



St Margaret's Chapel Guild AGM 2026

4 October 2026

Dear Member,

Notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of St Margaret's Chapel Guild will take place on Monday 16th November 2026 at 2pm at Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh.

The AGM will be preceded by three services for Guild members at St Margaret's Chapel at 10.30, 10.55 and 11.20am. Attendance for these will be on a first come, first served basis. There will also be a service at 11.45am for invited guests. A lunch of soup and sandwiches plus selected drinks will be served at 12.30pm and members can sit where they choose. Coffee and tea will be available to purchase throughout the morning in the Queen Anne Room.

We can accommodate dietary requirements – please let us know of any on the reply form.

A courtesy bus will run between 10 - 12.15 and again between 2.45 - 3.45. Members with blue badges who would like to park on the Castle Esplanade should indicate that on their reply forms so we can notify Historic Environment Scotland. Please be advised that the number of spaces available are extremely limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis. We would kindly remind members that the conditions underfoot can often be challenging at this time of year, particularly on cobbles. Please do get in touch with me or any other member of the Committee if you might benefit from some informal assistance.

Members should register at the desk in the glass corridor in the Queen Anne Room on arrival.



These AGM papers comprise of:

- Agenda for the AGM 2026
- Minutes of the AGM 2025
- The Convenor's Report
- Details of the proposed charitable donations for this year.

The signed Guild Accounts are in a separate document attached to the main email.

You will see that, through a combination of generous member gifts, the ongoing use of the Tap and Pay device in the Chapel and continued excellent use of the Gift Aid system as suggested by our Guild Treasurer, our donations have continued to increase over the past year. As such, the Committee has decided to once again raise our own charitable donations to a maximum of £10,000. As part of this, there are funds available up to £2,500 for charities nominated by Guild members themselves, up to a maximum of £500 each. We would be delighted if Guild members could use the reply form to nominate any charities they'd like to be considered for a donation.

For the first time, we are asking for responses to be submitted from those who get papers online via the form linked below. This process is designed to be quicker, more efficient, and more ecofriendly.

<https://form.jotform.com/262674116063051>

Reply forms should be completed by 7^h November 2026.

Any competent items of business to be raised under Any Other Business on the Agenda should be submitted to me in writing please by 12 noon Tuesday 10th November. Due to time constraints on the day, please keep the subject matter



description as brief as possible (one sentence ideally) and any substantive matters will be referred to the Executive Committee by the Chair for further consideration after the AGM.

There will be a sales table with Guild jewellery on display. The card designed for the Guild by Margaret Betts will also be available to buy at £2 per card, or £10 for six cards. We can accept cash or card.

We warmly welcome any donations towards the running of the AGM. The member cost for the day contributes to us being able to thank our guests with a complimentary lunch, however the Guild pays for the courtesy bus from our own funds. If you would like to donate to the Guild to assist with the AGM expenses and the Guild's funds generally, please indicate on the reply form. You can also make donations on the day if you would like. Please fill in the Gift Aid declaration if appropriate.

<https://form.jotform.com/gilfetherh/charity-gift-aid-declaration>

We are delighted that Margaret Williamson will stand for the Vice-Convenor position to replace Fiona Pigott who took on the position of Convenor at last year's AGM.

Should you require any further information, I will be happy to help.

With all good wishes,

Holly Williams

Secretary

St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Secretary@stmargaretschapel.com



St Margaret's Chapel Guild AGM 2026

16th November 2026

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of AGM of 17th November 2025
3. President's Report
4. Admission of the following new members to the Guild:
 - Ailsa Margaret Stein
 - Heike Scheneider
 - Karen Margaret Drury
 - Kathryn Quantano Brown
 - Maggie Wood
 - Margaret Anderson
 - Margaret Archdale
 - Margaret Fenelon
 - Margaret Fletcher
 - Margaret Hyland
 - Margaret Kane
 - Margaret Mills
 - Margaret Park
 - Margaret Vooght
 - Margaret Younie
 - Margaret Robertson/Marshall
 - Margo Henderson
 - May Margaret Stark
 - Marii Fenelon
 - Rhian Margaret Ferrigan



- Rhona Margaret Forbes
- Sophie Margaret Hoult
- Sue Beard
- Swati Best

5. Election of Margaret Williamson as Vice-Convenor of the St Margaret's Chapel Guild Executive Committee

6. Adoption of the Guild Accounts year ending 31st July 2026

7. Approval of Auditor for 2027 Guild Accounts

8. Approval of proposed donations to charities

9. Election of Hazel Dunn as Guild Vice President

10. Any Other Business



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Queen Anne Room, Edinburgh Castle

