neighbourhood Group envelopes will be available each Sunday and in the church through the week for contributions, whether in cash or by cheque. These envelopes can be left on the collecting plate to go to Suzanne Whitehead in the Finance Office. Cheques should be made out to St Giles' Cathedral. Bank transfers can be made to: St Giles' Cathedral, reference Advent Appeal, Sort Code 80-02-24 Account Number 01976128.

What's Going On In St Giles'?

An Update from the General Committee

Following the recent Newsletter articles, it is useful to provide readers on the current activities that are progressing ahead of the 900th Anniversary to maintain and upgrade the facilities and infrastructure in the Cathedral that supports worship, events and visitors in our historic building.

Repair and Maintenance

The maintenance of a building that is, in places, 900 years old, is Grade A listed and located in a UNESCO World Heritage Site, requires constant vigilance to ensure that any repairs are attended to before further problems arise and that we minimise the potential costs involved with early intervention. Much of this work is not obvious when we sit in the Cathedral attending Sunday Worship, a concert or recital or as a visitor admiring the architecture and atmosphere. Keeping the building wind and watertight remains a constant task and whilst we are fortunate to our predecessors for the care that has been given in the past, minor problems still require attention. At present we are investigating some slight dampness in one of the side Aisles which will require attention but assessing the cause must be the priority in the first instance. It is hoped this will be resolved in the very near future.

More recently we discovered some damage to the Montrose Memorial in the Chepman Aisle which was a result of an act of vandalism. The immediate responsibility was to ensure this did not continue and the gates protecting the area were locked. Further investigation was carried out and conservators were engaged to carry out the repairs required. I am pleased to report that this has been successfully completed but we will maintain the appropriate level of security required to ensure this is not repeated.

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We will be undertaking a full survey of the roof and cleaning all the high-level gutters and downpipes to ensure that the building will be prepared for storms and winter weather when it comes.

Recently as some readers may have observed the Cathedral Clock was not striking the hour bell due to a broken pulley wheel. This has now been repaired successfully and full service for the centre of the Old Town has resumed and well ahead of the festive and Hogmanay rituals.

Interior Lighting Improvements

As all will be aware one of the principal activities in recent months has been the improvements to the interior lighting and the upgrade to LED operation. I am pleased to report that this has progressed well, and we remain hopeful that this will be completed by mid-December. Work is progressing on the remote system which will give full control to provide the correct aesthetic for services and events in the building.

The remaining activities are to complete the lighting in the Sanctuary, Choir and Organ which when completed will provide a significant enhancement and together with the completed chandeliers and window ledge lights, a major reduction in electricity costs and maintenance.

Heating and Radiator Covers

As part of planned maintenance and to ensure efficiency the central heating boilers are serviced on a regular basis. St Giles' is not an easy building to heat as I am sure readers will be well aware and it is important to keep the building to a level of warmth to ensure the fabric does not deteriorate. It may also have been noted that the radiator covers at the East End of the building have been temporarily removed to assist with heating in this part of the Cathedral.

Fibre Broadband

In the past few days, the existing broadband connection to the Cathedral has been replaced with a fibre service. This was only recently possible due to the improvements to the services in the Old Town which has been awaited for some time. This has immediately provided improved connectivity for the systems in the building used by staff and for our communications. The new connection will also provide an improved Live Stream service for those that view our services on-line.

In summary I must commend the members of the General Committee for their continuing work in ensuring the Cathedral fabric is maintained to such a high level, to our Cathedral Architect Graham Tristram for his continued vigilance and attention to detail, to our contractors, cleaners and specialists that undertake the maintenance and works contracts and to our Beadles and Staff who carry out so many varied tasks throughout the year to ensure that the building continues to operate and is presented so well as we approach its 900th Anniversary. Thank you all.

JM Andrew, General Committee Convenor



As we enter the start of the Christian year in Advent, we also begin to celebrate 900 years of St Giles' Cathedral – its history, its culture, its heritage, its rich musical tradition, its importance as a place of Christian worship for 900 years, the significance and importance that it plays in our lives today and its potential impact for the future – locally, nationally and internationally.

