

**THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF SAINT PAUL
NICOSIA, CYPRUS**

**Annual General Meeting
Sunday 18 March 2018
11.15 am**

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[1] Electoral Roll

In accordance with the Constitution of the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, a new electoral roll should be prepared every six years. A new electoral roll was therefore undertaken in April 2014 and finalised in July 2014. The electoral roll will next be due for renewal in April 2020. Since the last AGM, which was held on Sunday 5 March 2017, 1 person had been removed from the register and 2 new applications had been received and approved by the Cathedral Council. This leaves the current electoral roll with 86 members. An application to be entered onto the electoral roll of St Paul's Cathedral may be made in writing at any time after a person has been attending the Church regularly for a period of three months and all applications are considered by the Cathedral Council at the next meeting following the application. Only those 86 members whose names appear on the register are eligible to vote at the AGM. In order to ensure that our records are up-to-date, and we are able to keep in touch with you, please let us know if your contact details have changed.

[2] The Dean's Report

At St Paul's Anglican Cathedral we continue to aim to welcome everyone, whether a visitor or a resident, whatever their religious background. Our Cathedral surroundings remain a place of hope in this troubled world. A place where one can be at peace with God, to read his Word and to speak and listen to Him. As a living centre of prayer and a home to many other communities, a variety of opportunities are available to help one grow in faith and deepen their spiritual life.

I continue to chair the British Cemeteries Committee in southern Cyprus. They have recently purchased a new cemetery in the Limassol District. There were two major celebrations marking important milestones in my life and ministry. Firstly, the celebration of 20 years in ordained ministry, and secondly, a drinks reception to celebrate my 50th birthday.

In October 2017, Mrs Pat Baulch stepped down as Cathedral Administrator after 14 faithful years; however she continues to oversee the legal aspects and arrangements for the Cyprus Archdeaconry Wedding Ministry. Miss Helen Klostris has been appointed as the new Cathedral Administrator. Since June 2016, The Reverend Kent Middleton has served in the role of Assistant Curate. On 14 April 2018, he will be licensed as parish priest and chaplain of St Luke, Ras Al Khaimah and St Nicholas, Fujairah in the Chaplaincy of Dubai, Sharjah and the northern Emirates.

The main service on a Sunday morning is the 9.30am Holy Eucharist and at 6pm Evening Prayer according to BCP. Throughout the week we offer Morning and Evening Prayer; including a Holy Eucharist on Wednesday mornings at 10.30am. Additionally, throughout the year there are special services for Christmas (Nine Lessons & Carols, Crib Service, Midnight Mass, Christingle), Easter (Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil & First Mass of Easter), Harvest Sunday, Rogation Sunday, Remembrance Sunday, and the All Souls Eucharist. Guest preachers for 2017 have included: The Revd. Geoff Graham, Archdeacon Christopher Futchter, UN Padre's, Archdeacon Bill Schwartz, Dean Chris Butt, and Archdeacon Robert Jones. Once again we hosted the Annual Gathering Service for the Cyprus Archdeaconry, where each parish had to bring a cake that was decorated in such a way to represent the diversity of that parish. We marked the 500th anniversary of the Reformation with a joint communion service with the Nicosia International Church; also a Songs of Praise Service focusing on Luther's Extracts and Reformation hymns. In December we hosted the archidiaconal service for the Licensing of Readers.

We have a regular Sunday School that meets during the main Sunday Service. Once a month the clergy take turns to lead Sunday School. A key feature (much enjoyed by the congregation) is that the Sunday School always share what they have done at the end of the main Service. On the last Sunday of the month the young people are fully engaged within the main service. (readings, intercessions, etc...).

During Lent we followed the 5-week course on "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In the Autumn we offered a 4-week study on the Lord's Prayer and a 4-week study on The Eucharist; all based on the Pilgrim Course. Bishop Michael kindly led our Lenten Quiet Day at the Retreat House in Katafiyio.

Over the last three years the attendance at the Sunday morning Eucharist has risen from 3762 in 2015, to 3944 in 2016 and to 4223 in 2017.

In July we ran a 4-week stewardship campaign based on the TRIO model which led to a positive influence on our financial situation and an increase in our regular plate income. Plate giving has gone from 26,178 in 2015 to 24,894 in 2016 and to 27,814 in 2017.

In January 2017 we launched our new website www.stpaulsnicosia.com. Please do visit our site and have a browse. The Cathedral magazine, The Epistle, is published 6 times a year in pdf format and can be downloaded from our website.

We continue to promote on Facebook events and share photos and information pertaining to the life and ministry of the Cathedral. Please “like” our page: www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Cathedral-Nicosia

Social Evenings hosted by myself and Fr Kent have included Beetle Drive, Bingo, and Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday. The Men’s Bowling Club had also been reinstated. On Saturday, 1 April 2017, folk came together from all across the island to take part in the Sing-a-long Messiah. After 3 hours of rehearsals, they then performed extracts from Handel’s Messiah. The annual Parish Picnic took place at St-George-in-the-Forest, Troodos. Fundraising events during the year included Quiz Nights, Victorian Evening, Car Boot Sales, and a lovely Cathedral Christmas Dinner. The annual May Fayre proved, once again, a wonderful success with 10% of the proceeds been donated to Caritas. Proceeds from the annual Swim-a-thon were also donated to charity – 50% to Cancer Support in Nicosia and 50% to St Paul’s Pastoral Care.

