



St GILES'
CATHEDRAL

May 13th 2020

As the deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God. Psalm 42

Dear Friends,

I hope you and yours are staying healthy and safe in these days.

I wanted to update you on what we at St. Giles' have been doing in the weeks since lockdown began owing to the health crisis in our land and our world.

Our prayers remain with those who have contracted Covid-19 and those who have lost a loved one to the disease. We keep in our prayers all health and care workers, essential workers and all at the forefront of combatting this illness.

I hope you have been accessing the Sunday and midweek Devotional Resources and sacred music prepared by the ministers, Master of the Music and members of the choir on our website - <https://stgilescathedral.org.uk/online-worship/>- I remain grateful to those who have contributed words and song as a way of keeping us in touch and 'being church.'

The majority of the cathedral staff have been furloughed in line with the Government's Job Retention Scheme and we are on our second round of those. Thanks to John Robertson, Treasurer, and Suzanne Whitehead, of our finance staff, for facilitating this.

The special committee we set up, comprising the Convenors of the Finance and Administration, Business and General Committees, the Session Clerk and myself, has been meeting weekly as has a 'management committee' of staff who are still working (myself, Sarah Phemister, Head of Heritage and Culture, Stephen Preston, Deputy in Heritage and Culture and Michael Harris, Master of the Music.)

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I continue to be grateful to my colleagues who have been working from home and helping to keep the website updated. We are now beginning to plan as to how we might open the Cathedral to visitors and worshippers once the lockdown eases. It is important that we have a plan in place so we are not 'behind the curve' as places begin to be allowed to open.

I would encourage you to continue to support the Cathedral financially as we begin to deal with the fiscal realities of this – yes – unprecedented crisis. You will find the ability to give on our Donate page online – <https://stgilescathedral.org.uk/donate/>

There is a lovely contemporary confession of faith which comes from Chile and I offer its opening lines as a prayer for these days:

I believe that behind the mist the sun waits.
I believe that beyond the dark night it is raining stars.
I believe that this lost ship will reach port.
They will not rob me of hope; it shall not be broken.

Keep well, keep safe and keep the faith.

Calum

Calum I MacLeod

Minister

St. Giles' Cathedral