



ST PETER'S RC CHURCH

EDINBURGH

ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH ACTIVITIES
SESSION 2016-2017

FOREWORD

I am very grateful to Peter Nicholson, former chair of our Parish Pastoral Council, for his effort in compiling the following account of the various achievements of so many of our parishioners over the past year, and indeed to all who have contributed to this compendium of the work done in the parish of St Peter's. It is an invaluable resource for anyone, especially those like myself who are new to the parish wishing to know about the huge amount of work carried out by and on behalf of the parishioners of St Peter's. It is admirable that the Parish Pastoral Council has once again taken up this initiative, and hopefully it will continue as an annual production.

I hope it will inspire and enable many others to take an active part in parish life.

*Fr Kevin Douglas,
Parish Priest*

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to readers of this, the annual report of St Peter's RC Parish, Morningside, Edinburgh for the year to May 2017. Whether you are new to the parish and looking to find out about the liturgical and other activities that go on here, or a regular parishioner looking for more information about a particular aspect of the parish, we hope this booklet will provide some answers for you. Taken as a whole it provides a picture of the very wide range of activities undertaken by parishioners as we seek to build a community of faith in and around our parish area.

Remember also that there is much information on the parish website,
www.stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk

You will see that the report contains many appeals for additional support for the activities described. We hope all our readers will reflect on these and perhaps feel a call to offer their services in whatever way best suits them. If the report prompts you to become involved in new aspects of our parish life, it will have been well worth preparing.

Peter Nicholson, Chair, St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council 2014-17

LIST OF CONTENTS

PART 1: THE LITURGY

Sacristy and Sanctuary - Sacristans, altar linen and flowers
Welcoming and passkeeping
Altar Server Ministry
Music Ministry
Reader Ministry
Offertory Procession
Eucharistic Ministers
Liturgy Links Group

PART 2: REACHING OUT

St Vincent de Paul
Eco-Congregation
Edinburgh Doors Open Day
The Open Door
Hospital visitors
Outreach Justice and Peace
St Peter's SCIAF Support Group
FreshStart
Fairtrade
Christian Aid
Cardinal Winning Pro-Life Group

PART 3: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Liturgy
Family Masses
Youth Rock

PART 4: FAITH FORMATION AND PRAYER

Baptism preparation
Christian Initiation of Children
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Marriage Preparation
Bereavement befriending

Evening retreats
Prayer Group

PART 5: ADMINISTRATION

Parish secretary
Gift Aid Scheme
Protection of Vulnerable Groups
Parish Pastoral Council

PART 6: COMMUNICATIONS

Parish newsletter
Parish website
Parish on Facebook
Parish magazine
Parish library

PART 7: CHURCH PROPERTY

Church cleaning
Works and maintenance

PART 8: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Hospitality

PART 1 THE LITURGY

THE SACRISTY - *Patricia Cairns* (447 2026)

The Parish Sacristans open and close the church whenever required, and prepare the altar and the sanctuary for services. To share out the workload, a rota of daily Sacristans is in place. Each weekday, a team of two people, drawn from a pool of 10, undertake the main Sacristan duties. A rota is organised for the reader and the Eucharistic minister for the day's service. If a Eucharistic service is held in place of mass, a rota is organised for this also.

The main and side altars and the niche at the front door are regularly provided with flowers appropriate to the liturgical season, feast day or other celebration. Anyone with skills or expertise in this area would be very welcome to join the current provider of this service, Patricia Cairns, in order to provide cover throughout the year.

ALTAR LINEN - *Rosemary Rogerson* (447 6856)

We have a very dedicated group of seven ladies but we always would welcome any new faces to share the load.

WELCOMING AND PASKEEPING - *John Wastle* (447 3442) (welcome@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

At St Peter's, we aim to provide a welcoming, friendly and safe environment; to ensure that all the necessary arrangements for mass are in place; and to give help and advice whenever it is needed.

On Sundays and other major Mass days, our much-praised welcomers continue to give everyone who comes into church a newsletter, a hymn book, a mass book and a warm welcome with a big smile, while our paskeepers just try to look busy. Over the past year we have tried to ensure that team members attend on other significant occasions, such as funeral services.

Our long-established team of four are grateful for additional support provided as required by willing members of the congregation and some enthusiastic young people.

ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY - *Ivor Clarke* (623 4487)

The parish is very well served at present by 22 altar servers, 11 girls and 11 boys. We currently aim to have seven servers each Sunday so that most are able to serve, on average, one Sunday in three. Two boys and one girl are enrolled for training that will start in September 2017.

Training usually takes place over four or five Friday afternoons, but alternative arrangements may be made. Our training takes place in accordance with archdiocesan safeguarding guidelines, parents taking it turns to be present throughout. It links closely with P4-P7 themes of “This is our faith”, the Scottish Bishops' guidance for religious education in Catholic schools (2011).

MUSIC MINISTRY – *Sophie Bennett* (please see Sophie after Mass)

As always the music group have worked very hard over the past year to enhance the liturgy each week.

This year we have seen transition with Thérèse Stewart standing down after 34 wonderful years leading the group. In recognition of this, and her contribution in running the Children's Liturgy at St. Peter's for many years, she was awarded with the Archdiocesan St Andrew's Medal. We had a parish celebration after she received the medal from Mgr Kerr at Sunday Mass.

After playing my cello in the band for the past seven years I was delighted to be asked to follow in Thérèse's footsteps as leader. Thérèse and Ian continue to be an essential support to me and Thérèse kindly leads when I am away.

We are lucky to have a core of 10 musicians and five singers, and others who come when they can. We would be very keen to welcome new members, particularly singers.

I endeavour to choose the hymns to fit the liturgy each week and have introduced some new music, in particular Taizé, as well as incorporating some of Tony Giovanazzi's music previously sung with the choir.

In addition to Sunday Mass, we have provided music for the Christmas Carol Party, Masses for the sick and for First Holy Communion. Rehearsals before Christmas and in preparation for Holy Week have been very well supported.

