

The Cathedral Chapter Report

The 2022/23 year has been one of a return to a state of almost normality. Covid restrictions were largely lifted in the second half of 2022 and visitor numbers have increased. This has been good for service attendance and revenue.

Christ-Centred Mission

The Transitional Cathedral of Christchurch and its community is seeking to make Christ known to those who come through the doors of the Transitional Cathedral every day, and to the many more who are regularly watching the services streamed to the world. Our prayer is that all who come, whether they be pilgrims or visitors, virtual or real, of any faith or none, 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 Transitional Cathedral is an icon in its own right and normally welcomes visitors in large numbers. Visitor numbers started to increase during the latter half of 2022 and summer season has been busy once again.

For the calendar year 2022, we welcomed 21,340 people to worship services. This was down from 22,847 the previous year due to the on-going impacts of Covid in the first part of the year. 843 worship services were held during the year (769 in 2021) with average attendances of 82 at the main Sunday Eucharist (10:00am Choral Eucharists) and 17 at the services held during each week (Morning Prayer, Eucharist, and Choral Evensong). 6,898 people received Holy Communion during the year.

During the year, we baptised one person, held nine funerals and conducted one wedding. These numbers are not huge, but it needs to be remembered that the Cathedral is not a parish and accordingly does not seek to take these pastoral offices away from local parishes. The Cathedral does receive many people, however, who are genuine inquirers about the Christian faith, and they are supported on their faith journey.

We continue to live stream most of our choral services (six in a normal week) and these are widely viewed. Some of our regular worshippers who feel uneasy about worshipping with other people in the Cathedral are grateful to be able to participate. We ensure that the service sheets can be downloaded from our website so those watching online can fully join

in. Weekday services of Choral Evensong are not always well attended in person, or even live online, but they are watched in the days that follow, particularly by people overseas. A Facebook Choral Evensong supporters group often featured our services to a wide audience.

We continue to offer a range of weekday services. The Tuesday Holy Eucharist has prayers of healing, the Wednesday service is contemplative in nature and the Thursday Service is in Te Reo. It is good to see these services well supported.

Chapter appreciates the tremendous contribution all Cathedral Regulars makes 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.

The Cathedral continues to be a place for community and public events, as well as for private functions. The number of corporate functions has declined significantly in the wake of covid, as conferences etc were cancelled and large public gatherings were not able to be held.

Community and public events were similarly affected, and we noted a large number of cancellations and postponements. In 2022 we held ten corporate events and 26 Community or not-for-profit events. Whatever the nature of an event, a much wider variety of people experience the Cathedral than would through just worship services alone.

Lent 2022 was again curtailed due to covid restrictions, although some study groups were able to be held. However, many restrictions were lifted in time for Easter. It was great in 2023 to have an unrestricted Lent & Easter programme!

The Cathedral Choir has continued to take the Cathedral's mission out of the building and into the wider community. In the period leading up to Christmas, they took carols to the Public and Burwood Hospitals singing for patients and staff alike. There were fewer recitals held at outside venues, but the choristers did again sing carols at Ballantynes and a recital at The Piano. These were opportunities to take the real Christmas story out into the community, and the Choir does hope to return to more of its previous haunts in 2023.

The Cathedral Singers also gave a very well-attended Christmas Recital in the Cathedral and has sung at choral services when the Cathedral Choir

were on holiday or unavailable. Our thanks to them and their organist Paul Brown and Musical Director Jill Kerr.

The St Luke's Trust continues to fund the Inner-City Chaplain position. The Rev'd Chris Orczy was appointed to that position in 2021. Chris is based at the Cathedral but is not formally a member of the Cathedral staff team. His assistance in helping with the Sunday and Wednesday liturgies is very much appreciated. It is beneficial to the Cathedral to have this position based here.

Raising Up Young Leaders

The Cathedral has distinct groups to nurture into young leaders.

There has been a Children's Church programme, Kia Kaha's Friends that operated each Sunday morning during school terms, co-ordinated by Mrs Elizabeth Kimberley. During the start of 2022 this stopped due to Covid restrictions and never picked up to pre-Covid numbers. This is partly due to some children moving away, others getting older and participating fully in the liturgy and some joining the Cathedral Choir. Elizabeth resigned her ministry roles early in 2023 and since then children coming to church have been given activity packs. We are grateful to Elizabeth for her work in this area.

We welcomed children to special services aimed at younger folk: Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, a KidsFest Service in July, 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.

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. It was good to welcome servers back to a greater number of services in the second half of 2022.

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 several 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.

2020 saw the launch of the Cathedral Girl Choristers and this new section of the Choir continues to flourish and is now integral to Cathedral music. Chapter was delighted to appoint Ms Samantha Poh as Assistant Organist at the start of 2023. Chapter thanks Ms Kimberley Wood for directing the girls and to Dr John Linker, the Cathedral's Director of Music, for taking on extra duties during the period leading up to Samantha's appointment. We are grateful to two significant donors who generously support the girls' scholarships.

