

## **THE CATHEDRAL CHAPTER**

The 2019/20 year has been another busy one for the Cathedral Chapter.

### **CHRIST-CENTRED MISSION**

The Transitional Cathedral of Christchurch and its community is seeking to make Christ known to the many who come through the doors of the Transitional Cathedral every day. Our prayer is that all who come, whether they be pilgrims or visitors will encounter the love of God. Chapter has continued to work with Cathedral staff and community to provide a welcoming, open door and prayerful place to ensure we are a living witness to the Good News of God in Christ in the life of the wider diocesan and city communities. The Dean refers to the Cathedral as *“the tent with the wide open door”*, not only literally describing the large doorway but the fact that the Cathedral welcomes everyone, people of all faiths, or none. Never has this been more relevant since March 2019.

The Transitional Cathedral is an icon in its own right and continues to welcome visitors in large numbers. We have counters at the doors and these show a total of approximately 270,000pa. Chapter continues to explore ways of enhancing the visitor experience for these visitors and to enable the building to tell the Christian story. It is expected that these enhancements will also increase revenue. The Cathedral now offers guided tours at specific times for which there is a small charge. This is bringing in more revenue and was expanded in the 2019/2020 summer season. Several thousand people were happy to pay \$5 for a guided tour of the Cathedral. Naturally, the tours, along with everything else, stopped during the Covid-19 lockdown. After that, of course, there have been very few visitors to the Cathedral. The Cathedral shop continues to expand and perform well, again, until the lockdown.

For the calendar year 2019, we welcomed 30,618 people to worship services. 892 worship services were held during the year with average attendances of 69 across four services on Sundays (7:15am Christian Meditation, 8:00am and 10:00am Eucharists and 5:00pm Evensong) and 25 at weekday services (Morning Prayer, Eucharist and Choral Evensong, with Christian Meditation on Friday mornings as well). 11,615 people received Holy Communion during the year. During the year, we baptised three people, held 9 funerals and conducted 3 weddings. These numbers are not huge, but it needs to be remembered that the Cathedral is not a parish and has no specific ‘catchment’. We welcome people from all over the city.

Services during the recent Covid-19 closure took on a different flavour. Although the Cathedral was open for visitors from the start of Level 2, it wasn’t until Pentecost that we held the first service back in the Cathedral – over two months since the previous one. However, the routine of services continued with Sunday and Wednesday services being live-streamed, first from the Deanery and then from the Cathedral itself. The Dean and Elizabeth Kimberley discovered hidden talents in audio visual presentations and the services were widely viewed by people around the world. Services have continued to be streamed since our return to the Cathedral. We are grateful to a donor who has paid for the camera and computer gear required.

Civic Services have also been affected with ANZAC Day being commemorated with an on-line Citizens’ Service.

Chapter appreciates the tremendous contribution all Cathedral Regulars make assist in maintaining the Christ-centred mission of the Cathedral. The resilience and support our Regulars show, added to their willingness to do what is asked of them, continues to humble us and remind us what an extraordinary community of which we are part.

Cathedral Regulars are active not only within our own community, offering service in a number of ways. Many demonstrate mission to the wider community – such as collegially supporting local parishes, and catering on occasions the evening meal at Ronald McDonald House. The Cathedral also supports the weekly community lunch held in Latimer Square by providing a wet weather venue. The Cathedral supports the Church Missionary Society project run by Miriam Tillman in Togo, West Africa and also Hamlin Fistula Hospital in Ethiopia. We have also provided the Cathedral as a venue free of charge for fundraisers for Ronald MacDonal House, Hamlin Fistula, suicide awareness and the Mosque shooting victims.

The Cathedral continues to be a busy place for community and public events, as well as for private functions. There was an event on an average of more than one a week on top of the usual schedule of services, rehearsals etc. Whatever the nature of the event, a much wider variety of people experience the Cathedral than would through just worship services alone. Part of the Dean's welcome to these events invites people to think about their faith or a challenge to consider important issues facing our world (such as climate change).

The Lenten programme was somewhat affected in 2020 due to the Covid-19 shutdown. A study group looking at Walter Brueggemann's book, *"From Judgement to Hope: a study on the prophets"* started face to face and was able to continue on line and a Sunday evening preaching series *"I believe in ..."* had almost finished before services stopped with one of these sermons being livestreamed. A Wednesday morning Eucharist with a preaching series continued until the lockdown began. The full ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter were offered online with Bishop Peter preaching on Easter Day. It was a joy and delight to include so many members of the wider Cathedral community in the offering of these online services.