Each week we receive lovely comments from supportive parishioners and visitors which are much appreciated! I welcome any feedback for the music group and thank everyone for their support.

READER MINISTRY - *Peter Nicholson* (445 1570)

“In proclaiming the word of God, readers exercise their responsibility in mediating the presence of Christ. God speaks to the assembly through them, and, the impact of God's message will depend significantly on their conviction, their preparation, and their delivery. The reader has responsibility for not simply reading the word, but assisting the assembly to hear the word.” So state the Guidelines prepared by the Liturgy Office of the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales, to which regard is also had in Scotland.

Reading duties at Sunday Mass are shared between two readers each week, the first reader welcoming the congregation at the beginning of Mass and delivering the First Reading and Responsorial Psalm, and the second reader taking on the Second Reading, Gospel Acclamation and the Bidding Prayers.

Volunteering Sunday in September 2016 was very successful for the reading team, with four new recruits. It is pleasing that these included two from abroad, helping the team reflect the multinational composition of the parish. A training session was held before the new readers took up their duties. However for various reasons the number of active team members has slipped back again, and we are still looking to recruit.

OFFERTORY PROCESSION - *John Wastle (447 3442)*, or speak to a passkeeper

On most Sundays the passkeepers invite a family to carry up the Offertory gifts – the collection, the ciborium and the wine decanter – in a procession led by the altar servers. However, the current arrangements also allow for the gifts to be carried by:

- Children selected by the Children's Liturgy Team (first Sunday of month during school term)
- Children participating in our Family Masses
- People whose intentions are being remembered at the day's mass
- Representatives of parish organisations to mark appropriate occasions, e.g. on Education Sunday, Fair Trade Sunday etc.

While it is convenient to ask families to take up the gifts, the passkeepers would like to hear from individuals who would like to take part in this important aspect of the Liturgy.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - *John Wastle (447 3442)* for rota; *Caroline Moffat (441 4930)* for training

Our team of Eucharistic Ministers – in proper terms Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist – continues to serve the parish by assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion at daily and Sunday Mass and by taking the Eucharist to those in hospital and to the sick and housebound. For Sunday Masses and other major occasions we need five Eucharistic Ministers, drawn from a pool of around 20 who sign up in advance for a three- month duty roster. During the year we were delighted to strengthen the pool with the commissioning of two of our younger parishioners, Ruth Dolan and Hannah Knowles. Our new Deacon, the Rev John Smith, holds the ciborium when he is present.

Those approved as Eucharistic Ministers by the Parish Priest are given a short introduction to the available guidance, followed by hands-on practical training sessions. The candidates are formally commissioned at Mass and then take up their duties.

LITURGY LINKS GROUP - *Ian Stewart* (447 3562)

Our liturgy is extremely important to us all and the Liturgy Liaison/Links Group was set up as a sub-group of the Parish Pastoral Council to facilitate communication and co-operation between parishioners, the PPC and the Parish Priest on liturgy matters.

Its membership (currently Patricia Cairns, Hannah Knowles, Maria McCann, Jo Mulvagh, Ian Stewart, John Wastle and Allan Whyte) reflects a varied and representative cross-section of the parish community and ministries, very few actually being members of the PPC.

Over the years the group has proposed and secured a number of benefits for parishioners (such as parish mass books, hymn books, supporting readers' and altar servers' roles) and it collated, analysed and discussed feedback from the major parish survey in 2013.

Since last year's report, the group has raised and discussed various matters relating to Sunday Mass (such as the sung Alleluia, the Offertory Procession, the Bidding Prayers, the readers' role, the altar servers' roles and their safety on the sanctuary), and the retiral of Thérèse Stewart after her very long service leading the parish music group. Our group was very pleased that the whole parish joined in recognising this service at the turn of the year. Sophie Bennett has been welcomed as the new (enthusiastic and energetic) music group leader.

The group is also pleased that Allan Whyte has agreed to take over from Steve Hand (to whom many thanks are due) as organiser of the Family Masses that have become so well established in the parish. A huge welcome, too, to Fr Kevin, our new Parish Priest, who has already initiated interesting and important ideas and discussions within the group (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, an evening mid-week Mass, the Lady Altar, area few examples).

The one group recommendation which, though supported by numerous parishioners, has not been adopted related to the frequency and timing of Sunday Mass. Mgr Kerr did not re-introduce a second Mass, believing that there is more than adequate provision at various times in south Edinburgh. However, this matter has been raised again and Fr Kevin intends to look into all the factors and to give it further consideration.

The Liturgy Liaison/Links Group, therefore, continues to welcome comments, suggestions and ideas on liturgical matters from individuals, families and groups, and will consider in detail any matters referred to it by the PPC or the Parish Priest.

Finally, the group wishes to offer its formal and heartfelt thanks to Mgr Kerr for his great and dedicated work on behalf of our parish over so many years (including his support for our own group's efforts). Thank you Monsignor.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL – *Fran Good (svdp@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)*

The past year has seen members of the St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Parish Conference busy visiting the elderly and housebound of the parish either in our local residential homes or in their own homes. Ideally, SVDP members visit in pairs. Those visited often have families scattered around the UK or abroad. Being visited every two to four weeks by SVDP members helps make them still feel part of the parish community when they are no longer able to attend Mass. Members of the conference are also able to provide Communion to those who wish to receive it. In addition, assisted by several non-member parishioners, we continue to assist the chaplain at the weekly Mass at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital – transporting patients to/from the service and helping to ensure the smooth running of the Mass.

Conference meetings have been held every three or four weeks. Preparation for a fruitful meeting takes the form of prayers and a short, pertinent reading. Confidential updates on those we visit and business matters follow, including decisions about allocation of funds. Being part of an international society, financial donations have gone to society appeals as well as our Edinburgh and twin conferences abroad. Ad hoc requests are considered, such as one-off small financial assistance and items such as shoes for a needy family. Basic food parcels have been distributed before Mass to those who request them and SVDP has continued to arrange the biannual Mass and afternoon tea at Gillis Centre for elderly and sick parishioners. Without the support of other parishioners (transport and help) and the ladies' group (afternoon tea and baking) these functions would not be the success they are. Thank you.

