

ST MARK'S

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

Exploring faith creatively and sharing God's love for the world



SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH Diocese of Edinburgh September 2022-August 2023

St Mark's Church, Portobello
Scottish Episcopal Church Diocese of Edinburgh

www.stmarksportobello.org
Scottish Charity No: 017137; CCL Licence No 52349

Rector: Rev. Dr Sophia Marriage

tel : 0131 629 1219 (church) 0131 229 8939 (home) /07787 553537;

email: sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org

Vestry 2022-3:

Church Warden:

Treasurer:

Vestry Secretary:

Fabric:

Lay Rep:

Vestry Members:

Contents:

AGM Agenda 2022 3

AGM Minutes 2021 4

Reports:

Overview from Sophia 7

Worship 8

Faith Development and Music 9

Young People 10

Our Space 11

Community 12

Resourcing our Church 14

Finances 16

Looking ahead 2022-23 19

Contacts and Thanks 20

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 26 November 2023
Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. From the Registers
 - Baptisms:** 28 May 2023
 - Marriage:** 26 Nov 2022
 - 29 Dec 2022
 - 28 Jan 2023
 - May they rest in peace:** 18 Oct 2022
 - 20 Oct 2022
 - 24 Oct 2022
 - 7 Nov 2022
 - 10 Dec 2022
 - 8 May 2023
 - 6 June 2023
 - 5 June 2023
3. Prayer
4. Approval of minutes of last AGM (held on 2- November 2022)
5. Matters arising
6. Appointments:
 - Auditor
 - Vestry Members
 - Lay Representative
 - Alternative Lay Representative
 - Church Wardens
7. Reports for the year 2022-3
8. Charities to support - confirmation of last year's for a 2 year.
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

St Mark's Episcopal Church, Portobello

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Sunday 20 November 2022

- 1. Welcome and apologies:** 26 attendees and 3 on zoom
- 2. In Memory** - remembering from the registers:
 - Baptisms: 2
 - Marriages: 2
 - Funerals : May they rest in peace - 9
- 3. Prayer** - the meeting was started with prayer
- 4. Approval of minutes of last AGM held on 7 November 2021**
 - a. proposed and seconded
- 5. Matters arising** - none
- 6. Appointments**
 - a. Auditor - proposed and seconded
 - b. Three vacancies on vestry and three nominees, so elected uncontested:
 - c. Lay Representative - proposed & seconded
 - d. Alternative Lay Representative -
 - e. Church Wardens – one elected by congregation, one appointed
- 7. Reports for the year 2021 -22**
 - Sophia reflected on the past year, highlighting changes with COVID restrictions and events restarting. She paid tribute to Vestry who have been phenomenal this year, making decisions in a rapidly changing environment. It has been a year of loss and many long standing members have died. COVID has required us to be flexible, dealing with uncertainty, faith has been tested but has led to a deeper discipleship
 - Looking ahead to next year, we have a mission plan which has informed our priorities this year and to keep volunteers, vestry and rector from burn out. Our main priority is transformation -

committed to vision for sustainable future, the plans are very ambitious.

- **Fundraising** - Phase 1 is for the ramp, tender has been negotiated, have grants that should cover it.
- Phase 2 is inside space - but costs are increasing.
- Continuing Leading church into growth course – a congregational growth programme.
- Our togetherness has grown and we have continued to green the church, working towards the Silver Eco-Congregation Award

- Sophia thanked the Vestry, as well as those who have reviewed grant applications, coffee rota, food bank, gardeners, Community Payback Team, cleaner, administrators and curate.
- Sophia noted that David's time as curate at St Marks is drawing to a close and we will need to appoint someone to co-ordinate Wednesday Wonderings, and the rota.

Questions and comments from the floor

- Zoom - how long are we intending to continue with it?
 - Decision will be taken by vestry
- Young people events - have been appreciated. X arranged these, to help keep young people connected to church.
- Sharing the peace – can it return to the more traditional shaking of hands – this is still being discussed by vestry
The churchwarden noted that David's ordination was a highlight, and she thanked Sophia for all that she does through another difficult year. She also asked that everyone volunteer to ensure our community life runs smoothly.
Someone has offered to collect contributions for David.

