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CATHEDRAL  
ISLE OF MAN

# Annual Report 2024-25

*Community, Worship, Culture*



**The Cathedral prior to re-ordering**

**The Cathedral post-reordering**

**Patron:** HRH The Princess Royal

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## Dean's Letter

## Community, Worship, Culture



The Cathedral's Mission strapline has three key words, with Worship at the heart of what we do.

### **Our values are to:**

*Be Christ centred & outward looking*

*Nurture disciples & empower others*

*Care for creation & exercising sustainable stewardship*

*Treasure heritage & embrace new opportunities*

*Welcome all & seek justice*

## Community

It was a relief to move back into the Cathedral during the year with phase 1 completed (the new stone flag floor with its underfloor heating, suite of toilets, the structural alterations in place for the installation of kitchen, chapel/vestry meeting rooms and chairs to cope with most size services. Phase 2 we hope will be completed in 2025, which includes installation of the kitchen, developing additional rooms, Audio-visual system and completion of entrances to the building with new doors and ramps. Once these items are in place we will transfer all community activities into the Cathedral and set about re-developing the Corrin Hall. Nevertheless despite things not being completed there is much community interest and use of the re-ordered building, but some reluctance that we need to overcome on the part of the community to feel they can use the space.

## Worship

Worship returned to the Cathedral, the immediate benefit felt was the 'brightness' of the organ, the stone floor making a significant difference. Chairs capable of stacking 40 high have given us immense flexibility in how we lay out the Cathedral for worship or other events. The Cathedral can be laid out in the round, collegiate style, traditional rows or café style, all of which have been used in the last months. On weekday mornings prayer remains on Zoom, while evening prayer has returned to the Cathedral. We still await an adequate sound system and the live stream being once again an effective part of our ministry.



**Right:** Christingles for the Crib and Christingle service

## **Culture**

As a Cathedral we continue to explore the relationship of our faith with contemporary culture.

There have been the regular activities such as Big Table, which has expanded over the year, (regrettably the Toddlers groups has been paused), there have been other engagements, some new which are indicated in the report.

Our gardens continue to develop (with new art works and a new guide. The building works at the Cathedral meant that much of the grounds were within the builder's compound, so catch up on maintenance has been an issue.

We do hope you enjoy reading the annual report which aims to give an insight into the life of your Cathedral in 2024.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **Explanation of the Structure**

The Cathedral was separated from the Parish of the West Coast from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024, though there remains a single 'Cathedral Benefice'.

The new 'Cathedral Parish' is one of the three components of 'Cathedral Isle of Man' (a registered brand name) that has three independent, but related legal entities.

**The Parochial Church Council** (PCC) of the Cathedral Parish is made up as follows:

#### **Voting Members**

Clergy: The Very Revd. Nigel Godfrey (Chair), Canon Dr. Joe Heaton, Canon Janice Ward, and the Revd. Mark Radcliffe

Wardens: Christiane Litman, Tracy Williams (Vice Chair)

4 elected members of the congregation: Alastair Biggart, Davena Campbell, Jill Christian (Secretary) and Gill Poole.

#### **Non-Voting Members**

These are the heads of the 8 departments who are invited to the meetings, as needed, to report on their areas.

The PCC aims to meet four times a year and this year it met in January, March, July and September.

The meetings have a standard pattern:



- **Winter:** Annual Report (reviewing the year)
- **Spring:** Annual Meeting and First Meeting of new PCC
- **Summer:** Strategic planning and mission Targets
- **Autumn:** Budget for the coming year.

In addition to the primary focus there are discussions around diocesan policy, Faculty applications and other topical issues that arise. Some elements always appear on the Agenda such as Safeguarding and Environmental issues. Environmental issues are becoming more significant as we aim to become carbon neutral by 2030.

## Cathedral Wardens



**Warden:**

Christiane Litman **E:**  
c.litman82@gmail.com  
**E:** wardens@cathedral.im



**Warden:**

Tracy Williams  
**E:** [tiw65@hotmail.com](mailto:tiw65@hotmail.com)



**Assistant Warden:**

Diane Horne **E:**  
[di\\_horne@hotmail.com](mailto:di_horne@hotmail.com)



**Assistant Warden:**

Alan Jones **E:**  
[agjones62@hotmail.com](mailto:agjones62@hotmail.com)

**Dean and Wardens Group** for the Cathedral Benefice meets four times a year with: local Ministers, Dean and Treasurer, and acts as the 'Standing Committee'. (The wardens of the two parishes meet together to avoid unnecessary duplication of meetings and where necessary separate decisions are made). Two meetings a year are devoted to the oversight of three cemeteries and two are devoted to reviewing strategy and policy and making recommendations to the two PCCs.

## Warden Responsibilities

By custom, if not 'statute', wardens are legally responsible with the Vicar/Dean for the day to day running of the Cathedral.

- Overseeing Sunday service requirements
- Security and Insurance
- Safeguarding
- Faculty applications
- The Inventory, Terrier and Logbook ensuring they are kept up to date,
- Reviewing Quinquennial reports
- Maintenance priorities
- Health and Safety issues like fire extinguishers
- Oversight of the Cemetery

Churchwardens are elected annually and since January 2013 must stand down after 6 years. This gives new people the opportunity to learn new skills and to bring fresh ideas. During the year we welcomed Christiane Litman. Technically with the new parish being established on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 all wardens can stand for 6 years.

## Partner Trusts

**The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT)** is an independent Manx Charity (No. 1094). It has a brief to aid the Cathedral in developing its infrastructure and ensuring planned maintenance of the Cathedral together with its associated buildings and land. There are currently 3 Trustees, (there needs to be a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6) which includes the Dean as an ex-officio member.

**The St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts (FMA)** is also an independent Manx Charity (No. 1078), which has as its primary focus the development of Music and the Arts at the Cathedral and across the Island. For the present the focus is music and the Anglican choral tradition at the Cathedral. There are 6 Trustees (there needs to be a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 10 Trustees which includes the Dean).

## Departments & Executive Team

The Cathedral is run by **Departments** with clergy and lay people (paid and voluntary) responsible for different elements (see advisers below)

Departmental heads form the **Executive Staff Team**, which meets weekly to ensure the smooth operation of the Cathedral and enabling all departments to be aware of the needs of different areas and challenges facing the Cathedral. On occasion members not able to join us physically meet via zoom.

- Central Services (Val Garrett retired in September post Vacant)
- Cemetery (Wardens oversee the Manager Annette Thackray)
- Finance (Alison Brand)
- Hospitality and Pastoral Care (Helen Parry)
- Infrastructure (The Dean)
- Liturgy (The Dean)
- Mission (The Revd. Mark Radcliffe)
- Education and Training (Rosemary Clarke)
- Music (Dr Peter Litman)
- Young People (Vacant)

**Risk Management Statement**

The PCC has responsibility for the work of the Cathedral. Risk assessments are in place to overview operations and major risks have been identified. Policies and procedures are in place to manage these. A Memorandum of Understanding between The Cathedral (PCC), The Music and Arts Foundation (FMA) and The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT) is under review which includes the aim of reviewing risk across the organisation.

**CENTRAL SERVICES**

**Administration**



**Chief Operations Officer:**

Val Garrett

**E:** info@cathedral.im

**M:** 241 227

**Areas of Responsibility:**

- Administration (Parish and CQT)
- Cathedral Users
- Digital information
- Faculty Applications
- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Liturgical Assistant

The Cathedral has employed an Administrator for one day per week (additional hours are undertaken voluntarily). Duties include taking notes at the weekly staff meeting and distributing them, dealing with email and telephone enquiries, correspondence, printing, record keeping. Val has also acted as Administrator for The Cathedral Quarter Trust on a voluntary basis.

Val is now retiring from the role of Chief Operations Officer, but is retaining the administrative role associated with The Cathedral Quarter Trust. Val has enabled the Cathedral to develop over the years from a parish church to a place confident in being the base for the Bishop's Mission and we owe her an immense debt. Val's role has been one of those jobs that when everything is going well nobody notices, but when she is no longer in that role it is obvious to see and new people picking things up realise how much work is involved.



## Communications



**Press Officer:**  
Nadine Sgoura



**Web Master:**  
Steve Lawrinson



**Facebook:**  
Val Garrett



**Link & Facebook:**  
Dr Peter Litman  
E:  
link@cathedral.im

In an ideal world we would have a Communications Officer, however to spread the load, different people are responsible for different elements. We are very fortunate to have Steve Lawrinson as our webmaster. He is currently constructing a new, less complicated website which we trust will be more responsive to our needs. Our Press officer is Nadine Sgoura who is a Lay clerk parent who has expertise in the industry having her own company 'Secret Media'.