Through the great financial generosity of St Peter's parishioners, over the past 12 months a total of £3,246 was received in the box collection at the end of Mass. Any monies collected are distributed in a timely manner with only small balances kept. 2017 marks the 400th anniversary of the founding of a collaborative charity organised by Vincent de Paul, which has subsequently grown into a network of volunteers incorporating over 3 million people.

SVDP would be happy to hear from any interested parishioners. The degree of commitment can be negotiated to individual circumstances.

ECO-CONGREGATION - Liz Brown (447 7286)

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical movement helping local groups of Christians to link environmental issues to their faith, to reduce their environmental impact and to engage with their local community. St Peter's is one of over 400 eco-congregations in Scotland: we achieved our second Eco-Congregation Award in February 2017. With our encouragement, St Columba's this year became an eco-congregation too.

St Peter's Parish is committed to considering and implementing initiatives to show that we care for the world that God has created. A lot of work that counts for this is done under FreshStart, SCIAF, Fairtrade and Christian Aid and is reported here separately. Highlights this year for the eco-group itself include purchase of a portable composter for plant waste, continuing work in the parish garden and opening a conversation with Waitrose about the use of surplus food. Alan Chudziak's advice about what could be done to improve the energy efficiency of the church building has been very welcome. For the first time, St Peter's was represented at the AGM of Eco-Congregation Scotland.

EDINBURGH DOORS OPEN DAY – Liz Brown (447 7286)

ppcsecretary@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk) and Bruce Royan (447 3151)

St Peter's applied successfully to participate in the citywide Doors Open initiative in 2015 and 2016. Such is the architectural importance of the church building and its history, 35 volunteer parishioners welcomed 350 visitors in 2015. In 2016, despite the church being open for only one afternoon, we still had 90 visitors.

Parishioners were involved in welcoming visitors, giving guided tours and offering refreshments. Youth Rock created an I-spy trail for children; Pat Napier and Anne Donnelly prepared background notes for helpers; Bruce Royan, with photography by Douglas Hunter, created a rolling visual presentation; Juliet MacKellaig produced prayer resources.

We are very pleased to be repeating the event in 2017.

THE OPEN DOOR – Archie Cairns (447 2026)

Social clubs and support services for older people

Good Neighbours Club (Tuesdays, 10.30am-3pm) – older ladies enjoy a range of activities from seated swing dancing, mind stretching quizzes to musical performances and arts and crafts. There is always plenty of time for tea and chat.

Thursday Club (10.30am-2.30pm) – a registered day care service for older people who need support to get out and about to meet others. Supported by a team of staff and volunteers, they take part in activities tailored to their individual interests, abilities and strengths. Music and singing are always popular.

Saturday Break (10am-3pm) – a registered day care service for people diagnosed with dementia. Members take part in multiple-sensory activity and interact with others. There is always lots of laughter. Families benefit from a break from looking after their loved ones.

Both the Thursday Club and the Saturday Break are subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate. Following an unannounced inspection in March, the subsequent report highly commended the excellent service provided.

Senior Men's Group (Fridays, 1pm-4pm) – this new venture, launched last year, is now well established. Members share common interests, tell stories, listen to talks, go on outings, have lunch and simply enjoy each others' company.

Community cafe

A friendly spot to enjoy a tea/coffee/snack in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Help support the work of The Open Door by dropping in now and again for tea/coffee.

Volunteers

Volunteers help in two principal ways: by serving in the community cafe on a rota basis, or by providing support at one of the clubs.

If you know someone who would benefit from the support of The Open Door or if you would like to volunteer for any of the services provided, please call 447 9757, or for more information visit www.theopendoor-morningside.org.uk

HOSPITAL VISITORS - Liz Brown (447 7286)
or Parish Priest (447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com)

Visits to patients in the Astley Ainslie Hospital have been made, on request, by Eucharistic minister Liz Brown. The number of visits required has declined following the permanent closure of a number of wards.

OUTREACH JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP - Norma Daniels Emm (447 7900)

Our group works to promote the social teaching of the church through awareness raising and fundraising. This year we highlighted the plight of Syrian refugees who are in a camp in the Lebanon. During September 2016 we asked parishioners to donate goods such as toiletries, pencils, paper etc. We had an excellent response and were able to deliver two carloads of goods to Edinburgh Direct Aid who then shipped them to the Lebanon.

At the beginning of Advent we invited parishioners to an Alternativity lunch during which readings highlighted the issues of poverty, homelessness and loneliness. We also hosted a Lenten lunch which focused on the work of SCIAF. These events raised £285 and £235 for SCIAF. During Advent we had a Justice and Peace Advent Wreath in the newsletter with each of the candles showing how we can help make a more peaceful and just world. In January we marked International Migrant and Refugee Day by having the Bidding Prayers at Sunday Mass read in foreign languages. The offertory procession was taken up by families from the USA and Hong Kong.

Also in January we marked Homelessness Sunday with Pat Cairns, a member of our group, speaking about the work of FreshStart and thanking the parish for its support.

The group's three main areas of focus are SCIAF, FreshStart and Fairtrade. We also support Christian Aid.

ST PETER'S SCIAF SUPPORT GROUP - *Anne Marie Douglas (445 4337; sciaf@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)*

Zambia was the focus of our Lenten appeal this year. We heard in particular about the Munyindeyi family, who were pictured on the "Wee Box". David and Maté had struggled to provide two meals a day for their four children before being helped by SCIAF.

David was able to join a SCIAF project in his village where he received seeds, tools and training so that he could grow enough food for his family. David and Maté learned new ways of farming and now their children have plenty of healthy, home grown food. This year, instead of doing odd jobs for food, they sold vegetables to neighbours and used the money to buy solar panels. For the first time, the family have electric light in their home.

