

DIOCESE OF ST ANDREWS, DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE

Scottish Charity No SC017654



Diocesan Synod 2023

**11th March 2023
St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth**

Reports and Accounts 2021/22

DIOCESAN OFFICIALS and OFFICE BEARERS – 2023

Diocesan Trustees:	The Bishop The Dean The Chancellor The Registrar
Bishop:	The Right Revd Ian Paton
Dean:	The Very Revd Graham Taylor
Provost:	The Very Revd Hunter Farquharson
Synod Clerk:	The Revd Canon Alasdair Coles
Chancellor:	Vacant
Registrar:	Mr Paul Keith
Diocesan Protection of Vulnerable Groups Protection Officer:	Ms Jenny Campbell, Diocesan Office Manager
Warden of Lay Readers:	Mrs Lis Burke, Lay Reader
Diocesan Digital Missioner:	Ms Karen McClain Kiefer

DIOCESAN COMMITTEES – 2023

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Bishop (Convener)
The Dean
The Chancellor
The Registrar
Convener of Administration Board
4 Clergy Representatives elected by the Area Councils
4 Lay Representatives elected by the Area Councils

In attendance:
Conveners of Diocesan Groups
Diocesan Office Manager

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Mr Brendan Grimley (Convener)
The Bishop
The Dean
Mr Nick Cooke
Professor Alan Werritty
Mrs Elizabeth Roads

Ex Officio:
The Chancellor
The Registrar
Diocesan Office Manager

MISSION BOARD

Revd Canon Liz Baker (Convener)
The Dean (Ministry Board) (Convener)
Revd Canon Dr Robert Harley (Global Partnership Group Convener)
Mr James Gardner (Young Peoples Committee and Youth Forum)
Karen McClain Kiefer (Communications Group Convener)
Revd Dean Norby (Member of the Provincial Mission Board)
Revd Lesley Ann Craddock
Rachael Wright (Mixed Mode Trainee)
Revd Chirstopher Lowden

In Attendance:
Bishop
Diocesan Officer Manager

MINISTRY BOARD

Revd Canon Graham Taylor (Convener)
The Bishop
The Revd Liz Baker (Convener of the Mission Board)
The Revd Nerys Brown
Mr Ian Scott
Ms Cathy Johnston
Mrs Lis Burke (Lay Readers' Warden)
Revd Elaine Garman (Lay Ministries Group Convener)
Revd Christoph Wutscher

In Attendance:

Bishop
Diocesan Office Manager

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Revd Elaine Garman (Convener)
Dr Elaine Cameron
Rev Gerry Dillon
Rev Elaine Garman
Ms Cathy Johnston
Ms Karen McClain Kiefer
Rev Carol Latimer
Mr Robert Nellist
Dean Graham Taylor
Prof Alan Werritty

In Attendance:

Bishop's PA

PENDANT DIOCESAN COMMITTEES

Diocesan Buildings Committee

The Very Revd Graham Taylor (Convener)
Mr Neil Gaunt
Mr Brendan Grimley
Mr Robert Nellist
Mr Adrian Neville

In attendance: The Diocesan Office Manager

The Diocesan Global Partnership Group

The Revd Canon Dr Robert Harley (Convener)
The Bishop
The Revd Canon Christine Fraser
Mr James Gardner

The Diocesan Communications Group

Ms Karen McClain Kiefer (Convener)
The Bishop
Mrs Eleanor McGourty
Mrs Lis Burke

In attendance:
The Diocesan Office Manager

The Diocesan Pilgrimage Group

The Bishop (Convener)
Revd David Mackenzie Mills
Mr Nick Cooke
Revd Gennie Evans

In attendance: The Bishop's PA

The Diocesan Young Peoples' Committee

Revd Canon Christine Fraser (Convener)
Mr James Gardner
Morag Hendry
Rachael Wright
Sarah Shaw
Leeanne Clark

**DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES ON PROVINCIAL
BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – 2023/2024**

STANDING COMMITTEE

Vacant

FAITH AND ORDER BOARD

Mr Brendan Grimley 2016 – 2024(R)
The Rt Revd Ian Paton

THE MISSION BOARD

The Revd Canon Liz Baker 2022 – 2026
Rt Revd Ian Paton

THE ADMINISTRATION BOARD

Vacant

Liturgy Committee

Rt Revd Ian Paton
Revd Nerys Brown 2019 – 2023
Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher 2020 - 2024

Church in Society Committee

Revd Bonnie Evans Hills 2020 - 2025

Inter-Church Relations Committee

Revd Carol Latimer 2021 – 2025

Interfaith Relations Committee

Revd Bonnie Evans Hills 2020 - 2025

Global Partnerships Committee

Revd Canon Liz Baker 2020 - 2024

Committee for the Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

Mr Robert Nellist 2018 – 2022(R)

Youth Committee

Mr James Gardner

Miss R Cromwell

Buildings Committee

Mr Robert Nellist 2014 – 2022 (R)
Mr Neil Gaunt 2018 - 2022

REPORTS

The Reports included in these papers will be TAKEN AS READ at Diocesan Synod. There will not be time to read them during the meeting. Please read them beforehand so that you can make the most effective contribution and get the most of your Synod.

STANDING COMMITTEE

2022 saw the re-establishing of a more normal existence after the Pandemic years. We are very much aware that we are living with Covid and not free of it and some sense of caution is still with us. The new challenge for clergy and congregations is the return to a pace of life much faster than that of lockdown bringing its concerns about burnout and huge adjustment to the way forward always considering those who remain vulnerable and cautious of coming together in larger groups.

Our Diocesan Boards, Committees and Group have continued to meet mainly online not because of the Pandemic but more with a thought to Climate Change and our Carbon Footprint. We thank all of these groups for their dedicated commitment to these tasks and to ensure the smooth running of our Diocese.

The Provincial Environmental Group was created and charged with the work of bringing us closer to the aim of being carbon free by 2030. This is a huge challenge for this group and for our charges throughout the Province. The Province has appointed Robert Woodward to take this forward and he and the Group have been working to roll out the way forward for Climate Change in our churches and communities. Our own Climate Change Group has worked hard to help take some small steps towards being aware of Climate Change and how we can do things in our churches and in our homes to address issues around our carbon footprint. PEG and diocesan groups will work closely together to reach these goals.

The Lambeth Conference eventually took place after having been postponed because of the Pandemic. It was a wonderful way to communicate with Bishops from all around the world and to make connections for long lasting links with our Anglican community worldwide. Of course, Covid turned up to this event too and it took some time to recover from the effects of this horrible virus.

In 2022 Revd Tracy Dowling retired from Auchterarder and Muthill. Revd Michael Paterson resigned from St Margaret's, Rosyth. Revd Stuart Gray was appointed Assistant Priest at Alloa. Revd Roy Anetts retired from Cupar and Ladybank. We welcomed Revd Lara Dose as rector of Holy Trinity, Dunfermline and we are about to welcome Revd Duncan Strathie to Auchterarder and Muthill. Revd Rachael Wright was ordained as Deacon last year and began her curacy with St Mary's, Dunblane.