8. Charity to support

- a. 2% of annual income is given to three local charities, chosen for two years.
- b. 4 charities have been nominated this year , three chosen by ballot
- c. Edinburgh School Uniform Bank
- d. Beach Wheelchairs
- e. The Social Bite Fund

The church will continue to support the Food bank with donations

9. Approval of accounts – Ian Gardner presented the accounts

- a. Total unrestricted income £88,062, Total expenditure £77,196. Surplus £10,866
- b. Main account is looking good, with some generous donations, just over £13,000, as well as a legacy. Ian thanked these anonymous donors. However, we can't rely on these in future
- c. Restricted account: Net income £9772
- d. Reserves investment account currently worth £79,500
- e. The auditor was thanked for looking over accounts, and Doreen Nicholson for being a signatory on the account
- f. Please consider increasing your regular bank donation each year.**
- g. Accounts proposed and seconded
- h. The treasurer was thanked for bringing everything together.

10. Any other business

- a. Rectory** : Tenants have left, and the vestry is taking the opportunity to bring it up to standard.

11. Date of next meeting: November 2023

OVERVIEW FROM SOPHIA

Our financial year (Sept 1 - 31 Aug) started as we were still renegotiating life after the pandemic - many of our initial vestry meetings were about how we were to enable as many people to worship as possible and what was appropriate for our community. During the year, weekly midweek Communions started again, we had a 'normal' Christmas and Holy Week, we welcomed visitors from Espoo, and the diocese met together for a Big Day.

The year was dominated by the building of the ramp .. which as we enter the next financial year, is slowly drawing to a conclusion. The fundraising for Phase 2 is proving very difficult and construction costs continue to rise.

During the year, we said goodbye to key members of the community - to David Todd after his time both on placement and as curate, at the end of the Financial year we said goodbye to both the administrator and cleaner. We thank all three of them for their contribution to the community life of St Marks.

During the year we have also been helped enormously by Rev Lorna Mortis, who has enabled me to take a little step back. I am thankful to her and to the whole congregation for their support to me and the family this year.

As we approach the AGM, I realise I have had the privilege of being your priest for 12 years. We have all changed so much in that time, as people, as a community, our building and our graveyard. It has been an exciting time, and the work that the congregation started in Autumn 2022 looking at how to lead the church into growth, gave great encouragement for our spirituality, our mission and our ministry as we move forward into the next financial year. We continue to be blessed in so many ways by people with such gifts and energy - a wee taster of which is contained in this booklet.

Thank you all for being such an amazing community of people ...

WORSHIP

- 52 Sunday Holy Communions
- 30 Wednesday Communions
- 4 Evening Services
- 8 Special Services
- 330 Zoom only Services (daily Morning Prayer and Thursdays)
- 40 Home Communions
- 8 Funerals
- 1 Burial of Ashes
- 3 Weddings
- 1 Baptisms
- 2147 Times people have received communion
- 17 People reflecting on the Word
 - Daily Morning Prayer with 6 regulars - starting the day with Scripture and prayer
 - Dramatic Readings in Lent
 - Blessed with curate until Christmas
 - Wednesday Communions started to be weekly in Lent
 - New liturgy for the Thursday Zoom services and new rota
 - Christian Unity Week - January - good to be able to have daily lunch and services again
 - 2 new chalice bearers and 5 people people taking communion to those at home
 - Visitors from the Diocese of Espoo for Pentecost

Visiting Preachers included: Tanya Jones - Environmental Lawyer from University of Dundee

Preaching from the Congregation continued which has been enriching for us all



The **Sacristy team** is small: 5 people regularly and Lots of people prepared the church for Easter Day! Always looking for more members of the sacristy team!

Eucharistic Prayers from around the world and from different traditions used in our Wednesday Communions.

New ideas for worship this year

- Harvest Carol Service
- Garden Carol Service
- Music Sunday
- Cafe Church for St Mark's Day

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Church Visitors: a new group of 6 visitors commissioned in March
Lent Group using the material produced by the Diocese.

The Chosen May- July 2023 a small group met together to watch Series 1. An opportunity that has continued into this year.