### The Link

The 4-page Sunday information leaflet provides a supplement to the service book and lists details of music, forthcoming services, events and general notices.

### Website

The Cathedral's website, [www.cathedral.im](http://www.cathedral.im), continues to provide an overview of past and present events at the Cathedral and future plans, but is under review.

### Facebook

[www.facebook.com/pages/Cathedral-Isle-of-Man](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cathedral-Isle-of-Man). Facebook continues to engage with lots of people especially reaching out to those who use our community services such as The Big Table Café



## Electoral Roll



**Electoral Roll Officer:**  
Val Garrett

### Electoral Roll

January 2024: 85 - December 2024: 92.

With the Cathedral now being a separate parish the number of people who are on the Electoral Roll and live outside the parish has increased to 30%  
The Electoral Roll will be fully reviewed in 2025

## General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The Cathedral registered with the Isle of Man Government Data Protection Registry. As well as holding data, the Cathedral has CCTV installed and this has to be registered as well as our website address. Members of the Electoral Roll /congregation can choose what information they receive from the Cathedral by completing a form.

## Faculties

Faculty Jurisdiction is the Church of England's permission to make changes to the Cathedral or its curtilage. (In England Cathedrals are under a different body). In 2023 faculty permission was sought for the following and not yet received:

Removal and relocation of furniture to Bishopscourt 'on loan'.

The application for changes to the cemetery were 'out-of-time' as the Vicar General had not acted. We have since applied again in 2025

### Permission was received for:

Permission for sculpture within the Cathedral curtilage

## Financial Summary: Income & Expenditure



**Benefice Treasurer:**  
Sailesh Metha



**Cathedral Treasurer:**  
Alison Brand



**Finance Assistant:**  
Helen Parry

E: [finance@cathedral.im](mailto:finance@cathedral.im)**Income & Expenditure Account St German's Cathedral**

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	<b>General</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Incoming Resources</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Covenants	-	-	-	-
Planned Giving	34,526		34,526	31,396
Plate Collections	21,810		21,810	13,755
Donations	8,726		8,726	10,478
Fund Raising Activities	24,750	45,887	70,637	12,001
Income from Investments	3,034		3,034	5,131
Statutory Fees	1,434		1,434	4,168
Trading Income	3,677		3,677	5,266
Legacies	0		0	0
	<b><u>97,957</u></b>	<b><u>45,887</u></b>	<b><u>143,844</u></b>	<b><u>82,195</u></b>
Tax efficient planned givers			37	37
Number of other planned givers				
Number of new legacies				
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Costs of Generating Funds	589	7,200	7,789	4,603
All Mission Giving	7,221	-	7,221	2,151
Shared Ministry Fund	31,566	-	31,566	34,756
Salaries / honoraria	10,083	-	10,083	7,409
Church running expenses	16,751	-	16,751	33,727
Church utility bills	8,651	-	8,651	8,888
Cost of Trading	858		858	1,221
	<b><u>75,719</u></b>	<b><u>7,200</u></b>	<b><u>82,919</u></b>	<b><u>92,755</u></b>
<b>Major Capital Expenditure</b>	104,266	23,813	128,079	8,825
Total Resources Expended	<b><u>179,985</u></b>	<b><u>31,013</u></b>	<b><u>210,988</u></b>	<b><u>101,580</u></b>
Revenue Surplus	(82,028)	14,874	(67,154)	(19,385)
Revaluation of CCLA investment	1,261		1,261	13,821
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	<b><u>(80,767)</u></b>	<b><u>14,874</u></b>	<b><u>(65,893)</u></b>	<b><u>(5,564)</u></b>

The majority of the year saw the Cathedral community worshipping in the Corrin Hall, which affected income associated with fees of occasional services such as funerals which were relocated to other churches in the Benefice. Planned giving and plate collection rose, the latter significantly, which was due to some major services in the Cathedral, such as the Royal visit.

There were significant donations/grants associated with, for example, bringing the 'Museum of the Moon' to the Cathedral, and a grant from the

Benefact Trust. (The expenditure associated with the Moon and the income largely fell in 2025.)

**Expenditure:**

There was a significant increase in Mission Giving, which is largely associated with funerals where we have agreed to give 50% of the collection away to the bereaved families chosen charity. Funerals have once again become part of the life of the Cathedral with its re-opening.

A vast amount of additional expenditure this year is associated with surplus funds raised by catering and Big Table to help support the creation of a new kitchen in the Cathedral, which we aim to complete in 2025. In addition reserves were severely depleted to assist with the capital works in the Cathedral generally.

**Overall:**

Overall the deficit of more than £80,000, compared to under £6,000 the year before might look challenging, indeed it would have been worse if the Music Trust had been given its annual grant, but this was held over to the new financial year. The headline figure may look challenging, but the reality is that the 'operational' income is running at a similar level of loss to the previous year, but if we are to employ new staff to develop the Cathedral, then our operational income will need to increase significantly.

**Premises Users: Cathedral & Corrin Hall**



**Cathedral hire:**  
Val Garrett  
**M:** 241 227



**Hall Hire:**  
Moira Hall  
**M:** 421 887



**Caretaker:**  
Geoff Hall

**Cathedral**

The Cathedral, apart from worship, has been used for community events since its re-opening. Further work needs to take place before it is fully available for other uses. The re-opening weekend saw a 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party, which tested the new Cathedral structure.

- Concerts
- Arts Festival
- Birthday Party  
(**see photo right**)
- Ceilidh
- Pitch and Putt



## **Corrin Hall**

the closure of Cathedral for redevelopment meant that the Corrin Hall was used for Sunday and daily worship (with the stage serving as a weekday chapel). This enabled us to sustain our gathered congregation. Other community users operated alongside the Cathedral, but with most users being 'in-house'. The M.L. Wood Song School has a permanent home in the building and is the one element of the building that has been refurbished.

The main hall, the toilets and kitchen are not fit for purpose. Planning permission has already been granted (and extended in 2024) for a commercial Tea room on the premises with a secondary space alongside it for some form of community/social enterprise use. Permission is still in the process of being sought for residential space for Ministerial/Youth and music Interns in the roof space. The aim in the long-term is to enable the Cathedral and the Corrin Hall to be more fully used by the community, avoiding duplication of space, while at the same time increasing the level of income supporting the mission of the Cathedral. This will require an increase in staffing.

**Regular Outside users:** Social badminton operates 3 times a week.

**Occasional Outside Users:** Events included Craft sales, Parties for children and adults, Exhibitions, public meetings and consultations.

### **In-house Users:**

The Caterpillar Club (fortnightly until the Autumn) and The Big Table Café (weekly)



**Corrin Hall Accounts** (Year end 31st December 2024)

		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
		£	£
<b>Income</b>			
	Contribution for use of Hall	10,541	12,052
		12,052	12,052
<b>Expenditure</b>			
	Cleaning	2,805	2,512
	Electrical Services	1,377	872
	Electricity	2,590	2,800
	Gas	2,252	1,816
	Insurances	707	693
	Performing Rights Soc.	289	0
	Repairs	789	957
		10,809	9,650
	Net profit/(loss)	<u>(268)</u>	<u>2,402</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
	Bank Balance	7,824	5,483
	Debtors	<u>2,000</u>	<u>4,600</u>
		9,824	10,083
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
	Suppliers	10	-
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<u>9,814</u>	<u>10,083</u>
	Reserves C/For'd	10,083	7,681
	Loss/Profit for yr.	-268	2,402
		<u>9,815</u>	<u>10,083</u>

The figures indicating a small loss over the year. Cleaning costs and Utility costs have generally risen. The Cathedral continued to worship in the hall prior to the re-opening of the Cathedral which to a degree curtailed other users.

## Safeguarding & Safer Recruiting



**Left: Safeguarding & Safer Recruiting Officer:**

Tracy Williams

For any concerns contact:

**T:** 451 511

**E:** pastoral@cathedral.im

**Diocesan & Cathedral Safeguarding**

Tony Connell

Lisa Morris

## Safeguarding

The Cathedral aims to be compliant with the guidance on safeguarding issued by the House of Bishops of the Church of England and as part of that process had a SCIE (Social Care Institute for Excellence) Audit in 2021. The next Audit is planned for Autumn 2026.

This year, Tracy Williams has been our Safeguarding officer, supported administratively by Val Garrett, while Lisa Morris (Diocesan Officer) offers an overview and back up. We eagerly await the implementation of the new Dashboard system, which should make the administration a good deal easier.

During the year Safeguarding Training has become part of the Cathedral routine and is made available by the Diocese. In parallel there has been a concerted effort to get as many people doing the on-line foundation level as possible, courses have been made available for those not able to access the internet.