This year sees some changes in the Diocesan Office. Carol Aitchison is retiring, and two new members of staff have arrived. Jenny Campbell is our new Office Manager and Holly Scott is Bishop's Secretary. Carol is working with them both to show them the ropes and help them hit the ground running in these busy roles. The Diocese is wonderfully served also by our other staff, Eleanor McGourty our Admin Assistant, and by those who give their time voluntarily, especially Brendan Grimley, Convener of our Administration Board. Together with many others who give their time and expertise for the work of this Diocese, we thank them with great appreciation for all that they do.

One person in particular I would like to mention is Robert Nellist who has been our Diocesan Safeguarding Officer for many years. Robert is retiring from this role at Synod this year. Robert has shown great skill and dedication in this role and has been a great asset to this diocese. Going forward the work of the Safeguarding Officer will be taken on by Jenny Campbell our Office Manager. Robert and Jenny will work together on how to take this role forward from here.

Another to be mentioned is Dean Graham Taylor. His dedication to the role of Dean has been outstanding and I am grateful for his support and friendship throughout the year.

The Standing Committee works on behalf of Diocesan Synod when Synod itself is not meeting, that is, most of the year round. The Committee meets regularly to receive Reports from the Boards and Committees, from the Safeguarding Coordinator, and from the Bishop and Dean about Charge matters. On behalf of Synod it makes and endorses decisions to enable the good governance of the Diocese. It is important that we have full representation of all our Area Councils on this Committee that carries out such important work. At the present time representation is low I appeal for new members to help in this work. As Convener of the Standing Committee, I would like to thank all its members for everything they do to represent Synod and to carry forward its work, and to add my own thanks to them, and everyone who gives their time and skill to support the work of the Church in this Diocese.

+Ian St Andrews

Bishop Ian St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane - Convener

DEANS REPORT

I have now completed my first year of being Dean of the Diocese, and once again have found it to be both challenging and rewarding at various times. Challenging and a steep learning curve in many different areas, including all the different Boards and Committees I serve on, being a Trustee, overseeing the vacancies in our diocese, sharing in ministry with the Bishop, to name but a few. A great challenge has been getting my head around all the involvement a Dean has, as well as juggling my time between diocese and congregation. But a rewarding year with lots of patience and help from others, I am incredibly grateful to you all.

The rewarding parts for me has included some Dean's Visitations to our new clergy, trying to offer some encouragement and support and offer a welcome to our diocese. As well as offering support and a listening ear to many other clergy in their appointments, through my dean's visitations. My sincere thanks to Eleanor in the office for arranging these visits for me.

I have loved the opportunity of working with a couple of charges on making new appointments, this has been an immense honour to be involved in. This year to be part of the Dunfermline and Auchterarder with Muthill appointments was a real privilege. I wish them well for the future.

Another area I have tried to continue supporting is spending time with The Rev'd Canon Dr. Carrie Applegath and support some of the splendid work that she does as a very part time Priest with the congregation of St Columba's, Stanley. Carrie has had to deal with major work and issues in the church over this past year, so a huge thank you from the diocese for all the demanding work she puts in. To all those in part time ministry, our thanks for all that you do to allow the Episcopal Church to be a continuing presence in the places you serve.

A new area of work for me over this past year, has been working with Vestries on Ministry Reviews. I have enjoyed this immensely, both challenging and rewarding and I hope fruitful to those who have taken part.

The Deans throughout the Province are now meeting in person again here in Perth. This has been a great support and encouragement for all of us. Although each diocese is different in many ways, it's been invaluable to share and to learn together.

I have valued the support of the Staff Group who try and meet weekly, they are great colleagues to work alongside, they have been an immense support to me in my role. My deep gratitude to both Carol and Brendan for all the wise council and support they have offered to me; it has been a privilege to travel with Brendan to many of our vacant charges over the past year.

I cannot forget to thank the congregation of St. John's, Perth for allowing me to fulfil this ministry. I have to say it takes a huge chunk of time out of my week, so for their love and support I am incredibly grateful. They are a very patient congregation.

I want to acknowledge, particularly this year Carol Aitchison, as she retires from the office. Carol has been a wonderful colleague and friend to many of us, particularly let me say to me in this role as Dean. Her wise wisdom and council have kept me on the right paths in many areas, and her knowledge and sensitivity has been invaluable. Carol, from the bottom of my heart Thank You, and I wish both Ron and you a future full of happiness and new journeys.

The one person I have left to the last again, but by no means least is Bishop Ian for putting his trust in me and inviting me to be the Dean of our diocese. I want to acknowledge his tremendous support, encouragement, and friendship and I look forward very much to sharing with him in all the future of our diocese and thank him deeply for everything he offers to us all. The love and support he gives is valuable and beyond measure.

The Very Revd Graham Taylor
Dean

MISSION BOARD

Introduction

As a Board we will be offering oversight and support to engage with congregations, and their local communities but also working closely with the Ministry Board, the Climate Change Group, and others as working together as good communication between us is vital for taking forward the Missional work of the church in our Diocese.

We recognise that although the Mission of the church is universal it also needs to be specific to location and need so we realise that all Mission is God's Mission and that the smallest thing that a group of Christians are doing in their specific location is good and is something that God takes up and uses. In 2022 we have communicated the work of mission in charges in our Diocese to the Provincial Mission Board, with one of the members also a member of that Board will take part in a Provincial Local Development Committee at the Bield in the Spring. We have been developing links with the Climate Change Group to help ensure that our churches and congregations see that Climate Change is not a chore but an integral part of mission and the life of the church. As the Climate change Group hosting and event this year, volunteers from the Mission Board have join with join with those of the Climate Change group to take this task forward and this is well underway.

The Board recognises that it is important to be a resource for the Diocese but also to listen to the needs of churches and congregation and so we wrote to all charges at Christmas offering our support in a variety of ways, giving information on the 'Season for Christian Life' which the Province is launching in 2023 but also realising the how daunting that can be for a small church, but encouraging people to take baby steps. and being available to equip us all to join in God's mission in the world.

4 meetings of the Mission Board have took in 2022 with our first meeting of 2023 taking place in February. The board includes in its membership those who have specific missional expertise or convene/are members of the following 5 constituent groups.

The Gathering Group
The Diocesan Youth Committee
The Global Partnership Group
The Communication Group
The Pilgrimage Group

The work undertaken by these groups supports the church across generational, geographical, and digital boundaries, and the activities in the previous year are report below.

The Gathering Group

This year the Gathering was primarily run by the Global Partnership Group the Gathering went well and was well attended. The day started with a picnic lunch and time for fellowship. There were four workshops and Bishop Ian gave his report on the Lambeth Conference with a video link to our partner diocese of Amazonia. An exhibition of Churches and Individual Links overseas was much appreciated and it was encouraging to see how many there were. The event finished with evensong.