Recently we had to give serious attention to the maintenance of the trees surrounding the Cathedral. As a result the gardens now look lovely. The boundary wall had to be repaired and various projects were conducted around the Deanery in accordance with the Quinquennial Inspection. The original baptismal font that was moved to St-George-in-the-Forest, had been returned to the Cathedral and 2017 saw the completion of the new Accessible Toilet. The baptismal font was re-dedicated and the Accessible Toilet was blessed by the retired Dean of Winchester on the Sunday following Synod 2017. Thanks to JEMT, St-George-in-the-Forest, Troodos also received a brand-new hand-rail and ramp to allow accessibility access.

The Cathedral continues to support a variety of charities throughout the year. In July we began a new outreach ministry for refugees and others in need, namely that of a monthly free supper. During the Christmas period we supported the Christmas Party at the Kofinou Refugee Camp and also at the Nicosia Mercy Centre.

As we journey through 2018, we continue to listen to God and discern his will for us as a Cathedral Church and a faith community.

**The Very Reverend Jeremy Crocker
Dean of St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral**

[3] The Warden’s Report

First however I, Margaret, would like to say a few words. I was honoured to have been elected to the position of People’s Warden last March. I took over from Agnete Cleave who is an extremely “hard act to follow”. Agnete gave freely of her time and experience to help me and I am so very grateful. I am also very thankful for all the guidance given to me by Pat Baulch. This was followed by a very timely meeting of all the wardens across Cyprus arranged by the Diocese which also helped in “getting my feet wet”.

The Cathedral’s activities cover many areas, and with so many people to thank the Wardens’ Report may begin to sound a little like the Academy Awards. However we are very grateful to everyone who supports our activities and room can always be found for additional helpers.

On the First Monday of each month the Cathedral provides a meal, in the hall for the disadvantaged, such as asylum seekers, the homeless, and so on. The first dinner was in July. We thank Stephani Stavri and her group

of ladies from the Women's Fellowship Group for cooking the first meal and to all the people who have contributed since. Last week there were 60 people to feed so you can see that we need a lot of help.

Frank and Margaret inventoried the items in the Cathedral. We would like to thank Father Kent for his help. Inventory of the hall is a work in progress.

In June and July, the Trio Programme was introduced. It was wonderful to see that so many of the congregation signed up to help in various capacities.

Our thanks to the sewing team for the new cushions at the altar. The refurbished green ones were given to St George-in-the-Forest, Troodos.

Dean Jeremy's 20th ordination anniversary was celebrated in the garden in June and was enjoyed by all who attended. Another enjoyable highlight of the year was our Christmas Party.

As always, we have finances on our minds and we thank David Hardacre, not only in his capacity as treasurer but also his willingness and ability to get things done at the government offices, and to Colin Reeves for auditing the Cathedral's accounts.

We are extremely grateful to Sylvia Smith and Agnete Cleave for their fundraising activities, which have included Quiz nights, special occasion nights, and most recently their very successful St. Valentine's Evening. Then again we thank them along with their helpers who staff the Thrift shop on Saturdays. In the case of the Thrift shop, not only are helpers welcome, but also customers, so spread the word among your friends that there are bargains to be had there every Saturday.

Carol Blackwell Gibbs and Wendy Davis both do a great job on the social committee. Carol introduced, this year a monthly bake sale after church in the hall every second Sunday of the month. Not only can you help church funds by patronizing Carol's store, but you can enjoy delicious home baked produce and fresh fruit in season. Even better, next time you bake a cake, you might consider making an extra one to add to the stall.

We also give a big thank you to Bill Grundy for all of the fundraising he did to successfully pay for and open the disabled toilet. He also raised money at his Victorian evening. Bill will take over from Father Kent as Cathedral Sacristan.

Our bookshop is another fundraiser, run most of last year by Tim Lewis and his book shop 'Angels'. Thank you all and to Maria Evangelou for taking over Tim's job.

Another of Tim's good works was selecting the hymns. They were great Tim. Valerie Fidelia, who manages the choir, has taken over from Tim. We include in our thanks all the members of the choir, you lead us so well. One of your highlights was the singing of Handel's Messiah when you were joined by parishioners from all over the island. The choir is now robed on special occasions. Agnete Cleave sourced and organized delivery in time for Dean Jeremy's 20th Anniversary of Ordination.

Our Sunday School class gives us so much 'food for thought' after the service on Sunday. Thank you Cheryl Du Plessis and Michelle Arnott for your invaluable contribution to the lives of our children.

The gardens at St Paul's have never looked better, all thanks to the hard work of Pat and Colin Reeves. Bravo! Thanks also to all of the work done by Dorothy and David Stephenson.

Nigel Ramsbottom is fantastic at getting things done as soon as possible. We are so grateful to him for taking care of the buildings.

There are so many other people in our community whom we also need to thank.

Sue Skarparis not only for putting together the Pew Sheet, but also for being the church decorator in chief.

Linda Vrahimis for scheduling readers and intercessors, and for leading the Pastoral Care group.