## CEMETERY



**Cemetery Clerk:**

Annette Thackray



**Treasurer:**

Tracy Moore

Enquiries and Questions to Annette:

**M:** 465 184, or **E:** cemeteryclerk@manx.net



There have been a total of 44 interments in the cemetery this year, of which 22 were interments of ashes. 8 burials were in new graves in Section V and 4 new ashes plots along the wall were used. All new grave plots for sale are in the area nearest to the Golf Course, as the other sections have all been sold. Since 2010 it has not been possible to purchase a new grave plot in Section 5 before it was required as it can be seen throughout the cemetery that families are either unaware or have forgotten that plots have been purchased, leaving unused areas that the Burial Authority are unable to ever use.

Work has continued during the year to plant more trees and shrubs in all parts of the cemetery and the area around the chapel is only mown at the end of the summer to allow for wildflowers and wildlife to flourish. More work to make this a true wildflower meadow is ongoing. Near to the main entrance and car park trees can be planted in memory of a loved one, with a plaque to mark their name.

The cemetery in the summer is a pleasant place to take a walk and look at some of the older, interesting graves, but care should be taken as the ground can be uneven.

The chapel is also a very pleasant place for some quiet contemplation, although, as there is no mains electricity to it, it can be very cold in the winter. There are also toilet facilities in the chapel for public use.

While dogs are welcome in the cemetery, they must be kept on a lead and owners should clean up after them out of respect for those buried in the cemetery.

The database has continued to be used both by undertakers and those looking for deceased relatives and has proved to be a very useful tool.



Currently all Finance is exchanged using cheques, under consideration is a plan to enable this to happen digitally making use of a facility available to the diocese.

## HOSPITALITY & PASTORAL CARE



**Hospitality & Pastoral Care:** Helen Parry

### **Embracing:**

Cathedral Chaplaincy  
Exhibitions  
Flowers  
Mothers' Union  
Pastoral Care Team  
Refreshments

**E:** [hospitality@cathedral.im](mailto:hospitality@cathedral.im)

**M:** 07624 482 516

### **Other Roles:**

PA to the Dean  
Finance Assistant  
Liturgical Assistant

## Cathedral Chaplaincy



**Residential Homes Worship:** Mark Radcliffe



**Bookstall:** Marion Wood



**Prayer Ministry**  
(after 10.30am Eucharist)

### **Cathedral Guides and Chaplains**

This welcoming has not been able to be developed in 2024 as we were out of the Cathedral until summer was well progressed and are not yet geared up for the new Cathedral. A new paper guide is required.

### **Prayer Ministry**

We have a regular Prayer Ministry team where two people are available in to pray with anyone about private matters after the main Sunday Eucharist. There is the sense that this is an important ministry to offer in the cathedral.

### **Residential Home**

Mark co-ordinated Home Communion; over the years they have risen to considerable numbers and so in order to meet the demand we continue to have lay communion administrators to share the load.

## Bookstall

The bookstall run by Marion Wood sells a range of cards, and small gifts. It is unstaffed and relies on moneys put in the honesty box, using the card machine or making use of a QR Code. Trade was virtually non-existent while we were located in the Corrin Hall, but has picked up again since moving back into the Cathedral.

## Exhibitions



### General Oversight

**Curator:** Exhibitions

## Exhibitions

The Cathedral was closed for the first half of 2024 so the scope for exhibitions was limited and none was in place for the rest of the year. However, a great deal of planning has gone into 'The Museum of the Moon', artwork by Luke Jerram that will be on display in February 2025.

## Flowers



### Flower Co-ordinator:

Jill Christian

**E:** mrkevciom@yahoo.co.uk

The Gardens have provided a selection of blooms for the Cathedral for most of the year.

We continue to try and eliminate oasis from all Cathedral arrangements.



Since returning to the reordered Cathedral we have had some special occasions to celebrate with flowers, firstly the Official Opening of the Cathedral by HRH, The Princess Royal, then the installation of our new Bishop. Thanks go to the Ladies of Douglas Floral Art Club who helped to decorate the Cathedral for Christmas. It is a pleasure to work with flowers to help enhance the new space in the Cathedral.



## Refreshments



**Refreshments:**

Helen Parry

**E:** [hospitality@cathedral.im](mailto:hospitality@cathedral.im)

**M:** 07624 482 516

*'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares' Hebrews 13:2*



Along with other Cathedral departments we saw big changes as we moved into our newly refurbished building in June 2024. We witnessed the opening event of a birthday celebration with a colour scheme of gold and black, round tables decked with balloons, with additional bouncy castle and hatchet throwing in the south transept, we could envisage a new period of welcome and hospitality in the cathedral. The start of things to come!

Our reliable servery counter was moved back and we were ready once again to provide hospitality in the Cathedral. In the meantime, during closure, Chrism Lunch was served in St John's along with support from our colleagues in Marown.

Following the opening we provided a cream tea on an 'Open Afternoon' to welcome the public in to see the alterations. This was soon followed by catering for a funeral and 2 ordinations.

The biggest challenge for us was catering for the enthronement of Bishop Tricia which, following the service, was served in the Cathedral. The carol service was another event with a huge crowd, ably overseen by chorister parents. We are seeing an increasing number of Cathedral activities requiring catering. As we move forward we look forward to a new fitted kitchen and to further opportunities for offering hospitality.

## Mothers' Union



**MU Branch Leader:** Sue Exley

**MU Secretary:** Vacant

**Membership:** 22

(1 Indoor membership)

## Mothers' Union Vision

*"Our vision is a world where everyone prospers. We actively pursue this vision through prayer and action, helping to build confident people and resilient communities. Our movement seeks to bring about justice, challenge prejudice and advocate change".*

We were sad to see Sue Exley leave us on her return to live in England, but we give thanks for all she gave during her time with us and particularly as our branch leader. We wish her well knowing she is now closer to family.

We continued to meet monthly during the winter months with a speaker. As our numbers decreased we have continued to meet first Monday in each month but at the earlier time of 10.30am for coffee and fellowship with a focus on MU work both locally, globally and what we can contribute to life at the Cathedral. In addition Margaret Burrow has kindly led a small group in Bible study. This has been well received and we hope can continue.

We have attended diocesan MU events – festival, quiet day, founder's day, advent service – meeting up with fellow members from around the island. Lynne continues as the contact for baptisms, liaising with families and clergy. As a branch we continue to supply baptism gifts.

In accordance with one of our objectives, members attend the creche at prison to "support families whose lives have met with adversity". As a diocese MU attend weekend visiting and term holiday family days. More volunteers are needed in this role.

Membership is open to everyone and anyone is welcome to attend our meetings, member or not.

## Pastoral Care Team



*'Together we seek to achieve the goal of Pastoral Care to help people live life in all its fullness in the strength of and according to the example of Jesus, the good Shepherd.'*

**Pastoral Care Co-ordinator:** Helen Parry  
**M:** 482 516  
**E:** [pastoral@cathedral.im](mailto:pastoral@cathedral.im)

**Lay Pastor:** Marion Wood  
**T:** 843 382



We thank those who continue to volunteer at Big Table, hospital and nursing home visiting, home Communion, Foodbank, homeless – all invaluable. We also appreciate the many acts of informal pastoral care carried out.

We welcome being made aware who would appreciate a visit and/or home communion. Without your eyes and ears to help us we can't fulfil expectations. Please do use the Pastoral Leaflet to pray daily for our community (copies are available in the Cathedral or from Helen online).

## Nursing & Residential Homes/Day Centre

Several people regularly visit the local Nursing Home, Castle View, but in addition Mark and others offer services of Holy Communion to small groups of residents. Thanks to the Mothers' Union, who continue to offer Holding Crosses to residents.

## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

### The Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT)



**The Cathedral Quarter Trust Administrator:**

Val Garrett

**M:** 07624 241227

**E:** info@cathedral.im

*Registered Charity: 1094 Patron HRH The Princess Royal*

**Trustees:** Dean Nigel Godfrey (Ex-officio) Tim Groves  
Canon Margaret Burrow, Kevin Christian

*Developing the Cathedral, Corrin Hall and Site Infrastructure to support the Mission of the Cathedral.*



**Left:**

Dr. Alastair Biggart  
Project Manager

**Right:**

Kevin Christian  
(Financial Manager)



The Trustees meet quarterly and the big project this year has been the re-ordering of the Cathedral. Work began in August 2023 and phase 1 was completed in June 2024. The amount of work undertaken by Dr. Alastair Biggart in project management and driving this scheme forward was virtually a full-time task. Likewise Kevin Christian a former Finance Director, in a major UK shipping business ensured that we remained solvent.

