

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL
AGM
SUNDAY 21ST JUNE 2020

**REPORTS
RECEIVED**

1. Dean's report)
2. Dean's Warden)
3. People's Warden) To be read out at meeting
4. Treasurer)
5. Electoral Roll)
6. Other reports not read, but available
 - a. Bookshop - Maria
 - b. Fabric - Nigel
 - c. Fundraising - Agnete
 - d. Garden / Cleaners – Helen
 - e. Hall - Agnete
 - f. May Fayre - None
 - g. Music – Choir Valerie
 - h. Pastoral Care – Justin
 - i. Social
 - j. Sunday School – Michelle/Cheryl
 - k. Thrift Shop – Agnete
 - l. Vulnerable Persons – Winifred/Margaret
 - m. Facebook – Ian
 - n. Website – Ian

AGM Report 2019, from 15th April 2019 until 31st May 2020.
St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

Dean's report:

Some highlights:

Visited many incl. Nelson and his new baby girl christening with Bishop Michael

Miles Quick RSCM Study Day

First of 2 thrift shop meetings to try and improve things and to create more storage space

First of 2 Ordinations for Navina in May, and Justin and Peter in September 2019.

Marked St Francis of Assis 800th anniversary at the Presidential Palace

May Fayre 2019 – went very well, with similar monies. Thanks to Margaret, Helen and many others, this year it will be on Saturday September 19th 2020 to be opened by Archbishop Michael Lewis.

Military involvement, Charlie Lloyd-Evans preached, Un Padre, Dean James Attwell

Presented my climbing experiences to the US Group and celebrated Thanksgiving with them.

Visitation/Gathering – where we toasted Archdeacon John as he neared his retirement.

Memorials to Vanda, Tim Lewis, Len Rodgers, Canon Steve Collis, Alasdair Duncan, Derek Palmer and Susan Grant, also dedicating a plaque to her memory.

We kept a Patronal Festival on 30th June 2019, and this year we will have a special Evensong 6pm attended by Archbishop Michael on the 28th June to give thanks for Justin's two-year Curacy/ministry with us, and to wish him well as he moves into an interim role within Cyprus.

Met various Ambassadors – British, Irish, American, Australian, Indian, and attended many embassies. President of Ireland State visit, and Goodbye to the Greek Ambassador. Nearly the Royal Visit from Charles and Camilla!

Many meals and events at the Deanery – the highlight being Dean Jeremy's Name Day celebrations, the Ordination receptions and especially Pat's 80th

Yemen Recital fundraiser – Julia Lewis

Friends meetings with many interesting talks, a lovely day out and a Summer Dinner

Sponsored Walk and Sponsored Sing – Peter Ives sang for a wonderful hour.

Nicosia International Church – New interim pastor appointed Doug Stell. Doug has over two decades of experience in ministry, has a Masters in Professional Counselling and has attended seminary at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Liberty seminary. Doug and his family have been attending the NIC regularly and has helped with the preaching and teaching. I wish him well.

New Canons for the Cathedral (November) with reception for John and Faiz

Christmas Fayre 2019 – lovely event, considering the year before was rained out Abu Dhabi – Archbishop Michael. In November was privileged to see Bishop Michael begin his tenure as Archbishop for the Province

Led training for new readers, new chalice administrators, intercedes and sides persons

Christmas Meal – a lovely evening, with far too much food. Thank you, Pat and many others, for all your help.

Lent Course – Handles Messiah/ Quiet Morning UN Padre with lunch in the Deanery and in

May 2020 – weekly Thursday Evening Prayer with Reflection, incl. Archbishop Michael, Kent, Justin and myself.

Synod in February @ Abu Dhabi with Frank and Lee Creighton, Carol Gibbs, Justin Arnott, and Jeremy attending

JC- Christian Union in Morphou discussing Mental Health in Northern Cyprus.

March 2020 hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer in Cathedral

January 2020 hosted the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical service in Cathedral.

End of the year with a loss of 4,000 euros, a big turnaround for the 3rd qtr. a year before – thank you all for your contributions. We face an equal challenge for the remainder of this year, but if the last crisis is anything to go by, with us all pulling together we should end the year fairly well.

Average attendance during the year, Sunday by Sunday of 87.

