

**ST PETER'S RC CHURCH
EDINBURGH**

ANNUAL REPORT ON PARISH ACTIVITIES SESSION 2017-18

FOREWORD

I am very grateful to the team responsible for 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 2018. 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.

St Peter's Parish Pastoral Council

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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 sanctuary for services. To share the workload, a rota of daily Sacristans is in place. Each weekday, a team of two people, drawn from a pool of eight, 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 (Service of the Word) is held in place of Mass, a rota is organised for this also.

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.

CHURCH FLOWERS *Patricia Cairns (447 2026)*

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 team in order to provide cover throughout the year. Alternatively, contributions towards the cost of flowers can be placed in the box at the back of the church.

WELCOMING AND PASSKEEPING *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 passkeepers 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)*

In September 2017 six boys and four girls trained to serve. As a result, the parish is currently blessed with 32 altar servers, 15 girls and 17 boys. Eight or nine servers are generally rostered each Sunday so that all have the opportunity to serve at least once a month.

Some of the latest batch of trainees have volunteered to serve at Wednesday evening Masses or on Saturdays. They are encouraged to do so as this is the best way of learning their craft.

Despite the trend to take vacations during the Easter school holiday period, all Holy Week and Easter services in 2018 were well supported by our altar servers.

In August 2017 an adventure treat for servers took place to the Edinburgh

International Climbing Centre at Ratho. Preparation is currently being made for this year's August outing to Foxlake, an adventure centre in East Lothian.

Training usually takes place over four or five Friday afternoons in the autumn: alternative arrangements may be made where necessary. Our training takes place in accordance with archdiocesan safeguarding guidelines, parents taking 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)

The Music Group continues to thrive, with ongoing wonderful commitment from our musicians and singers. We have a new euphonium player joining us as well as a very welcome new singer.

As well as Mass each Sunday we provided music for the Mass for the sick and elderly during Advent, and for the Family Carol afternoon. We occasionally play for baptisms, funerals and weddings for parishioners when members are available.

We practise from 11am on a Sunday and usually have two longer rehearsals at Christmas and Holy Week.

The group continues to broaden the repertoire gradually. This year we have introduced the rotation of the Mass setting for the Sanctus (Holy Holy) and Lamb of God every six months. We were pleased to be able to play Tony Giovanazzi's St Peter's Mass and will be returning to it in the future. We have been delighted to hear the congregation joining in with the new music.

We very much appreciate the kind comments from parishioners after mass and will endeavour to continue to enhance the liturgy each week through our music. New members always welcome! (See me after mass.)

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. (Duties at weekday Masses and services are separately organised by regular attenders there.)

We again secured two able new recruits thanks to Volunteering Sunday, but continuing turnover in the readers' team has meant that rota places have been slow to be filled at times and the co-ordinator would still like to add to the team strength. Anyone new will be offered practice and practical support until they feel comfortable in the role.

During the year Fr Kevin asked for some modifications to our practice especially with the welcome. These have been implemented.

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, current arrangements also allow for the gifts to be carried by:

- Children selected by the Children's Liturgy team on the first Sunday of the 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. 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 our weekday services 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. In addition, the ciborium and an extra chalice are carried to the back of church to distribute the Sacrament to the members of the parish music group. Our 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)

The Liturgy plays a vital role in the life and worship of the Church and in our own personal Christian lives. It concerns, involves and is important to *us all*.

Therefore the Liturgy Links Group – set up by the Parish Council – is seen as a useful vehicle for collecting, considering and channelling ideas, suggestions, questions and answers on liturgical matters – feeding parishioners' ideas and views to the Parish Priest and the Council, and vice versa.

Members are nominated and chosen to reflect the wide age range and the various relevant ministries within the parish.

Over the years the group has proposed and secured a number of benefits for parishioners (such as Parish Mass books and hymn books), and it continues to encourage and support the various ministries and others involved with the parish liturgy, such as the Music Group, the Children's Liturgy and Family Masses, the Altar Servers, Passkeepers and Welcomers, the Readers, Sacristans, etc.

A number of liturgical changes have been introduced since Fr Kevin's arrival a little over a year ago and the group is very pleased that Father has "joined" us, attends our meetings and contributes to our discussions. This has been very positive and helpful.