Leading the Church into Growth - 3 after service discussions to think about our life at St Mark's.

Plan your own Funeral - informal lunchtime session



MUSIC

Special thanks to our Director of Music, Michael Graham

Special Musical Activities

- Harvest 2022: Carol Service
- December 2022: Christmas Lessons and Carols.
- March 2023 Lenten evensong
- April 2023 Easter anthem
- June 2023: Music Service for Sunday worship

No. of organists: 5
No. of other instrumentalists: 8
No. of individuals in choir: 12

Congregational music

We sing a variety of seasonal congregational mass settings and new contemporary worship songs along with traditional Anglican hymns.



YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Young People are growing up, and now meet together once a term with the Young People of the Baptist Church. This year they did an Escape Room as well as time on the beach. They are also playing a bigger part in the musical life of St Marks.

The younger children met for a Holiday Club at Christmas time and then contributed to the Crib Service. It was also good to see the return of the Portobello Holiday Club, with 90 children and working together with the other churches of Portobello.

Teenagers

4 young people

2 youth nights - pizza and games with the Baptist Church; Four to Provincial Youth Camp (Glen)
Growing involvement in the musical life of the church

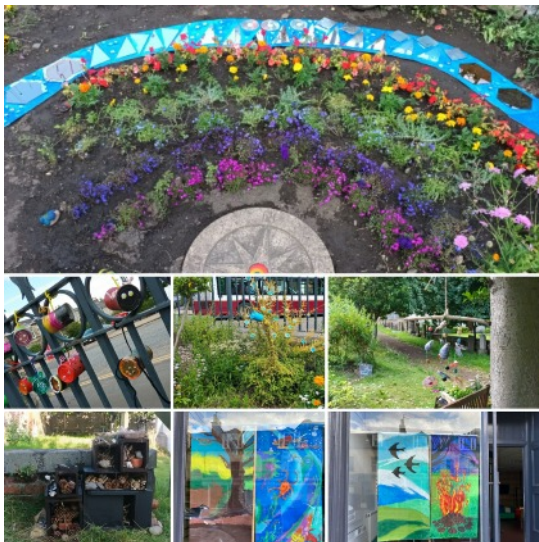
Younger children

1 mini-holiday club

7 children - aged 2-10yrs

6 volunteers

4 volunteers involved in the return of the Portobello Holiday Club



OUR SPACE

151 regular lets in year
271 hours, average 24 hrs a month

Plus:

9 sessions (20 hours) Ceilidh Kids
28 sessions (73 hours)
Workshops for Ante-natal classes
and Art Walk Party (8 hours)
2 sessions of Piano lessons (4 hours)

Total rental : £8288

Unfortunately the two local drama groups who use the church regularly have had to reduce their hours. This will substantially reduce our income.

Garden

8 people tending the garden weekly and joined by the Community Payback team, who help with garden.

The garden is used constantly by many in Portobello. And we held our first 'Garden' Carol Service installation.

Rectory

Through the year we have been working with an architect to bring the rectory up to standard. In October 2023 we received Building Warrant for the changes

Other things in our space !!!

Art Exhibition - September 2022
Art in a Day - March 2023
3 Coffee Mornings

The Ramp

This has been the main renovation this year ... the work has not been as smooth as hoped, but the workmanship is very good. Fundraising for Phase 2 continues to be difficult.

Fabric

- Repair of the tiles in the chancel
- Painting of external doors, sills and railings by the Payback team.
- £1000 spent starting to maintain our trees
- £1000 received from the St Andrew's Fund teaching the Community Payback to point our boundary wall
- The Boiler House has started to be cleared - old timber donated to a local charity.
- The spotlights in the church have been replaced with LED versions
- Regular inspections on the building have continued
- Repairs to our Loop and sound system

COMMUNITY

Men's Group: 6 men meeting fortnightly for coffee, chat and support.

Book Group: 8 people meeting monthly ...

Autumn 2022

Weekly Warm Spaces as we offered hospitality

December 2022

Portobello Winter Wonderland Participant



Wednesday Wonderings

9 monthly lunches

Lunch was served with soup donated by Passey's Restaurant and bread and cake provided by members of the congregation.