The Cathedral is committed to supporting Anglican Schools and the faith journeys of their students. 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 continued roll growth. Chapter maintains a close relationship with the School Board, and the Dean meets regularly with Board Chair, Dr Simon Wynn-Thomas. Chapter thanks the Board for their on-going work for the school. Dr Wynn-Thomas resigned as Board Chair at the start of 2023 and Chapter thanks him for his dedicated service. The Dean is Acting Chair until his resignation takes effect in August 2023.

The school opened its new Boys' School building at the start of 2022 and were delighted that this project came in under budget and on schedule. The Board was delighted to report that at the time of writing this report, that building was debt-free.

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. The Dean often participates in worship at the school too.

We had fewer visits from other schools to the Christmas Tree this year. It seems that the logistics of arranging EOTC trips is becoming time-consuming, and some schools no longer visit the Cathedral. However, we did welcome Medbury, St Marks, St Michaels, and Cathedral Grammar Schools to the Cathedral for their carol services.

Faithful Stewardship

The Cathedral's finances continue to be a challenge to occupy a considerable amount of Chapter's time and energy. [This being the third year I have written that sentence].

The Cathedral re-opened to full hours again in 2022 and it was pleasing to see the increase in visitor numbers and the associated revenue. For another year, there was no Assistant Priest on staff and although this was beneficial to the budget, it did increase the workload of other staff. We are grateful to clergy who helped out particularly for the Sunday services. Our thanks go especially to the Rev'd Hugh Bowron for stepping in as Acting Dean when Dean Lawrence Kimberley took two months study leave in September/October 2022

Chapter's Works & Finance Committee continues to oversee stewardship of the building and finances. This arrangement continues to work well. There have been no major items of repair and maintenance. The Committee would like to express its thanks to Jenny May who is a heritage consultant with a long association with the Cathedral. Her ongoing membership of the committee is much appreciated.

In 2016, Chapter was the first ministry unit in the Diocese of Christchurch to be officially certified as a Living Wage Employer. We have continued this into 2023 and all staff and long-term contractors are paid the living wage. We encourage other ministry units 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.

The number of events has grown again in 2022/23 but are still not up to the levels seen before Covid. We are grateful to Moveable Feasts for their ongoing co-operation and support. Many of the commercial events that were postponed during the pandemic have now taken place. 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. Ten corporate events were held in the 2022 calendar year and 26 community events, slightly up on 2021.

Chapter is delighted with work on the Cathedral in the Square. The project is on schedule and progressing well. The stabilization phase has been completed and the project is into the strengthening stage. Work on foundations will start later in 2023. At dawn one day earlier this year it was a privilege for Chapter members to participate in the first service inside the building since the earthquakes. This was part of the celebrations to mark the completion of the stabilization. A short service was led by Bishop Peter Carrell and Te Pīhopa Richard Wallace. Later that day there were events for the staff and workers on site and for significant supporters and donors.

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. The Dean is continually being consulted and he and Cathedral Administrator Chris Oldham are members of the Design Committee. Work is underway on designing the Visitor Experience. This not only looks at the Visitors' Centre but how visitors will move round the Cathedral and the stories they will be told.

The project is on schedule for a 2027 completion.

The relocation of the War Memorial is complete, and it was fantastic to see the ANZAC Day Dawn Service back in Cathedral Square. To quote the mayor, the service had 'come home'. We look forward to the day when we can hold again the Eucharist service inside the Cathedral immediately following the Dawn Parade.

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 continuing warm support and advice.

Staff Changes

As the next report will be a year away, it seems appropriate here to note some changes to the Cathedral staff that have happened early in 2023.

Nicky Lee retired after just over 20 years working at the Volunteer Manager and Deans' PA. The apostrophe is deliberately after the 's', as she served a number of Deans and Acting Deans! During her time at the Cathedral, Nicky was ordained Deacon and retains her Diocesan role as Archdeacon of Deacons. Nicky saw some turbulent times in the life of the Cathedral (literally in 2010 and 2011) and remained a centre of calm throughout. Chapter is immensely grateful to the dedicated service Nicky has given to the Cathedral and is delighted that she continues a liturgical role on Sundays as a Deacon.

Chapter was delighted to appoint Francesca Rae in April 2023 as Volunteer Manager.

On Passion Sunday 2023 Dean Lawrence announced his resignation as Dean. He has been on study leave since Easter Monday and formally ends his tenure as Dean on 10 August. Chapter thanks Lawrence for his eight years as Dean of Christchurch and for his faithful stewardship of the Cathedral during some challenging times. To quote his resignation announcement:

My priorities have been to make this Cathedral unashamedly a house of prayer, and place of hospitality, so that when people come here, they find only the love and hospitality of God. My prayer is that in this place, all who come here know God's love in a way that is so real it can be tasted, like honey from the rock.

This, Lawrence has done with great dedication to God in the fulfilment of his priestly ministry. Chapter offers best wishes to him and Elizabeth as they move forward into the next phase of their lives.

Chapter is grateful to Rev'd Bosco Peters for stepping in as Acting Dean while the process is underway to find the next Dean. He and Helen have been warmly welcomed into the Cathedral community.

As we come to the end of our first decade year in the Transitional Cathedral, we are aware that we are now entering the last few years of our residency here. 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 will be nice for the next 12 months to have a greater degree of familiarity and normality!

Chris Oldham, Chapter Secretary

May 2023