Other people supporting us have included Philip Longworth helping to raise funds. Val Garrett has liaised with all parties to ensure up-to-date information is available providing the administrative back-up. On the shop floor is Rob Kaneen our Clerk of Works has kept an eye on day-to-day activity. Then on top of that is the professional team of Architect (Sam Samson), Engineer (John Gray) and Quantity Surveyor (Lincoln Forest). The whole team has enabled us to re-open the Cathedral and use it, while we raise the funds for Phase 2.

We wish to record our thanks to the following **Trusts** in 2024:

- Benefact Trust £18,813
- Cubbon Trust £11,401
- The Elizabeth Clucas Trust £1,300
- The Isle of Man Arts Council £8,020
- The Lilian Kermode Trust £19,210
- The Manx Lottery Trust £26,000

Other donors have wanted to remain **anonymous** and gifts have varied from a few hundred pounds to £30,000 but together amount to in excess of £370,000. In addition there were **sales**, from pews, to home-made jam.



## The Building works Phase 1



- The limestone floor with underfloor heating, hearing loop and chairs
- Opening in South Transept
- Kitchen space (awaiting fitting out)
- Toilets, including disabled /babychange
- Chapel/meeting room structure with space (awaiting completion)
- Wiring for Audio-visual equipment and mixing desk

**Photo:** Nave looking East with new chairs and names of Bishops on the floor





New Entrance to Chapel/Meeting Room



New Entrance South Transept

### **The Cathedral Gardens**

The Cathedral grounds were largely part of the building area cordoned off from the public making limited maintenance possible. Five pieces of artwork kept in crates were only installed when the gardens were returned. The works included four groups of figures associated with the Nativity which were installed in the approach to the Franciscan Garden. (St. Francis is thought to have initiated the first Nativity scene using live animals at Greccio, Italy in 1223 (800 years ago).

The fifth piece was of the Franciscan Friar – Benedict of Palermo (1526-1589) a freed slave who is the Patron Saint of Racial Justice and again installed in the Franciscan Garden. The sculptures are in Serpentine stone from Zimbabwe and were commissioned from the artist Jonathan Mhondorhuma.





## The Nativity by Jonathan Mhondorhuma



The Holy Family



The Stable with cow, donkey and goat

The Shepherds



The Magi



## Monday Gardening Club

On Mondays a gardening club operates, though volunteers arrive on other days of the week too. Volunteers maintain the gardens, build new areas, propagate plants robust enough to cope with our marine, salt-laden and sandy dry site.

## Cathedral Quarter Trust Accounts

	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Restricted Funds</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>General</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations	48,024	808,196	856,220	170,146
Investment Income	32,244		32,244	34,081
Benefact Trust		18,813	18,813	21,875
Revaluation of COIF Charities	0			(15,384)
Property Fund				
	<b><u>80,268</u></b>	<b><u>827,009</u></b>	<b><u>907,277</u></b>	<b><u>210,718</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Charges. Admin, Audit etc	11,481		11,481	1,546
Cathedral		1,071,296	1,071,296	1,123,819
Gardens		5,538	5,538	1,841
Fees (Architect & other		13,635	13,635	
Professionals) General Expenses				172,763
Salary and ENI	0			0
	<b>11,481</b>	<b>1,090,469</b>	<b>1,101,950</b>	<b>£82,429</b>
Income	80,268	827,009	907,277	153,352
Expenditure		1,090,469	1,101,950	82,429
	11,481			
Surplus/Deficit	<b>68,787</b>	<b>(263,460)</b>	<b>(194,673)</b>	<b>70,923</b>
Reserves B/F		233,914	233,914	905,102
Restricted funds	<b><u>68,787</u></b>	<b><u>(29,546)</u></b>	<b><u>39,241</u></b>	<b>976,025</b>

## The St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts (FMA)



### Left: Chair of Trustees:

Ian Thompson

T: 814 152

E: [thompson01@manx.net](mailto:thompson01@manx.net)

### Right: Administrator for the Friends:

Elisabeth Dellborg

E: [elisabeth\\_dellborg@outlook.com](mailto:elisabeth_dellborg@outlook.com)

Registered Charity: 1078



**Trustees:** Ian Thompson (Chair), Christine Edmundson, Mike Hoy, Marlene Maska and Don Roworth **Ex-officio** Dean

### **In support and attendance:**

Elisabeth Dellborg (Friends), Dr. Peter Litman (Secretary)

### **Purpose**

The development of Music and the Arts at the Cathedral and across the Island and to assist the Cathedral's Music Department financially.

### **Trustees**

We are grateful for the work the Trustees and the Foundation's supporting Officers do voluntarily in support of the Cathedral's Music Department.

### **Funding**

The Trust has historically had three main sources of income, donations (including grants and sponsorship), the Membership contributions by the Friends and Annual Concert Season and concerts. The major construction works inside the Cathedral has meant that fundraising concerts have had only a limited season this year.

The Trust's main focus has been on funding the costs of the Music Department of the Cathedral, which includes staff, the Choirs, costs associated with the Song School and costs relating to the repair, maintenance and development of the Cathedral's musical instruments.

The Trustees would like to record their ongoing and grateful thanks to Mr Stuart Corrie for his continuing support both as Assistant Cathedral Organist and supporter of the Cathedral Choirs.

Over the years the Trust has enjoyed the patronage of three major sponsors, but in 2024 other income has had to fill this gap. To some extent this has been met by rental from the Trusts housing which is currently let to the diocese to house the Revd. Mark Radcliffe. The trust needs something in the order of £50,000 to meet its current commitments.

### **Friends of the Cathedral Music**

We are grateful for our Friends organisation that continues to provide much needed funds and support. This is well administered by Elisabeth Dellborg.

### **Donations Grants and Sponsorship**

The Trust is grateful to the WHC Brien Musical Benefactor Trust for grants towards development the skills of young musical talent. It also received a Manx Lottery Trust Grant towards transporting Choristers around the Island for Safari Choral Evensong while the Cathedral was closed.

### **Commissioning**

The Trustees are pleased to have commissioned Versicles and Responses from the North American composer Mr Daniel Gawthrop, which is expected to be completed in 2025.

The St German's Cathedral Foundation for Music and the Arts  
Management Information for the year ended 31 December 2024

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations	31,393	33,263
Friends Membership	4,190	5,040
Concerts and Special Services	4,248	1,922
Rental Income	14,343	0
Other Income	6,915	7,943
	<b>61,089</b>	<b>48,168</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Concert Venue Hire	246	0
Promotion including Concert promotion	0	0
Organ Scholar, Associate Organist and Occasional Organist fees	1,272	0
Sundries	2,000	1,137
Independent Review	3,180	3,150
Legal and professional costs	520	100
<b>Instrument Maintenance</b>		
Piano Tuning and Maintenance	0	70
Organ tuning, maintenance and refurbishment	1,560	661
<b>Music</b>		
Music Hire charges	0	82
Commissioned Music	1,213	1,250
Photocopying, printing and music purchases	851	757
<b>Cathedral Choirs</b>		
Additional support	4,444	2,400
Choir Robes	0	0
<b>Song School</b>		
Telephone/ Internet	369	344
Donation for Song school usage and IT	2,265	2,060
<b>Donation to Cathedral towards Director of Music Remuneration</b>		
Donation towards DoM Salary	22,802	23,847
Rates - 3 The Grove	0	1,340
Repairs, Maintenance & Management- 3 The Grove	10,025	684
Insurance	0	375
<b>Property Refurbishment Costs — 3 The Grove</b>		
Property review and Gardening services	0	764
Additional insurance for unoccupied property	0	414
	<b>50,747</b>	<b>39,435</b>



## LITURGY & WORSHIP



The Cathedral has two stipendiary clergy, a Reader and two Liturgical Assistants. Liturgical Assistants were established by Bishop Peter and has up to now anticipated people doing the Diocesan Certificate in Christian Studies and a Pastoral Course or equivalents as a foundation. The role is in the words of the Commissioning Liturgy:

*'Liturgical Assistants are commissioned and authorised to officiate at Morning and Evening Prayer and to lead other non-Eucharistic services. Liturgical Assistants are authorised to assist with the distribution of Holy Communion and to take the Sacrament to those confined to their home or in residential care. Liturgical assistants with the permission of the Incumbent are permitted to proclaim the Gospel during the Eucharist and when invited to do so and under the direct supervision of the Incumbent and Bishop, may also preach.'*

## Occasional Offices: Baptisms



**Above:**  
Baptism  
Co-ordinator  
Lynne Heath  
M: 419 017



**Far Right:** The  
Baptism of Jack  
Lynch



Baptisms were much reduced this year with the closure of the Cathedral, but we were pleased to have 3 infant baptisms and one adult baptism. For each baptism an MU member visits the families prior to the event, with the clergy responsible for taking the baptism, to have an informal discussion about what the service entails and to answer any queries.