We raised £2,235 in St Peter's during Lent and this, we sincerely hope, will help other families in Zambia to improve their skills and feed their families. A special collection in October raised £630 for the SCIAF Haiti appeal.

We invited Donna from SCIAF to attend Mass in St Peter's on 25 June. During Mass Donna gave us an update on our parish project in Burundi and received a cheque for £5,250. This was in addition to £2,500 already donated to the project this year.

Fundraising has, as always, been varied, involving lots of hard work and effort but also lots of fun. We are grateful to all who have supported SCIAF in any way during the past year and hope we, as a parish, will continue to do so.

FRESHSTART - Pat Cairns (447 2026; freshstart@stpetersrcchurch.org.uk)

FreshStart's mission is "helping people make a home for themselves". FreshStart was founded in 1999 to tackle the evil of homelessness.

St Peter's is one of over 100 Edinburgh churches who collect, on a monthly basis, items essential for setting up home which are provided as "starter packs". Our congregation has responded magnificently to appeals in the parish newsletter, and there is usually a good carload of items such as bedding, towels, pots and pans, cutlery, crockery and cleaning materials to be transported to the warehouse in Pilton. The charity has grown and developed in response to need and now also offers:

- hit squads of volunteers who decorate up to two rooms;
- staff development opportunities for businesses by volunteering;
- cooking and budgeting classes for formerly homeless people;
- growing fruit and vegetables in the Harrison Place allotment;
- training initiatives, PAT testing skills and qualifications – nine trainees moved into employment and one into a college course last year;
- food starter packs.

Parish efforts on behalf of FreshStart contribute to our eco-congregation status as we are saving tonnes of goods from going to landfill.

In November 2016, I attended the AGM of FreshStart, which was held at the Gillis Centre for the first time.

FAIRTRADE - Norma Daniels Emm (447 7900; fairtrade@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

St Peter's is a Fairtrade parish and as such is committed to using Fairtrade products whenever possible. Our Afternoon Tea was advertised as a Fairtrade tea and we marked Fairtrade Fortnight with an Aveda Beauty Evening, serving Fairtrade wine and nibbles. These raised £300 and £232.85.

Items were placed in the newsletter encouraging parishioners to buy Fairtrade and ethically produced goods at Christmas and Easter. We very much appreciate the support of the Hospitality team in helping maintain our status as a Fairtrade parish and so support farmers and workers in the developing world.

CHRISTIAN AID - Liz Brown (447 7286; christianaid@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

St Peter's is represented on the Morningside and Fairmilehead Christian Aid Committee, which is very active. With support from the Outreach team and other parishioners, St Peter's assists where possible with local events. All events are publicised in the newsletter and on our notice boards, and have been well supported.

The most important of these activities is the house-to-house collection during Christian Aid Week in May – currently four parishioners make a loyal and valuable contribution. New collectors are always needed and would be most welcome.

Over three weeks in May 2017, six parishioners helped at the Christian Aid book sale at Holy Corner. This event raised over £14,000.

CARDINAL WINNING PRO-LIFE INITIATIVE GROUP of St Peter's - Agnes Martony Dolan (07908 764525; prolife@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

It was a busy year for the Pro-life Group.

During the year we had the third Wednesday of the month's prayer for the pro-life movement at the 9am mass.

During the winter another opportunity arose. The international initiative of the "40 Days for Life" movement planned its first action for Lent 2017 in Edinburgh. After numerous preparatory meetings, where many parishioners were present, the initiative was led by our own parishioners Patricia and Stewart MacLennan. The aim was to pray in public from 8am to 8pm at the front of the local abortion clinic to ask the Lord to change the hearts and minds of people involved in abortion, to end abortion, to save life. In Edinburgh the clinic is in the Royal Infirmary.

Patricia and Stewart organised enough people to attend from all over Edinburgh and neighbouring communities. The event was a big success. We managed to have continuous prayer for 40 days at the hospital. Archbishop Leo Cushley visited the site and prayed with the activists. There were up to 15 people from our parish participating. See <https://40daysforlife.com/2017/03/18/edinburgh-scotland/>

For the next year we plan a charity sale of baby clothes and equipment in the parish sometime during the autumn, for the aid of the Cardinal Winning Initiative and the Gospel of Life nuns in Glasgow.

PART 3: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY - Joyce Cullen (447 4316;
childrensliturgy@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

The Children's Liturgy team has again enjoyed a busy year, with an enthusiastic group of pre-school and primary school children joining us to share the Gospel, in a format they can more easily understand, at their own liturgy during Sunday Mass in the school terms.

The number of children joining us on a Sunday varies from week to week – usually between about 25 and 40 children plus a few parents accompanying the very young, with our record attendance in the past year being 53 children. We welcome all children, whether they attend every Sunday or less regularly. Those who attend are usually aged between about four and nine. We hope most children will be ready (and encouraged by their parents) to stay in church for the full Mass after they have received their First Holy Communion.

We are delighted to have gained a few new volunteers, which allows us to spread the load between team members. We are always keen to encourage new volunteers, who will be offered guidance and on-the-job support, and there are opportunities to discuss ideas and to share experiences with other team members. New volunteers need not have had experience of teaching (or be parents themselves), and can begin by shadowing more experienced team members.

In August we held the annual Summer Parish Picnic, which took place after Mass in the playing field behind St Peter's Primary School. All parishioners were invited. We were once again lucky with the weather and enjoyed races for all ages, with games and prizes. It was a great opportunity for the team to get to know the parents of the children who attend, and for parents and children to enjoy a relaxed social event.

During Mass on Christmas morning the children gave their now traditional Nativity performance, processing to the front of the church in costume and singing "Away in a Manger". They also handed over their contributions, collected in a SCIAF



FAMILY MASSES - Allan Whyte

(appeals for children to volunteer are made by announcement or in newsletter)

Over the last year the children of the parish, ably supported by Youth Rock, have continued to take the lead in our Sunday “family” masses, helping the parish celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in November, and on the weekend our P4 children received their First Holy Communion in June.