Talks from a range of speakers of local interest and the series attracted between 12 and 20 people each time.

Bethany Night-shelters - feeding those who are homeless

4 nights

7 volunteers

(And Bethany Christmas Tree distribution centre)

Regular donations to Food Bank+ at Wilson Memorial Church.

Our involvement in wider church

2 diocesan synods

3 Area Council meetings

Monthly Holy Huddles (ministers' group) - and ecumenical worship

Sophia is the convenor of the

Diocesan Mission and Ministry

Committee, Standing Committee

and Liturgy Committee

We received visitors from the

Diocese of Espoo

St Mark's had a stall at the Diocesan Big Day in May



Art Exhibition - September 2022

35 Artists
400 Visitors
£1000 raised

Come and Paint Day - March 2023

... finishing with Afternoon Tea
12 Artists
£300 raised



3 Coffee Mornings ... with plant sales:

19 Nov 2022 - £1000
20 May 2023 - £850
12 August 2023 - £927

Other fundraising - including 3 members walking across the Forth Road Bridge - £870

Craigmillar Now

Sophia is part of the Board of Trustees. Their artists in residence exhibited at our Art Exhibition 2022 and have installed a planter in our garden



Pride Party 2023



Autumn 2022 - leading the church into growth conversations

Met for three sessions with lunch and conversation.

RESOURCING OUR CHURCH

Churchwardens

This year the wardens have been involved with –

1. **Church inventory.** Work has progressed on recording the history of the church building and grounds, as well as details of all the furnishings, fittings and property contained within it. Once completed and submitted to the Diocese, this online document can be updated easily each year.
2. **Graveyard.** We are working on an improved lair plan which will clarify the location of existing graves and identify any available space.
3. **Rectory.** We have been inspecting the rectory on a regular basis to ensure its safety and security while unoccupied, and working with the Payback Team to maintain the garden.
4. **Employees.** We have assisted with the recruitment of a new admin assistant and cleaner.
5. **Fundraising.** Three coffee mornings, the art exhibition.
6. **Communication.** We are looking at ways to improve the

church website, making it more user-friendly and appealing.

7. **Accommodation/Rental.** We have begun thinking about redecorating the Muirhead Room downstairs so that it is a more comfortable and inviting space, potentially attracting more income from room hire.

Care of the Planet

Our vision to be an Eco-congregation has been inspirational:

- Received our Silver Eco Award
- Became a hub for recycling specific items for the community
- Celebrated Creationtime with visiting speakers
- Changed our Sanctuary Light to be more sustainable



Communications

- Monthly Community e-newsletters
- At least fortnightly e-congregational notices
- Bi-Monthly Magazines
- Facebook
- Website redesign



People involved on Sunday mornings

10 welcomers
13 regular readers
7 Intercessors
5 Zoom operators
7 chalice bearers
and many preparing refreshments at the end of the service.

Safeguarding

Good Safeguarding practice continues in line with current SEC guides. As we emerge from Covid, we have updated our records to ensure those who are no longer active in pastoral care / young people's work are no longer on our records.

24 people RGV registered

17 for children

2 for adults

5 for both.

For a number of reasons PVG training has been difficult to organise this year, other than with the newly formed Church Visiting Group. There have been changes at the diocesan and provincial level which will facilitate this as we go forward.

Vestry

Served by 11 people
10 meetings - both online and in person.
Including taking part in Diocesan Training



FINANCES

It costs about £6,500 a month to run St Mark's (or £1,600 per week).

We are a self-supporting charity and have to raise all our funds ourselves.

How did the finances look this year?

Unrestricted Income

Within our main account, we have **unrestricted money**, which is used to cover the running costs and day-to-day expenses, as well as the building project.