Lots to celebrate, in many different ways, and I hope you will join us in these celebrations.

Reverend George Whyte, our Interim Moderator, sets out a vision for the year and beyond in a short video – 'A High Calling'. This challenges us to set high ideals and be aspirational for the role of St Giles' in the future. The video will be shown in the Cathedral and is available on our website soon.

Mary Miller in her article on 900 Voices shares how we are going to capture the views of many other people as part of this exciting project, and later in the year we will hear their voices and thoughts resonate around the Cathedral.

The 1124 Society of St Giles' Cathedral is being relaunched. This provides members of the Congregations, friends and supports of St Giles' with the opportunity to support the 900th anniversary celebrations and contribute to the development of the Cathedral by giving a donation of £1124. People will receive a certificate, a medal of St Giles and a plaque with their name will be added to one of the chairs in the Cathedral. This valued community of supporters will receive updates on how the funds are spent and invitations to occasional events. Please consider joining and share this information with family and friends.

Further information and application forms are available on the website or please send an email to stgiles900@stgilescathedral.org.uk

Anne Whiteford, St Giles' 900 Committee Convenor

Voices

St Giles' 900 is delighted to have been awarded a substantial grant from Creative Scotland in respect of the exciting project **900 Voices: What Do You Believe In?**

We will create a large-scale soundscape for the Cathedral built from conversations with the citizens of Edinburgh – from small school children to the very elderly. We want to ask them the questions: *what do you believe in? What gives you a sense of belonging?* Their answers will fill our cathedral with hundreds of voices, building a unique world of sound.

St Giles' 900 has commissioned the award-winning sound artist Zoe Irvine to create an interactive, spoken word installation. Zoe's career is international. She is an artist primarily working with sound, exploring voice, field recording and the relationship between sound and image.

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Zoe's artworks range from carefully-crafted individual pieces for broadcast and installation, to participative events. As a field recordist, Irvine has a particular love of soundscapes and composition where distance, context and human relationships become perceptible.

The installation 900 Voices will be created from a three-month period when we will record intense conversations exploring ideas around all kinds of belief and belonging amongst all ages and abilities in Edinburgh communities. The project will explore widely what we may believe in: family, football, festivals, God, Mozart or just love....

The visitor, experiencing the work in the Cathedral, will be invited to provide a search term - a keyword - either spoken or typed in a tablet interface. This will summon up instances that the word has occurred in the whole wide pool of recorded material. For example, a member of the public could instruct the installation to search for the word 'doubt' or 'buddhism' or 'family'. This will trigger all the conversations which include their chosen word.

As the playback begins quietly in distant speakers, we begin to pick up on the different voices, hearing the conversations unfolding as they swirl around the vast interior of St Giles', working their way from speaker to speaker towards the listener. They arrive, weaving through each other, one voice privileged at a time through the flow of words, when suddenly, they all arrive at the keyword, pronouncing (say) 'family' in unison. The sound then dissipates back through the space. Each 'search' will last around three to four minutes.

Each time the work is triggered it will playback differently, highlighting different voices, even if the same keyword or phrase is used. The sounds will start in various parts of the cathedral, weaving around the listener uniquely.

We want to build a large team of sound recordists from people who live in a range of different communities in Edinburgh. The team will go out into the city to capture vivid stories across our multi-generational city. We very much hope that members of the St Giles' congregation will join this team, and we will put out a call shortly for participants!

Everyone involved will be invited to take part in a simple training process. We will run workshops on basic sound recording and we will loan sound recorders to the recordists. The conversations can then be recorded in a wide variety of settings - from schools to homes, to choirs, to churches to libraries. We are in no way aiming for 'vox pops' - we want to gather heartfelt conversations; people's beliefs and truths about their homeplace. As part of the 900 Voices project we also plan a series of story-sharing community meals and meetings where we will engage with community leaders and community centres and so create several social events so as to meet people and to encourage them to take part and spread the word.

