



Annual Report 2002-2003

Origin Scotland
65 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1SR



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Introduction

Origin has enjoyed a year in which we have seen God using the ministry in wonderful ways to reach out to people, and for that we give Him thanks. In our dual purpose of Evangelism and Church Unity, we have seen moves forward, large and small events, and a growth in the numbers of people attending overall.

There have been a few changes to the Executive this year, as follows:

Current Exec

Colin Peckham*	Ministry Leader, Managing Director
Stuart McAra*	Company Secretary
Alistair McLeod	Project Management
Stephen Patterson*	Multimedia Director
Christian Martin**	Treasurer
Ronnie McLellan**	Lighting
Norma Staig**	Publicity (formerly Choir rep)

Exec Auxiliaries

Andrew Aveyard**	Assistant Producer
Alison Downie	Choir Manager
Steve Earl**	Special Projects

Exec Retirements

James Gibson	Prayer
Kirsti Jones*	Administration, Company Secretary
Kim Sladdin	Orchestra Manager

Non-executive Auxiliaries

Richard Jensen	Band Manager
Pauline Scott	Administrative Assistant

Exec Vacancies

EUCU chair	Open seat for a representative of Edinburgh University Christian Union
Prayer Secretary	
Orchestra Manager	
Hospitality	
Follow-up	

* Directors
** New this year

In addition, we would like to express our deep appreciation to Claire Durham and Grace Jack for their invaluable help in managing the orchestra this year, and to Alison Renwick for her considerable effort in hospitality for the choir during rehearsals.

We continued the practice (started last year) of an Exec retreat weekend, which has helped considerably in binding the committee together and in strategic planning. We have also started to extend the oversight committee (church leaders within Edinburgh who act as consultants and advisors to the Executive).

Oversight Committee

Rev Peter Grainger	Senior Pastor, Charlotte Baptist Chapel
Dr Gary Connor**	Director, Carrubbers Christian Centre
Rev Dr Colin Peckham	Principal Emeritus, The Faith Mission Bible College
Rev Dr James Purves**	Pastor, Bristo Baptist Church
Mr Donald Cameron**	Arts Director, Charlotte Baptist Chapel

Oversight Committee Retirements

Rev Wayne Sutton	Senior Pastor, Carrubbers Christian Centre
Mr Stephen Fairfield	Music Team Leader, Bellevue Evangelical Church

** New this year

Music

This year saw many new faces in the choir, and a good retention of those who had sung before. Although numbers for the Gospel Night Choir were down a little this year, the standard of performance was higher, and the band stabilised well, with new players joining in satisfactorily.

We currently have a vacancy for an acoustic guitarist, which we are praying will be filled soon.

This year also saw the last Gospel Night in the series that began in 1996 in Carrubbers Christian Centre. It was the 10th such performance (there were two in both 1996 and 2000), and saw the end of a remarkable series of events which again saw God working in a wonderful way this year. More on that in the Gospel Night report below.

The string quartet has been without its leader for a while now as Kim Sladdin has been on maternity leave. We are grateful to Grace Jack for filling in so faithfully. We have unfortunately been unable to develop a solid brass section that is useable throughout the year due to a lack of players of sufficient ability and availability. This is something we hope to address in the next year.

Prayer

Having James Gibson as Prayer Secretary this year added substantially to our efforts to make prayer absolutely central to our ministry. As did the addition of a monthly Exec prayer meeting and a (yet to be fully realised) bi-monthly public prayer meeting.

The 24x7 PrayerLine continues to be well used, and in the run-up to the Gospel Night, weekly prayer emails were sent out to the choir and other interested parties.

Every choir rehearsal started with a prayer update from James and a time of corporate small-group prayer before the music began. We saw amazing answers to prayer. Financial, administrative, legal, in recruiting the orchestra, and much more. It was indeed the case for months on end that we were able to report back to the choir every week that God had in one way or another answered the prayers that had been offered up.

We can still feel the excitement of knowing that we were in God's hands throughout.

Events

The Prayer Night programme came to an end due to falling attendance. Although we had had wonderful times in God's presence on those Saturday nights in 2001-2002, unfortunately the events did not attract the numbers necessary to bring speakers the distance we were doing. Regrettably, we concluded that the style of the events (worship, 30-40 minutes of challenging preaching and 30 minutes of prayer) was not working.