We provide the baptism gifts of a candle, a book of Bible stories, an olive wood holding cross, a baptism card, godparent cards, a knitted white shawl and a Tanroagan shell, in Manx Gaelic shell 'Tan' and Scallop 'Roagan' with the name of the baptised written on it. This is given to the family on the anniversary. Anniversary cards are sent to the families for three years following the baptism to encourage contact.

### Occasional Offices: Weddings



Sinead and Charlie – their wedding blessed

In 2024 we had just 2 weddings.

Priests from the Cathedral also officiated at weddings at other churches in the Parish of the West Coast. During the Cathedral closure, St John's was the designated 'Cathedral' for wedding purposes.

### Occasional Offices: Funerals



**Funeral Verger:**  
Diane Horne



We held 5 funerals during 2024 after re-opening of the Cathedral.

However, we also lost five people closely associated with the Cathedral: Mike Crellin (at St John's), Ray Gell, Jean Handley, Margaret Kelly (wife of the former Vicar of the Cathedral – Canon Brian Kelly), John Lightfoot and Audrey Quirk (who had reached her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday), they are remembered with thanksgiving and deep affection by the congregation.

## **Services: Sunday**

### **Worship**

Although Worship can be interpreted as 'a whole Lifestyle of following Christ', here we refer specifically to services held by the Cathedral. Most services took place in the Corrin Hall (our Sunday morning base), others took place at St John's (designated for Cathedral services) and the choir took Choral Evensong on Safari across the Diocese.

### **Sunday Services**

The usual pattern of services continued: 08.30 Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion, 10.30 Choral or Cantor-led Common Worship Eucharist and in term time and a 15.30 Choral Evensong. Outside term-time there was a combination of a congregational sung 'monastic office', healing services and when the choir was on Safari a said BCP Evening Prayer.

The second Sunday of the month at 10.30, in Term time, remains a more interactive family style service, usually involving the choristers. The fifth Sunday of the month is evolving into Café Cathedral.

## **Services: Weekday**

We continue to hold Morning Prayer at 09.00 via 'Zoom' 6 days a week, hosted by a variety of lay and ordained people. Tuesdays have a focus on prayer for the Western Mission Partnership, but still serve those beyond the Partnership. Evening Prayer after using the Corrin Hall has returned to the Cathedral, but regrettably live-stream has not yet been linked up, awaiting the next phase of Cathedral development. Wednesday evening is a sung monastic-style office. Zoom still draws a group of dedicated people from other congregations across the Island. There is also a mid-week said Eucharist on Wednesdays, followed by refreshments, which has been brought forward to 09.00 to allow other users to operate (originally in the hall, but eventually in the Cathedral).

## Special Services:

There were many special services during the year, aside from occasions such as Holy Week and Easter, Christmas was once again in the Cathedral and QE2 was able to join us in two sittings. (It is essentially we use in-house chairs to avoid scratching the floor. Key services during the year were associated HRH, The Princess Royal opening the Cathedral, the Archbishop of York giving his charge to Bishop Tricia, and Bishop Tricia's enthronement.

Prior to the enthronement Bishop Tricia was ordained Bishop at York Minister.



The Archbishop of York with from left to right Bishop Robert, Tricia, and Graham outside York Minister

## Mission, Education and Training



Rosemary Clarke  
T: 843 262  
E: [rosemary.clarke@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.clarke@gmail.com)



Mission is at the heart of our relationship with God, who as Trinity (Father, Son and Spirit) is missionary in his nature by sending his Son into the world that he created, to reconcile it to himself. Mission permeates all areas of the Cathedral's life, but here we specifically focus on education and discipleship, training ministers of the future and 'Social Liturgy', serving those in need beyond the Church.

## Big Table Café



**Chef:**  
Fenella Costain



**Lunch in the Corrin Hall**

**Floor Manager:**  
Elizabeth Murray

The Big Table Café operates on Monday lunchtimes in the Corrin Hall, staffed by volunteers. 40 – 60 three course home-made meals are provided for people present or as 'Take-aways'. Customers come from all walks of life on an 'eat what you want, pay what you can' basis. The Café is largely self-sufficient as the donations from 'those who can' average out at what it costs to feed everyone. Fenella Costain organises the kitchen efficiently, while Elizabeth managed the volunteers. All our volunteers are a real gift to the community. The Christmas lunch this year was, once again, held in the hall when we catered for almost a 100 people.

Any surpluses funds from Big Table are currently being used to fund the new Big Table kitchen in the Cathedral.



**Above:** Serving Meals at Big Table

## Diocesan Training Courses

In 2024 two modules were delivered of the Diocesan Certificate Course in Christian Studies by Canon Margaret Burrow, while the Growing Leaders Course, led by Rosemary and Joanna Fisher (assisted by Chris Wildman) ran over 12 months; the planned giving of certificates was delayed to Epiphany 2025 in the Cathedral.

## Ordinations: Cathedral and Beyond



**Left:** Kathryn after her first Mass with Dean Nigel

One of our interns from several years ago now, Kathryn Tiernan Thubron, was priested at Durham Cathedral where she continues to serve her curacy. Our Dean preached at her first Mass in the Cathedral.

## Ministry Interns



Sinéad

Obum



Pedro


Michaela






The Church of England Ministry Experience Scheme (CEMES) continues to offer an opportunity for individuals to explore vocations through a 'free' year working with the ministry of the Church of England.



This year we have had four interns Sinéad Allen (from the Isle of Man), Obum Collins Ejezie (from Nigeria), Pedro Paulo Moraes (from Brazil) and Michaela Muller (from the Isle of Man). Sinéad has been based at the Cathedral, Obum at the Cathedral and at St Matthew's Douglas, Pedro in the Parish of the West Coast and Michaela at Patrick and Pioneer Church in Douglas with Alex Brown. Unfortunately all have had different start dates, so that has not always been easy to manage the programme. The variation in start dates was caused by Visa delays for two candidates. Sinéad elected to do a second year. During the year Sinead married Charlie and Michaela married Kenny Diack. At the end of the year Pedro continued to remain on the Island and Obum returned to Nigeria and then moved to Pusey House Oxford. All continue to explore ministry, but the latest guidance for DDOs that after marriage ordination exploration should be paused for two years.

Stewardship of Creation



Environmental progress				
				
Cathedral Quarter				

Eco Church Co-ordinator: Rosemary Clarke

We encourage people to live lightly on the earth, using as few resources as possible and caring for creation. When the Cathedral reopened in June the recycling bins were moved back into the car park from their nearby temporary location outside the Police Station.

The Island's Cathedral has set itself a challenging double aim of creating an environment that is more sustainable and in tune with nature, while at the same time increasing significantly the footfall on site. Each year we aim to create improvements in each of the following areas. The achievements this year are indicated below:



Reducing carbon footprint, while increasing footfall

The bulk of the work on re-ordering the Cathedral was completed in the summer, however phase 2 is essential to our plan to increase footfall and reduce our carbon footprint.

Yet to be completed are two things key to carbon reduction: new Cathedral access doors and Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP) to power the underfloor heating. Other facilities such as a 'Green Room' and kitchen will make further use possible.

### **Creating greater bio-diversity, while offering increased public access**

As the Cathedral grounds develop and mature it begins to provide greater opportunities for wildlife. As yet our bird boxes in the tower (and the recorded sounds of swift chatter) have not yet attracted nesting swifts.

### **Offering entertainment, while promoting environmental issues - 'edutainment'**

Guides to the Cathedral Gardens continue to be developed as does signage promoting environmental issues. The specific guide books that do this are Guides 3 -11:

3 Animal @ Cathedral IOM: The unique fauna associated with the Isle of Man

4 Vegetable @ Cathedral IOM: Plants dating from 360 million years ago to the present

5 Mineral @ Cathedral IOM: Geological history of the Isle of Man

6 The Moon @ Cathedral IOM: Our place in the universe

7 Mathematics @ Cathedral IOM: The Mathematics underlying creation

8 Environment @ Cathedral IOM: Environmental issues & sustainability

9 Wilding @ Cathedral IOM: Explores ways to increase wildlife at the Cathedral

10 Well-being @ Cathedral IOM: From reflexology to gardening therapies

11 Medicines @ Cathedral IOM: Plant based medicines regularly in use today

Signage in the grounds about Recycling, Compost and Bees has been produced and the aim is to move the hive from the Deanery Garden to a site behind the Corrin Hall.

### **Recycling waste on site, while creating a richer environment**

The re-opening of the Cathedral saw the relocation of the recycling bins to the Cathedral car park.