Worship: Sunday attendance

Month	Total	Weeks	Average	
Jan-2019	298	4	74.5	
Feb-2019	343	4	85.8	
Mar-2019	463	5	92.6	
Apr-2019	403	4	100.8	
May-2019	379	4	94.8	
Jun-2019	431	5	86.2	
Jul-2019	290	4	72.5	
Aug-2019	293	4	73.3	
Sep-2019	439	5	87.8	
Oct-2019	362	4	90.5	
Nov-2019	385	4	96.3	
Dec-2019	426	5	85.2	Annual average of 87.

During the 10-week lockdown, with a team to help me, we fed over 1600 hot meals and gave out over 250 food parcels. Thanks to all the support, it was tremendous. There is a very detailed report on the Diocesan website, written by Revd. Anne Fitcher. Thanks to so many during the Pandemic: Justin, Helen, Steph, Linda, Karen, David, Maria and Janet, the WFG, 7th Day for refugee support – amazing.

Zoom services have helped us mark the Annunciation with Archbishop Michael, Holy Week, and the Easter Season began with Archbishop Michael celebrating Easter Sunday and Ascension nearing the end. I am grateful to Ian Couser, Justin, Martin and Talal for their hard work in helping to facilitate this. It has been well received. We have had folk from all over the world tuning in and taking part. During this time Justin and I have published our sermons. Sunday 24th May began a gradual return of our services and users, including our new user the 'New Genesis'.

I would finally like to thank you all for your love and warmth to me as your priest for five years. I want to thank the Council and Wardens and all who add to the life of this wonderful place. To thank Nelson and Joan stepping down from the Council – for all this I commend to the love and worship of Almighty God.

Dean Jeremy Crocker 28.5.20

This report is a combination of Dean's and Peoples' wardens:

As seems to be the norm at St Paul's, we have had an eventful year. Some things are not as we would have wished as we remember those past and present members and friends of St Paul's who passed away this year:

Susan Grant

Tim Lewis

Derek Palmer

Georgette Allenby

Christakis Christofides

Alistair Duncan

Former cathedral Dean, Canon Steve Collis

Fondly remembered and sadly missed.

Our AGM in April 2019 heralded in the new church year during which we held various fundraisers to help our financial situation. We are so incredibly grateful to the people who organise these events.

Our largest money maker, The May Fayre, took place in May 2019. We raised almost €5,500. Thank you to all those who conjured up donations, sold raffle tickets or manned stalls.

Friends of St Paul's has been highly successful. Our thanks to Agnete Cleave and others for organising some wonderful speakers; to Patricia and Howard Johnson for our monthly newsletter and to Pat and Colin Reeves for keeping the coffee and finances organised.

Our Thrift Shop continues to operate under the guidance of Agnete Cleave and Sylvia Smith. We thank them and their helpers for handling a difficult and time-consuming job.

Peter Ives deserves our thanks for his Sing-a-Thon which raised close to €2,000.
Bravo Peter!

The car boot sales, ably organised by Sylvia Smith, raised money, and continued to do so.

Once a month, thanks to Carol Blackwell-Gibbs, the cake sale after church brings in much needed revenue.

Thanks to Alexander McCowan and Maria Evangelou the bookshop is thriving.

The Cathedral continues to be used by others in addition to ourselves. These include NIC who meet every Sunday, and the German Church that meets twice a month. There are other small groups who use various locations around the Cathedral grounds. This past year we have seen 3 ordinations; Navina Thompson in May and Justin Arnott and Peter Day in September. We were pleased to be present when Justin led his first Eucharist on September 22nd.

Several musical evenings at the cathedral have included a piano and organ recital in aid of the Aden clinic, a choral evening by the Pera Chorio-Nisou choir, and to round off the Week of Christian Unity, a sacred choral concert. It included Hymns by the Anglican Church choir, the Catholic Church choir, the Maronite Choir, and Byzantine hymns by the choir of the Holy Archbishopric of Cyprus.

We owe a real debt of gratitude to Bill Grundy for his work at St George's in The Forest including him organising Nine Lessons and Carols there in December.

Sunday School continues to thrive under the guidance of Michelle and Cheryl.
Many thanks ladies.

This year, the Diocesan Synod was held in the Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the first time it has been held in the Gulf for over two decades. In addition to Jeremy and Justin attending, St Paul's was represented on the laity side by Frank Creighton and Carol Blackwell-Gibbs. Synod dealt with secular matters concerning budgets and heard reports from various external organisations that support us, or internal organisations that carry out our work. There is a lot of detail, which would take too long to report on now; suffice it to say that the Diocese is solvent, albeit not rich enough to do everything we would like to do¹. If you want to know about something in particular, Frank has a whole lot of detail on his laptop which he is willing to share.