Susan Grant for the many tasks she undertakes; book shop, pastoral care, the offering envelopes and many more.

The ladies who wash the altar linens.

Winifred Spyridakis and Margaret Charalambous for the work as Vulnerable Persons and Safeguarding Officer.

Geraldine Grundy for taking over as secretary of the PCC.

Nelson Ogbodo for his help with the church sound system.

To all in the congregation who help in many ways, those sign up for the coffee roster, all of you who stay to clean up after a party. Everything helps.

We would like to commend Helen Klostris for taking on the extremely demanding job of Parish Administrator.

As you all know Father Kent is leaving us on April 1st. He has been with us for two years and has definitely left his mark in many places. We are grateful for all he has accomplished and to those who will take over his many tasks, Talal Kawar – The Website; Maria Evangelou – Facebook and Martyn Henry – The Epistle. We wish Father Kent every success in his new appointment, but we will miss him very much here at St Paul's.

I know that we will have missed out someone, and we apologize for our sin of omission.

One person we have not mentioned up to now is Dean Jeremy. We thank him for his leadership and are delighted that he has agreed to sign up for another three years with us.

**Frank Creighton & Margaret Michaelides
Dean's Warden & People's Warden**

[4] Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team continues to meet occasionally to discuss and see how we can improve. One of our aims is to be aware if someone who comes regularly, stops coming. We do not want to hear anyone say, "No one called me" no one cares! We do care, and want everyone to feel welcome and part of our church. Occasionally, a person may choose to go through a difficult situation alone, and that of course is their choice which we must respect. Most folk, however, do want a visit, or a phone call, but messages don't always arrive on time or at all, or to the right person which could cause great distress. I truly believe that on the whole, we are aware, and are genuinely concerned when someone is missing – Lets us keep up the good work of caring for each other.

Dean Jeremy is ever thankful to receive donations of non- perishable foods to enable him to help many in need; including those who knock on his door.

The monthly meal for the poor continues, where many people get to eat a nice free meal and develop friendships. The Christmas gift boxes for the Kofinou refugee camp, and the Mercy centre, were well received bringing delight to many. St Raphael Healing Service meet each Month to pray for all on our sick list. We hear reports from many as to how grateful they are they we take time to pray for them. It would be lovely to have more people join us.

Linda Vrahimis

[5] The Bookshop

The running of the Saint Paul's Bookshop was taken over by Maria Evangelou towards the end of the year 2017. The bookshop has an outer and inner part, the better books are placed inside and the less popular books are placed outside. The bookshop opens every Saturday morning from 10am until 12-midday. During these hours people have access to the inside books and can purchase very good books at a low price. Books inside are placed alphabetically and in the second room by category. There are a large number of children books available as well as CDs, DVDs and magazines. The outside books are available on a 24 hour basis, there is an indicative price but people can place a donation, they consider appropriate, through the bookshop letterbox. This money is

collected every morning and stored in a safe place. At the end of the month all takings are handed over to Mr. David Hardacre. The bookshop is kept tidy on an almost daily basis. Books are protected when the weather is bad. On Saturday mornings two people are on duty on a rota basis, namely Mrs. Susan Grant, Mrs. Susan Skarparis, Mrs. June Stavrinakis, Mrs. Caroline Demetriades, Mrs. Alison Kolios, Mrs. Jacqueline Reading, Mr. Alexander McCowan, Mr. Peter Ives and on a less regular basis Ms. Maria Evangelou and Mrs. Maria Papapavlou. The rota is done by trimester and no problems have been encountered due to the excellent cooperation of the team. Mostly English books are sold, although a new goal is an attempt to build up a Greek part, because customers have asked for Greek books ie there is a demand, and also because they are purchased and substantial donations are left. During 2017 the total income for the bookshop was €2217. The aim is not to fall below €200 per month. Many thanks must be conveyed to Mr. Tim Lewis who had to give up his service at the bookshop due to ill health but had dedicated a lot of time and energy to the overall maintenance of it for a number of years.

Maria Evangelou

[6] Communications / Publications

As of September 2016, we re-launched the existing Cathedral Magazine, “The Epistle”. This magazine is produced in pdf format and is distributed to all on our email circulation, including being uploaded on the website; where it can be downloaded. We strive to publish 6 editions each year: Michaelmas, Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Easter, Pentecost. Each edition features articles from the clergy and also gives the reader a glimpse of the life and work of St Paul’s Cathedral; including special events, services, and outreach work that has taken place. All photos published in the magazine are the same as those that appear on Facebook, therefore issues around permission are considered. “The Epistle” is not restricted to articles purely written by the clergy, and it is the hope that members of the congregation would also be willing, from time-to-time, to contribute some written pieces of work. Martyn Henry has agreed to continue producing these publications.

As of January 2017, we launched our new website, using the wordpress.com website builder www.stpaulsnicosia.com On every page appears the Office hours and Contact information, together with a link to our Facebook page and a mini photo gallery in slideshow format. Please do have a browse as a lot of information is shared on our website. Talal Kavar has agreed to take charge of overseeing the website and uploading relevant information.

Our Facebook page goes from strength to strength and provides a visual link to the Cathedral and all the activities which occur here, both services in the Church itself and other activities/events held in the hall and Cathedral grounds. We continue to have a very positive response to the information posted online with many comments from people locally or who have left Cyprus and who greatly appreciate being kept in touch with all that goes on. Maria Evangelou has kindly agreed to manage our Facebook page.