The one group recommendation, made annually and supported by many parishioners, which had not been adopted in the past, related to the frequency and timing of our parish Sunday Mass. We were told that St Peter's did not need a second Mass because there is adequate provision of masses at various times in South Edinburgh already. However, this matter was raised again by the group this year and Fr Kevin looked into all the factors relevant to the issue. Following that, the group was authorised by the Parish Council to put out a survey to parishioners for their views. The result was overwhelming approval for a trial early Saturday evening Vigil Mass. This trial will start in September.

The group's present concerns are preparations for the Vigil Mass trial, and a look ahead to the necessary arrangements for *next* summer's First Holy Communion services. Parishioners are therefore invited to submit or pass any relevant "liturgical" thoughts or ideas to the group, either directly or through the Parish Council – or to the Parish Priest himself of course.

Currently the following parishioners are serving on this group: Patricia Cairns; Jo Mulvagh; Hannah Knowles; Alan Whyte; John Wastle; and Ian Stewart.

PART 2: REACHING OUT

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

Recruitment of two new volunteers has matched with those members retiring or members becoming non-active. However, Bill Douglas is taking a sabbatical from the Conference after July and Fran Good is moving to Musselburgh, so new members are urgently needed. The youth group has expressed an interest in setting up a "Mini Vinnies" element after the summer break.

Residential home, hospital and visits to housebound parishioners form the majority of our activity and include the giving of Holy Communion by some of our members. Almsgiving, financial assistance to our twin parish (St John Vianney), support to SVDP appeals and the giving of food parcels as requested, continue.

Although the Mass for the sick and elderly of the parish took place in December, the church venue was less than ideal. Attendees were cold in the church (despite Fr Kevin's best efforts to cajole the heating into a good output!). Conversely, the parish room was cramped and posed some health and safety issues serving hot liquids. Most of those attending were able to get to Sunday Mass. As the situation regarding the use of rooms at Gillis was still not clarified and after careful consideration, we decided not to hold the event in June 2018.

ECO-CONGREGATION (ecocongregation@stpetersrcchurch.edinburgh.org.uk)

As a member of Eco-Congregation Scotland, St Peter's Eco-Group aims to promote environmental awareness and care for God's creation. The influence of our work extends from the parish hub to local, national and global environments. It relies for

its success on the imagination, involvement and support of our parishioners and partners beyond.

At St Peter's we work closely with other parish groups. Communication and cooperation are essential to the success of the Eco-Group's work, which embraces a variety of approaches. These include talks, entertainments, practical schemes, involvement with the Council and local businesses and support for initiatives from individual parishioners and like-minded groups.

The benchmark for our success is the increased awareness of and willingness to respond positively to environmental concerns.

EDINBURGH DOORS OPEN

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, 2016 and 2017. Such is the architectural importance of the church building and its history; over the three years we have welcomed over 650 visitors to St Peter's. We are hoping to repeat the event in 2018.

THE OPEN DOOR

Archie Cairns (447 2026)

The Open Door, presently based at 420 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, is a Christian community initiative set up by local churches including St Peter's, whose input continues to this day. It is a registered Scottish charity as well as being subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate relative to some of the services provided. This year, The Open Door celebrates 36 years of service to the local community.

Social clubs and support services for older people

Good Neighbours Club (Tuesdays, 10.30am-3pm) – where older ladies enjoy a range of activities from seated swingdancing and 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 at this club. Families benefit from a break from looking after their loved ones on Saturdays.

Both the Thursday Club and the Saturday Break are subject to inspection by the Care Inspectorate. The latest Care Inspectorate report highly commended the excellent service provided by The Open Door.

Senior Men's Group (Fridays, 1pm-4pm) – where members share common interests, tell stories, listen to talks, go on outings, have lunch and simply enjoy the company of other men.

Sunday Lunch – a new initiative that offers Sunday lunch on one Sunday per month to around 15 guests identified as living on their own or who are lonely/need, generally recommended by other agencies. Guests vary from month to month, enabling a larger number of people to benefit.

Community cafe

This is a friendly spot to enjoy a tea/coffee/snack in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. You can 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 detailed above.