James Gardner

The Diocesan Youth Committee

Two major events were undertaken over the past year. The first, in April 2022 saw a small group from the Youth Forum undertake a sleepover and planning meeting at St Mary's, Birnam at the kind invitation of The Revd Lesley-Ann Craddock. The delegates also assisted at the service on the Sunday and hosted refreshments after the service.

The second event took the form of a Diocesan Gathering in September. The Youth Committee hosted a workshop called "Truth or Dare", co-ordinated by Morag Hendry from the committee at which participants were invited to consider a series of statements which attracted a number of responses.

The following images show the results.



Prior to the event Morag made contact with the Youth Officers of both partner Diocese in Brazil and India where some of their young people sent answers to the statements as well. It is hoped to develop these links further in 2023.

The Committee continues to keep contact with the Provincial Youth Network and would like to encourage those at the end of S1 – S6 at school to attend the annual Provincial Youth Camp held normally at Glenalmond.

The Committee have yet to meet in 2023 but dates are being looked at for a Feb meeting.

As always, the Committee are keen to support Young Peoples Ministry in the Diocese and welcome suggestions for future events and how charges can be supported.

The Revd Canon Christine Fraser, Convenor
James Gardner – Diocesan Children and Youth Officer

The Global Partnership Group

The Global Partnership Group has been attended in the last year by +Ian, Dean Graham, Canons Liz Baker, Christine Fraser, Bob Harley (Convener), and James Gardener, Vivienne Underwood and Diocesan Digital Missioner, Karen Kiefer.

News from the Diocese of Amazonia: +Marinez was made a Primus equivalent. At our meeting of the Global Partnership Group on 23 June 2022 Christine Fraser reported that she had emailed the Dioceses of Amazonia and Calcutta about youth links and had received a reply from +Marinez, who had passed Christine's email to Amazonia's Youth Officer. Liz Baker suggested that we could make an application to the Provincial Global Partnership Committee for funding for the youth link. This was agreed. Liz added that Amazonia had received a portion of the grant sent to Brazil by the Provincial Global Partnership Committee.

News from the Diocese of Calcutta: On Easter Day 17.4.22 the United Christians of Calcutta came together to witness to the rising again of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ from the grave. Christians of all denominations joined together as they walked from St Paul's Cathedral through Chowringhee Road to Sacred Heart Church and then from Lenin Sarani Esplanade to Moulali and then to St James' School grounds. There was a short service in the grounds where the leaders of their churches gave Easter greetings and ended the service with a blessing. The two hour walk also had trailer lorries where the Resurrection was enacted and singers sang praises. The joy of those who witnessed, walked, sang and shared was contagious and indescribable. The Christians of Kolkata were united in witnessing that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead. Hallelujah! +Paritosh has applied to the Provincial Global Partnership Committee for a grant for Arunima Hospice.

The Diocese of Calcutta Church of North India (CNI), organized an open-air Live in Concert entitled, Celebrating the Risen Christ, on 24.4.22 on the breezy lawns of St Paul's Cathedral. The Rt Revd Dr Paritosh Canning warmly welcomed everyone to the great gathering. He said Kolkata is a City of Joy and everyone understands the language of music. He said that they had already begun a School of Music in their diocese where they are teaching piano and English vocals. Later they might expand it into dance and other forms of music.

On 5.6.22, the Rt Revd Dr Paritosh Canning, the Moderator's Episcopal Commissary for East Himalaya Diocese, confirmed 30 candidates in the Ankit Memorial (CNI) Church, near Ranipul, Sikkim Deanery of the Eastern Himalaya Diocese.

On 6.6.22 Bishop Paritosh laid the foundation stone for the Sikkim Deanery Bhawan in Tadong, 6th Mile, near Gangtok. This is a big step for the CNI church in Sikkim which is scattered throughout the small scenic hill state. On 7.6.22 Bishop Paritosh inaugurated the CNI Damthang Dew Church and its parsonage which is in South West Sikkim. Since the work in Sikkim has been done by pastors who have brought up the CNI church from almost nothing. Bishop Paritosh also felicitated them and encouraged them for their ground -breaking and continuing work. On 20.6.22 the Rt Revd Dr Paritosh Canning presided and gave the message at the fourth anniversary of the 24 hour prayer chain at the Prayer Chapel of the Bishop's House, Kolkata.

The West Bengal Pastors' Conference was held in St. Thomas' School, Kidderpore, from 18-20 August, 2022. It was organized by Rt Revd. Dr. Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta. Over 300 pastors and evangelists attended the seminar.

On Sunday 4 September 2022 a Global Gathering was held in St Ninian's Cathedral Perth. (See Gathering Group Report)

Revd Canon Bob Harley

Revd Canon Bob Harley

(Convener of Global Partnership Group)

The Communications Group

1. Summary of Initiatives and Progress in 2021

What follows is a summary of digital mission and communications work over the past year followed by strategic direction for 2023.

A. Missional

Planning and executing 'digital' mission is not possible to do (or do effectively) without considering missional aspects, including our audiences, and how those elements align and also impact our messaging. Throughout 2022, identity, audience and branding were a focus in honing our messaging and aligning with mission: seeing what God is doing in the world, reaching out to people, being alongside them, being present in our communities and in the world.

Diocesan Mission and Brand

We have centrally modelled storytelling and mission-aligned content through some diocesan media channels, particularly as related to climate change and pilgrimage.

The theme of pilgrimage guided our strategic and missional planning for digital presence, communications, gathering stories, identity-related considerations, and outreach opportunities. Being 'Pilgrims on the way' inspired an image that can further shape how we approach our mission and messaging. It is the operating principle shaping strategic planning considerations for our digital presence and the approach to digital mission work. In 2023 and beyond, I will continue to invite others to do the same, incorporating the new seasonal theme of Christian Life and discipleship.

(Digital) Storytelling

Stories are key for encouraging meaningful engagement and interest, and are extremely important and effective in conveying identity and mission – in compelling ways. A large part of the role of Digital Missioner is 'storytelling'. This is a key strategic area that we will continue to develop, and I will seek support in capturing and holding our stories. Details on campaigns and progress made follows under digital presence.

Charges: Mission and Presence

Regarding digital presence and content, the well-intentioned dissemination of information and commitment to regular updates is apparent throughout our diocese. Some very good systems are in place by dedicated individuals. However, much of the content on websites and social platforms is meaningful only to those who know what they are looking for or who understand the Anglican/Episcopalian 'language', thus limiting it as a tool for outreach.

Some conversations were had with a few diocesan groups and charges about mission and reach, including the audience(s) of digital presence and messaging, the need for newcomer-focused areas to enable better outreach, and a strong message of hope and encouragement for climate change.

These conversations should precede, not follow, technical conversations about specific digital presence considerations. I look forward to having more of them in 2023.

Charges have been encouraged to explore leveraging content they already have, that is already part of what they **do** (sermons, reflections, prayers, outreach, etc), and use those regularly in their digital and media presence.