We continue to advertise our Christmas and Easter Services in Cyprus Mail and also have them circulated in the weekly newsletter released by the British High Commission. Internal communication continues to happen with the use of notice-boards, flyers, and the weekly pew sheet. All advertising is sent out from the Cathedral Office.

Fr. Kent Middleton

[7] Fabric

Work Done in 2017

The Church and Deanery are old buildings and therefore there is always work to be done! Numerous minor jobs have been carried out during the year – the main items were...

1. The wheelchair accessible toilet was constructed early in 2017 and is now functioning. A big thank you to all who kindly donated towards this project.

2. The block wall by the driveway entrance was leaning and the foundation was crumbling badly. The wall has been straightened and strengthened with a reinforced concrete foundation beam and columns to support the wall.
3. Tree surgery has been carried out in the church grounds. Dead trees and unsafe branches have been cut down following the survey and suggestions by the Forestry Department.
4. The Diocese appointed a building surveyor to inspect and report on defects of all its Cyprus Property. The major points arising from this, which have now been repaired, are...
 - Sealing of cracks around the perimeter base of the church and Deanery to prevent water ingress
 - Filling of gaps in the stone walls with mortar
 - Replacement of broken stone floor tile in Deanery hallway
 - Replacement of cracked window pane in the church
5. Repair work to the boundary wall and iron railings
6. Repairs to the Deanery including fixing broken shutters and repainting where necessary.
7. Installation of LED floodlights to illuminate the car park at night. The old tungsten floodlights were uneconomic to run.
8. Replacement of faulty electrical equipment, i.e. the photocopier in the office, the fan in the bookshop, and the amplifier in the church hall.

Work Required in 2018

- Replace faulty urn and repair of burnt power sockets (done)
- Replace hot water heater for Deanery shower (done)
- Remove water butts to bookshop and extend rainwater downpipes (done)
- Eliminate rats in Deanery attic (in progress)
- Replace worn carpet by PVC floor tiles in Sunday School rooms
- Other essential repairs will be carried out as and when required

Nigel Rambottom

[8] Fundraising

The Thrift Shop keeps plodding on in spite of increased competition from all sorts of charity shops all over Nicosia. There is one on every corner now, it seems. We therefore offer the clothes at a very affordable price to our customers who now mainly constitute refugees and asylum seekers. They enjoy coming every week and have almost become family. Unfortunately, we don't seem to increase our customer base. It seems it is the same 20 or so people who come week after week. We have also provided clothes in bulk to the Kofinou refugee centre and to a few others who are involved with such work. This year there was no need for any repairs to neither the garages nor the rails. We made €6314 as opposed to €7521 last year. Our helpers are very dedicated and do a great job and we are very thankful to them.

The Book Shop is also seeing a lower turnover. Income was €2217 against €2500 in 2016. Tim Lewis found it necessary to step down from running the book shop due to ill health. We wish him all the best and hope he will soon be well enough to come back. We owe him a big debt of gratitude for all the loving attention he gave to the book shop. He totally refurbished it, all complete with chandeliers. Put up new book shelves and painted the walls and bought a large gazebo to store those books that couldn't be housed inside the book shop. A labour of love. Alexander Mc Cowan, Maria Evangelou and the Dean now keep an eye on it, ably assisted by the book shop angels, as Tim used to call them.

The May Faye went off much as usual with good weather and people chatting to friends over a cup of coffee. The Police Band opened the Fayre and set the mood like only bands know how. The food stall has become very popular in recent years. People buy take-away curry or eat it on the spot and it has become one of the most successful stalls. The bottle stall is also very popular and a good money earner. Several groups from various schools entertained us with dancing and singing. The bouncing castle was not very well attended, maybe due to its location behind the deanery. We had all the permits from the municipality and complied with all the latest regulations. The designated charity was Caritas and they sent us some nice strong lads who were very helpful with the moving of tables and chairs. They even seemed to enjoy the day in spite of all the sleeping. The sum

raised was €6000 after some of the leftover items in the office had been sold off by Pat Baulch and added to the total. Euros 600 was donated to Caritas.

The Swimathon usually takes place in early June and this year was no exception. Very enjoyable and some of our senior members amaze us all by their stamina. They can outswim many of the younger participants. The sum raised was €1373 against €1606 last year. Half the amount raised is given to the Dean's discretionary fund and the other half to the Pastoral Care team.

We had two quiz nights in the course of the year with our usual quiz master Bob Miller. He is well liked as his questions give everybody a fighting chance at getting some of the questions right. We are grateful to him for the time and trouble he puts into making the evening a success. Sandra has become a fixture at the bar on the evening itself and often gives her time during the day to making sandwiches and setting up tables. Carol Gibbs also took care of the food at one of the quizzes, making a hot meal rather than the usual sandwiches and various finger foods. Total income €1158.

The Car Boot Sales have become increasingly popular. People who are planning to leave Cyprus find it very useful to book a space to sell off all their unwanted household items. Sylvia Smith is the organizer behind the scene and we are thankful to her for all her hard work both with the quiz nights and the car boot sales. Pat Baulch organized the church table and did very well on both occasions. Total sum raised €1071, which is an increase from 2016 of €379, so well done.