Monday 17th November 2025, 2pm

Present: The President, Rev Neil Gardner, and the following Guests:

The Governor of Edinburgh Castle and Honorary Vice President of the Guild, Major General Bob Bruce; the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Honorary Vice President of the Guild, represented by the Very Reverend Shaw Paterson, the President of the Bishops' Conference of the RC Church in Scotland and Honorary Vice President of the Guild, represented by Archbishop Leo Cushley; The Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and Honorary Vice President of the Guild, Rev Mark Strange, represented by the Very Reverend Frances Burberry; Rev Nicola Frail, Senior Army Chaplain in Scotland and Honorary Vice President. Independent Examiner of the Guild's Accounts, Mr Neil Steven, 2 Students from QMU and 62 members of the Guild.

1.Welcome and Apologies

The President welcomed everyone present to this AGM and read a read from the message received from our Patron, Princess Anne who sends her best wishes for the future of the Guild.

Our best wishes were sent to Our President Emeritus, Rev Charles Robertson who is unable to attend due to illness and to our Secretary, Holly Williams who is recovering from surgery.

Guild Member, Margaret Crawford was approved by the meeting as minute taker in Holly's absence.



2. Minutes of AGM of 16th November 2024

The Minutes of the meeting of 16th November 2024 had been circulated. No actions were outstanding and one correction has been noted; the Reverend Colin Sinclar should be the Very Reverend Colin Sinclair. The Minutes were proposed by Claire Heyes and seconded by Sheila M McTaggart. The Minutes were approved unanimously by members on a show of hands with no abstentions.

3. President's Report

The President made note of the number of ceremonies he carried out in the past year at the Chapel and had officiated at two weddings in the last month.

For those not at the services in the Chapel, the icon of St Margaret on loan from Sunflower Scotland, part of a contemporary series painted on ammunition box lids from Ukraine was on display.

The Convenor's report on the year had previously been circulated to all. For the final time the Convenor was asked to present the Certificates to the new members.

We remembered the Guild members who are no longer with us;

- Joyce Balfour
- Dr. Margaret F. Alexander
- Esma Stoddart
- Margaret Butler
- Margaret Walsh (Margaret Betts is representing the Guild at her funeral today)
- Marilyn Eggleton
- Margaret Irvine
- Donna Taylor-Smith
- Margaret Pollock
- Margo Fraser (Margaret Clark, Margaret Marr and Joanna Milne represented the Guild at her funeral today)

4. Admission of New Members to the Guild



The President read out the names of the following new members who were welcomed to the Guild.

In person:

Margaret Hancock
Mary Margaret Johnston
Helen Margaret McDaid
Dr. Lynn Margaret Templeton
Rev. Margaret Vosper

In absentia

Capela Santa Margarida de Escócia
Aileen O'Hagan
Maisie Smart
Sarah Margaret Sturrock
Claire Alice Margaret Humbrecht
Rev. Margaret Allison Riley
Margaret Kay

5. Election of Executive Committee members

Margaret Crawford was proposed as Membership Secretary by Angela Casey and seconded by Susanna Escott.

Margaret Clark was proposed as Flower Supervisor by Margaret Marr and seconded by Margaret Ann Crawford

Fiona Pigott was proposed as Convenor by Margaret Hunter, and seconded by Margaret Clark.

The elections of the Executive Committee members were approved unanimously by Guild members on a show of hands with no abstentions.

A presentation was made to Hazel Dunn on her retiral as Convenor, a position she had held since 2019 and has served on the Executive Committee for 14 years. Hazel thanked the President, previous Committee members and the current Committee and takes her greatest gift to be leaving the Guild in good hands. The daisy necklace "chain of office" was then presented to Fiona Pigott.



6. Adoption of Guild Accounts year ending 31st July 2024 (and Treasurer's Report)

The Guild's Independent Examiner, Mr Neil Steven was introduced and presented the financial annual report. The President expressed gratitude on behalf of the Guild for being here today, for the support given to the Treasurer and for the time taken to review the Guild accounts.

The annual accounts had been approved by the Executive Committee and sent out to members.

The Tap and Pay device has now been operational for a full year with £4,821 donated during that time. Cash donations totalled £1,458 in the same period. Cash only donations have dropped by 32% during this time. In summary, our total donations for this period have increased by 193%. Members were thanked for their generous donations made recently and throughout the year. The year ending 2024–2025 accounts show we received £3,665 in donations from members. In total £1,965 was secured from HMRC through Gift Aid declarations.