B. Central/Organisational Presence and Support

Diocesan Digital Presence

A dedicated Communications Group currently manages our central diocesan digital presence on these following platforms:

- Website: standrews.anglican.org
- Facebook and Instagram
- E-news, the Diocesan newsletter (paused since June 2022)
- Targeted Email (Ad Clerum, Chapter & Verse, etc.)
- YouTube

Communications plans and strategies have been focused around (digital) storytelling. Progress made to date includes:

- Pilgrimage events, themes and content have been highlighted on the Diocesan Facebook page, website and e-newsletter. Would like to see further coverage and engagement with pilgrimage and local stories, profiles and history.
- The launch and digital capture of Bishop Ian's 'Pilgrim's Progress' pilgrimage around the diocese.
- A dedicated web page to the new Pilgrim Pastor for the Fife Pilgrim Way.
- Climate action and justice stories from congregations, Diocesan events and Groups, and Christian Aid, with the intention to raise awareness, spur action and provide hope.
- The E-News format, which had been updated to allow for more images and to be more conducive to 'telling' stories from around the diocese, was paused mid-year in 2022 as no one was available to take over editing. (See remedy in the next section.)
- Empathy mapping tools have been engaged that can help us identify at a deeper level who we are, who we are reaching and their needs and hopes, and who we want to reach. This is an area for further strategic discussion and modelling.
- Diocesan website - In alignment with all that has been reported above, we explored the content of our website and have roughly mapped out ideas for better aligning our website with our mission and pilgrimage theme through a friendlier, more attractive, and interactive interface. Budget restrictions prevented redevelopment of the site in 2022. Significant redesign is anticipated in 2023 upon retaining the services of a web developer at an affordable rate. Redesign will be in alignment with high level conversations from the past 16 months about mission, intention, and audience(s).

II. Direction for 2023

The following is a summary of opportunities and strategy for 2023, in which we will continue to organise communications and digital presence strategies around the seasonal theme of Christian Life, pilgrimage and storytelling, and look to further support for charges.

A. Align Digital Presence with Mission

Central / Organisational

- Continue to explore our Mission and organise digital presence accordingly.
- Series celebrating the Season of Christian Life, including regular video messages from Bishop Ian and short reels from individual charges reflecting on that theme and meaning in their community.
- Communications Strategy: Plan, schedule and manage comms. Identify types of communications, media, platform, stakeholders, and audience. Leverage working with office staff on diocesan communications and ENews to better integrate and manage them.
- Develop Comms Team including office staff.
- Further develop branding to support mission. Use in all relevant communications.
- Develop a Digital Pilgrimage interface for the home page of the web site.
- Website: Complete redesign and launch.
- Support the organising of communications and posts around brand, campaign themes and stories.

Charges

- Continue to encourage consideration of mission, story, and audience first when planning and managing communications and digital presence items.
- Workshop elements of mission, identity and branding, and mapping audiences and messaging to digital strategy.
- Continue to encourage exploration and leveraging existing content charges already have, that is already part of what they do (sermons, reflections, prayers, outreach, etc), and use those regularly in their digital and media presence.
- Encourage exploration and approaches of compelling communications beyond noticeboard type of information dissemination.
- Determine communications channels for information dissemination.

B. Campaigns

Develop and/or encourage systems for planning intentional campaigns for diocesan initiatives, projects, events, and central planning groups.

Communications Planning

- **Communications Plans - Discuss and develop at early stages of initiatives or announcements of new** programmes, etc. Items can be added or modified. Coordinate with Communications Lead and Comms Group.
- Consider use and distribution protocols intentionally.
- Plan launches and raise awareness through communications well in advance.
- Communicate updates with appropriate frequency.
- Solicit and share the stories.

Key Campaigns in 2022

- Climate Change
- Discipleship and Season of Christian Life
- Pilgrimages – digital and physical, including:
 - o Bishop Ian's 'Pilgrim's Progress'
 - o Fife Pilgrim Way Pilgrim Pastor events and web page

C. Engagement and Support

- Provide some best practices for media channels, to include criteria and simple style guide for items to be posted on diocesan media channels. Criteria would include writing with mission and audience in mind, including the WHY and the larger context, max/min image size, max word count, etc. This requires thinking missionally and not just disseminating information.
- Training/Workshop topics possible include:
 - Identity, Mission, and Branding
 - Mindset & Planning
 - Canva design tool / editing software
 - Tips, tricks, general information
 - Digital storytelling

Karen McClain Kiefer

Convener of the Communications Group

The Pilgrimage Group

A Pilgrim Pastor has now been appointed for the Fife Pilgrim Way. This is a joint venture with the SEC and Church of Scotland.

Pilgrimages for 2023 will focus on the local and charges will be encouraged to arrange small pilgrimages in their areas. It was noted that sometimes the word pilgrimage doesn't mean anything to people and it needs to have a new label – for example – Lesley Ann organised a Nativity walk where people will walk around the community stopping to have a reading at points of interest along the way. Something similar involving the School and the Theatre took place in Pitlochry.

Conclusion

As convener I would like to thank all members serving on the Mission Board for their time, energy and input and their contributions to this report.

Revd Canon Liz Baker.

Convener of the Mission Board

MINISTRY BOARD

The diocesan Ministry Board has continued to meet throughout the past year, even managing to meet face to face in the diocesan office a couple of times.

Once again, we keep reminding ourselves that we meet with a remit agreed on by Bishop Ian:

“The diocesan Ministry Board will be a ‘hub’ coordinating developments in support of ministry in the Diocese. It will encourage and support the work of a number of groups and committees represented on the Board, such as ministry development; support for clergy and lay readers; lay ministries; and vocational discernment. The Board meetings (2 or 3 times per year) will receive reports from these groups, explore new ministry developments and may establish new groups to take them forward in the Diocese”.

In our meetings, so far, we have looked at Continuing Ministerial Development (CMD), we are all very grateful for the Study Days that were planned for us over the past year, and indeed for the wonderful chance for the clergy to be together at St. Mary’s in Kinnoull for an in person clergy conference. We have also included on our Agenda a wide range of Lay Ministries, Lay Readers Ministry, Vocation and Ecumenical Opportunities for the future shape of our church. We look forward in the future to working more closely with the Mission Board on Ecumenical partnerships and opportunities in the different areas of our diocese. We have included this year Curacies and have enjoyed hearing updates. The Board hopes to develop ‘Good Shepherd Sunday’ throughout the diocese and encourage both lay and ordained to share in this ministry together.

We have had wide ranging and good discussions on these topics, gathering together information from the various pending boards and committees and have tried to link some of these with the Mission Board. The convenors of both the Ministry Board and Mission Board try to attend each other’s meetings and see what we can do together. This has proved to be valuable.

I am incredibly grateful to all those who give of their time and commitment to support the life and work of the Ministry Board and to Carol Atchison for taking the excellent minutes at our meetings.