Agnete Cleave

[9] Social Events

2017 was not a brilliant year for the Gibbs's family. I had two major operations on my back and husband James had a new knee fitted. These operations necessitated long stays in the UK due to our insurance cover. I was therefore unable to be as active as I would have liked for Social events. However, we still had a fairly busy year. The highlights of which follow:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| February 12 th | Official opening of the Disabled Loo. I made celebratory cake and many folk helped with making teas and light refreshments. |
| April 1 st | A Bring and Share Supper followed Handel's Messiah |
| April 7 th 2017 | Dean Jeremy's Quiz Night: Carol & Wendy prepared Coq au Vin Supper, followed by Tarte au Citron or Meringues or BOTH! Very special thanks to George, Chrissie and Wendy. |
| April 10 th | Following the Taize service home made Soups and Bread rolls were served |
| June 4 th | Dean Jeremy's 2nd Anniversary at St Paul's. Soup & Pudding luncheon |
| June 29 th | Dean Jeremy's 20 Years of Ministry. Many people contributed to the refreshments, helped set up and serve the food, manned the bar, set up and dismantled tables etc. and I made a large cake! |
| Sunday October 1 st | Harvest Luncheon Over 60 people attended the luncheon. We enjoyed Roast Chicken, Honey roast gammon, Veggies & Puddings, generously bought in by members of the congregation. |
| Friday December 1 st | Bill & Geraldine's Victorian Evening. This has been a regular event for the past few years. |

Christmas Dinner I was not here for the dinner, but I thank all the people involved in the preparation and service of food for this very successful annual Christmas event

January 2018 We have started a once a month Cake Bake & Produce sale. This is growly nicely month on month and hopefully will bring in much needed funds!

The Dean's & Father Kent's Bingo Night Bring and Share Buffet. Again members of the congregation bought copious amounts of delicious food for all to enjoy.

Refugee Suppers have been held every month and well organized by Talal. Many members of the congregation have assisted with the catering for this monthly event.

Dean Jeremy has just given me a list (long list) of proposed events for 2018/9. I trust that everyone will assist as in the past. Watch out on the Notice Board for sign up sheets!

On a final note, I would like to thank everyone who assisted in any way. This includes folk who set up tables, bought food for events, helped serve food, washed up, etc.

THANK YOU for helping St Paul's.

Carol Blackwell-Gibbs

[10] Cathedral Garden

This was a year of great satisfaction for us. We lived comfortably within our budget despite accepting responsibility for the whole of the land within the boundary of St Paul's and taking on paid help in the form of Johnny. In our opinion and as supported by many people who have taken the time to look, the garden has never looked better. Engaging Johnny has released us from much of the heavy work associated with the maintenance of the trees and bushes and enabled us to concentrate on the beds and to stand back and take an overall look at the whole site. We were badly shaken when one of the tall Cyprus trees died quite suddenly and we thought we were in for a large bill for its removal. In the event Johnny undertook to take it down, which he did swiftly and professionally for the princely sum of €80, which will come into the 2018 accounts. Most people did not even notice that it had gone. On the matter of trees we had a terrible shock when the large fig tree by the Thrift Shop area suddenly collapsed, fortunately doing no damage to either person or property but had to be removed and at the same time a pine tree just inside the gate together with another large tree close to it were giving problems. The forestry commission removed those at a cost of We are currently, 2018, dealing with the area alongside the road from the traffic lights, which has never had any attention except by our good friends Dorothy and David Stevenson but should soon begin to look as if it belongs to us €1800, half of which was born by the Diocese and half appears in the 2017 accounts but not as a charge against the garden budget. Three more of the large Cyprus trees are a cause for concern in case they too are affected by the virus that killed the other one. It is not possible at present to tell if there is a problem but bearing in mind the speed at which the other one died we must keep a constant watch and these are much bigger trees. The Pet Cemetery is part of our responsibility and needs to be kept looking tidy and presentable to visitors, which it is. However, we feel quite strongly that no further burials take place to avoid extra work. Our big concern is the onset of the dry season. We have an automatic watering system fed from a well in the garden, this is a big help but it has to be monitored and we find ourselves going to the garden two, sometimes three times a week checking that the sprinklers are not blocked with grit and lime and laying out the hose to attend the areas not effectively covered. We need someone to stand up and volunteer to help with this, even one visit a week would be a great relief. We are currently, 2018, dealing with the area alongside the road from the traffic lights, which has never had any attention except by our good friends Dorothy and David Stevenson but should soon begin to look as if it belongs to us.

Pat & Colin Reeves

[11] Hall

The hall continues to be widely used by the church for both social and fundraising events and by outside groups. Currently we have about 12 different groups using the hall on a regular basis and income for 2017 was €14796, down from €17455 in 2016. The income for 2015 was € 18350.

This steady drop in income has to be seen against the economic situation in Cyprus in the last few years. Some of the groups have reduced the number of hours. We no longer offer charitable discounts.

Our main users in order of income remain roughly the same as in previous years, I.e.

Slimming World, 7th Day Adventists, Women's Friendship Group, Babies and Toddlers group. French Classes and the Guides/Brownies/Rainbows.