Aside from these secular and necessary details, the theme of the Synod was Discipleship in Context, our context being that we are a diocese on several divides. The geographical divide between Europe, Africa & Asia; the divide between eastern and western churches; the divide between Christianity and Islam. Whatever the divides,

there is also much we have in common, a point brought home when we went for worship at St, Andrew's Church in Abu Dhabi which is right next-door to The Mary Mother of Jesus Mosque, a forcible reminder that both are venerated in the Islamic faith as well as in Christianity.

Currently, we can say that the hall is highly utilised. Throughout the year we have used it for the monthly refugee supper. We now have the Mercy Centre as one of our main hall users who also supply food for the refugees. They are open for dinner on Wednesday and breakfast on Friday. Another recent renter, New Genesis, is also providing food for refugees on the remaining 3 Monday's a month.

The Christmas dinner in the hall, for the congregation, was a great success. Thank you, Pat Reeves. There have also been a variety of social evenings at the Deanery. We celebrated the birthdays of Pat Reeves and Hilary Ives, the Dean's Name Day and assorted congregational get togethers, to name a few.

We are grateful to Nigel for all his work overseeing the maintenance of the Church. He did a lot of research when we were looking for a dishwasher and we now have one much to the delight of those unsung heroes who clean up after events.

Finally, we owe a world of thanks to our friend and computer guru, Ian Couser. He has given freely of his time and expertise. It has been invaluable.

At the time of writing we were looking forward to a Royal visit.

Saint Paul's Anglican Cathedral Bookshop

Report for 2019

The bookshop sells books on all topics, magazines, encyclopaedias, comics and children's books in order to aid the church with its expenses.

It is divided into an outer part which remains open and relies on the buyer to offer an indicated donation and an inner part which is comprised of better and newer books. The inner bookshop opens every Saturday for two to three hours. Donations from the outer area remain minimal.

Books are donated to the book shop from individuals and other sources e.g. libraries.

The people who work in the book shop do so on a voluntary basis.

The income has declined during 2019, so the volunteers are considering ways of boosting it, such as having a book fayre and perhaps increasing the price of the books from inside the shop.

The total takings for 2019 were **€1473**

Maria Evangelou
Volunteer

St. Pauls Church - PCC Fabric Report for AGM April 2020

Work Done in 2019

The Church and Deanery are old buildings and therefore there is always work to be done. In addition to the major items listed below, many minor jobs have been carried out during the year.

The main items were...

- Repairs to garage roof and thrift shop shed roof to prevent rainwater ingress
- Replace two floodlights to the grounds by low energy LED ones
- Replace hot water heater element in Deanery roof tank and other Deanery plumbing repairs
- Installation of additional downpipe to Deanery gutter to prevent rainwater ingress
- Wall area behind altar cleaned and painted in original colours
- Sand and gravel laid to church entrance driveway and parking areas to reduce rain pools
- Repairs to water pressure pump system in the Deanery
- Repair to church rainwater gutter to prevent water ingress in wall near the organ & bell tower
- Repair to well pump in Church Garden
- Replace broken tap to 9 litre urn
- Replace faulty amplifier in hall and install in larger cabinet
- A Combination lock was fitted to the hall door for security

Work Required in 2020

- Repairs to Deanery roof to prevent rainwater ingress (done)

- Stain-block paint to bedroom ceiling and staircase ceiling
- Cut dead and leaning branches from trees in church grounds (done)
- Repair electronic lock on Vestry door (done)
- Replace microphone stand in hall (done) and purchase quality microphone for hall
- Paint iron railings to fence between church and Deanery (done)
- Painting of Cathedral interior (2 coats done by 2 refugees, arranged by the Dean)
- Repair drainage channel in driveway between Bookshop and Deanery Garden Gate
- Other essential repairs will be carried out as and when required

Help from members of the congregation is much appreciated. In particular I would like to thank Agnete and Bill Grundy. Sadly, Ben left Cyprus in April 2019, but we hope to welcome him back as a member of the fabric team this summer.