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 *Fr Kevin Douglas (447 2502; 77falconave@gmail.com)*

On request, visits have been made to patients in the Astley Ainslie Hospital and Royal Edinburgh Hospital who wish to receive Communion.

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 have been lucky to have the support of four new volunteers.

John Byrne very generously donated a limited edition print of his painting of Billy Connolly, which we raffled in October in aid of SCIAF. Parishioners responded positively when asked to sign the Give Me Five petition in aid of Scotland's poorest children. Our Alternativity and Lenten lunches concentrated on the needs of the poor at home and abroad. We also marked Homeless Sunday and World Day of Migrants and Refugees at Sunday Masses. St Peter's hosted the World Day of Prayer for local churches in Morningside. During Lent we suggested through the newsletter that parishioners try different ways to reduce their use of plastic.

As a group we concentrated on helping the poor in Scotland (FreshStart) and the poor in the poorest areas of our world (SCIAF, Fairtrade). We also support our parish Eco-Congregation group and Christian Aid.

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

The parishioners of St Peter's have again generously supported our fundraising efforts this year. As always they were many and various. Thank you to all.

Donna from SCIAF came to our patronal feast day celebration and received a cheque for £5,250 for our parish project "Agakura" in Burundi. Work continues there, in spite of the conflicts and political instability, to support and train vulnerable families in agriculture so that they can grow more food and earn a living.

An appeal was made by SCIAF in November on behalf of the Rohingya people and a cheque for £2,000 was sent. Unfortunately there is no end in sight to this crisis and the appeal for aid is still ongoing.

The focus of attention during Lent was on the Lang family in Cambodia who depend on fishing and farming to survive. They were badly affected by the illegal fishing of criminal gangs, resulting in a 50% drop in fish stocks. As a result, they found it much harder to catch enough fish to feed the family. With help from SCIAF

the Langs became members of a Community Fishing Association, which works with police and the local authorities to organise regular fishing patrols to prevent illegal fishing. A cheque, also for £5,250, which will have been doubled by UK Aid, was sent at the beginning of May.

Mr Lang told us, "We get more fish now. Before, people used to dynamite the fish. I saw for myself the people making dynamite explosions in the river. I saw the fish die and float to the top. When I saw it I was really angry as I felt helpless because I wasn't able to stop them. We want to say thank you to the people of Scotland who have helped us."

The collection in church on "SCIAF Sunday" raised £475; this too will have been doubled by UK Aid.

The only negative report is on the "200 Club": for the first time ever we have fewer than 200 members. In the past, we have had up to 220!! Hard to say why we are failing to attract new members, but we are still hoping 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 which collects, 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, now also including monthly case studies, 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.

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

St Peter's is a Fairtrade Church and committed to using Fairtrade products whenever possible. We appreciate the support of Ann Royan and the Hospitality team in helping us maintain our Fairtrade status. We marked Fairtrade Fortnight by raffling a hamper of Fairtrade goods, putting an item in the newsletter and saying a bidding prayer.

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.

St Peter's has become a key participant in the Christian Aid Book Sale at Holy Corner, providing seven volunteers and we are represented on the organising committee. In 2018, this event raised over £15,500.

CARDINAL WINNING PRO-LIFE GROUP
(prolife@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)

Agnes Martony

During the year on every third Wednesday of the month, there was prayer for the Pro-Life Movement at 7.30pm Mass.

This year we did not participate in the "40 Days for Life" movement as the main organiser due to her other duties was not able to do the necessary organising for the event. Also there is a motion from one Green councillor to put up a "buffer zone" around the Health Clinic and other institutions providing abortion to prevent pro-life people being seen as they do their peaceful prayers to end abortions.

The Archdiocese has established an Office for Family and a division in it for the Pro-Life Movement. An opening event was organised on 29 May 2018 at the Gillis Centre. There were more than 80 people present from all over the Archdiocese. Archbishop Leo Cushley greeted all the people and prayed for the success of the Pro-Life Movement. There was a presentation from SPUC and future officers of the Pro-Life Office gave an introduction of their ideas and aims. The Pro-Life Office is looking forward to working with the representatives of each parish and they expect them to be a bridge between the parish, the local community and the Archdiocese. Introductory material was given out to inspire the future work.