Those members on the money collecting rota were thanked for their commitment to the task over the years.

Cash at bank as at 16th November, 2025 is recorded as £39,325

Proposed Charitable donations as previously circulated

QMU Study Abroad Programme - £1,000
Edinburgh City Mission - £1,000
ABF The Soldiers' Charity - £1,000
Canongate Kirk - £1,000
The Princess Anne Charities' Trust £1,000
Examiner fee & Charity donation to The Pitcairn Trust - £500
Mary's Meals - £500
The Big Noise Sistema Scotland - £500
STEKASkills - £500
Dunfermline Food Bank- £500

Further member nominated charities to receive £350 were proposed.

- Leuchie House
- Ravelrig RDA
- Strathcarron Hospice
- Grassmarket Community Project



- MND Scotland
- Horatio's Garden
- Veterans Housing Scotland

The accounts were adopted and donations agreed by members unanimously on a show of hands with no abstentions.

7. Approval of Independent Examiner for 2025 Guild Accounts.

Our Independent Examiner, Neil Steven, is an accountant and partner in the Edinburgh office of the firm Johnston Carmichael and has agreed to continue as the Guild's Independent Examiner of the accounts for the coming year.

The appointment of Neil Steven as Independent Examiner was approved by members unanimously on a show of hands.

8. Approval of proposed donations to Charities

This item was covered as part of the Treasurer's report.

9. Election of Sarah M James as Vice President.

The Committee proposal that Sarah M. James who retired as Guild Secretary at last year's AGM was approved by a show of hands.

10. Any Other Business

The Secretary had received notification of one competent item of business from Member Margaret Strachan who is involved with the Scottish Association of Flower Arrangement Societies (SAFAS). A flower festival to celebrate 70 years of SAFAS will take place in Dunfermline Abbey on 8th and 9th of May, 2026. Margaret has undertaken to create a display at the St. Margaret shrine and has invited members who are interested to help with the display. Anyone interested should contact Margaret Strachan.



With no other business notified, The President closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and asked that the table decorations provided by the monthly Flower Supervisors be taken to Margarets not able to be with us today.



Convenor's Report 2026

As my first Convenor's report I want to thank the executive committee for their encouragement throughout this year – Angela (Digital), Catrina (Newsletter), Holly (Secretary), Margaret C (Flower Supervisor), Margaret Cr (Membership Secretary) and Margaret W (Treasurer). I want to thank the Guild for trusting in me and for all the interaction I've had with members so far. I'm pleased to report that I have met with staff at HES and continue to have a good, working relationship with them.

A summary of the year follows:

Chapel Usage

The Chapel is available to be used for ceremonies for eight months of the year (the busy period from June to the end of September is excluded). There have been twenty-eight weddings (nine military and nineteen civilian), and six baptisms (five military and one civilian). It is the Guild's flower arrangements that grace the Chapel for these special celebrations.

We can request the use of the Chapel for Guild members up to six times a year, at no cost for a christening, and at the military rate (currently £200) for a wedding. Please contact the Secretary if you would like to use the Chapel for a wedding or baptism.

Guild Income

Our members continue to grow in number; we now have 311 members and 35 Corporate Contacts. We will also welcome 21 new members in November, 3 of who are overseas members.



The electronic payment system that was introduced in 2025 continues to show a marked increase in our donations at the Chapel. Members of the Committee are able to check the status of the device online and can thus detect when there is an issue. We have met with HES to discuss the location of the device and to agree on a more permanent poster.

We continue to receive cash donations, although as anticipated these have reduced. The money is now collected by a member of the Committee on an ad hoc basis and this is working well. Finding a RBS branch which is still open is the biggest challenge!

We are now almost completely out of booklets; some being kept for special occasions. I have been working on a small leaflet which can be taken away by visitors to the Chapel, giving them a snapshot of the Chapel and the work of St Margaret and a QR code for more information on our website. I'd like to thank Hannah Boldy, one of our members, for her help with this leaflet. A copy of this new leaflet should be found at each place at the AGM.

Guild income continues to grow due to our Tap n Pay machine in the Chapel and our continuing claim on Gift Aid. If you are able to claim Gift Aid then please chat to Margaret Williamson.

Royal Patronage

I am delighted to report that HRH The Princess Royal remains Patron of SMCG for the next three years. We apply to have it renewed, it is not a given that it will be extended, particularly given all the other charities that the Princess is involved with. We are hoping that HRH The Princess Royal will join us next year to help celebrate the 85th Anniversary of this Guild.