Our aim is that 900 Voices will be installed in the cathedral for six months, and we aim for a launch event in August 2024. The soundscape will then operate for specific times. In the long term it will be donated to the national archive.



Mary Miller

FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh-based charity that helps people to move on from homelessness, and prevent people from becoming homeless, through the provision of goods and services. Following on from the pandemic, we were hit with the cost-of-living crisis, our service users were already struggling, and for many this has pushed their limited finances to breaking point. Edinburgh is in the midst of a housing crisis with time spent in temporary accommodation going from a matter of weeks ten years ago, to up to three years now. With an ever-increasing population, and less social housing available, the need for our services has never been more apparent.



St Giles' has been a long-standing supporter of Fresh Start, providing goods for our starter packs – these are packs of essential items needed when moving into a new home, such as bedding, towels, curtains and kitchenware. Our practical services such as our starter packs and painting and decorating service, help to alleviate the pressure of the service user's journey out of homelessness, a time that can be very challenging. We have seen an increase in the need for our help throughout the year due to the cost-of-living crisis, with the number of starter packs being distributed increasing by almost 50% in the first half of the year.

We also offer a number of services to help people settle into their new homes and communities. We offer cooking classes to help people to cook healthy meals on a budget, and offer a twice weekly, free community meal, where anyone is welcome along to have their lunch and see a friendly face. In addition to this, we have a local pantry, offering a dignified alternative to food bank usage.



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We have also started a new service, NESSie, (North Edinburgh Support Services), offering bespoke help to people living locally. This form of unique partnership working over four organisations, takes a different approach to helping those in need, lifting criteria and taking the person as they come and focusing on what help they need there and then – this allows Fresh Start to focus on what is most important to that person at that given time, building trusting relationships.



We would also like to take this opportunity to launch our Cookers for Christmas 2023 campaign. Cookers for Christmas raises funds to buy brand new cookers, washing machines, and fridge freezers throughout the year for people moving into their new tenancy or those who are struggling financially. The need, as with all of our services, has grown exponentially over the past year, with our funding struggling to meet the demand. By supporting the Cookers for Christmas campaign, you would not just be helping to purchase white goods for someone, you would be

providing a hot meal for someone and their family, giving someone somewhere safe to store their food and allowing them to budget and eat healthily, and giving them dignity to be able to do a simple task such as wash their clothes. You can support the Cookers for Christmas campaign by donating here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cookersforchristmas2023>

Carrie-Ann Scougall, FreshStart



Music News December 2023

The Christmas period sees the St Giles' musicians fully engaged in musical festivities. This year will be no different, with the added ingredient of Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday – possibly time to set up a camp-bed!