Nigel Ramsbottom
Fabric Committee of St Paul's
May 2020

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2019

The Thrift Shop keeps plodding on in spite of increased competition from all sorts of charity shops all over Nicosia. We therefore offer the clothes at very affordable prices 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 people who come week after week. A new initiative was started on the first Monday of the month in conjunction with the monthly free meal being served to refugees and asylum seekers. Before the meal they are allowed to browse the clothes rails and get things without charge. We do have a surplus of stuff and can spare some but the unfortunate side-effect is, that those same people now want everything for next to nothing every Saturday. The garage roofs continue to give trouble when it has been raining heavily. Attempts have been made to repair the cracks. Dead leaves clog up the run-off as well, so keeping the roof clear of leaves is important. We made €3887 as opposed to €4382 last year and a far cry from previous years when we made over €10000. 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 €1473 compared to €1867 last year. Alexander Mc Cowan, Maria Evangelou and the Dean now keep an

eye on it, ably assisted by the book shop angels. It has become a hangout place on a Saturday morning with the Dean serving coffee and biscuits.

The May Fayre 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 stalls have become immensely 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 together with Talal's burger stand. The bottle stall is also very busy and a good money earner. Several groups from various schools entertained us with dancing and singing. David Hardacre had secured all the permits from the municipality and complied with all the regulations., both before and after the event. The designated charity was PASYKAF. The sum raised was €6000 after some of the leftover items in the office had been sold off by and added to the total. Euros 600 was donated to PASYKAF. Many thanks to all those who worked extremely hard to make this possible, especially Margaret Michaelides and Helen.

We had two quiz nights over the year with quiz masters Bob Miller and Martyn Henry, who is new to this. Martyn did a great job and has promised to do it once a year. We are grateful to them for the time and trouble they put 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. Colin and Pat Reeves helped with the raffle and the tickets. Sylvia was busy making sandwiches. Thank you to everyone for all their help. Total income €801

The Car Boot Sales have become increasingly popular. People who are planning to leave Cyprus find it useful to book a space to sell off all their unwanted household items. There is a concern though that we are not always able to provide enough buyers and some of the stall holders complain that it was not worth their time. The successful stall is one that is selling house clearing items rather than small items like for example home-made jewellery. 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. Total sum raised was €539 which is nearly €200 less than last year.

As the Ladies Friendship Group no longer wanted to continue their annual Christmas Bazaar, St Paul's decided to carry on with that. This year was the second time and unlike last year when it rained heavily, this year the weather was lovely, and it was possible to sit outside. As we are only allowed one raffle per year we did not have a raffle. We did however have many prizes and the winners were drawn from the programmes which each had a number. We made €2985, which was €200 more than the previous year.

Another new initiative is the formation of club called Friends@StPaul's. It meets on the first Thursday every month, where both men and women can meet and socialise and listen to the speaker of the month. There is no membership but a charge of €5 for tea

and coffee. It makes about €100 per month. The occasional outing also takes place and members share spaces in their cars.

Thanks to everyone who helps. We could not do it without you.

Agnete Cleave
Head of Fundraising

May 2020

Garden / Cleaners

Garden:

Throughout the last few months John has been taking care of the Cathedral grounds, together with the odd person helping now and again. Mr Ramsbottom has been getting help from Paul to clean the gutters all around the Cathedral buildings. Unfortunately for the month of May we had to stop John due to the coronavirus pandemic, however we are hoping come June things will improve and he can come back to work. One thing for sure we cannot neglect the Cathedral grounds.

Cleaners:

We have Veronica and Doreen doing the cleaning of hall, cathedral and the office. Since March Doreen has not been able to come to work, so Veronica comes in on Tuesdays for two hours and Thursdays for three hours.

Cathedral Choir:

The St. Paul's Cathedral choir has a core membership of 9 persons who attend most Sunday mornings to support the congregational singing. The singing is ably supported by 2 organists.

For special occasions, when the choir normally sings an anthem, the core group calls upon the assistance of up to nine singers who we call 'Friends of the choir'. We also have an excellent pianist we can call upon when the music requires a piano accompaniment rather than the organ.

In 2019 the enhanced choir sang anthems and /or special items for Ash Wednesday, the Easter services, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

In addition to Sunday services the core choir tries, wherever possible, to have a presence at funeral and memorial services.