The big news this year was the installation of an accessible toilet next to the hall in the area where the toddlers used to have their shed, at the side of the fence by the book shop. To make it up to the toddlers the church donated a new shed and had a foundation laid for it at the end of the hall behind the fire escape. It was all made possible by donations by individuals and by The Trustees, who contributed €5600. The total cost for the Mothers and Toddlers shed and the toilet came to €9466.

A new initiative has been introduced. The first Monday in every month the hall is used to provide a free meal to people in need. It is not completely open to anyone just walking in off the street but by invitation to Caritas and The Mercy Centre. No rental fee is involved nor is there a charge for the food, which is provided by different volunteers and partly funded by the dean's discretionary fund. It may be extended to other users in the future when the scheme is more established and more experience has been gained .

We would like to ask you all to do your best to promote the hall as an ideal location to hold children's birthday parties, exercise classes/meetings etc. It is in a central location with parking and fully air-conditioned for both hot and cold weather.

The fees are regularly reviewed but in view of the economic situation they have not been raised since 2011. The main expenses incurred for the hall are for cleaning and electricity - heating/cooling continue to be provided solely by the air conditioners which have helped reduce hall expenses. The hall needs to be checked/cleaned daily as the groups hiring the facilities expect the premises to be kept in a clean condition. The hall cleaning is handled by Doreen and Veronica who do an excellent job but if anyone notices something that has been missed, please speak to Helen in the office.

This past year there has been no need for painting. The main attention has been given to the accessible toilet. A few unforeseen repairs did have to be taken care of both of a general nature and in the men's toilet, where a pipe coming from the floor above and leading down to the toilets below had a major hole which was leaking. Fortunately we were spared a major expense as the plumber Brian Fuller was able to attach a type of gum, which he bandaged tightly. It seems to be holding. Otherwise we would have had to change pipes both upstairs and downstairs at a considerable expense.

The hall's sound system is not ideal and the PCC agreed to buy a new microphone and to try to improve the performance of the sound. Nigel Ramsbottom has worked out a trouble-shooting sheet for users. As we are hoping to increase interest in renting out the hall it is important to have good sound.

No inventory was carried out this year but one is planned for January 2018.

Agnete Cleave

[12] Cathedral Choir

The core choir consists of 8 members who sing each week for the services. They are augmented from time to time with other singers who come in to help with special items or days such as the Songs of Praise services, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Palm Sunday, Easter services etc. The augmented choir can number up to 15.

We practice from 6pm – 7.30pm in the Cathedral every Thursday evening. During 2017 we became the proud owners of red choir robes which we wear for special occasions or at the request of the Dean.

Valerie Fidelia

[13] The Sunday School

Cheryl du Plessis and Michelle Arnott continue to teach sessions, however on the last Sunday of each month, Dean Jeremy or Father Kent have alternated teaching a session. We are ever so grateful for this involvement by the Ministry team. The children also had the opportunity to participate in some of the church services by helping with the readings, prayers, collection and bringing up the bread and wine for communion.

This year our children prepared a Christmas play for the adults which was presented in the hall. The play was written by Dominique du Plessis and Abigail Arnott. All children had a part to play and enjoyed helping with props, costumes, etc.

Time/Location

Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 in the hall and the two Sunday School rooms. The children then attend the latter part of the church service and take part in the Holy Communion.

Attendance

Around 4-10 children regularly attend the Sunday School. The current age range is from 6-13yrs.

Programme

We begin each session with prayer – giving thanks about various things from our week and putting any concerns to prayer, as well as keeping a register.

Following this and depending on numbers, we usually move into two groups:

- 5-9 yr olds
- 10-13 yr olds

During this time we teach a lesson based on material from the www.kidssundayschool.com and www.teensundayschool.com curricula and occasionally other topics.

Future Objectives

Michelle and Cheryl will continue using material from www.kidssundayschool.com curriculum as well as from the www.teensundayschool.com for our older children.

We would like the children to continue being involved in various aspects of serving in church services in order to encourage more familiarity as they transition from Sunday School to attending services.

We are very grateful to the PCC for allocating funds for the Sunday School. These funds help supply needed resources to make the lessons enjoyable and attractive.

We would also like to have the carpets in the two rooms removed and alternative flooring put down. The carpets are very old and very dusty.

Prayer Points

Please,

- praise God for those attending the Sunday School
- praise God that the children seem to enjoy coming
- pray for our ‘occasional’ families to feel drawn to become more regular
- pray that new families will start attending
- pray for opportunities for the older children to grow in Him and engage more with their faith

- pray that our leaders and teachers will have wisdom, discernment and opportunities to share our faith with the children
- pray for sustenance for our leaders and teachers so that every Sunday is a new opportunity for fellowship, fun and learning about Christ.
- pray for more parishioners to volunteer to take a session either occasionally or regularly.

Michelle Arnott & Cheryl du Plessis

[14] Vulnerable Persons and Safeguarding

This year we have met regularly and discussed any issues which may have arisen and taken any necessary actions to resolve these.

We have attended island wide and Diocesan meetings during the past year where diocesan policies and issues arising from them are discussed and or updated. The policy implementation progress of each parish is also reported at this time. We are doing well in this area as we have the support of our P.C.C. who have agreed to the new and updated safeguarding and disability accessibility policies.