This year's Day for Life was dedicated to commemorate the victims of human trafficking. In our parish we remembered this on Sunday 10 June 2018.

PART 3: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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

The Children's Liturgy team has had a successful and busy year, with a healthy number of pre-primary and early years primary school children joining us in the parish room each Sunday during Mass in the school terms, to share the Gospel in an easily understood and simple format as well as enjoying activities such as colouring and puzzles which relate to the Gospel theme.

The number of children taking part varies. There are usually between about 25 and 40 children from four to nine years old attending, along with a few parents accompanying the youngest. We welcome all children, whether they attend every Sunday or less regularly. We expect that 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.

The team has welcomed a number of additional enthusiastic volunteers in the last two years, allowing some of our longer serving team members to step down over that period, while offering continuity for the children and a gradual handover to the new team members. The new team leaders (from the end of the summer term) will be Aoife Palmer and Ana de Bonrostro, who have very kindly agreed to take over as joint leaders. We are always keen to encourage new volunteers to join us. They will be offered support and on-the-job training and guidance. New volunteers need not have had experience of teaching (or be parents themselves), and can begin by shadowing more experienced team members. All new volunteers are required to join the PVG scheme, complete the Archdiocesan recruitment forms and undergo awareness and safety training before they can begin.

In August 2017 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 very lucky to have sunshine and there were games, a variety of races and challenges for all age groups, with prizes for all at the end. 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 with the wider parish community.

During Mass on Christmas morning the children once again dressed up in their costumes as Mary and Joseph, kings, shepherds and angels and processed to the altar to surround the Nativity scene and perform "Away in a Manger", to the delight of the congregation.

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 have continued to take the lead in our Sunday "family" masses.

The young people helped the parish celebrate the Feast of Christ the King in November and Mothers' Day in March. In June when our P4 children received their First Holy Communion on the Saturday they return to celebrate with the wider parish community on the Sunday and lead on the Mass parts. This is generally organised by a parent or parents of the First Communicants.

All the younger members of the congregation who wish to, or whose parents wish to, have the opportunity to take the lead with the opening message, procession, readings, bidding prayers, collection and offertory. Appeals for children to volunteer are made by announcement, in newsletter or on the primary school parents' Facebook group.

In the past year it has been widely welcomed by the children and parents when Fr Kevin sits at the front of the altar with them for the homily.

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.

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB Fr Kevin (447 2502 – preferred. 77falconave@gmail.com)
St Peter's and St Columba's parishes started a Junior Youth Club on 4 May 2018. Aimed at children from P4 to P7, it is open to all young parishioners in those age groups.

The Youth Club had a very successful first six-week block with between 40 and 50 children attending each week. The club offers children the chance to do sports, arts and crafts, and to socialise with friends in a safe and friendly environment. For the session in week 5, the children enjoyed an outing to Gravity Trampoline Park. For the final session in week 6, Annie and Bruce provided a sumptuous BBQ.

The club runs on Fridays from 4.30pm to 6.30pm at St Columba's church hall and entry is £2 per child; included in the entry fee is tuck. The dates for the next block have not yet been confirmed but will be announced by Fr Kevin at Mass and will also be included in the newsletters of both parishes.

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

Youth Rock had three meetings over the period October-December 2017. These were held following a meeting with Fr Kevin, and a few parents. Following a drop in regular attendance by the young people and lack of Youth Leadership, it was decided to give it one last go to see if anything changed over this three month period, at which point we would decide whether to continue.

It had already been agreed that the group should be demand led, with youth leadership and strong parent support. To this end, parents were kept informed of the needs of the group and asked to contribute where possible with their time/ideas and help. Unfortunately, following the Christmas party it was clear that there was not enough of an appetite from any of the above areas. Some parents had already said their child couldn't continue due to "too much going on", and indeed I can certainly confirm that this would be true for most young people.

In conclusion, therefore, at this time there are no further meetings of Youth Rock planned, However, if anyone feels they want and have the interest to restart the group, I am sure that Fr Kevin would be open to this idea.

PART 4: FAITH FORMATION AND PRAYER

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

The Baptism team assists Fr Douglas and Deacon John 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 2-4pm. 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, around twenty couples have attended the course.

CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF CHILDREN
(77falconave@gmail.com)

Fr Douglas 447 2502;

Over the past year, we have held a series of events at Sunday Mass relating to the preparation of children in P3 and P4 for their first celebration of the sacraments of Reconciliation 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 the celebration of First Reconciliation, 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;
- *Rite of Illumination* – we pray that the children continue to walk in the light of Christ.

Then before First Holy Communion, Primary 4 children celebrated another four rites:

- *Rite of Enrolment* – when the children are called by name to take part in the preparations;
- *Presentation of the Gospels* – when children receive a copy of the Gospel of the current liturgical year;
- *Presentation of the Creed* – is an opportunity to confirm all that we believe;
- *Presentation of the Lord’s Prayer* – when 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 Reconciliation on Thursday 22 March. P4 pupils received their First Holy Communion on the morning of Saturday 2 June at a joyful celebration in St Peter’s.

Parents of children attending non-Catholic schools can ask Fr Kevin for advice about sacramental preparation for their children.

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 2018, one adult was received into full communion with the Church.

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: Deacon John Smith 447 4501

johnsmith@blueyonder.co.uk

Three marriage catechists conduct marriage preparation in St Peter's. Since 2013 there have been, on average, two sessions per year. Nine couples were prepared for marriage in 2017, and eight couples in the first half of 2018. A Marriage Preparation day is scheduled for Saturday 15 September 2018.

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. 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 4210) jmackellaig@yahoo.com

The following evening retreats ran at St Peter's, using scripture, images and the imagination to pray with:

- parents' retreat evening for P3 and P4 parents on the Eucharist;
- Advent and Lent prayer evenings: "Jesus as the Light of the World", and "Standing with Mary at the Foot of the Cross", imaginatively.

PRAYER GROUP

Douglas Hunter (447 6153)

The Parish Prayer group meets on Thursday evenings in the parish room at 7.45pm, after adoration in the church from 7.00-7.45pm.

This year we ran two DVD courses:

Bishop Robert Barron – "Catholicism: The Pivotal Players Volume 1". This is a multi-part film series about saints, artists, mystics and scholars who shaped the life of the church – St Thomas Aquinas, St Francis, St Catherine of Siena, Blessed John Henry Newman and GK Chesterton.

"Let It Be Done to Me" – A five session course on how Our Lady helps us to be filled with God. This was filmed on location in places such as the Holy Land, Lourdes and Ephesus with inspirational speakers such as Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Fr Raniero.

We joined with Juliet MacKellaig to organise a service on Divine Mercy Sunday

in the afternoon in the Church.

In the autumn we plan to do "The Big Picture". This is a 12 week, step by step Bible course through salvation history, filmed on location in the Holy Land, Ephesus, Patmos and Rome.

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. 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 an annual appeal for new Gift Aid subscribers and continue to attract about 140 taxpaying parishioners. Contributions can be made by cheque, standing order, direct debit, or by offerings contained within the weekly envelopes. The parish benefits greatly from these tax payments, which come to the church.

We have a small, but dedicated team of parishioners who record the contributions made through the weekly envelopes. These are recorded by number only, thus ensuring privacy and anonymity.

At the same time the weekly open plate collection, as well as other income, is counted, before being transferred to the parish bank account. The tax authorities allow us to claim on a small amount of the open plate collection, as there is an assumption that some of this will have come from taxpayers.

We are grateful to all who contribute in any way to the upkeep of our parish church and community.

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

Our annual audit return to the Archdiocese, which confirmed the names of all parish volunteers working with children and vulnerable adults, as well as confirmation of training undertaken during the year, was submitted on time, showing an increase in overall numbers.

Working alongside the Parish Priest, part of the role of Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator is to ensure that the Church's Safeguarding Guidelines are complied with, including completion of Archdiocesan volunteer forms and PVG Scheme applications by all volunteers. The rolling programme of updating PVG membership status every five years is well underway and there will be a number of existing volunteers who

are asked to complete update forms this year.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland published the updated Safeguarding Guidance "In God's Image" in May 2018. All parishioners are encouraged to have a look at the guidance online (www.bcos.org.uk), which is substantially revised and updated and reflects a sincere wish and determination to keep all of our children and vulnerable adults safe and secure in our parish. Training sessions for all new volunteers, and update training for existing volunteers (training should be updated at least every two years), take place regularly at parishes throughout the city from Archdiocesan trainers. The dates will be circulated to volunteers. We also plan to have a training session at St Peter's in autumn 2018, which all volunteers (whether or not they are currently working with vulnerable groups) are welcome to attend.