The biggest source of income is through regular giving (down slightly on £37,035 last year). Thank you to everyone who contributes on a regular basis, whether through the bank or in cash.	£31393
We were extremely fortunate to receive special donations and record thanks to everyone who made these extremely welcome donations.	£8474
Fundraising activities - £5,760 for general funds and £2,466 for the project through online sites	£8226
rental income (well up on last year's £400)	£8335
bank interest	£1157
Gift Aid, the tax we claimed back on regular giving.	£7501
We were delighted to receive a legacy this year	£3000
other miscellaneous income	£4875
Income for the Project - including £77,510 in grants from SEC, TOR Christian Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation	£80096

In total, our unrestricted income was £153,057

Expenditure in our main account includes :

Rector's stipend and pension, Expenses and Sunday cover.	£39320
Our contribution to the Diocese, or quota.	£7994
Running costs for the church building (maintenance, heating and lighting, insurance, cleaning and churchyard)	£15664
worship costs (worship supplies and music)	£4206
faith development, including office costs,	£5326
other costs (hospitality, bank charges and miscellaneous costs).	£7370
Costs associated with the building project in professional fees, and some of this will be reclaimed from the SEC grant.	£72892

Total expenditure in our main account was £152,722

Removing the income for the Project,, our normal running costs:

Income	£69,961	(and removing the legacy)
Expenditure	£79,880	
Balance	- £9,919	

Restricted

We have a **restricted account**, which contains money for the maintenance and improvement of the Rectory. The house is not currently let, and plans for improvements led to a net deficit of £7,560

Reserves

Our reserves are invested in the SEC's Unit Trust Pool. At the start of the financial year, these had a value of £79,517 and are now worth £80,781

Balances

At the end of the financial year, our balances are:

Main account: £79,702

Comprising:

Unrestricted	£43,883
Legacy	£14,896
Project	£20,923

Restricted: £74,410

Reserves: £80,781

So what does this mean?

Our income and expenditure are more complicated this year because of the work to replace the ramp. When the figures relating to its income and costs are removed, the balance, showing figures for our general running, shows a deficit of £9,919, as our costs are exceeding our income.

A deficit is not an unusual position for a charity but it means that money from bank reserves has to be used to bridge the gap and so it is clearly not a sustainable position.

The budget for 2023/24 also assumes a deficit and so the Vestry is looking carefully at how levels of income might be increased over the next few years to achieve 'break even'.

Please consider if you could:

- Increase your regular giving, even in a small way
- Support our fundraising activities or come up with a new fundraising idea
- Make a one-off donation if you can

Thank you for your ongoing support for St Mark's.

2% of our income goes to our three specified charities. This year they were:

Beach Wheelchairs

Edinburgh Uniform Bank

Social Bite

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022-2023

St Mark's is a Christian community which is growing in numbers, participation, confidence and spiritual depth. Much of our energy is currently spent raising funds for Phase 2 of our Renovation work, with escalating costs. This will carry out all the repairs to the church, and renovate the main worship space, with new lighting and floor, a new kitchen and additional toilet.

At the same time, we are upgrading the rectory.

Both these projects will make St Mark's much more secure.

We continue with this vision:

- To renew our Congregation in spiritual depth and participation and proclaiming God's love and inclusion of those we are called to serve.
- To define the focus of our Mission and Ministry so that the whole congregation can articulate their vocation in daily life and in their contribution to the life of the Body of Christ.
- To renovate our Building to enable it to provide a hospitable home for people in Portobello and a secure financial income for the church.

In the new year, the vestry will have an Away Day, where will revisit our Mission Action Plan for the coming year. There are also a number of administrative tasks needing to be completed, including updating our risk register, our lair plan and our procedures for sharing documents. It makes a huge difference if everyone in the congregation can take on small roles within our community life.



So many people to thank:

Our churchwardens:
Treasurers:
Lay Rep to Synod:
The Vestry:
Fabric Convenor:
Vestry Secretary:
Junior Church Co-ord:
Youth Group Discussion:
Safeguarding:
Sacristy & Eco-Cong:
Director of Music:
Bookings Co-ordinator:
Hospitality Supplies:
Administrator:

All who clean, garden, welcome, serve coffee, read, organise, pray, support, challenge, inspire

And to the whole congregation:

Thank you for everything you do and everything you give to St Mark's

The future is in our hands ... together we are the Body of Christ ... together we work to nurture our Christian presence here in Portobello.

Emails:

Sophia	sophia.marriage@stmarksportobello.org
Rachael	churchoffice@stmarksportobello.org
Bookings	bookings@stmarksportobello.org
Michael	music@stmarksportobello.org