After several years, Steve Hand has stood down as coordinator, but we are delighted that Allan Whyte has offered to help organise them going forward and ensure that the younger members of the congregation will continue to have the opportunity to take the lead with the readings, Bidding Prayers, offertory collection and procession.

As always, we are grateful to the Music Group, the Children's Liturgy team, passkeepers and the Hospitality team for their wholehearted support of these special services.

YOUTH ROCK - Maureen Mazzei (youth@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

Youth Rock met on 12 occasions between September 2016 and June 2017. There have been two planning meetings.

The group has been involved in a wide range of activities, including Halloween and Christmas party nights, sweet jar filling for selling at the Church Fayre, street food at the Harvest Festival, truffle making for Mothers' Day, field sports, arts and crafts and a particularly popular cake decorating evening, led by Helen Hand (cake maker extraordinaire)!

A highlight was the young people carrying the Youth Rock banner in the procession at Monsignor Kerr's last Mass on 19 February. The burning of the palms session went down well also!

Our S6 youth leaders, who have been involved for the last six years, Lewis, Chris and Ruth, have now left for university, therefore we really need the upcoming S3s to take on this leadership role. An end of term party night on 11 June was held to provide an opportunity to inform the younger ones of what is involved.

Moving forward, the future of Youth Rock is dependent both on youth leadership and parent volunteers, who should have up to date PVG. Therefore, in order for the group to continue, and thrive, a commitment from both of these areas is necessary.

I will continue to be the named person in charge, with assistance from Lisa Hannon, for the time being. However, it is my intention to step back a bit in the new term, allowing other parents to take a more central role. My suggestion is that a volunteer rota is set up early in the new session, with volunteers taking ownership of their weeks on duty and the chosen activity, thereby encouraging a more shared experience for all involved.

PART 4: FAITH FORMATION AND PRAYER

BAPTISM PREPARATION - *Josephine Beech-Brandt (contact Fr Douglas 447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com)*

The Baptism team assist Fr Douglas with preparing parents who wish to have children baptised at either St Peter's or St Columba's.

Classes are held four times a year; the format is one Sunday afternoon session from 3-5pm. The course provides an opportunity not only to learn more about Baptism and reflect on the start of the child's spiritual journey, but also to meet other parents in the parish.

The team is made up of parents drawn from both parishes and we are always happy to welcome new members. Most members assist with two courses a year, so the commitment is two afternoons. Over the past year, about 20 couples have attended the course.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN - *Fr Douglas 447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com*

Over the past year, we have held a series of events at Sunday Mass relating to the preparation of St Peter's Primary School children in P3 and P4 for their first celebration of the sacraments of Penance, Confirmation and Holy Communion. This annual cycle, which runs over the academic year, is known as the Christian Initiation of Children (CIC).

The Archdiocese has made clear the need for parishes to become more involved, rather than leaving all the preparations to the schools, emphasising that "parents are their children's primary educators into the lifelong journey of faith", and "it is important that parents and their children are committed to gathering for the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist". Schools and parish communities are there to support parents in this. So, in St Peter's, these events are accompanied by a series of preparatory meetings with parents throughout Primary 3 and 4, along with associated celebrations in church for parents and children.

Before their celebration of First Penance, therefore, Primary 3 children celebrated two rites in the parish at Sunday Eucharist:

- *Signing with the Cross* recalls that the children were marked with the cross at their Baptism; and reaffirms parents' central role as first teachers in the ways of faith;
- in the *Rite of Illumination* we pray that the children continue to walk in the light of Christ.
- Then, before Confirmation and First Holy Communion, Primary 4 children celebrated another four rites:
- the *Rite of Enrolment*, when the children are called by name to take part in the preparations;

- *Presentation of the Gospels*, a copy of the Gospel of the current liturgical year;
- *Presentation of the Creed*, an opportunity to confirm all that we believe;
- *Presentation of the Lord's Prayer*, where the children receive the prayer as the model of all Christian prayer.

This year, after this important programme of preparation, our P3 children celebrated First Penance on Wednesday 26 April. Archbishop Cushley confirmed our P4 pupils on Friday 26 May in St Mark's Church. They then received their First Holy Communion on the morning of Saturday 17 June at a joyful celebration in St Peter's.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) - Deacon John Smith
(contact Fr Douglas 447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com)

RCIA for adults meets every Monday in St Peter's Parish Room. At the Easter Vigil in 2017, three adults were received into full communion with the Church. At present we have two adults at the enquiry stage.

There is a regular team of parishioners, with one from St Columba's, who provide assistance and training, and others who periodically join in. One parishioner who assists was only received into the Church himself this Easter.

Anybody is free to join, even if it is for only one night, to share his or her Catholic faith with others.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION - Louise Smith (contact Fr Douglas 447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com)

Marriage preparation in St Peter's is conducted by four marriage catechists. Since 2013 there have been, on average, two sessions per year. We prepared 12 couples in 2016. Seven couples attended the marriage preparation day in March 2017. A further day is scheduled for Saturday 9 September 2017.

The day takes approximately four and a half hours, with a lunch break, giving the couples the opportunity to socialise. They receive information on marriage as a sacrament, the covenant of marriage and the Catholic Church's teaching on marriage and family life, in addition to helpful tips on communication within marriage and information on the wedding ceremony. There are many breakout groups, giving couples the opportunity to discuss their personal views and to feed these back to the larger group if they wish.

We receive very positive feedback from the couples, who genuinely enjoy "getting down to the basics" of what marriage is all about. Most couples we see consist of one Catholic and one of another or no religion. The non-Catholics appreciate the opportunity to learn a little more about the Catholic faith and are reassured by the preparation.

BEREAVEMENT BEFRIENDING - *Rosemary Rogerson (447 6856, 10am-8pm)*

Our parishioner is available to lend a listening ear to any parishioner who wishes to talk. We are awaiting news from Gillis about a workshop as we have one interested parishioner. If there are any others in the parish interested in this ministry, contact Fr Douglas or myself.