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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Josephine Beech-Brandt (chair from June 2017-

present)

[*\(pastoralcouncil@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk\)*](mailto: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, is *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.

One of the main items this past year has been centred around the reorganisation of the curia and the Gillis Centre. The council wrote to the Archbishop with concerns about the communication of the decisions and as a result he offered to send a representative to talk about this. Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled at short notice but hopefully will be rescheduled.

Two new committees were formed over the last year, the first to deal with the prospective sale of the Duncan painting and the second to deal with requests for charitable donations.

The Council has also supported events such as Volunteering Sunday to encourage support for the many parish groups and activities, Doors Open Day, training in connection with protection of vulnerable groups and also a successful Parish ceilidh. 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.

All parishioners are very welcome to attend Parish Pastoral Council meetings and to raise items for the agenda via the secretary. 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 need 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/Spetersrcsinburgh/>).

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

PARISH MAGAZINE *Caroline Moffat (Ian Stewart) – appeals for*
contributions will be in newsletter

It is hoped to have another issue of the magazine in 2018. So far, the magazine has reflected 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.

Any relevant news items, reports, articles, announcements, poems or whatever are very welcome (illustrated if desired), from parishioners of all ages, from the very young to "senior citizens" – looking ahead or looking back, or even looking straight ahead! Watch out for the appeals in the newsletter.

PARISH WEBSITE *Juliet MacKellaig (447 4210;*
webeditor@stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk)
www.stpetersrcchurchedinburgh.org.uk

There are approximately 11,126 *different* people who used the site over the last year, up 2,000 on last year: around 900 up to 1,500 per month (Easter and Christmas peaks), up about 200 on last year. Fr Douglas and Deacon Smith's homilies are still being posted weekly. Ministries that have web pages are asked to review their pages in January every year and encouraged to keep their pages up to date and fresh.

People can still subscribe to the parish newsletter through the website. To comply with the new EU data regulations, all present subscribers have been asked to confirm their consent to continue to receive the newsletter. Their email addresses are stored on a password protected PC and only shared with the parish secretary

when I am on holiday to continue the service.

A new “Arranging a funeral” page has been added with the relevant booklets in pdf format for people to download, as are the baptismal preparation booklets. There are also links through to our excellent Facebook page.

Of the 90 pages, the 10 most popular in order are:

- Home page
- Newsletters, diary and events
- Mass times
- This week’s Gospel
- Venerable Margaret Sinclair
- Last Supper Meditation
- Catholic papers
- Fr Douglas’s homilies
- Contact us
- St Peter’s RC Primary School

Any requests for website pages and updates are most welcome – it is our window to the world!

PARISH ON FACEBOOK Trish Dolan

www.facebook.com/Stpetersrcsinburgh/

Our parish Facebook page now has 127 followers and is updated regularly with parish news items and shares from other pages of interest, including the Archdiocese, SCIAF, FreshStart, Eco-Congregation Scotland and our sister parish St Columba’s. Throughout Advent and Lent our posts were aimed to help boost personal preparations for the holy seasons of Christmas and Easter, with a lot of interaction with the page occurring over Holy Week. Following the parish Facebook page is a simple but powerful way to bear daily witness to our lives as Catholics in this increasingly secularised world.

PARISH LIBRARY *Anne Donnelly*

The Library has been substantially weeded and the small stock of books remaining transferred to the chapel house where shelf space has been allocated for the relocated collection. Anne Donnelly will arrange the books and update the catalogue in due course. The terms of access to the new library are yet to be agreed.

PART 7: CHURCH PROPERTY

CHURCH CLEANING – THE “HOLY DUSTERS” *Tina O’Donoghue (h: 447 4840; m: 07957 571949; 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. New volunteers who wish to join the “Holy Duster” rota are always welcome.

PARISH PROPERTY COMMITTEE *John Wastle (447 3442)*

The committee is responsible for the care and maintenance of the church buildings and other property assets; and for the care and safety of our parishioners and visitors.