Guild Events and Keeping in Touch with Members

We continue to produce two newsletters which are sent to all members. These are packed with articles that we think will be of interest to Guild members wherever they may be. We are always seeking articles, so please get in touch if there is something you think may be of interest to the other members.

The monthly coffee mornings in Edinburgh continue. They take place on the 16th of the month (the 17th, if the 16th is a Sunday) from 11am to 12.30pm at the rooftop café in the Johnnie Walker venue on Princes Street. We usually have around ten members attending, and it is a great way to meet other members. There is a WhatsApp group which is used to notify attendees if there are any changes. Please contact Fiona Pigott (07874 282480) or Angela Casey (07720 277163) to be added to the group.

We maintain a list of members and their contact details. We review and update the list throughout the year. Please do keep us notified if your details change.

Events Attended by The Guild

The Guild has been represented at the following events throughout the year:

Queen Margaret University's (QMU) Costume Showcase

QMU's Filmcase event

The Scotsman Fringe First award ceremony (a QMU sponsored event to recognise new performance writing)

Sistema's Big Noise event in Wester Hailes

Sistema Concert in the Caird Hall, Dundee

Flower Festival at Dunfermline Abbey



We receive a number of invitations throughout the year where we can put forward names of members to attend on behalf of the Guild. If you would like to be at some future event, please get in touch.

Salvete et Valet

The deaths of Margaret Struckmeier, Margaret Valerio, and Rev Charles Robertson LVO have all come to our attention since our AGM in 2025. We have sent letters of condolences and I, along with some other members, represented the Guild at Charlie's funeral.

Please do let us know about any announcements, whether happy or sad, that you hear of. This will allow us to contact the member, or where appropriate, the family, and ensure that the membership list we have is current.

Committee Matters

Most of the Executive Committee meetings have been held in person this year, with the option to join on-line. This allows us to accommodate the busy lives of the committee members.

We held a Strategy Day in March which allowed the Committee to review our plans and get to know each other better and share our knowledge and skills.

Committee members are Trustees of the Guild and we comply with all the latest regulations that apply to charities.



In June this year, Margaret Williamson took over the position of Vice Convenor alongside her Treasurer role. We would like to formalise Margaret's position as Vice Convenor at the AGM.

The Guild website has now been updated to run on a new platform. The changes mean that it is easier to maintain and update. Further updates can now easily be made by Committee member Angela Casey. We have updated and expanded the information contained in the Members Section of the website, and hope that it will be used as a reference source by our members (a reminder that the password for the members section is 10daisy93).

Following our inspection of the Chapel last year, Margaret Studley created a sampler for a new altar scarf for the Chapel and a new underskirt for the cloth on the altar, which is now in place.

Looking Ahead to our 85th Anniversary in 2027.

We have had a few successful meetings with a Sub committee set up to look at creating some information for our 85th Anniversary. The initial meeting (chaired by Angela Casey) looked at how we might create some story boards to tell the story of our Guild. These boards will be the start of preparing for our Centenary in 2042, being added to over time to revisit and reinforce our charitable purpose and an opportunity to promote the life of St Margaret and the work of the Guild. At the AGM we will be recording memories and would encourage anyone with a story to tell to speak to Angela Casey at some point to capture your moment. We are aiming to have an event in the Harry Younger Hall in Summer 2027 to display the boards and enjoy some fellowship. We will then go on a road trip and offer the story boards to any organisation who would be interested in St. Margaret.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you on the 16th of November in our usual venue of Edinburgh Castle. I always think it's such a privilege to be able to spend time there as a group of Margarets.



Fiona M Pigott, Convenor

Convenor@stmargaretschapel.com



St Margaret's Chapel Guild AGM 2026

Charitable giving proposed for approval at AGM 2026

QMU Study Abroad Programme	£1,000
Edinburgh City Mission	£1,000
ABF The Soldiers' Charity	£1,000
Canongate Kirk	£1,000
The Princess Anne Charities' Trust	£1,000
Pitcairn Trust (in lieu of Examiner's fee)	£500
Mary's Meals	£500
Big Noise Sistema Scotland	£500



STEKASkills	£500
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Dunfermline Food Bank	£500
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Member-nominated charities	up to the value of £2,500
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[Mary's Meals](#) - provides nourishing meals to some of the world's poorest societies.

[Big Noise Sistema Scotland](#) - is a high-quality music education and social change programme that works intensively with children, young people and families within targeted communities.

[STEKASkills](#) - is a children's home established in 2007, which now provides a safe and loving home for 70+ children and young adults in Blantyre, Malawi.

[Dunfermline food bank](#) - provides nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people in crisis.