The parish annual Bereavement Mass takes place in November on a Saturday at 12 noon.

EVENING RETREATS - *Juliet MacKellaig (447 6936)*

The following evening retreats ran at St Peter's between autumn 2016 and summer 2017, using scripture and images to pray with:

- A parents' retreat evening for P3 and P4 parents
- Advent and Lent prayer evenings on God's betrothal to his people and on the Eucharist
- In conjunction with the Prayer Group we have shown six monthly films on the lives of the saints, from the "Pivotal Players" series by Bishop Robert Barron of "Word on Fire."



St Peter's Parish Prayer Group meets on a Thursday at 7.30pm in the parish room. Our main purpose is to pray for the needs of the parish and to offer fellowship to anyone who wishes a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith.

We start with a decade of the Rosary, followed by a time of praise and worship which includes readings from the Psalms. We enter into a time of silence where we individually listen to what the Lord is saying to us, then share the passages of scripture while someone writes and discerns the overall theme. We never cease to be amazed at the very clear way the Lord speaks to us.

Next we have 15 minutes of teaching on an aspect of church life from scripture, catechism or the life of a saint, followed by intercessory prayer for the intentions placed in the box at the back of the church, and for personal intentions, the wider community and the needs of the world. At 9pm we have an opportunity to share experiences of what the Lord has been doing in our lives over the past week.

We can offer prayer ministry to anyone in need of emotional or physical healing.

The group regularly attracts about 10-15 people. We never know who will join us on a Thursday evening. People come from other parishes, from overseas, from hospitals – or just out of curiosity. They bring many different gifts to share.

Some members travel to Walsingham for the annual New Dawn Conference in August, praying for the intercession of Our Lady of Walsingham and requesting a mass for our priest and parish. Members also organise and attend our own New Dawn in Scotland Conference in July in St Andrews.

The group contributes to parish evangelisation by occasionally offering a CaFe course (Catholic Faith Exploration, in a café setting). With the help of Juliet MacKellaig, we offer more reflective programmes during Lent, Divine Mercy Sunday and Pentecost. Over the years we have been privileged to experience many miracles as the Lord hears and answers our prayers.

Holy Hour is now held prior to the Prayer Group meeting, starting at 7pm. We also hosted for the cluster parishes a film night on the first Thursday of each month, showing the Bishop Robert Barron series on the Pivotal Players of the church. This was well attended.

OUR LADY OF ABERDEEN

Douglas Hunter (447 6153)



The Statue of Our Lady of Aberdeen was brought to St Peter's to mark the changeover from Monsignor Kerr to Fr Douglas.

The statue was accompanied with prayer cards and a programme of Marian devotions. Juliet MacKellaig produced a reflective programme of prayer. The parishioners were encouraged to spend time in prayer for the conversion of our nation.

The statue was commissioned by New Dawn in Scotland for its annual Conference and Rosary Procession in St Andrews in honour of Our Lady & St Andrew.

The original statue was made in 1490 and is housed in St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

PART 5: ADMINISTRATION

**PARISH SECRETARY - Mary Wastle (447 3442;
communications@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

The parish secretary carries out general secretarial and administrative duties as required by Fr Kevin. She prepares the weekly parish newsletter (see Communications section, below), and maintains the parish records in good order. She also keeps a central diary of forthcoming liturgical and social events and should be consulted when such activities are planned, to avoid clashes. The diary is updated and distributed regularly to interested Ministry leaders, and a copy is posted on the parish website.

In Fr Kevin's absence, the parish secretary is able to undertake certain tasks, such as providing copies of baptism certificates and letters of freedom to marry.

GIFT AID SCHEME - Andrew Thackrey (447 3232)

We have about 140 parishioners who participate in the scheme, which brings extra financial aid to the parish. Contributions can be made by cheque, standing order, direct debit or through the weekly envelopes. A small team of parishioners record the contributions in the envelopes. These are identified by number only, thus ensuring privacy.

The same team count the weekly "open plate" collections prior to transfer to the parish bank account.

We are most grateful to the taxpayers amongst the parishioners, as this money from HM Revenue & Customs helps sustain ongoing parish work.

**PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS - Joyce Cullen (447 4316;
pvg@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

In March each year the parish requires to provide an annual audit return to the Archdiocese, advising of the numbers of volunteers working with protected groups, confirming the progress and status of membership of each volunteer, and confirming that appropriate training has been offered. Our annual return confirmed that 53 volunteers undertake work with children and/or vulnerable adults, with two further Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) applications in the pipeline.

Working alongside the Parish priest, part of the role of Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator is to ensure that the Church's guidelines are complied with and that the appropriate Archdiocesan volunteer forms are completed by all new volunteers, as well as ensuring that all volunteers (both new and those who have been volunteering over many years) join the PVG scheme. Updating PVG now requires to be carried out on a rolling programme and the first group affected is now being asked to complete update forms.

In March 2017 training was offered at St Peter's to all volunteers (whether members of the PVG scheme or not) by an Archdiocesan expert trainer; the session was well attended.

We are very grateful to all who volunteer and go through the process of registration and training, in the interests of our children and vulnerable adults.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL - *Peter Nicholson (chair 2014-17); Josephine Beech-Brandt (chair from June 2017) (pastoralcouncil@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)*

The Parish Pastoral Council comprises up to 12 members, elected by parishioners or co-opted by the Council itself. Fr Douglas, as Parish Priest, has succeeded Mgr Kerr as *ex officio* President.

The Council meets up to six times a year between September and its Annual General Meeting in June. It deals with a wide range of business relating to the life of the parish. The main items this past year have been the latter stages of the Archbishop's discussion process on parish reorganisation, the outcome of which is awaited at time of writing, and then the events to mark Mgr Kerr's retirement, together with helping to introduce Fr Douglas to the parish and its organisations, but the Council has also supported events such as the second Volunteering Sunday to encourage support for the many parish groups and activities, Doors Open Day, and training in connection with protection of vulnerable groups. Its meetings also monitor and discuss on an ongoing basis liturgy issues raised, maintenance of the church buildings and premises, and other aspects of parish life.