Events held this year

Autumn Praise Night
Carrubbers
Sunday 24 November

This was the last Praise Night in the current series to be held in Carrubbers for a while, due to a decision to broaden the base of these events. Attendance was good, with entire youth fellowships from a number of churches attending, including Musselburgh Baptist Church, who have been in attendance at almost every Praise Night to date. A good time of praise and worship preceded fellowship around tea, coffee and snacks in the café.

<p><i>Gospel Night Prayer Meeting</i> Carrubbers</p>	<p>We staggered the Gospel Night prayer meetings across venues and days of the week this year, to enable as many as possible to attend. The first one had relatively few attend, but there was a good sense of the Lord's presence at the meeting. The meeting was lead by John Meadows, a senior director at Carrubbers.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Prayer Meeting</i> Bellevue Chapel</p>	<p>A good number turned out for the prayer meeting at Bellevue including several people who were not part of staging the event itself, which was encouraging.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Prayer Meeting</i> Charlotte Chapel</p>	<p>An excellent turnout to Charlotte's lounge for this meeting, lead by Ali McLeod. The Charlotte Chapel YPM attended in force for the first half of the meeting prior to the start of their own programme, for which we are most grateful and encouraged.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Prayer Walk</i> At the Usher Hall Friday 07 March</p>	<p>Very few attended this prayer meeting outside the Usher Hall. However, it was a time of blessing, and challenge! We divided the group up and we each prayed on the steps at the various entrances to the Usher Hall for those who would cross them in two days. We did a similar thing on the day of the event inside the Hall, where we divided the choir into small groups and scattered them around the auditorium to pray for those who would sit in their area.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Prayer Walk</i> To Carlton Hill Saturday 08 March</p>	<p>A real sense of God's presence as we prayed on Carlton Hill overlooking the city. Although weather conditions were almost freezing, and the time spent up there had to be rationed for fear of soloists and musicians becoming ill the night before the event, an excellent time of prayer was had, and we returned down the hill praising God for what He would do. I am not entirely sure what the couple that came upon us singing thought, but we know that God was there!</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night 2003</i> Usher Hall Sunday 09 March</p>	<p>Separate report below.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Cape Town</i> V & A Waterfront Friday 21 March</p>	<p>Separate report below.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Cape Town</i> Bergvliet High School Saturday 22 March</p>	<p>Separate report below.</p>
<p><i>Gospel Night Cape Town</i> Bergvliet High School Sunday 23 March</p>	<p>Separate report below.</p>
<p><i>Spring Praise Night</i> Charlotte Chapel Sunday 27 April</p>	<p>One of the best Praise Nights yet. We were expecting only about 150 at this event, and had closed the balcony at the Chapel, when nearly 700 showed up to worship the Lord – mostly from other churches. We kept to a strict hour length, but in that time experienced real blessing and challenge as God moved people to worship him in music and song.</p>

eventsguide.org

This year has seen the launch of the long-awaited eventsguide.org website. This very exciting project had been planned for some time following the purchase of relevant domain names several years ago.

The eventsguide.org website contains a fully automated calendar of Christian events across Scotland, and a directory of churches in Edinburgh and the Lothians. We aim to list every protestant church with an EH postcode at this stage.

Last year we were approached by Nat Spring of Bluelines who was intending to develop a similar project, only charging for the full listings service. It was decided at the time to continue with our own project that had been some time in the planning by that stage, in part due to the fact that we intended to make the service entirely free.

The site was launched and the directory followed in early 2003. About 290 churches were mailed with a request for information for the site. To date, about 170 have returned the forms, which is an astounding result, and most gratifying. The eventsguide.org directory continues to be developed at pace, and recent enhancements have included the ability to link churches to their events on the calendar, and much more.

Currently under development is a Christian Organisation directory, which we believe will become the standard by which others will be measured in Scotland.

A large amount of publicity (80,000 credit-card-sized flyers and 2,000 A4 calendars) was printed and distributed to Wesley Owen and Faith Mission bookshops around Scotland and every church in Edinburgh.

We pray that this website will be greatly used by God in our second aim – Church Unity in Scotland.

Church relations

This has been an excellent year for relations with City churches. We are particularly grateful to the leadership at Charlotte Chapel and Carrubbers for their enthusiastic vocal, public support without which we would be much the poorer.

We have seen our oversight committee grow (and there are others in the pipeline for that), and Colin has had many productive meetings with church leaders from many denominations. Our new publicity secretary Norma has worked to develop reps in almost thirty churches which has improved communications substantially, and the development of eventsguide.org has meant a big step forward in our relationships with churches round the city.