The Very Revd Graham Taylor
Ministry Board Convener

ADMINISTRATION BOARD

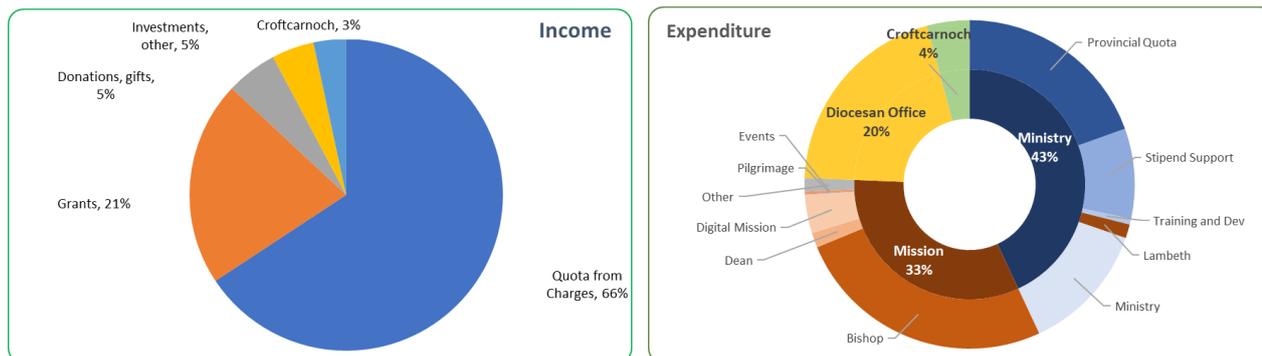
The Diocesan Administration Board has the responsibility for the governance and business processes within the Diocese. The Board has overview of Diocesan financial affairs, monitored through monthly management accounts, and of the preparation of the annual accounts and budget submitted to Standing Committee in advance of Diocesan Synod. The Board reports directly to Standing Committee and advises on all matters of finance and governance. The Board is the direct link to the equivalent and corresponding bodies within the Province in these specific areas.

The Board administers the processes for stipend and other financial support of Charges, drawn from resources within the Diocese and from the Provincial Mission and Ministry Support Grant.

Over the past year The Board has directly provided:

- Continued support (together with the Church Army) for the Central Fife Centre of Mission,
- Stipendiary support for St Margaret’s, Leven,
- Stipendiary provision for a Transitional Priest-in-Charge at St Columba’s, Stanley
- Financial support for the final year of the mixed-mode training placement in the Highland Perthshire Group of Charges
- Financial support for the mixed-mode training placement in Central Fife,
- Continued Funding for the part-time Digital Missioner post
- Distribution of Renewal and Recovery Grants to successful applicants.

The ability to fund mission and ministry activities across the Diocese, and to support charges when needed, comes in large part from Charge Quota.



In the past year, 66% of the income has been received directly from quota (up from 61% last year), and 76% of expenditure has been disbursed in Mission & Ministry, and Grants to charges (slightly up on last year). All of charge income during the year has been expended on mission activities. Reserve funds have been used to cover the deficit, which has been achieved using available cash accounts. No investments have been sold in the past year. It has been a turbulent year for investments, with paper value showing losses over the course of the year.

The requested level of contribution from charges to fund Mission & Ministry, i.e. Quota, has been 16% for several years. The Board is recommending that Sanding Committee retain that level for 2023. Quota contribution is so important to the spiritual health of charges in the Diocese, reflected in their ability to fund mission and ministry. Charges continue to face challenges, significantly reflected in the financial component, and costs can become burdens. Quota is the best vehicle we have at the moment for an equalisation of burdens. All charges that have benefited from Episcopal support, support from the Dean, and any financial assistance have, in large part, the other charges to thank for sharing their funds to enable that.

The value of investments, and therefore value of Diocesan reserves, has deteriorated over the past year as expected. The reserves have been built up by very careful fiscal management over the past several years, and once reduced, will take a long time to rebuild. The Diocese is preparing a 5-year plan (as indeed are all charges being asked to do), to see how the investments may be best put to active use in supporting mission and ministry, which may realise a change in moving from managed funds for a proportion of the finances. Recommendations will be brought to Standing Committee for review over the coming year.

The Board maintains a Diocesan Risk Register which covers financial, reputational and delivery risks, in addition to other broader issues of sustainability. The Risk Register is subject to frequent review and improvement. The main risks identified are the same as last year; they continue to require careful observation:

- Safeguarding and Wellbeing – there are no active cases, but the impact of any case is potentially significant.
- Finances – As evidenced by diminishing income, there is an increased risk that finances will be stressed. The Diocese has reserves to draw upon if needed, while recognising the long-term impact of drawing on the reserves.
- Charge Management – increasingly charges are finding it difficult to fill all required posts to maintain good governance. While the Administration Board has been able to provide some service as last resort, it is not sustainable in the long term. Alternative models will continue to be explored, for example single vestry/office bearers for joint/linked charges. This should be included in charge 5-year planning.

The Board exercises governance and oversight of all church buildings through its pendant committee, the Diocesan Building Committee (DBC). The Province provides limited funding and requires that all applications for grants or loans are thoroughly scrutinised by the DBC before being submitted. The DBC continues to exercise diligence and assist Charges with suggestions and alternatives where practical and possible.

We continue to emphasise the importance of adequate and timely Quinquennial Inspections both of church buildings and wish to continue to raise the importance of carrying out inspections of rectories. The Administration Board continues to be aware that some rectories still have not been surveyed for a considerable period, and the extent of work – and consequent funding – required to bring the buildings to an acceptable and legal state is becoming burdensome.

I am most grateful to all the members of the Administration Board who give a significant amount of their time, experience, and expertise to the wide spectrum of issues we consider in the Board. In particular the Board is especially indebted to the work of Carol Aitchison, who is retiring from post this year. Carol has been supported by Eleanor, and charges will be well aware of Eleanor's work on their behalf, particularly those in vacancy.

We are always indebted to Martin Howarth and his colleagues in Morris & Young for all they do so efficiently for us. They always go beyond the necessary duty to ensure our financial and charitable responsibilities have been discharged.

Brendan Grimley
Convener – Diocesan Administration Board

DIOCESAN BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

The Diocesan Buildings Committee is a pendant committee of the Diocesan Administration Board and is guided by Canon 35 in the Code of Canons.

The work of the Committee is to assist in any matter concerning all church premises including rectories and ancillary buildings. The Committee also assists with the application of grants from charges to the Provincial Buildings Grant Making Body.

It is essential that all charges adhere to the Code of Canons and Digest of Resolutions regarding Quinquennial surveys on all church plant and curtilage. Where possible I would encourage all charges to notify the Committee of any proposed building work or maintenance in order that any advice or guidance may be offered.

The Committee acknowledge that the maintenance of church buildings and plant can on occasion be challenging and demanding. I would like to thank vestries and clergy for the important work that they undertake. Please do not hesitate to contact the Committee should you have any question regarding building work.

As chair of the committee, I would like to thank all those who work tirelessly to sit on the Committee and give of their expertise, their time and talents is invaluable to me and to our diocese which they serve.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Carol Atchison for all her knowledge and hard work with the DBC over the years, and especially to me over the past year, I would have been lost! We will miss her greatly but wish her well and every blessing on her retirement.