All groups using the church have been informed of these policies and are required to sign their agreement to follow them. The updating of all volunteer references has commenced and will continue this year. A risk assessment and an accessibility study will be undertaken and completed this year.

At this time we would like to say Thank You P.C.C and Dean Jeremy for your positive attitude and co-operation with the implementation of these new policies. It has made our work much easier. We would also like to thank the parish office, Father Kent and especially Pat Baulch who had the very time consuming task of making sure every one of the groups who uses the Cathedral premises has signed up to the policies, as well as keeping track of all our volunteers and their references.

We hope that 2018 will see the continuation of your positive support.

Margaret Charalambides & Winifred Spyridakis

GROUPS THAT USE CATHEDRAL PREMISES

[15] Women's Friendship Group

...welcomes all English speaking women on the island of Cyprus.

Our membership is open to all women in Cyprus, irrespective of race, religion, background, lifestyle or age.

SOME OF THE THINGS WE DO

COFFEE MORNINGS with talks on wide-ranging subjects are held on the second Thursday of every month, except July and August, at 9.30 in St Paul's Hall, Byron Avenue, Nicosia.

OUTINGS – several times a year we take trips to the mountains or coast, visiting museums, archaeological sites, art galleries, wineries and other places of interest along the route. We always round off with a good lunch.

CHARITABLE SUPPORT – we support children with special needs, psychiatric patients, victims of domestic violence and people trafficking. We buy food and other necessities for distribution through food banks and we help other causes on an ad hoc basis.

EVENING ACTIVITIES – we organise Games and Quiz Evenings, Supper Parties and other one-off events for the enjoyment of members, their families and friends.

FUND RAISING – we run an annual Christmas Bazaar to raise funds for our charity giving, plus the Games Evenings and one-off events are also fund-raisers.

READING GROUP – a monthly get-together, where a wide variety of books are read and discussed.

UPDATE is our monthly newsletter, which goes to all members to keep them informed of our activities. If you have any queries or would like more information contact our Chairman Steph Stavri on 22436694 or 99577694 or our Secretary Valerie Fidelia on 22455629 or 99805332.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

Stephani Stavri
Chairperson of the WFG

[16] Babies & Toddlers Play Group

Playgroup has in the past been open Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings. It closes on public holidays, days close to public holidays if poor attendance is anticipated (or nobody is willing to open and close the session) and also for the months of July and August when there are too few people around to attend or manage the group. It is also occasionally closed when the weather is exceptionally bad.

Playgroup continues to have fewer British and more non-British, English-speaking parents coming along, continuing a trend from the previous years. The numbers attending playgroup continue to be lower than in the previous year, typically about 3-5 on good days, when the weather is at its best. Due to a lack of volunteers to open and close sessions, the Monday afternoon session stopped opening mid year. The Wednesday morning group also took a break for most of December due to most of the attendees being absent.

There are now a few other places that offer playgroups, two of which offer a playgroup on Wednesday mornings specifically. They are both indoors and do not rely on volunteers. Generally there are more activities for babies and toddlers available around town which may help explain the reduction in numbers.

A lack of volunteers due to the much lower attendance continues to be an issue. In the past, a committee of three people would marshal the volunteers to open and close sessions as well as manage the Easter and Christmas parties, cleaning of the sheds, repairs and maintenance of toys and playhouse, rotas and other administrative tasks. Unfortunately, this responsibility has now fallen to one person. There have been sporadic requests for help and in response, offers to help but somehow this has not transferred into concrete action.

There was an Easter party that was well received with a treasure hunt and food for the children. For the second year running, no one was willing to take on the task of organising a Christmas party. The parties present the opportunity to return any surplus funds to those who support the group during the year.

The informal character of playgroup remains, with everyone being welcome to come as and when they please, paying €4 per family whenever they come (includes refreshments). The venue with the shady courtyard and lovely grounds is much appreciated, not to mention the indoor facilities and hall for when it rains.

Vipar Uthenpong

[17] Nicosia Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Senior Section

No report was submitted

OTHER CONGREGATIONS THAT USE CATHEDRAL PREMISES

[18] Nicosia International Church

The first thing this year that NIC as a Church had to truly come to terms with was the loss of a huge part of its leadership dynamic. Rick Dugan, lead Elder, (known as Pastor by many) left in May 2017 to take on a completely different role as head of a Missionary organisation, based in the United States.

Rick had been the heart and soul of NIC for the best part of 17 years, and with him leaving it was natural for us as the remaining Elders to take over the mantle of trying to lead a Church in a way that would ultimately glorify God. Many meetings were had, pre and post Rick leaving, on the merits of us as a Body of believers, holding firm to the distinctive that made NIC a different and unique Church in the heart of Nicosia.

Naturally the leadership dynamics changed, and while for the most part we believed we needed to hold true to the unique character of this Church, brewing underneath the surface were issues never truly dealt with by us as a Church, like what do we say about women in leadership, and various other issues.

As a newly appointed leadership group we naively thought by holding an AGM and talking about burning issues, this will be a way forward, and we could only grow from it. Sadly we had not prepared the congregation, and it did not have the positive impact on the congregation we thought it would.