The figures are given for this year while last year's figures are in brackets: cans 2,985 kgs (2,900 kgs), glass 13,400kgs (14,270kgs), paper 5,920kgs, (6,440kgs) plastic bottles 3,590kgs (3,650kgs) and Tetrapak cartons 2,365kgs (2,222kgs) i.e. a total of 28,260kgs (29,482kgs). This is a slight drop on the

previous year. This is largely accounted for by the fact that we had to move the site onto the police station grounds next door while the carpark was used as the builders compound and then move the bins back again. Paper reduction might be more permanent reflecting the drop in the use of Newspapers. We are still the only re-cycling point for hard plastic in Peel.

The waste removed from the site (Cathedral, Hall and Deanery) remains at one domestic bin a week and this is rarely full.

### **Encouraging responsible consumption, while contributing to the economy**

The apple crop in the Cathedral grounds was poor this year, and honey from the Deanery Hive, was non-existent as the manager of the hive (Steve Black) unfortunately died of cancer. There was the usual Dean's 'Christingle' Marmalade. Our thanks to Val, who despite illness produced a quantity of jam for sale.



### **Global Links:**

The global links this year have been limited, we continue to have a Fair Trade stall, twin our toilets and produce guide books for the Cathedral Garden which have international dimensions, not least the Guide book indicating the Island's connection with the infamous triangular trade.

### **Connect Group: The Bible Study Group**



**Extreme Left:**  
**Study Group Coordinator:**  
Mary Biggart  
**T:** 840 804

**Middle Left:** The Eucharist

**Below:** The Cathedral's great west window

The group is co-ordinated by Mary Biggart, the group has met occasionally for Bible study or social occasions and used the Metamorphosis materials from Mothers' Union as their Lent course. This encouraged us to think about the relationship between us as individuals, as part of the church and how we might connect more with our community of Peel.



## Pilgrimage

Since its inception in 2016, the 37-mile Triskelion Way has been officially walked each year as a 4-day pilgrimage. In 2024 there was the usual organised annual pilgrimage weekend. A very helpful walker's guidebook is now available from the Cathedral shop or <https://pilgrimageisleofman.im/resources/>



## Ride and Stride (R+S)



Symbols of Ride and Stride used at churches

### Ride and Stride

Many of the Island's churches displayed symbols for a treasure hunt associated with the opportunity to be sponsored by the number of churches visited. The competition was open from the beginning of July until mid-September. We were grateful for a £100 voucher given by the Steam Packet Company.



## Some of the Groups Supported by the Cathedral



Isle of Man Climate Change Coalition



While many of the above symbols and their meaning are well known it is worth clarifying the **Vision** of Inclusive church:

“We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate.

We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality.**

We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ."

## MUSIC



***"Our treasured Choral Heritage – now, and for tomorrow ..."***

**M:** 226 356  
**E:** music@cathedral.im

### **Organist & Director of Music:**

Dr Peter Litman  
ThD, MA, FLCM, LTCL, ARSCM, HonFGCM, HonF(UCM)



### **Associate Organist:**

Stuart Corrie  
B Mus, MBA, PGCE

## The Cathedral Choirs

Cathedral music is always busy, and this year has been no exception! In April, we returned briefly to Liverpool Cathedral on our bi-annual tour. The Choristers stayed in a rather noisy hotel in the Cavern Quarter, and enjoyed a 'Magical Mystery Tour' visiting the key places which influenced the Beatles. The Lay Clerk's joined us for the Services.



'Penny Lane'



Group picture at 'Strawberry Fields'



Scottish Restaurant



We joined for choral services with the Liverpool Cathedral Choir and enjoyed a 'Fish n' Chip Supper' and some down-time with their choristers. Friendships were renewed and new ones made between the choristers at respective cathedrals. It was a joy to spend time with our Liverpool counterparts, singing more demanding music written for bigger forces than we have in Peel.



The combined choirs of Liverpool and Peel.

Ascension Day saw a first – it is a normal tradition for choirs to ascend their towers and sing to the heavens on Ascension Day. However, the St German's tower is somewhat challenging in terms of attempting to scale near-vertical ladders, and particularly shallow and low parapets when one reaches the top, not at all safe for children!

So Dr Litman began to wonder where else Ascension Day could be sung, Snaefell perhaps?... or, why not the famous Manx icon, the Laxey Wheel! Upon contacting Manx National Heritage, they thought the idea so bonkers, that they decided to run with it. So, on Ascension Day, 12 choristers, Dr Litman and the Dean set out to scale the Laxey Wheel and sing a short service from the top. Fortunately, the day was glorious and around 30 people gathered at the bottom of the wheel to join the short service. The Choristers sang *Hail the day that sees Him Rise!* from the top which drifted on the wind over the valley and the village below.

Manx National Heritage filmed the event with drones and even turned on the wheel. Dr Litman felt somewhat unnerved as the platform sways a little

when the wheel is in motion, and whilst conducting, unable to hold on to anything, his legs quickly turned to jelly – Praise the Lord for cassocks!



Manx National Heritage so enjoyed the experience that they have extended an invitation to the Choristers to ascend the wheel again for future Ascension Days.

**Left:** The top of Laxey Wheel

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June, the Cathedral had a 'soft' opening for regular worshippers. Although not the big event, it was however very exciting for the choir. The first thing sung in the newly refurbished building and splendid acoustic was Bruckner's *Locus Iste*. Written for the dedication of a new church, it was wholly appropriate. Dr Litman didn't allow the choir to practice in the Cathedral, so the first time the singers heard the acoustic was when they started to sing – it was pure joy to see their faces! The service included Palestrina's *Missa Brevis* and Batten's *O sing joyfully!* Shortly after, Dr Litman gave an organ recital and the instrument sounded much fuller and brighter in the new acoustic, leading the Dean to describe the new stone flooring in the Cathedral as 'the most expensive organ stop!'. In November,



Archbishop Stephen Cottrell visited the Cathedral to deliver his charge to the newly elected Bishop of Sodor and Man. The premiere choir (Schola) sang an Evensong of early Renaissance music by composers Reading, Tallis, and Batten. The service was well attended and seating was arranged in the Nave in 'collegiate' fashion, the flexibility, made possible by the reordering.



Hot on the heels of the Archbishop's visit was the official opening and Thanksgiving Service for the Cathedral, attended by HRH The Princess Royal. HRH is no stranger to the cathedral choir having encountered them several times, both at Peel and at St John's on Tynwald Day.



The music included Brucker, but also Britten's *Jubilate in C*, big hymns, trumpet and organ fanfares. The service was a huge success and was filmed and broadcast live on Manx Radio. HRH The Princess Royal made a point of seeking out Dr Litman and complimenting him on the music.

Amidst the usual run of choral services came great celebration as Bishop Tricia was Enthroned on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November. A truly unique and historic occasion with the 'great choir' (all singers), organ and trumpets again for another celebratory service. Also taking part were Caarijyn Cooijagh (the Manx choir) and the Anglican Youth Fellowship Band, visiting from Uganda.

The service started in the ancient Cathedral in Peel Castle, where the choir sang an arrangement of St Patrick's Breastplate, composed by Dr Litman. There was then a procession through the streets to St German's Cathedral where the choir led the service, singing Herbert Howell's *Collegium Regale* and an anthem selected by the Bishop, Sir James Macmillan's *A New Song*.





Before long it was straight into Advent, with the usual Procession of Light; the 'Christmas at the Wurlitzer' concert which has become an annual fixture in the choir's calendar; and the ever popular Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

However, this year the popularity of the service caught us out and extra chairs had to be hastily pulled in to accommodate the large congregation. The choir sang exceptionally well and kudos to Lucy for her beautiful 'Once in Royal'. Popular choral contributions included *Mary, did you know?*, Wilburg's *Ding Dong Merrily* and an arrangement of *Seven Joys of Mary* by Morehen.







A windswept picture of the Choir at the end of the Festival of Lessons and Carols, Advent 2024



Between Christmas and New Year, the Peel tradition is that former choristers returning from universities can come and sing. It was a great joy that this year, former choristers and current choral scholars numbered enough to sing a choral service themselves. It was a pleasure to hear them reminisce of their time as choristers at the Cathedral!

## Bells



**Tower Captain:**

Jackie Allen

**Secretary:**

Steve Beard

**Right:** The Tower Mascot – the Bat



## Tower Bells

2024 started quietly, as building work closed the Tower and the Cathedral. We did have our annual Bell ringer's night out on February 10<sup>th</sup> at Peel Sailing Club organised by Marion and food provided by Greens in St Johns. Nicky provided a quiz.. Lou brought Dave's bell's along, which made for fun ringing, after a few glasses of vino!

Later in the year, a few of us rang on Good Friday half muffled, and for Easter Sunday while the builders took a break.

In April we met with the architect to improve visual links with the cathedral, which is due to happen in phase 2 in 2025.