The Very Revd Graham Taylor – Convener

CLIMATE CHANGE GROUP

Introduction

The Diocesan Climate Change Group was established in March 2021. It reports to the Bishop and Standing Committee to support, encourage, enable, and monitor all activities that reduce the negative impact on climate change. The overall objective is to be a carbon net zero church by 2030.

Membership:

Dr Elaine Cameron
Rev Gerry Dillon
Rev Canon Elaine Garman
Ms Cathy Johnston
Ms Karen McClain Kiefer
Rev Carol Latimer
Mr Robert Nellist
Dean Graham Taylor
Prof Alan Werritty



The Group is supported by the Bishop's PA and Office Manager, Ms Carol Aitchison.

Actions

The current workplan focuses on two main areas: 1) raising awareness and 2) developing understanding and collaboration on climate change and the actions we need to be taking.

Last May all SEC churches were invited to complete the energy footprint calculator. This helped to establish the baseline of our carbon usage. We encouraged our churches to complete this and whilst 27% of the Province responded, our Diocese achieved a 54% return. Some charges had difficulty finding the information required to complete the return, with others experiencing difficulties with the return itself with the result some did not manage to submit the data. Everyone's efforts were greatly appreciated. There are many tasks that vestries are requested to do, and we do not want to simply add to that list. However, we do need to be able to monitor our carbon usage within each church, at Diocesan level and indeed at Provincial level too. This is not necessarily a job for the Treasurers - anyone on the vestry could complete the return. It will require to be completed on a periodic basis and we are keen to encourage vestries to get involved and use the results to inform themselves of their next actions. There are savings to be made for the environment as well as the church coffers. By doing so we are honouring God's gift of creation and helping to live that commitment. Vital in all that we are doing is integrating this into our missional intent as a Church.

Communication work continues to feature highly in the Group's work. We are very grateful to the Diocesan Digital Missioner, Karen McClain Kiefer in this regard including communications planning and how to do this as effectively as possible. Karen's work will be used to guide our communication actions.

A section of the Diocesan website has been developed on Climate Change which supports both the gathering and sharing of information. We are gradually adding resources to this. Over time we intend it to be the 'go to place' where you can look for a variety of resources that will help you to embed action on care for God's creation and action on climate change within mission and to develop our theological thinking in this area.

Developing our understanding

For each of the past few years we have highlighted Creationtide (September and into October) as a particularly good time to be integrating the work on climate change as part and parcel of being church and our liturgical year. Of course, we know that many of you also choose to have a particular day as Climate Sunday, and throughout the year you are preaching and praying for creation and including hymns on this theme. Many of you are part of ecumenical and local collaborative networks that organise community activities all making a positive impact on the environment. It is part of our mission as a

Church. We continue to encourage churches, if they have not already, to register with Eco Congregation Scotland. They offer resources and support that all help with this endeavour.

A study day was held in February 2022 for clergy, lay readers, vestry members and other interested members of congregations that focussed on some of the practical issues around implementation of the Provincial Climate Change Toolkit. We were encouraged by how local churches are getting to grips with the climate change agenda and pleased with the sharing of hints and tips wherever they were along this journey to carbon net zero. The SEC's Net Zero Action Plan Consultation is just about to be launched and we look forward to engaging in this consultation. This year a session is going to be held on Saturday 29th April again for clergy, lay readers, vestry members and other interested members of congregations, to focus on buildings. This event is being developed jointly with the Mission Board. Whilst it will have an emphasis on the practical it will also help us make climate change an integral part of mission, ministry, and worship.

Work in 2023/2024

- Listen to local churches as to what is needed to help with this work
- Develop our 'climate literacy'. Our everyday conversations can make a difference. We need to be able to articulate what climate change means for us and for our families, what we care about most and what needs to be done to stop climate change, inspiring others to do so too. During this year we will consider how we help churches to be climate literate
- Following the SEC consultation, we will help to disseminate what is required from the SEC Carbon Net Zero Action Plan

Rev Elaine C Garman
Convenor Diocesan Climate Change Group

PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS (PVG): SAFEGAURDING REPORT FROM THE DIOCESAN PROTECTION OFFICER

Since Synod 2022, most Congregations have been able to resume services, communion in both kinds, some continuing to live stream also. Meetings and other activities are held by electronic means and 'face to face'. This looks to be a pattern which will continue into the foreseeable future.



One Conclusion, from the responses to the recent Safeguarding Return, is that over the next year a lot of work is needed to restore effective Safeguarding in our congregations. Surprisingly, a few who responded still appear to think that it only applies to Children

and Young People, and having none, that Safeguarding measures are less significant for that Congregation.

ALL our Congregations include:

- **VULNERABLE ADULTS**, across the age range.

so SAFEGUARDING MEASURES are NECESSARY whether or not the Congregation has

- **Children and Young People.**

This SYNOD has responsibility to "ensure compliance with the Episcopal Church Safeguarding policies within the Diocese" (SEC Canon 65).

DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBERS have a key role in passing on the information in this report to their VESTRIES to make sure that people are aware and that Safeguarding measures are applied in their Church.

Your DIOCESAN PROTECTION OFFICER is available to help Congregational Safeguarding Co-ordinators and act as an immediate contact by e-mail on pvg@standrews.anglican.org for information.

SAFEGUARDING IS FOR EVERYONE. Good Safeguarding supports the Church's calling and mission, and helps make people who participate in its life feel safe and included. Vestries have an important role in helping to make this happen.

Safeguarding around the Diocese

The 2022 Safeguarding Return was agreed by the Provincial Safeguarding Committee to be used throughout the SEC to obtain information from each church that would be looked at against the 2018 Provincial Safeguarding Audit. It was sent to all PVG Co-ordinators, Vestry Secretaries and Incumbents for them to complete collaboratively. The majority have done so, but at the time of writing (early February) around one third of the churches in this Diocese have not responded.

The responses received show that in those Congregations: -

- One Third have some work with Children and Young People;
- In Half there are Lay Pastoral and Home Communion visits (classified as 'Work' under Safeguarding legislation);
- One Church has 'Outreach projects for groups of adults with specific needs';
- Some report NO 'volunteers/paid workers working with children and/or vulnerable adults' despite mentioning lay pastoral and home communion visits taking place;
- Most report having Safeguarding as an item on their Vestry agenda, although none enlarged on whether any significant matter (eg Co-ordinator appointment process, request for guidance by Diocesan or Provincial Officer) was raised and minuted.
- Two Thirds do not carry out all of the SEC Safer Recruitment Practice Guidelines; and
- Over One Third had not adopted the SEC 2020 Safeguarding Policy, with others seeming to have done so as a prompt from the Return.

There may be various reasons for these. The disruption caused by the Covid Pandemic has almost certainly had an adverse effect. Possibly the information from Province and Diocese is not easy to follow, or not specific about actions required. The lack of follow-up training for new PVG Co-ordinators and information from the Diocesan Officer. Not informing the Diocesan Officer about Co-ordinator vacancies. In addition, some PVG Co-ordinators have had to contend with serious illness and bereavement preventing attention to Safeguarding. In such circumstances, Vestries need to make sure that Safeguarding matters are attended to.