The Cathedral has been avenue for discussion on current issues of public concern, including the Living Wage, environmental issues and suicide awareness. Public Meetings were held on a variety of issues including for EQC insurance claimants. The Dean had a significant role in the Memorial Service held one year after the Mosque shootings.

The Cathedral Choir has helped take the Cathedral's mission out of the building and into the wider community. The Choir have sung at a number of events at other venues. In the period leading up to Christmas, they took carols to both Burwood and Public Hospitals singing for patients and staff alike, and the Kids in Town series at Turanga, the Central Library. The Choir also sang a Christmas recital at The Piano and at Ballantynes department store. This was an opportunity to take the real Christmas story out into the community.

The Cathedral Singers also gave a very well-attended Christmas Recital in the Cathedral.

### **RAISING UP YOUNG LEADERS**

The Cathedral has distinct groups to nurture into young leaders.

There is a small, yet devoted, Children's Church, *Kia Kaha' friends* that operates each Sunday morning during school terms. This group continues to grow, with an average attendance of a dozen or so. The Cathedral also ensures there is at least one service per school term that is offered with children in mind. These welcome children from all around the city and include: a *KidsFest* Service in July, a pet service in spring, and the Christmas Nativity service with animals in December. These services are well attended. During the school holidays, there is a children's 'make station' to offer a visitor experience for children. The 'make station' has crafts and activities on Christian themes for children to engage in. The usual Easter *Stations of the Cross* children's service couldn't take place this year

The Cathedral has celebrated the baptisms and confirmations of a number of young adults over the year (in addition to the *GodQuest* programme for school students) and continues to offer flexible pathways for people who wish to become disciples of Christ.

Our young servers continue to offer willing service and welcome new members to their ranks. This group of almost 20 young people juggle Cathedral commitments with their many educational and sporting ones, so it is a delight to see them learn to do so with commitment and understanding of the important role they play as young leaders in our community. Chapter has been grateful to the Rev'd Ben Randall for leading this group.

The Cathedral Choristers have a unique role in the Diocese, singing at five choral services and several rehearsals each week during term times. Each year we welcome new younger members and farewell those in Year 8 heading to secondary school. It is heartening to see a number of the leavers return to sing with the adults in the back row. Being a chorister has a significant commitment and Chapter is grateful not only to the choristers themselves, but also their families for the support they give.

The Cathedral has had boy choristers since before the Consecration in 1881. This year Chapter will be announcing the introduction of a separate group of girl choristers. As with the boys, this follows the tradition of the great English Cathedrals upon which our Choir is modelled and which have had girl choristers in some cases for over twenty years. The girls will remain independent from the boys and will sing services on their own and with the men of the Choir. The inaugural group have been auditioned and have been rehearsing this year, when not locked down. It is hoped that their first service in the Cathedral will be later in the year. Chapter is delighted with this new development in Cathedral music and we have the full support of the Board of The Cathedral Grammar School, which the girls attend.

Chapter continues to have a strong relationship with the Cathedral Grammar School which, of course, was founded in 1881 to educate the Cathedral choristers. The School continues to do well. There is a very positive atmosphere around the School and it is pleasing to note steady roll growth. Chapter is continuing its close oversight of the Board. Chapter is delighted to welcome Cathedral Grammar to at least four annual services at the Cathedral. Cathedral staff and clergy often attend events at the School, and Chapter members are often invited to these as well.

We have maintained our links with our two Anglican secondary schools, Christ's College and St Margaret's College. The confirmation programme, *Dialogue 2020*, run by the Dean for pupils from both schools started before the lockdown, but at the time of writing is yet to re-commence.

We have also welcomed St Mark's School, St Michael's School, Selwyn House, and Medbury School to the Cathedral, in addition to the many school groups who visit at Christmas time to leave presents under the tree and hear the Christmas story.

Throughout the year we hosted concerts for the Christchurch Youth Choir, University of Tennessee Choir, Cathedral Grammar School & Rangi Ruru combined orchestra, Burnside High and St Rita's College, Queensland.

#### **FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP**

Cathedral finance continues to challenge us and to occupy a considerable amount of Chapter's time and energy. The first draft of the 2019 accounts show an operating deficit, albeit smaller than the previous year, and smaller than budgeted, which is a relief. The 2020 budget is now a work of fiction due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Even before lockdown and border closures there had been a significant downturn in visitor revenue. Most of the events booked for the rest of the year have been postponed or cancelled. It is unknown when visitor numbers may increase. For the first two weeks of Level 3, we had about 20 visitors through the Cathedral!