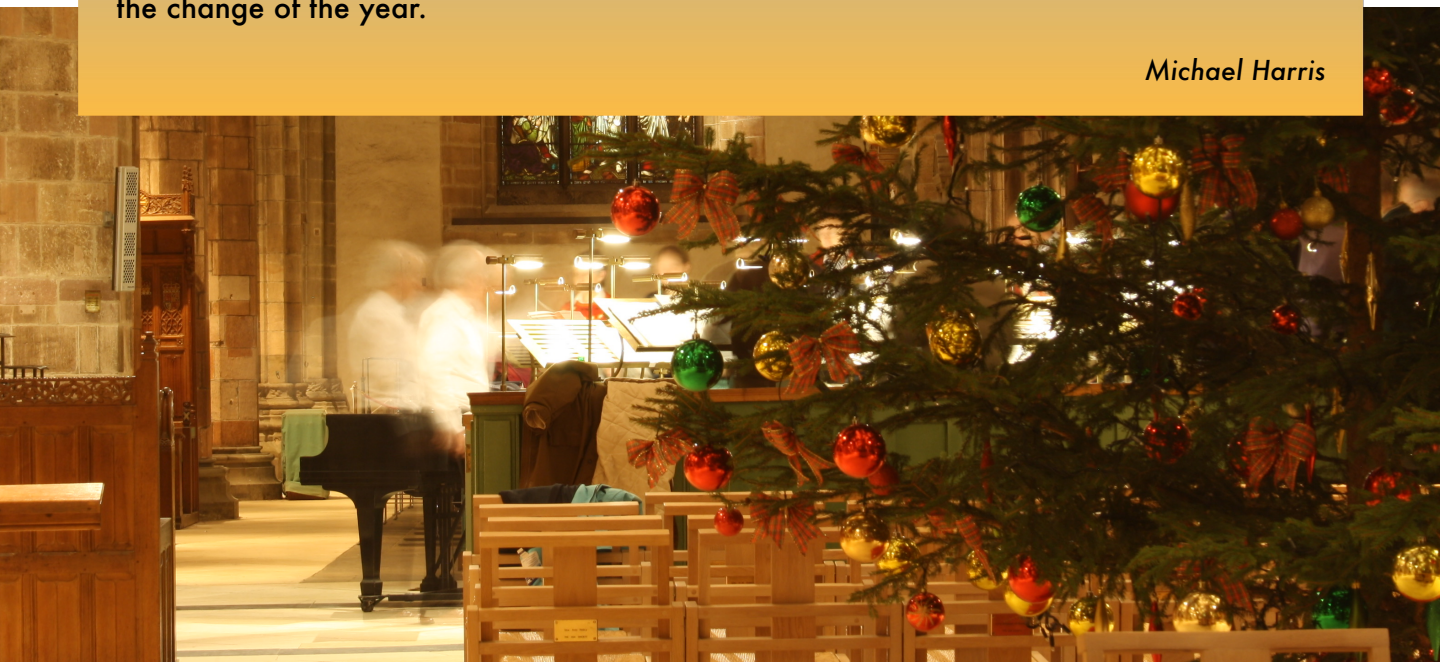
For the Cathedral Choir the Christmas season begins with the concert on 9th December at 5.30pm, *Christmas Favourites and Carols for All*. This year we will be joined by the exciting young brass ensemble, Carnyx Brass, who will help to bring a real festive feel to the occasion. This concert has become an annual event, and proceeds from it enable the choir to make an annual donation to the Advent Appeal, so please do support it if you can. Tickets are going fast on Eventbrite.

The following weekend sees the annual Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas, on Sunday 17th December at 6pm. This long-established event has become increasingly popular in recent years, and this year has already, at the time of writing, reached full capacity. It is wonderful to be able to sing to so many people who want to experience something of Christmas even if sometimes it seems that we reach more people in the month of December than in the rest of the year put together.

None of this would of course be possible without the dedication of the large team of singers which makes up the Cathedral Choir, consisting of the permanent members and deputies. They give generously of their time throughout the year, whilst often singing in a range of other choirs as well, so December in particular can become something of a diary puzzle.

While other Cathedrals in the UK, apart from a couple of exceptions, will see their choirs be able to put their feet up after Christmas Day for a week or two, here we are still not quite finished. The Hogmanay Concert has become a real feature of the St Giles' calendar, and a greatly enjoyable one at that. This year the programme will feature the first three cantatas of J.S.Bach's Christmas Oratorio, and once again the concert is already sold out. It is always a wonderful occasion and a marvellous way to celebrate the change of the year.

Michael Harris



Meeting the Treasurer

It wasn't difficult tracking down our new Treasurer, who took over from Niall Lothian in October. As a member of the Cathedral Choir, Amanda Forsyth spends a great deal of her time in the choir stalls – or, when not singing, sitting at the feet of Charles II drinking coffee. We decided it was high time we got to know her better. It should also be noted that if this picture is not helping with identification of the Treasurer, we direct the reader to page 18 of the last Newsletter.

Have you always lived in Edinburgh?

No. My father was English, and I was born in Staffordshire, in the heart of the Potteries. My mother was Scottish, though – a former pupil of Ayr Academy – so we returned to Scotland before I'd finished my schooling and I've been here more or less ever since.