Safeguarding Training for Clergy, PVG Co-ordinators, Vestry Members and Volunteers

As noted above, there is an immediate need within the Diocese for this. I understand that the Provincial Committee is aware of this, and intend to make arrangements as soon as possible.

PVG Membership (Disclosure Check)

As noted in other communications to PVG Co-ordinators, anyone starting work with vulnerable people in the SEC must have or apply for PVG Scheme Membership (or extend an existing Scheme membership). This process is primarily by computer but help is available for any applicant or PVG Co-ordinator unable to do so. Regrettably, despite this, one or two people have felt that they could not continue involvement.

Safeguarding Changes in the Province and Diocese

With the retirement of Donald Urquhart, Provincial Safeguarding Officer at the end of 2022, a Provincial Officer and a new Officer specifically for Safeguarding Training are currently being sought. The latter has been decided following a recommendation following the 2018 Provincial Safeguarding Audit.

I am also retiring from as Diocesan Protection Officer, on behalf of +Ian and this Diocesan Synod. Safeguarding responsibilities will continue to be carried out by Jenny Campbell who has been appointed as Office Manager. She will continue to help Vestries and Congregational PVG Co-ordinators in Safeguarding Matters and to keep the Diocesan Synod and Standing Committee informed, and can be contacted by e-mail on pvg@standrews.anglican.org for help and information.

In Conclusion, my thanks to all PVG Co-ordinators for undertaking their roles in 2021-22, Bishop Ian and the Diocesan Standing Committee for supporting me in this role, and Carol Aitchison, Bishop's PA, for her very valuable assistance.

Mr Robert Nellist – Diocesan Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator

A REPORT FROM ST NINIAN'S CATHEDRAL

As with many Charges in the diocese, this past year has been a time of continuing recovery after the many uncertainties faced due to the pandemic. The cathedral ministry team continue to be cautious and careful with hand and chalice sanitisation for the administration of Holy Communion, where most people are now receiving in both kinds.

In this past year the cathedral buildings were damaged by two destructive storms, causing roof damage and huge water ingress. Scaffolding both inside and out had to be erected and large areas of lime mortar stripped back to allow the stone to dry, and then fresh mortar applied. Arranging this work has been hugely time consuming for our Property Convener along with weeks of constant cleaning resulting from mortar dust and many plasterers and builders in the building. As provost, I remain enormously grateful to all those who have worked with tremendous enthusiasm, ensuring our building was restored.

With the increase in fuel costs the heating at the cathedral has had to be lowered. Our expenditure in this area is approximately £3000 per month, which places an enormous financial burden on the vestry and congregation. Part of our climate change focus has been to look at secondary glazing to help preserve heat. We have so far managed to install glazing in the cathedral office. Given that we are an 'A' listed building the frame had to be almost invisible and this has been achieved. It is hoped that we might be able to secure funding in the future to glaze more windows.

St Ninian's Episcopal Primary School appointed a new headteacher, Mrs Sarah Cowmeadow, who has been a member of the cathedral for many years. Along with the new nursery attached to the school, Mrs Cowmeadow is working to develop further links with the cathedral through our eco projects, and with the diocese in creating stronger links with the Episcopal School in Dunblane and with Glenalmond College.

As part of our ongoing safety policy, new security cameras have been placed in the cathedral cloisters. One is trained on the defibrillator now secured and available just inside the front entrance. The Order of St John kindly provided training for over thirty people from the congregation and local Traders. They also kindly funded the cost of the extensive electric wiring that was needed to make the defibrillator accessible to the public.

Part of the cathedral's history is connected to the Suffragette Movement, when a group of women disrupted a service in the cathedral and ended up in Perth Prison. They were roughly handled by some of the congregation (not our finest hour). Those involved with the new museum soon to be opened in Perth, were fascinated by this connection and along with many actresses dressed in costumes of the time, made a short film of this historic event.

It has been encouraging for the cathedral congregation to work more closely with the congregation of St John's Scottish Episcopal Church in Perth, on a fundraiser for Christian Aid (the Big Brekkie) and ongoing climate change issues. We hope this link will continue and grow.

Tourism is an area that the city of Perth is in the process of developing and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust have asked for the cathedral's support with their bid to develop a tourist venue at the Perth City Mills (close to the cathedral) along with other listed buildings in Perth. The cathedral benefits greatly from the kind donations of tourists, many of whom come in to pray and to enjoy the space. The cathedral vestry have been looking at some of the many items of interest that are only displayed occasionally. Among such treasures was found a Jacobean bag with a letter inside along with communion tokens. This has been authenticated and preserved by the Scottish Preservation Studio in Hopetoun House. The vestry are in the process of acquiring vandal proof display cases to add interest for visiting tourists.

Like many churches in the diocese, we were furnished with a grant to open the cathedral Chapterhouse twice weekly as a Warm Space, where people are provided with a soup and sandwich lunch and the warmth of good company. As with many others, we struggle to get volunteers, not only for Warm Spaces, but also for Summer Opening (having the cathedral open during the week with welcomers and guides).

The life of the cathedral continues to revolve around its many activities – daily worship using seasonal liturgies, Advent and Lent Courses, Evensong, Advent and Christmas Carol services, Christmas and Valentines lunches, Pancake party, school services and concerts etc., but by far the most increased activity has been in supporting charities such as Perth Foodbank, Tayside and Strathearn Help for Ukraine and Christian Aid appeals for Ukraine, Afghanistan and Zimbabwe.

The cathedral congregation remain wholly committed to maintain St Ninian's Cathedral as a place of worship at the centre of the diocese and the seat of our bishop. It is a huge task and as provost I remain hugely grateful to this congregation for their unstinting support and energy, and from others in the diocese who have contributed in different ways.

The Very Revd Hunter Farquharson
Provost

REPORTS FROM THE AREA COUNCILS

At the beginning of 2022 Bishop Ian called Area Council Conveners and Secretaries to meet on a regular basis with him to encourage Area Council's to meet and share resources and information. Some Area Councils have been meeting on a regular basis and have their reports below. Others have not managed to do this due to a lack of personnel, but it is hoped that these councils will meet very soon.

Dunblane Area Council

Dunblane Area Council met in April 2022 in St James's, Dollar. A joint Accension Day service took place in Stirling. It had been hoped to have a further meeting later in the year but due to illness this was delayed. Sue White and Revd Chris Lowdon are planning to have the next Area Council meeting very soon.

Dunkeld Area Council

The Dunkeld Area Council has not met in 2022 but it is hoped to have a Spring 2023 meeting.

St Andrews East Area Council

This Area Council is without a Secretary at present since Revd Roy Anetts retired. Once a new Secretary has been appointed it is hoped to begin meetings again.

The St Andrew's West Area Council

2022 commenced with meetings once again via Zoom All were well attended.