Fortunately Chapter was eligible for the Wage Subsidy. Chapter has also drawn on reserves to ease cashflow. Chapter has cut back as much expenditure as possible without it severely affecting our ministry. It is a case of 'wait and see' for the next part of 2020.

The Cathedral Works Committee continues to oversee stewardship of the building and has been merged with the Chapter Finance Committee as most fabric issues involve funding. This arrangement is working well. At the time of writing all approvals have been given to locate the Terry Stringer statue of The Risen Christ outside the Cathedral and it is hoped this work will be completed by the time you read this report. This statue was located outside the main doors of the Cathedral and was a Diocesan gift to the City at the time of the Millennium. Chapter is immensely grateful to former Canon Jenny May for spearheading this project and getting the work done pro bono. Our thanks too go to SCAPE Public Art and Naylor Love for their generous support of this project.

The concept of a Transitional belltower at the Cathedral is on-going and gathering momentum. It is hoped that further information can be released about this later in 2020. Not only will this allow bells to be rung at the Cathedral but, equally important, it will allow for the training of new bellringers to start so that when we eventually get back into Cathedral Square a full team of experienced ringers will be able to ring for the opening services. In the meantime, the Cathedral bellringers are grateful to St Paul's, Papanui, for continuing to allow them join their ringers.

Chapter has approved the location of some "Cube Cabins" adjacent to the Portacom. This will vastly

improve clergy office space and give a good room for meetings and for Sunday School, study groups etc. These are relocatable so will be moved off site again when Cathedral ministry returns to Cathedral Square. The Parish of Ross South Westland is helping with this project and Chapter is very grateful for their support.

Cathedral staff: We were delighted that the Rev'd Ben Randall, our Assistant Priest, has had his term extended to late 2019. Ben was then appointed as Vicar of St Mary's Parish, Timaru. A number of Cathedral Regulars went to his installation service, which was the last one before the lockdown. Chapter wishes Ben well in his new position. The search for a replacement priest for the Cathedral had started, but is now on hold until we reach a post-Covid era.

There have been no change to Chapter membership over the last year.

During the 2016 year, Chapter was the first ministry unit in the Diocese of Christchurch to be officially certified as a Living Wage Employer. We have continued this in 2019/20 and all staff and long-term contractors are paid the living wage. We encourage other ministry units and the Anglican Centre to join us.

The Cathedral volunteers continue to do a fantastic job. During the week these tireless people are the first face of the Cathedral and provide the warm welcome we expect all visitors to receive. From a financial perspective, it is a proven fact that a visitor who receives a warm welcome is more likely to make a donation, so the volunteers are essential for our financial viability. Without the volunteers, the Cathedral would not be able to function as the 7 day a week operation it is. Chapter is hugely grateful for the number of hours donated to the Cathedral.

There have been a wide variety of events held in the Cathedral. These have ranged from community meetings to concerts and recitals to the big catered corporate functions. We are grateful to Moveable Feasts for their ongoing co-operation and support. Wherever possible, we try to schedule events to impact as little as possible on the regular Cathedral routine of services, but there are times when this is not possible. Opening the Cathedral to community events has been part of the Cathedral's pastoral response to the City. It is also helping to keep the doors open for worship, welcoming all visitors every day of the year, and being a thriving symbol of hope in our recovering city.

Although many of these events do provide important income for the Cathedral, we do host community and not-for-profit groups for little or no charge. We aim to welcome as wider part of the community as possible to the Cathedral. About 20 corporate events were held in the 2018 calendar year and 38 community events.

Chapter remains aware of the many challenges to face over the period regarding the Cathedral in the Square and looks forward to working closely with Christchurch Cathedral Reinstatement Limited as the project to reinstate the Cathedral gathers momentum. At the time of writing it is great to see work actually starting on site. Chapter is the body that will eventually take over governance of the re-instated Cathedral and the staff have the institutional knowledge of what happened there before the Quakes. It is appreciated that the Dean and Cathedral Administrator are on design committees and that Chapter is being consulted.

Chapter and Cathedral staff work closely with the Bishop, Diocesan and CPT staff in the areas that concern both the Transitional Cathedral and its predecessor in the Square. Chapter is grateful to Bishop Peter for his warm support and advice.

As we come to the end of our seventh full year in the Transitional Cathedral we are aware that we are in all likelihood not even half way through our residency of this building. We look forward to the next year, with all the challenges and rewards, highs and lows, delights and disappointments that will come with it. It would be nice, however, if the next 12 months were uneventful!

*Chris Oldham, Chapter Secretary  
May 2020*