The running of the choir is a team effort. Malcolm and Wendy Davies choose the service hymns, Valerie chooses the pre-service and Communion hymns. Wendy and Malcolm make photocopies and compile sets for the choir and organist for each Sunday and Hilary Ives prepares a monthly hymn and responses list for choir use.

Choir practices are held September - July every Thursday from 6pm - 7.30pm. I would like to thank all the singers for their encouragement and support and for their generosity of time and talent to enhance Cathedral worship. They are a blessing.

Valerie Fidelia
Choir director.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AGM 2020 Pastoral Care report for 2019

Pastoral Care is much more than the person listed on the Pew Sheet, it is something that is exercised by all within St Paul's, to those within and without. A more visible aspect is the Pastoral Care team, which met before that Covid19 crisis with the idea of increasing our number and activities. The former was achieved with the inclusion of new members, while the later, like so much else, has had to be put on hold. As a reminder, some of the things that the team does includes: looking after individual contacts with home they have established contact; being available to listen or for prayer after the 9.30am Sunday Service; sharing confidentially prayer requests and updates within the team; and reacting to new requests. Future aspirations include prison and hospital visiting, depending on availability and inclination of the existing and new members.

Other areas of Pastoral Care at St Paul's include:

- The monthly St Raphael Healing service, which provides an opportunity for updates and reflections on those on our the pray list. Confidentiality is maintained in the use of only first names for some people on our pray list.
- The Monthly Monday Meal and its adaption to the Covid19 Crisis was featured on the Diocesan website (cypgulf.org/cyprus/welcoming-the-stranger-and-any-in-need-in-st-pauls-nicosia/).
- Nicosia Mercy Centre is now up and running in the Cathedral Hall (after closing during the lockdown). While they are a separate organisation, with their own structure, support, and methods of working, having them close give us increased opportunities to be involved.
- Donations of food for those in need that Dean Jeremy assists from his door continues. A new initiative, which has come out of our experience of delivering food during lockdown, is to start a food bank. It is starting as a pilot under David Duffield, please ask him for more information.

The Cathedral is a visible location that attracts people regardless of their faith. Our wider contacts with other refugee organisations allow us to refer people that come to us to where they can best get help. The need is still great for us to, not only take care of people within our Cathedral family, but also reach out into the community we are a part of.

Justin

Lay Reader.
Bill Grundy.

During 2019-20. I have been carrying out my duties as Lay Reader of St Paul's, helping at many services and taking services at St George in the Forest. Troodos. I have taken funeral services both North and South of the border.

As a Lay Reader I was asked to complete a diploma in theology. The assigned modules were completed over several years and I am pleased to report that I received my diploma of theology in September 2019 from Queen's College, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Services at St George in the Forest, Troodos started Sunday 2nd June 2019 and continued until the 29th September every 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 4.00pm. Maggie Le-Roy held a quiet day on Saturday 31st August and the Royal Army Medical Core used the church for their annual service on Sunday 14th July.

I would like to thank JEMT for installing a mobile accessibility toilet once again for use during the season's services and the painting of the church roof.

Nine Lessons and Carols was held on 7th December and led by Archdeacon Christopher Futch. The organ was played by Dean Jeremy and readings by members of the congregation. I would like to thank the ladies who provided the mulled wine and mince pies that were served at the end of this service.

With all God's blessings.
Bill.

SAINT PAUL'S CATHEDRAL SUNDAY SCHOOL AGM REPORT - 5th April 2020

Report Year 2019

Cheryl du Plessis and Michelle Arnott continue to teach sessions and once a month the Sunday School has participated in the service by helping with different duties as per the Dean's request.

In December the children contributed items to fill shoeboxes for children for the Mercy Centre. They also helped fill, wrap and decorate them.

The rooms need regular care with regard to avoiding clutter building up from various groups using the rooms and we have requested that the hall chairs are not to be placed in the rooms but stored elsewhere.

Our WhatsApp chat group continues to keep families up to date on any announcements pertaining to Sunday School. We also try to serve tea/coffee after the services several times a year.

It is helpful to have someone from the congregation inform us when the Eucharistic prayer has begun in order for us to conclude our session especially on days when the service is advancing more quickly.

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 1-14yrs.

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.

We then begin our lesson/activities based on material from kidssundayschool.com (and teensundayschool.com) and occasionally other topics.

Future Objectives

Cheryl and Michelle will continue using material from kidssundayschool.com curriculum (as well as from the teensundayschool.com for our older children depending on demand).