Did you always want to be an accountant

I'm happy to say that no, I didn't! I'd gone to St Andrews University to do maths, but somehow came out with a Philosophy degree – Logic & Metaphysics was, it seemed, my thing. On the advice of the university careers service, and my mum, I then went to train as an accountant, on the promise of "a job for life". Getting made redundant after my training contract ended wasn't quite in keeping with that message, but I already had some transferable skills and started a new career in the stock market, where I remained for the next thirty years or so, managing UK equities and then specialising in charity portfolios.

What brought you to St Giles'?

The choir! I've sung in small choirs all my life and love the church music tradition. My father was a church organist, so if there's a musical equivalent of a 'daughter of the Manse', that's me.



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Do you have a favourite (or least favourite) work in the choir's repertoire?

Favourite – really difficult. I love the elegant simplicity of Byrd, and the drama of the Messe Solennelle by Vierne. There's also a wonderful setting of Psalm 148 by Holst, which works brilliantly in St Giles' – the final triumphant C major chord is sung on by the choir after the organ comes off... then the choir stops... and in St Giles', the building keeps on singing...

Least favourite? Probably the Fauré Requiem, and specifically, the Sanctus. Out of 62 bars of music, the altos sing precisely four!

What's the biggest challenge facing you as Treasurer?

Probably the same one that has faced all my predecessors: to try to ensure that our income keeps pace with our rising costs. So, things like the replacement of the chandelier light bulbs with LEDs will be a tremendous boon in controlling our energy costs; but insurance costs continue to escalate rapidly, and with visitor donations averaging a long way short of the suggested £6 per person, the need to charge tourists for entry is becoming very real.

Is it true that you're the first female Treasurer of St Giles'?

It seems likely! Women were first ordained as Elders here in 1979, so we don't have to go very far back to check.

Neighbourhood Group Christmas Can Collection for Streetwork - can you help?

It might seem odd in the era of contactless payments (and even digital currencies!) to be collecting coins and cash for charities at Christmas time. However, the Neighbourhood Group still thinks it is worthwhile to stand with cans in the city centre to raise money for charities. Not only does it still raise a lot of money (£3875 last year), it is also a very public display of the work of St Giles' in the wider community at this time of year.

This year's can collection will be in aid of the charity Streetwork. They do vital work by helping homeless people back into accommodation and employment. It is a particularly worthwhile cause to remember during the Christmas period.

Our can collection will take place on Friday 15 and Saturday 16 December. If you can spare an hour to stand in the city centre with a can on either of these days, your help would be most welcome. Please contact Alan Convery:

Email: alanconvery@hotmail.com

Tel: 07921134418

We can assure you it makes a difference, thank you.

Alan Convery, Neighbourhood Group Convenor

Heavenly Penneys!

As many of our longer-standing members of the congregation will be aware, Joyce Penney sadly died on 27th October 2022; like her late husband Jo, a stalwart of the St Giles' family and involved in so much of our day-to-day life. Her daughters, Bridget and Stef, have been steadily clearing the family home, and in doing so, came across several files and documents which were of interest to St Giles'. As their nearest neighbour (quite literally across the road!) the easiest thing was for them to pass these things to me for onward transmission to the relevant St Giles' person or group.

One particularly intriguing little book has come to light, which delights the heart of any Treasurer: a carefully annotated ledger for the Sunday Schools and Bible Classes 1955-62. As I leafed, smiling, through the details of income and expenditure in L, S and D (it was remarkably cheap to hire a charabanc in those days!) I came across a sealed envelope, which chinked when I shook it. Attendance medals, perhaps?

I slit it open, and found what appeared to be Monopoly money – so pristine was it, the game had never been played, it seemed. But no – it was the closing balance of the Sunday School account, representing £7 10s 4d. The five Royal Bank of Scotland notes were in sequence and in perfect condition and accompanied by two from the National Commercial Bank of Scotland and a Bank of England ten-bob note.

It now appears that such largesse is in fact worth rather more these days, and the collectors' market will be tapped to see how much we can raise.

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Grateful thanks are due to the Penneys – parents and children – for their careful stewardship of the Kirk's resources and for giving permission for us to convert these to cash for the Cathedral's coffers.