Membership has been below full strength this past year, and anyone interested in taking part would be most welcome. We are grateful however to Liz Brown, who recently filled the vacancy for secretary. Meetings are open to parishioners to attend as observers: this would be one way of finding out more about the Council's work.

Minutes of Council meetings are posted on the parish website along with other papers of interest. Paper copies of these documents are also available from the secretary on request.

PART 6: COMMUNICATIONS

**PARISH NEWSLETTER - Mary Wastle (447 3442;
communications@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

The parish secretary is the editor of the weekly newsletter as part of her administrative duties. Priority is given to providing information on all aspects of parish life in St Peter's but, space permitting, news is also given of events in our local community and beyond. Our newsletter is a one-sheet double sided production, but from time to time the editor is prepared to extend that to accommodate a particularly interesting or valuable article.

Each week's newsletter is available to parishioners from Saturday Mass at 12 noon; to allow time for composition, editing and reproduction (some 200 copies), contributions are needed by the previous Wednesday. The newsletter is clearly popular but in some cases only for the duration of Mass! Please take your copies away with you and recycle them in due course.

The newsletter is posted every week on the parish website (www.stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk) and now also on the parish Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/Spetersrcsesinburgh/>).

The editor is very grateful that when she is on holiday Trish Dolan kindly – and seamlessly – steps in as guest editor.

**PARISH WEBSITE - Juliet MacKellaig (447 6936;
webeditor@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

There are approximately 9,000 *different* people using the site, www.stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk, over the last year – around 900 up to 1,200 per month, up about one third on the previous year.

The 10 most popular pages are:

- Home page
- St Peter's RC Primary School
- Newsletters
- Mass times
- Catholic papers
- This week's Gospel
- Last Supper meditation
- Parish news and events
- Marriage preparation
- Contact us

Why not join in and browse to see what is happening in St Peter's and beyond? You can also use the site for some spiritual formation, through the "This week's Gospel" and "Prayer" pages

PARISH ON FACEBOOK

St Peter's Parish is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Stpetersrcsesinburgh/.

PARISH MAGAZINE - *Caroline Moffat*

Issue 7 of the Parish Magazine has been published since the last Annual Report. The magazine continues to reflect the diversity of interests and talents within the parish, with contributions from some of our primary school aged parishioners on the topics of Christmas and grandparents, original poetry inspired by current world events, recipes, articles on places of interest parishioners have visited while on holiday, information on lives of the saints, spiritual reflections, and reports on parish projects such as SCIAF and the eco-congregation initiative.

PARISH LIBRARY - *Anne Donnelly*

Discussions are currently taking place regarding the future content of the library, which is currently situated in the side chapel at the rear of the church.



PART 7: CHURCH PROPERTY

CHURCH CLEANING THE “HOLY DUSTERS” - Tina O'Donoghue (447 4840; christinaodonoghue@yahoo.co.uk)

The main body of the church is professionally cleaned, so the work carried out by the “Holy Dusters” consists of keeping the parish room, kitchen and toilets spick and span for the use of our parishioners and visitors. Five teams of two work on a five-week rota, normally on a Thursday from 9.30am for approximately 45 minutes. Other days can be arranged to suit the requirements of the specific teams, e.g. Saturday at 11.15am before Mass. Two major cleans, involving all the teams, are also arranged for Christmas and Easter.

New volunteers who wish to join the Holy Duster rota are always welcome – if interested, please contact me, Tina O'Donoghue.

WORKS AND MAINTENANCE - Alan Chudziak (445 4266)

Legislation requirements

In compliance with health and safety, and fire safety, legislation, there is a requirement for regular testing, inspection and servicing of the various mechanical, electrical, fire alarm and emergency lighting systems within the church premises. This is carried out as follows:

- fire alarms and emergency lighting systems tested weekly;
- annual portable electrical equipment (PAT) testing;
- annual fire extinguisher inspections and testing;
- carbon monoxide detectors tested regularly;
- annual gas boilers and heating systems inspections and servicing (presbytery and church);
- annual fire alarm system inspections;
- electrical services installations being fully inspected, tested and certified on a five yearly basis – next due during early 2018;
- roof inspections and cleaning out all gutters and rainwater collection systems biannually and after every storm/inclement weather event.

A practice fire alarm evacuation of the church was carried out after Sunday Mass in June.

Maintenance works

Work carried out within the church property over the past year includes:

July 2016

- Church roof inspections and removal of high level weeds with application of weedkiller.
- Church and presbytery heating systems annual maintenance inspections and servicing.

August 2016

- Essential remedial works identified in the legionella survey report within the presbytery and flat comprising replacement of lead lined water tanks and lead pipework interconnections; replacement taps to presbytery washhand basins incorporating local isolation valves.

September 2016

- Replaced presbytery shower room toilet WC and cistern and also floor covering in part.
- Tower walls/organ loft dampness inspection prior to remedial painter works.

October 2016

- Temporary repair work to tighten up courtyard loose flagstones until full grouting repairs can be undertaken during spring/summer 2017.

November 2016

- Prepared specifications and scopes for carrying out essential remedial works on stair tower and organ loft; preparation to walls, sealing and repainting, repointing of the undercroft boiler house inner walls; installation of soffit insulation and boarding to seal concrete slabs at tower roof level and organ gallery corridor ceiling level from tower stair; works to rainwater down pipe; obtained quotes and agreed programme for implementation.

December 2016

- Roof inspection and further maintenance work.
- Courtyard trees inspected and re-staked.

January 2017

- Health and safety fire risk assessment review carried out and updated to incorporate the Archdiocesan, Health & Safety Executive and Catholic Churches Association guideline requirements. Appropriate notices posted in church and parish room.
- Following failure of the church heating system programmer, temporary manual operation provided.