On 14<sup>th</sup> of June, we once again gained full access in the tower. Steve Thursfield our Tower Keeper made sure it was safe to ring and nothing had moved about. We had 10 people at our first practice. It was a joy to have everyone together again. Annette our Ringing Master, had us ringing a new method and it was nice to have Dave Bell with us for the 1st practise

We rang wedding bells for Sinead and Charlie Esdaile on 26<sup>th</sup> June. And a second wedding on September 12<sup>th</sup>.





In August, we welcomed Lesley, our newest ringer, who recently moved to the island. We had quite a few visitors since opening our doors again, which has been lovely to see.

We have new sign in the tower 'Dave's Corner'.

Memorable occasions were when Bells were rung for the deaconing of Ian Quayle (14<sup>th</sup> September), the priesting of Joanna Fisher (14<sup>th</sup> September), the Thanksgiving service for the re-ordering attended by HRH, The Princess Royal (17<sup>th</sup> October) and Bishop Tricia's enthronement (16<sup>th</sup> November).

Christmas services, saw some visitors ringing with us.

Thank you once again to our marvellous team. Those who teach us, those who organise us, those who feed us and those who make us welcome. Our Tower is a very special place and open to all. If you would like to have a go at ringing, our practice nights are Fridays at 7.30pm.

## HandBells

### Kiaullaneyn Noo Carmane (St German's Cathedral Hand Bells)



**Left:**

**Hand Bell Co-ordinator:**

Louise Horsfall



It's been a balanced year for handbells – a few requests to keep us active with time to try out new tunes.

The 'band' were asked to play at a number of venue's during the year which included:

- Northern Laa Meanagh Day Care Centre – Ramsey,
- Central Laa Meanagh - Douglas
- Gansey Dementia Unit, Port Erin.
- Ramsey Baptist Church Coffee Morning
- Reayrt Skyal Dementia Unit,
- Ramsey Central Laa Meanagh Day Care.
- Douglas Western Laa Meanagh Day Care,
- Peel Spring Chicks WI, Douglas
- Salisbury Street Care Home, Douglas
- Douglas Brownies 'Have a Go Session' (New Year)
- MAN050 at the House of Mannanan 'Have a Go Session' for their New Year Walk & Meal.
- 'May the Force Be with You' Day (4th May) with a touch of Star Wars.

The 'band' has continued to practice tower bell ringing methods on hand bells while the Cathedral Tower has been shut during development.

## Youth and Children's Work *Vacancy*

### School Links

Clothworkers Primary School (Infant and Junior) regularly come to the Cathedral for services and concerts, but this was confined to the latter part of the year because of development.

There is a team of people who go into Schools for 'Open the Book' and leading assemblies. There is also support for all Island Scripture Union Ministry Trust (SUMT) school activities, such as Life Path which explores Christianity in the setting of Rushen Abbey.



**Left: Clothworkers** derives from a legacy left by, Philip Christian from Peel who in 1653 became Renter Warden of Clothworkers in the City of London.

**Right: QEII Secondary** School badge



QEI Secondary School use the Cathedral on occasion for curriculum visits associated with R.E. and Christmas Carol Concerts. This year they visited in two cohorts of 400, rather than one of 800 as we were not keen to bring in chairs that might scratch the floor. There continues to be a prize given annually by the Cathedral Chapter for those doing especially well in R.E.

## School Visits

School visits post re-ordering are very much in need of being developed and was a recommendation of the Cathedral Peer Review. We have an excellent learning venue 'outside the classroom' with the Cathedral re-developed and the gardens, once returned to us having been a builders' compound. Much background work has been done for a series of guides for children at different Key Stages (KS1, KS2 and KS3) that now need to be matched to the current curriculum.



## The Children's Corner

The Children while in the Corrin Hall have had to cope with rather cramped conditions during services, but now back in the Cathedral there is once more space for younger people to engage in Sunday activities.

## Toddlers Group - Caterpillar Club

The Caterpillar Club for Toddlers is currently in abeyance and new plans will be explored in 2025 to re-open it in the Cathedral

## Cathedral Context

### Chapter, Greater Chapter and Cathedral Matters

#### Dean

The Very Revd. Nigel Godfrey (Chair)

## Chapter Canons

Canon of German (Dr Joe Heaton from Oct 2016)

Canon of Columba (Janice Ward from Oct 2016)

Canon of Maughold (Vacant)

Canon of Patrick (Vacant)

The Venerable Irene Cowell, Archdeacon of Man



**Above:** Janice Ward

## Greater Chapter Membership

*The Chapter members, together with Six Hon Canons with a 5 year term, renewable for a further term.*

All Hon Canons have their terms 'spent' and we await new governance of the Cathedral for further appointments where appropriate.



**Above:** Joe Heaton

## Meeting: The Cathedral PCC (Chapter/Greater Chapter)

In readiness for new governance when the Cathedral, which last year was separated from the Parish of the West Coast to become an independent parish as a stage towards being organised as a Cathedral Chapter, elected members who where possible also met the criteria of the proposed new Chapter:



Office Holder	No	PCC Membership in 2024	No	The Proposed Chapter under the Cathedral IOM Measure
Chair/Dean	1	Dean	1	Dean
Clergy	2	Canon of German	2	Canon 1
	3	Canon of Columba	3	Canon 2 (minimum)
	4	The Archdeacon	4	<b>Canon 3</b>
	5	Curate		
Lay Canons			5	Lay Canon
			6	Lay Canon (minimum)
			7	<b>Lay Canon</b>
Wardens	6	Warden	8	Warden
	7	Warden	9	Warden
Elected Laity	8	ER elected	10	ER/ Community Roll
	9	ER elected	11	ER/ Community Roll
	10	ER elected	12	Appointed by Bishop
	11	ER elected		<b>Appointed by Bishop</b>
Synod Reps	12	Synod Rep. <b>Vacant</b>		<b>Appointed by Bishop</b>
	13	Synod Rep. <b>Vacant</b>		
		Secretary		Non-elected Clerk
Maximum No.	<b>13</b>		<b>12</b>	

The only business exclusively for the old 'Chapter' was managing a small Fund, resulting from an annual grant from the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) of £2,500 p.a. There was a further fund managed which was the annual Interest from the Cubbon Trust, but this in 2024 has since had the capital sum dispersed for the re-ordering of the Cathedral via the Cathedral Quarter Trust.

### **The Four PCC Meetings during the year explored:**

**Meeting 1 Winter** (January) looks back over the Cathedral's life in the previous 12 months and reviews how successful our plans were and where we might learn from things that did not go so well. The meeting is part of the process of preparing the Annual Report of the Cathedral for presentation to the APCM and giving the wider public an insight into the life of the Cathedral. The financial report at this stage was in draft form and gave us an idea of how the operational budget was out of balance.

**Meeting 2 Spring** (May 7<sup>th</sup>) The Cathedral aims to have four PCC meetings a year, which is the legal minimum, relying on various task forces and the monitoring of the Executive Team to implement the strategic plans, so the first meeting of the new Cathedral PCC was tagged on to the end of the Annual Parochial Meeting (APCM) to make the necessary election of Officers. Two issues were particularly looked at as we were now an independent parish (as opposed to being one of five churches in the parish of the West Coast):

- membership of 'Inclusive Church' and
- how we might usefully continue to have links with the Parish of the West Coast (PotWC)

The Cathedral had been a member of Inclusive Church for a number of years. The organisation asked us to renew our commitment with a PCC Resolution. (A practical expression of this was to look again at neuro-diversity.)

Then in connection with the PotWC the decision was made to retain the Standing Committee/Wardens meeting for the Benefice as a whole rather than have two separate parish meetings.

**Meeting 3 Summer** (July 23<sup>rd</sup>) – The focus of this meeting is Mission plans and targets for the next 12 months which are SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time based). There was the on-going development of the Cathedral, but also some key issues re personnel.

- The impending retirement of the extremely competent Cathedral Administrator Val Garrett led us to begin the process of aiming to appoint a Chief Operating Officer (COO) and producing a new job description.
- To assist us with safeguarding monitoring volunteers etc. the diocese was investigating using the Church of England Dashboard.
- We were asked to submit information to the diocese in the 'Growth Planning Framework' which aimed to gather information to assist with strategic planning.
- The Cathedral saw its priorities (reinforced by the Peer Review) for:
  - a. Development Worker (to develop activities in the Cathedral)
  - b. Schools/education Officer (to develop links between school and Churches in 'learning outside the classroom')
  - c. a lay or ordained missionary/evangelist

**Meeting 4 Autumn** (October 8<sup>th</sup>) - The SMART Plan was reviewed for each department and the budget set budget for 2026 based on targets set. The key things that were out of the ordinary were:

- The 'development' budget was very dependent on raising the necessary funds, rather than being able to commit to a particular

timescale, but that the plan was to complete the Cathedral works in 2025 and move on to the Corrin Hall in 2026

- The creation of a new Cathedral Chapter to replace the PCC to bring us in line with English Cathedrals. This was fraught with difficulty as we were not in a position under Manx Law to become a 'Registered Charity' as we were deemed to have Charitable status already as we were part of the established church.