In February Professor Ian Bradley, author of the Fife Pilgrim Way, gave a fascinating talk on the origins of Pilgrim Ways and how the Fife Pilgrim Way came about. Many routes existed in Scotland and The Scottish Pilgrim Routes Scotland forum was launched, of which Prof Bradley was a member. The forum met in

2011 and looked at a number of routes, expressing a desire to establish a Pilgrim Route in Fife. There was huge support from local industry, Fife Council, churches and Fife Coastal and Countryside Trust, who provided a grant to signpost the route. The forum was encouraged as there was a strong spiritual focus as well as authority focus. The original route was via Dunfermline to Loch Leven and Falkland then to St Andrews. However the forum felt it was important to take the route through West Fife for economic/social and spiritual reasons.

Tourists, e explained tend to visit places sheltered from locals; pilgrims engage with communities. The route was established from Culross, the basis of Cistercian and Franciscan Monks and North Queensferry where the Forth crossing was used. The routes join at Dunfermline, an important pilgrim shrine established by Queen Margaret. The route travels through the old mining areas of Fife and it was important that pilgrims also walked in the footsteps of miners, as well as further east in the footsteps of martyrs to St Andrews. The route was launched in Dunfermline in 2019.

Historic Scotland allow ecumenical services to be held in the grounds of St Andrews Cathedral, which itself speak a lot about theology and the Resurrection arising out of the ruins. There are plans to develop a Pilgrim Pastor and the model for this is the Lutheran Church which supports such posts in each of their areas. The Diocese and the Presbytery of Fife are supporting this role financially and have support from other denominations. The role will be initially for a year and the holder will be answerable to a board made up of ecumenical partners. Prof Bradley noted that there were huge opportunities for churches on the route to become involved, for example providing hospitality and refreshments. The hope is that for those using the route that tourists turn into pilgrims. The route is being used for fitness/history/ and spiritual means and this can be built on as faith is an ongoing journey.

Professor Bradley then took questions from the delegates and was thanked most sincerely for a superb presentation and for his passion for promoting the route. He expressed the hope that he could return in the future in person and continue the conversation.

In May at St Luke's, Glenrothes, Ian Campbell gave a very insightful talk on the role of NHS Chaplains, with particular regard to Fife. There are presently 8 chaplains across the area covering the community hospitals, Victoria, Queen Margaret and Stratheden hospitals.

NHS Chaplains reach across all faith communities and give a holistic approach to chaplaincy work. A person's spirituality is part of being human and is expressed in many ways. NHS Chaplains care for everyone who is admitted to hospital should they request a visit and never impose personal beliefs on patients. NHS Chaplains give and receive care, explore beliefs and values and offer hope for the particular situation. What is important to the patient is at the core of their work, what keeps the patient going, what gives them hope. NHS Chaplains are registered as healthcare professionals and deliver person centred care 24/7 with an on call rota. They are also responsible for staff spiritual care and have seen an increase in this due to Covid.

In November a St Margaret's Rosyth, the meeting was preceded by a Sung Eucharist at which Bishop Ian presided and Revd Bonnie Evans-Hills, Priest in Charge at St Margaret Rosyth preached. The remainder of the meeting was taken up with Area Council Business including reports from the charges and an update on the Area Council Convenor and Secretaries meetings with Bishop Ian. Shirley Mann and Christine Fraser attend these

The meeting was reminded that the Diocesan Constitution requires that Area Councils are responsible for providing representatives to Diocesan Boards and Committees; West Fife Area Council is presently fully represented on both Admin Board and Standing Committee. Area Councils are also responsible for electing lay representatives to General Synod, both full members serving up to 2 x 4 year terms and alternates serving for 1 year. Representatives must be able to attend General Synod if required.

The programme for 2023 has been set.

All meetings are held at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday 21st February at St Peter's Kirkcaldy Speaker Carol Morton, St Peter's Kirkcaldy

Thursday 11th May at St Margaret's Leven; Speaker Ross Stirling Young, 2nd Year Ordinand

Sunday 10th September Area Council Service at St Margaret's Rosyth time TBA
Wednesday 15th November at Holy Trinity Dunfermline, speaker Sabine Chalmers, Scottish Faith Action for Refugees

As always meetings are open to any interested parties who wish to attend.

Revd Christine Fraser – Area Council Secretary

REPORT FROM THE MOTHERS' UNION



Finally in February we could start meeting face to face after the nearly two years of being distanced so there was a lot of catching up with each other.

Our monthly prayers are now in person again for those who can come on the second Tuesday of the month at 11.30am in the Lady Chapel at St Ninian's, but we have continued to send out the prayers via email to all our members so that we can all continue to join together at that time in prayer which is much appreciated.

The Midday prayers each day also continue to be live streamed on the Mothers' Union Facebook page (an open time so you do not have to join Facebook) with members throughout the world joining in. It really reinforces the world-wideness of our membership.

All our groups are now meeting again and we have been able to hold our diocesan events too.

In March we held our annual Lady Day celebration at St John's and Bishop Ian commissioned our new Chaplain, Kim Lafferty.

In August we celebrated Mary Sumner Day with a service of thanksgiving and a lunch for those who have been members for over 40 or 50 years; quite a few in number now.

In October we held our Annual Meeting and had a very lively discussion about Domestic Abuse and how we can do more to raise awareness. One in three women and one in 7 men suffer from abuse but mostly we are totally unaware as victims are too afraid and ashamed. I am grateful to Bishop Ian for his support in our efforts to raise awareness and thank you to all the clergy who responded last November to our suggestion for a minutes silence in their services during the 16 Days of Activism the Mothers' Union acknowledges. There is a small Provincial committee of members working hard behind the scenes in conjunction with staff at Mary Sumner House making plans for the next few years to continue to raise awareness in churches with practical help too.

We continue our work in local prisons as we are able and also made up over 30 emergency toiletry bags which were given to a local cottage hospital and Women's Aid. Mothers' Union has now has a more formal link with Women's Aid and England and is working in Scotland to formalise our link here too.

Our bi-monthly newsletter keeps members informed about past and future events such as the conference on "Re-imagining the Mothers' Union" held last July. It was gratifying to hear that many of the changes we have already made in our diocese are now being discussed in other areas to simplify the admin side. Members are getting older and less keen to take on "official" roles as in many other organisations,

We have enrolled new members last year as well as sadly saying goodbye to others. Our work is always looking forwards to how we can "care for families worldwide" and we are always willing to offer help where we can in our churches too.

This year we are hoping to restart our AFIA (Away From It All) help for families in need. We are not able to offer full holidays but can help with days out or towards fares to visit relatives.

Prayer continues to be our central focus and our prayer chain is there for anyone who wants or needs prayer not just our members. It is as anonymous as required though a small amount of information helps to focus the prayers. Please contact me in the first instance if you would like us to pray for anyone at any time sarah@thegammells.com

All our meetings and diocesan events are open to everyone, male or female, married or not young or old and we look forward to welcoming you.

Sarah Gammell
MU Diocesan President