February 2017

- Replacement church heating programmer installed.
- Investigation into issues with electrical supplies to church convector fan assemblies failing under short circuit conditions.
- Replacement lamps and ballast unit controls procured and installed for church, entrance hall and toilet lighting following lamp and control gear failures.
- Carrying out essential remedial works on the stair tower and organ loft for which specifications prepared in November.

March 2017

- Quotation sought for electrical work involved in the relocation of the office and the formation of an informal meeting and reception area within the library of the presbytery. Quote accepted and works completed.
- Two radio microphones procured and incorporated into the church sound system to enhance the sound amplification from the altar.

April 2017

- Installation of LED lamps within the presbytery multi-chandelier fitting to reduce energy consumption by 75%.
- Replacement damper motor/controller assembly procured following failure of church heating but incorrect burner fan motor dispatched by the boiler manufacturer. Work reprogrammed for June 2017.

May 2017

- Roof inspections and remedial works to cope joints, flat roofs (especially over the organ loft and the main roof in front of same) and raggles for flashings, bell tower remedial work and inspections to bring bell back into service.
- Remedial works to level and re-bed entrance courtyard paving slabs.
- Door lock adjustments made to secure lock insertion in flat entrance door.
- A visual walk-around inspection of the church stonework and brickwork by an experienced lecturer in stone masonry work has been carried out. Various recommendations for remedial works required to repair spalling stonework, repointing stone course joints with lime mortar, installation of a waterproof membrane and render to stop rising damp from below ground level within north tower under croft walls and sump caused by the high water table. An inspection of the existing underground drainage system using high pressure water and CCTV camera to ensure all drains are in good condition with no blockages or breakages is to be arranged.

Future required maintenance work

The following works will require to be considered as part of a five to 10 year plan for ongoing maintenance and planned system replacement due to time in service, obsolescence and difficulty in obtaining spares.

- Electrical installation five year inspection and testing due early in 2018. Scope to be drawn up later this year and competitive quotes obtained for the inspections and testing required. (Fire alarms, emergency lighting and bell tower lightning protection to be included.)
- Church lighting replacement. (New replacement with feature spot and flood lighting or the same again but using LED tubular light fittings to replace existing.) Scope and budget costs to be prepared in the not too distant future as replacement components for existing light fitting components are difficult to obtain and are becoming very costly.
- Possible heating and/or boiler replacement for church and house will be required and consideration to be given to condensing boiler types.
- Repainting of internal walls of church as this was last carried out some 25-30 years ago.
- Dampness and efflorescence noted within church internal wall at low level and some upper levels of brickwork within church, sacristy and parish room.
- An inspection of the existing underground drainage system using high pressure water and CCTV camera is required to ensure all drains are in good condition with no blockages, collapses or breakages and that all drains run freely.
- Ongoing external stonework and lime mortar course repointing, stone spalling remedial repairs, hairline stone cracking repairs, replacement of badly weathered stones on west and east facing elevations.
- Consideration to the replacement of the flat roof areas within the next few years, including the four box gutter longitudinal areas over the church will be required, as the present felt roof coverings are nearing the end of their life expectancy of some 30 years. Ruberoid type roof finishing to be considered in place of felt.
- Side protection railings to either side of altar.

PART 8: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

**ST PETER'S HOSPITALITY TEAM - Ann Royan (447 3151;
hospitality@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)**

The Hospitality team exists to serve teas and coffees after 11.30 Mass, and other refreshments at occasions throughout the year. The co-ordinator maintains a rota of some 18 volunteer helpers, as well as a larger network of people who can be pressed into service as the need arises.

Refreshments after Mass

The congregation, and especially visitors and newcomers, were invited to stay after Mass for refreshments on some 45 Sundays over the past year. We see this as a major vehicle for welcoming in the parish, and particularly appreciated by children and the elderly. Refreshments are served both in the parish room and in the courtyard, and some 80 parishioners and visitors are catered for each week. There is no charge for refreshments, but donations are used to cover cleaning materials, catering equipment, and food and drink (Fairtrade) including occasional treats: for example, themed home baking after Rites of Initiation and Family Masses, and wine and nibbles on days of celebration. Sometimes a parishioner will contribute to enable the whole congregation to celebrate a special occasion with them (e.g. an anniversary, christening, or special birthday): the co-ordinator is always happy to discuss the possibilities.

Particular social events

Parish events where hospitality has been provided have included:

- *10 July* Golden Wedding
- *25 September* Harvest Festival and Doors Open Day
- *9 October* Rite of Enrolment
- *30 October* Signing of the Cross
- *13 November* Poppy Day and Junior Bake Off
- *20 November* Family Mass and "Thank you" to Thérèse Stewart
- *27 November* Christmas Fayre (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *11 December* Seasonal refreshments
- *20 December* Parish Carol Party
- *1 January* Joint 50th anniversary party
- *22 January* 70th birthday party
- *29 January* Rite of Illumination
- *5 February* Presentation of the Creed
- *12 February* Valentine's Day

- *17 February* Malt whisky tasting (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *19 February* Mgr Kerr's final Sunday Mass
- *26 February* Fr Kevin's first Sunday Mass
- *5 March* Marmalade sale (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *12 March* Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
- *26 March* Mothers' Day
- *2 April* Sale of simnel cakes (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *16 April* Easter Sunday
- *14 May* 50th anniversary party
- *18 June* Fathers' Day and First Communicants
- *25 June* Patronal feast

Mgr Kerr's farewell social

(reported by Peter Nicholson)

The other main social event of the year was the presentation social to Mgr Kerr on the afternoon of Saturday 29 April, following his retirement. About 140 parishioners enjoyed the excellent buffet provided by the Gillis Centre and witnessed the presentation of the proceeds of the parish collection (a cheque for £5,000), John Wastle's tribute and Monsignor's reply, on a relaxed occasion which allowed time for people to socialise and for Monsignor to speak individually to those present. The organising committee regard the occasion as a great success and appreciate all the kind comments fed back from parishioners afterwards.



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