## **The Diocese of Sodor and Man Strategic Priorities and Principles**

The Diocesan priorities for 2022-2024 are summarised in the phrase:

*'Anointed and Rooted in God, we work together for Renewal, which will be visible in Faithfulness and Generosity'.*

### **Renewal:**

- spiritually and liturgically to deliver mission
- engaging with our communities as a supportive presence.
- as a 'Servant Church' addressing the needs of our community.
- of commitment to social justice through action.
- support those who are poor and marginalisation locally and globally.
- of commitment to building the highest standards of safeguarding.

### **Faithfulness:**

- Encouraging and supporting all in developing their faith.
- Paying attention to the quality of our worship and preaching.
- Continuing to enable lay Christians to share their faith.
- Developing opportunities for people to study their faith.
- supporting the young in exploring their faith within and beyond the diocese, especially our connection with Emmanuel College.

### **Generosity:**

- Being seen as our distinctive characteristic.
- Embed generosity at the personal and corporate level.
- Promote confident use and investment of all our resources.
- Compassionately care, that we may grow in mind, body and soul.
- Compassionately care for the Environment.
- Offering use of our buildings to the community as shared resources.
- Supporting our diocese by wise stewardship and generous giving.

Alongside this are the Church of England Priorities which have been explored by the Western Mission Partnership.

## **Diocesan Synod**



**Synod Rep:** Mary Biggart



**Synod Rep:** Nigel Godfrey



**Synod Rep:** Mark Radcliffe

## **Diocesan Synod 2024**

Diocesan Synod lay members are elected every three years at the Annual Parish Church Meeting (APCM) and serve on Synod for the triennium. Based on the parish Electoral Roll membership, the PotWC with over 200 members is entitled to five representatives. Each Parish Church had proposed a person and were approved at a parish APCM on 25 May 2021. These are Mrs Mary Biggart (Cathedral), David Talbot (Dalby), Steve Hamer (Michael), Graham McAll (Patrick) and Steven Bell (St Johns) - their term of office ended on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. They are ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC).

On 1 January 2024, the Cathedral Parish was formed out of the Parish of the West Coast (PotWC) – the PotWC becoming a parish of four Churches. Both parishes share the Incumbent, the Very Revd Nigel Godfrey (Dean) – a plurality known as the Cathedral Benefice. It was the wish of all the Churches to continue to work together and share experiences as they had done from May 2012. This arrangement continues in the quarterly meetings of Ministers and Churchwardens, including Burial Authorities.

The first APCM of the two Parishes was held separately on 23 April 2024. The following persons were elected to Synod until Sept 2027 - Mrs Ann Le Couter (Dalby), Robert Quayle (Patrick) and Steve Hamer (Michael). The Cathedral were entitled to appoint two members but none came forward at the time, but the vacancies can be subsequently filled under the Church Representational Rules (CRR) without waiting for the next APCM. General Synod (GS) is the overarching legislative body of the Church of England, having responsibility for the Canons, doctrine and liturgy of the Church, as well as for matters such as finance and mission. Diocesan Synod elects one Lay Representative and one clergy Proctor in Convocation for a five-year term. From Oct 2021 they are Mrs Susan Kennaugh (Laity) and the Revd Dr Michael Brydon (Bishop's Chaplain and Team Vicar of St Matthew, Douglas).



Diocesan Synod meetings receive reports from the Bishop, General Synod members on national matters and from Diocesan officers regarding the state of the Diocese and to discuss and vote on proposed change. Committees such as the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF) operate under the authority of Standing Committee of Synod, and in turn sub-committees such as the Property Committee report to the DBF.

The Church of England is Episcopally led and Synodically governed, and in 2024 the Diocesan Synod of Sodor and Man held three evening meetings:

### **29 February 2024 St George's, Douglas**

Led by the Archbishop of York's Commissary Bishop +Mark Davies of Middleton, his address majored on three Lenten themes of prayer, fasting and works of mercy.

The substantive item was Investment in Mission and Ministry, led by +Mark and the Archdeacon. The Diocese had received £50,000 from Church House to prepare a bid for money to fund this, and had engaged Mrs Sam Derbyshire (St Georges) to work with Archdeacon Irene to prepare this bid. The legal item approved by Synod was the Cathedral Measure (IOM), which is designed to put the Cathedral on a similar legal footing to that of English Cathedral's.

### **10 July 2024 St George's, Douglas**

This Synod was the last to be led by the Commissary Bishop Mark as he announced the Crown appointment of Revd Canon Patricia Hillas (Westminster) as the next Bishop of Sodor and Man. Her consecration as a Bishop would take place in York Minster on 10 October.

Legislative business included differences to the Marriage Act between the UK and IOM, with the IOM having a minimum age of 16 as opposed to 18 years.

### **27 November 2024 St George's, Douglas**

This was the first Synod led by Bishop Tricia since her Enthronement as Diocesan Bishop in the Cathedral on 16 November. She welcomed the new Synod members at the beginning of the new Triennium.

The substantive item was the Diocesan Budget and the Shared Ministry Fund (SMF) for 2025, lead by Phil Longworth (Generous Giving Advisor) and Mrs Lisa Johnston (Diocesan Treasurer). Synod was informed that the present SMF formula was under review.

The Archdeacon presented the Parochial Fees and Church Legal Fees Orders to apply from 1 Jan 2025. Archdeacon Irene was to set up a

working party early in 2025 to review the Parochial Fees. As modelled on English charges, and following debate in General Synod, the fees for funerals and weddings will be particularly under scrutiny.

The first Synod meeting of 2025 is planned for Thurs 27 Feb at 7.15pm in St George's church Douglas.

## Western Mission Partnership



**Mission Partnership Co-ordinator:**  
Nigel Godfrey

**Mission Partnership Secretary:**  
Nancy Clague replaced by  
Alice Main

The Western Mission Partnership (WMP) is made up of about 27 members from 4 Churches of the Parish of the West Coast (Dalby, Kirk Michael, Patroick and St John's), 3 Churches of Marown, Foxdale and Baldwin Parish (Old and New St Runius and St Luke's Balwin) and the Cathedral. Four meetings a year rotate around the Partnership with a 'bring and share' meal. (Clergy, Readers, Liturgical Assistants and a Lay Reps. from each church)

During 2024 we met with News from each of our churches, as well as an invited speaker. We also met for morning prayers at the Mill on the second Tuesday in the month, with different members leading the worship.

In January the Partnership met at St John's. Cheryl invited us to reflect on some of the issues and challenges that face us as churches in the partnership and explore how we might support each other, through practical acts and prayer.

The April meeting looked at sustainability: **Environmentally** (how do adapt our Victorian churches to meet current mission needs) **personnel wise**, **finance** (making use of moderns technology – digital giving), **spiritually** (perhaps we should not aim to meet all expectations regarding services where small numbers attend and share service as across the Partnership), **Educationally** (sharing in groups across the partnership)

The July meeting gathered at Marown. There was a discussion about church planting and how a plant might live alongside an old formal church structure. Sometimes the old and the new might not mix well.

It was agreed that the Western Mission Partnership would submit a Strategic Development Fund Application to the diocese corporately. The

partnership agreed that it would produce a plan by church, by parish and by partnership and Nigel would amalgamate a plan which could then be discussed by the partnership.

The October meeting, met in the Corrin Hall, Peel and shared the plan submitted for the Western Mission Partnership.

## Concluding Thanks

2024 saw the Cathedral congregation begin the year using the Corrin Hall having vacated the Cathedral in 2023. This period of exile was for the second time in my 17 years of ministry at the Cathedral – this time for major re-ordering (last time it was for re-wiring). Using the Corrin Hall, with its occasional clashes of different users sharing the same space has prepared us gently for the return to the Cathedral where the Nave aims to be very much a multi-purpose hub of community, artistic and educational use alongside worship.

The resilience of our staff and volunteers have enabled us to weather various storms as we continue to offer outreach in our community. A Big Thank you to the 150 or so staff and volunteers who contribute in so many ways to the life of the Cathedral and the service of our community as we all seek to walk more closely in the steps of our Lord.

As we move forward to 2025 we still have work to complete on the Cathedral, which is likely to cost in the order of £600,000. We hope this will be able to be achieved next year. 2025 will of course have its own challenges, opportunities and surprises. The Gospel may not change, but the context in which it is presented does as will the way we present the Good News. So we look forward in hope for the future.



Dean Nigel Godfrey