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 resources to make the lessons enjoyable and attractive.

We would like to participate in more community projects, e.g. the Monday Meal, where time and availability allow.

We welcome any assistance and occasionally require someone to be available to cover for when one of us is absent.

Prayer Points

Please,

- praise God for those attending the Sunday School
- praise God that the children seem to enjoy coming
- pray for our teens to receive spiritual nourishment and support from ministry, worship and one another to grow in their faith
- pray for our 'occasional' families to feel drawn to become more regular
- pray that new families will start attending

- pray that our leaders and teachers will have wisdom, discernment and opportunities to share our faith with our young people
- 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.

In His Service, Michelle and Cheryl

Safeguarding Report

We have 2 outstanding problems at St Paul's Cathedral one is getting all the references from volunteers. We want to make it clear that this is a Diocesan requirement and we need to comply with it. It is also a legal requirement. We have been asking for this for the last 3 years. We have tried to enlist the help of the PCC and the Dean, but this does not seem to have worked. If we are to be serious and show we really intend to protect the vulnerable this is one of the basic steps we need to take. Please can we do all we can to make this happen.

The second is the training for volunteers. Apart from some members of the PCC attending a training session we have been unable to get everyone together to complete the training. At the last Diocesan Safeguarding meeting an alternative was raised by the Archdeacon and when it is finalized, we will let the Dean and PCC know so that the volunteers will be able to comply.

Another point raised at the meeting was Insurance for Churches, organisations or private use of the Hall. The Insurance for St Paul's used to cover them. Is this still valid?

Another concern for the church is our aging population and how best we can support them.

This is an extremely sensitive issue but nonetheless discussion on this issue needs to take place with the PCC to explore it.

We need everyone to support what the Diocese is undertaking with regard to protection of the vulnerable amongst us. Anyone of us can become vulnerable for various reasons and the support of our church would be invaluable to our recovery and wellbeing. May we all think seriously about this.

Thank you. Margaret and Winifred.

St Paul's AGM Report

2020

Facebook & Website

2019/20 began much as 2018/19 had ended on the "Social Media" front. Who could have predicted the current situation and how people turn to the new technology for information and comfort? More of that later.

Throughout 2019 we continued with the St Paul's website with the same look and content as has always been. Similar to a magazine lying in some doctors waiting room for years the cover is still the same and virtually no-one is looking inside. This is despite the posting of the weekly pew sheet and various Diocese messages and our own event posts. Owning a website means you can have access to very accurate statistics about visitor numbers, pages viewed and interactions. Sadly, all these numbers are barely in the 100's. This may seem a decent return, but you have to factor in that my visits to the site for maintenance and checking are there too. So, you can almost half that number. In a nutshell no-one is looking.

Facebook on the other hand has in recent months undergone a bit of a renaissance. I'd like to put on record my thanks to those who have supplied material either words or photographs for inclusion. In particular Maria Evangelou who contributes regularly. This is one of the reasons that FB is performing far better than the website. People who are "friends" and registered as such with FB get a reminder every time there is new content. As such there is increased traffic. There are weeks when the FB visits are far more than the annual visits to the website.

Both social media platforms have their place and need to work together. In essence we should use FB to drive traffic to the website. To do this we should have short posts on FB pointing to the relevant page on the website where a longer form exists for those who wish more info. Reports etc belong on the website not FB.

This brings me to the current situation and the "lockdown". When people cannot meet socially as normal, they have a desire to find out what is going on. FB is an excellent way to disseminate information quickly and efficiently. Remember - short posts with more info available on the website. We have seen traffic on FB leap by a factor of 3 over the past few weeks. People have reacted very favourably to messages from the Dean, sermons and details of the food distribution. They have found out about it and offers of help have resulted from that information being available.

Having said that, with FB it is especially important to keep people informed when we say we will. No point saying further information will be available and then not following through.

In short this is an ideal opportunity to re-evaluate the Cathedral's digital presence. The media adage that "Content is King" very much applies here. Post interesting / informative / relevant material and folks will come and peruse it. The website could do with an overhaul visually and content wise (we have some posts 4 years old). It's just a case of assembling the material - text, photographs & video. FB with its increased audience still needs to be fed and it will serve us well. Both FB and the website can be an asset in the medium to long term and just need curated and organised a bit more with content.

Ian Couser