Committee membership

The members and their assigned responsibilities are as follows:

Fr Kevin – *ex officio*

John Wastle – paperwork and general administration

Deacon John Smith – church and presbytery heating systems

Angus MacKellaig – church and presbytery heating systems and church lighting

Bill Douglas – fire alarms and emergency lighting systems

Archie Cairns – fire alarms and emergency lighting systems

Bruce Royan – miscellaneous minor works on and around the property.

Safety measures

Throughout the year, we carry out a programme of statutory testing, inspection and servicing of the various mechanical, electrical, fire alarm and emergency lighting systems within the church premises. This year we also commissioned a mandatory five-year inspection and testing of our electrical services installations and put right the minor faults identified. A practice fire alarm evacuation of the church was carried out at the end of a Sunday Mass in June 2017.

Works and maintenance

A wide variety of works has been carried out over the past year. It would be tedious to list everything, but the following give some idea of their nature and range:

- Roof inspections and cleaning out gutters and rainwater collection systems, biannually and after stormy weather
- Repair and maintenance of the church heating system
- Installation of strengthened glass in the children's side chapel
- Works to extend protection against lightning to the whole church, with annual inspections of the system for the next three years
- Remedial works on the upper floor of the presbytery following partial collapse of the ceiling due to wet/dry rot in rafters and roof
- Repairs to the external stonework on the south, east and north walls
- Re-roofing of the organ loft tower and alterations to the rainwater drainage system on the tower roof
- Consideration of the future of the mural Mythological Scenes by Scottish artist John Duncan
- A number of minor jobs completed, including: removal of the conifers in the courtyard after Storm Ophelia left them in a dangerous condition; improvements to the garden at the presbytery back door; removal of intrusive buddleia growths in the courtyard, car park and the presbytery back door; acquisition of a new tabernacle and repair and refurbishment of six wrought iron altar candlesticks; tower bell brought back into use after remedial work on the bell tower; soundproofing of the internal confessional doors.

For the future

We continue to have a substantial programme of regular inspections, routine maintenance and improvements to the church premises stretching over the coming years. However, we currently have two priority concerns to handle. First, there is clear evidence of extensive internal and external dampness affecting the fabric of the building and we are about to consider a comprehensive report on this just received from a firm of consultants. Secondly, the church heating system is rather elderly and requires constant attention – we had to replace three of the fan heating units last winter – so we are exploring the options for upgrading or replacing the current equipment.

PART 8: SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ST PETER'S HOSPITALITY TEAM

Annie 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 20 volunteer helpers, as well as a larger network of people who can be pressed into service as the need arises.

Refreshments after Mass

On 45 Sundays over the past year, refreshments were 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, but donations are used to cover expenses including occasional treats: for example, 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:

- *6 August* Reception for Italian girl scouts
- *20 August* "Welcome back" celebration
- *27 August* Fr Brown's birthday
- *3 September* Volunteer Sunday
- *23 September* Doors Open Day
- *1 October* Harvest Festival
- *8 October* Rite of Enrolment; and christening party
- *29 October* Signing of the Cross
- *12 November* Poppy Day and Junior Bake Off
- *19 November* Presentation of the Gospels
- *26 November* Christmas Fayre (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *10 December* Seasonal refreshments
- *17 December* Parish Carol Party
- *28 January* Rite of Illumination

- *4 February* Presentation of the Creed
- *9 February* "Nine days in Iran": illustrated talk and Persian buffet
- *11 February* Valentine's Day
- *18 February* Sale of home baking and preserves (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *4 March* Presentation of the Lord's Prayer
- *11 March* Mothers' Day
- *25 March* Sale of simnel cakes (proceeds to SCIAF)
- *1 April* Easter Sunday
- *3 June* First Communicants' family Mass
- *8 June* Youth Club barbecue
- *17 June* Fathers' Day
- *24 June* Patronal Feast
- *29 June* Wedding celebration

PARISH CEILIDH *Josephine Beech-Brandt*

On Friday 1 December, St Columba's Hall was full to capacity for the all age Parish ceilidh. The Columille band, featuring our very own James Brown from St Peter's Music Group, provided music. Plans are already made to repeat this successful event on Friday 30 November 2018.