As an eldership team new in experience, we were all crushed in different ways, and I suppose naturally we started the blame game. This naturally impacted the spiritual climate of the Church in all areas; people became reluctant givers on Sunday during tithes, reluctant to serve in a seemingly disjointed Church.

We are learning to grow despite all this and 2018 has already seen a huge shift in many areas, and a far healthier Church in certain areas, but the leadership team needs new faces, and we need to include the Church in moving forward.

Ultimately 2018 we can, God willing, return to what makes us distinctive as a body of believers, and that is a Church full with a heart to disciple others, and bring hope to those living through hopelessness.

This can happen if it's more of Him and less of us

Homer Chrysanthou

[19] The German Protestant Church in Cyprus

The German Protestant Church in Cyprus is an association based on Cypriot law. Its members are of Protestant or Catholic creed, religious tolerance is practised in an ecumenical spirit. It pursues the following goals:

- Church services on a regular basis in Nicosia, Limassol, Pafos and Ayia Napa
- Activities for children and youth
- Pastoral care and charity work for people in need
- Administering the holy sacraments (baptism, confirmation, wedding, funeral)

A pastor is sent by the Protestant Church in Germany (EKD). Due to a restrained budget, it has become a habit to send pastors who have already retired and who stay for as long as they choose, 3, 6, or 9 months. The pastor, based in Limassol, has to travel island wide. He comes to Nicosia St. Paul's Cathedral to preach and conduct a church service every first and third Saturday. Every second and fourth Thursday, there is a parish meeting at St. Paul's Cathedral Conference Room when the pastor or a member of the Church gives a talk on subjects of particular interest.

Examples for 2017:

1. Reasons for the Reformation: A portrait of Martin Luther, the charismatic, though controversial founder of the Lutheran Church.
2. The role of the German Protestant Church during the Holocaust (Question: Did Martin Luther's later anti-Semitism influence the official German Protestant Church to side with Hitler?)

Examples for 2018:

1. A portrait of the German author Heinrich Böll, a committed Catholic and political activist during the 60ies.
2. Presentation of the book "Konklave", Darmstädter Buchgesellschaft, referring to the dark ages of the Catholic Church

The members of the Church island-wide come together during three yearly events: the Christmas Bazaar at Germasogeia Cultural Centre (some members represent the Church during the German Christmas Bazaar at the Goethe-Institut Zypern as well), the Springtime Bazaar again at the same centre in Limassol and the excursion for all members to places of interest in Cyprus. A group of very committed women in Limassol take care of a charity shop, Vintage Corner, the proceeds of which, together with the proceeds of the bazaars, go to different groups in need, such as the Cypriot Cancer Association, the Soup Kitchen in Pafos or the Mercy Centre in Nicosia. In addition, a family in need in Lebanon has been supported for years now. Members of the Church regularly take part in the preparation of the interdenominational Women's World Day of Prayer.

The small German Protestant congregation in Nicosia has come to love and regard St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral as its "home", as it has been granted the right to celebrate its church services and to organize its meetings for so many years at these premises.

Ute Wörmann-Stylianou

[20] The Scandinavian Church

During 2017 we celebrated service in Swedish three times. The main focus is to offer the Swedish/Scandinavian community in Nicosia the possibility to celebrate, 2 to 4 times every year, a service in their own language. These services are very much appreciated, even if we at times are not too many. After the service we always have coffee/refreshments in the church hall, which gives us and the others an opportunity to meet and share; and that is very valuable.

In November we also had a funeral service in the cathedral for a Swedish man who passed away and was buried in the graveyard in Nicosia.

In 2018 we plan to have four services in Nicosia as mentioned above. Beside that we don't have any other plans involving use of the church. If you have activities that might be of interest for our members, please let us know and we will spread the information.

We are grateful for the possibility of using the cathedral for our services and also the church hall.

Eva Berglund

[21] Seventh-Day Adventists

We are one of five congregations meeting across the island each Saturday morning. Our official membership in Nicosia church is 29 as of December 2017 but we have many attending each week who hold their membership in other Adventist churches around the world, or are visiting us, so that on any given Sabbath we have around 50 people in attendance. We begin with Bible study classes at 10am; have a coffee break from 11.00 – 11.30am and proceed to Family Worship at 11.30 – 1 pm. We have three distinct groups in the congregation, Filipinos, African students and Bulgarian economic migrants. Because of the mix, all our services are translated either into Bulgarian or Greek. The Bible study classes are conducted in English, Bulgarian and Tagalog. We have a

small children's class ably led by two Filipino ladies. We share our pastors (2) with the other congregations on the island so most of the time the services are supervised by the Elders (3) – one of whom is exclusively for the Bulgarians. We take Communion 4 times per year and we precede the taking of the emblems with a service of humility where we wash one another's feet. Our Communion is open to all persons who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. We plan special services for Christmas and Easter and we have a vibrant Social programme which includes a weekly lunch following the service. This is held in nearby premises which we also rent and is the venue for services for the Greek speaking members. On special occasions we extend our rental of St Paul's hall to enable us to hold combined services with our sister congregations in Larnaca and Limassol and on these occasions we have a Bring and Share lunch in the hall. We welcome visitors from many religious backgrounds on a regular basis.

Valerie Fidelity