Thanks also, to everyone who has supported us this year; whether in the weekly offering, in response to the Appeal for the Covid Recovery Fund which continues to underpin our steady re-emergence from the depths of the crisis, or in any of the other myriad ways we have asked you to dig ever deeper to help us continue to keep our doors open. We aren't out of the woods, and I will doubtless be writing to you in the new year to trespass further on your generosity; but for now, in the season in which we give thanks for the greatest gift of all, my message is simply this:

Thank You.

Amanda Forsyth, Treasurer

Old sewing machines

You might wonder why I keep saying yes to everyone offering unwanted sewing machines.

The Welcoming, a migrant and refugee charity, supported by the St Giles' Cathedral Neighbourhood Group, is always happy to accept working machines.

As many of you know, there is a tradition of sewing in Syria and Afghanistan. The women wish to continue and pass on to the next generation their family skills of sewing, embroidery and dressmaking.

Thank you to all of those who have gifted machines to help this tradition continue in new homes in Scotland.

Sheana Stephen Ashton

Fourteenth Century St Giles' into the Twentieth Century

In mid-November a small team from St Giles' visited the Advanced Research Centre (a different type of Arc) at Glasgow University. Ostensibly, the aim of the visit was an update on our project, but a walk with dinosaurs through virtual reality as part of a tour was a lovely by-product.

The project itself, currently called *Project HeritAlge*, will allow visitors to experience how the Cathedral was built through a game. The genesis of the game was a response to an often-heard question from visitors, that being 'How did they build this place?' An information board was considered, as was a model, as was a video. None of those options seemed to fit the bill of really engaging visitors in a way that would leave their question properly answered. They needed to be a part of the building process themselves. After coming up against some brick walls, St Giles' Heritage & Culture team were put in touch with Dr Tim Peacock, Lecturer in History at the University of Glasgow. It was shortly after that *Project HeritAlge* was born.

As the name suggests, the game will in part be built with the help of artificial intelligence. The initial phase of the project had researchers investigating which AIs could work best and came out with some interesting results.

Amanda Forsyth, St Giles' Treasurer, part of the group who visited the Advanced Research Centre, praised the project, stating "As we continue to look for ways to develop the visitor experience at St Giles', this collaboration with Dr Peacock and his team is a truly novel way of bringing the construction of the building to life."

The next phase of the project will be making the game itself and hopefully, all being well, you will be able to come and experience St Giles' being built by spring next year.



Membership News

In a new addition to the Newsletter, we're keen to update you about changes to the membership of our community, both those who are joining us, but perhaps more importantly, to record those who have sadly passed away.

Baptisms

"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name, you are mine." (Isaiah 43:1b)

3 September: Rebecca Laird Foggo and Rosemary Laird Foggo.

New Members

"In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body... and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Walter Bradley Cotton, Shelley Cotton, Claire Macpherson, Tarken James Moore, Yvonne Hillyard

Deaths

"If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8)

Margaret McKenzie (District 5)

Ralph Parkinson (District 2)

Contact information

St Giles' staff and office bearers can be reached by email on addresses in the style firstname.lastname@stgilescathedral.org.uk or jobtitle@stgilescathedral.org.uk - some examples are shown below:

Sigrid Marten, Associate Minister	sigrid.marten@stgilescathedral.org.uk
Michael Harris, Master of the Music	michael.harris@stgilescathedral.org.uk
Mark Batho, Session Clerk	sessionclerk@stgilescathedral.org.uk
Sarah Phemister, Head of Heritage & Culture	sarah.phemister@stgilescathedral.org.uk
Beadles	beadle@stgilescathedral.org.uk

Several members of the team also monitor the comms@stgilescathedral.org.uk address, which can be a good way to get a general question directed to the right person!

Useful telephone numbers:

The Cathedral Secretary	0131 225 4363
Beadles' Office	0131 226 0672
Cathedral Shop	0131 226 0673
Finance Office	0131 225 8683
Heritage & Culture	0131 226 0674

Picture credits

We wish to thank Peter Backhouse and Keir Eunson, who have provided their 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.