Our database of Edinburgh churches has also improved substantially and is probably now the best available for Edinburgh churches. We are now working on developing the same standard for Christian organisations working in Edinburgh and the surrounding areas.

Meetings have been held with leadership from (among others), St Paul's and St George's Church, Carrubbers, Charlotte Chapel, Bellevue Chapel, Palmerston Place Church, St Columbas Free Church, Buccleuch Free Church, various Christian Unions leadership, the Edinburgh Baptist Minister's Fraternal, Holyrood Abbey Church, Community Church and more.

We are hoping to develop this over the coming year to see even better church relations as we seek to serve the Edinburgh Church through our events, programmes and services.

Gospel Night Report

Prayer

- ✓ Three dedicated prayer meetings at Carrubbers, Bellevue and Charlotte Chapel
- ✓ A night-time prayer walk which concluded with an hour of prayer on the pavement outside the Usher Hall the day before the event
- ✓ A second night-time prayer walk which concluded with an hour of prayer on Carlton Hill overlooking the city
- ✓ Group prayer times at choir rehearsals
- ✓ A dedicated "prayer hotline" with pre-recorded messages regularly updated
- ✓ Prayer letters were regularly printed and distributed to churches
- ✓ An e-prayerletter was produced weekly in the 10 weeks run-up to the event

Publicity (Edinburgh. Cape Town handled own publicity)

- ✓ 1,000 posters. We reduced this due to over-supply last year
- ✓ 30,000 flyers
- ✓ 1,000 personal invitations
- ✓ Radio interviews on Central FM and Forth FM
- ✓ 350 Churches received two mailshots
- ✓ 25 pastors personally invited to attend

The Rehearsal Process

Again this year we failed to find a rehearsal pianist, but the overall spirit in the rehearsals for the choir was excellent, and the difficulty experienced last year completely evaporated. The rehearsals were thoroughly enjoyable, and Esther McColl joined us as pianist at the end for the final rehearsals and the event itself.

The Events

This year we changed the format slightly to run without a narrator – replacing the role with pre-recorded video segments of an interview with a Christian student (Jonathan Dobson) and other film such as vox pops.

Edinburgh

The music programme continued to evolve with more contemporary music, and the performance was without doubt the finest we have yet produced, as far as musical standard is concerned. New soloists this year Mark Calder and Kat Platt joined Anne Meadows and Rebecca Plant. Our speaker Rev Colin Sinclair delivered an excellent word.

While everything up to 09th March ran like clockwork, the day itself was one to remember for entirely different reasons.

- ✗ The truck bringing lighting equipment bumped and demolished a wall
- ✗ The third trumpet player called in sick during the morning rehearsal
- ✗ Two violinists called to cancel their involvement during the morning rehearsal
- ✗ A mic stand fell on the lead trumpeter and injured him during the afternoon rehearsal
- ✗ A choir member fell down the stairs and broke his collarbone on arrival at the Usher Hall

And that was before the event even started. Then...

- ✗ The multimedia failed completely for unknown reasons, eliminating much of the message for the evening
- ✗ The sound crew were unable to optimise the equalisation of the sound until only a few songs from the end, resulting in complaints and general dissatisfaction from the audience

Despite all of this, God clearly worked in that we know of at least one person who committed to Christ immediately following the event, and trust that many more will follow in the coming years.

Free Gospels, New Testaments and other literature were made available at the event, although due to the unusual layout of the Usher Hall exits, it remains a little uncertain as to how many were taken.

It was, however, a disappointing end to the Gospel Night series, and many important lessons were learned. A full review was undertaken which led to a number of recommendations and changes to procedure and staffing, which should ensure that similar mistakes (or at least those which are under our control) should not recur. An internal report was produced following the investigation for the Exec and the Oversight Committee.

Cape Town

Tanya van Schalkwyk was the local co-ordinator for the Cape Town events and on our arrival it became clear that she had done an excellent job in preparing the choir and band. We took twenty-five people out, and Tanya had prepared a choir of about forty, and together we sang at the V & A Waterfront to about 1,300 people, and at Bergvliet High School to about 1,050.

Initial problems with the brass players (non-attendance at some rehearsals) led to a slightly reduced standard of performance on the opening night at the High School (the open-air event at the Waterfront and the performance in Meadowridge Baptist Church at their Sunday morning service was performed to prepared tracks), but this was sorted by the second night. In general though, the scaled-back orchestra for this event was of a much higher standard than the one we used last time we were in Cape Town (2001).

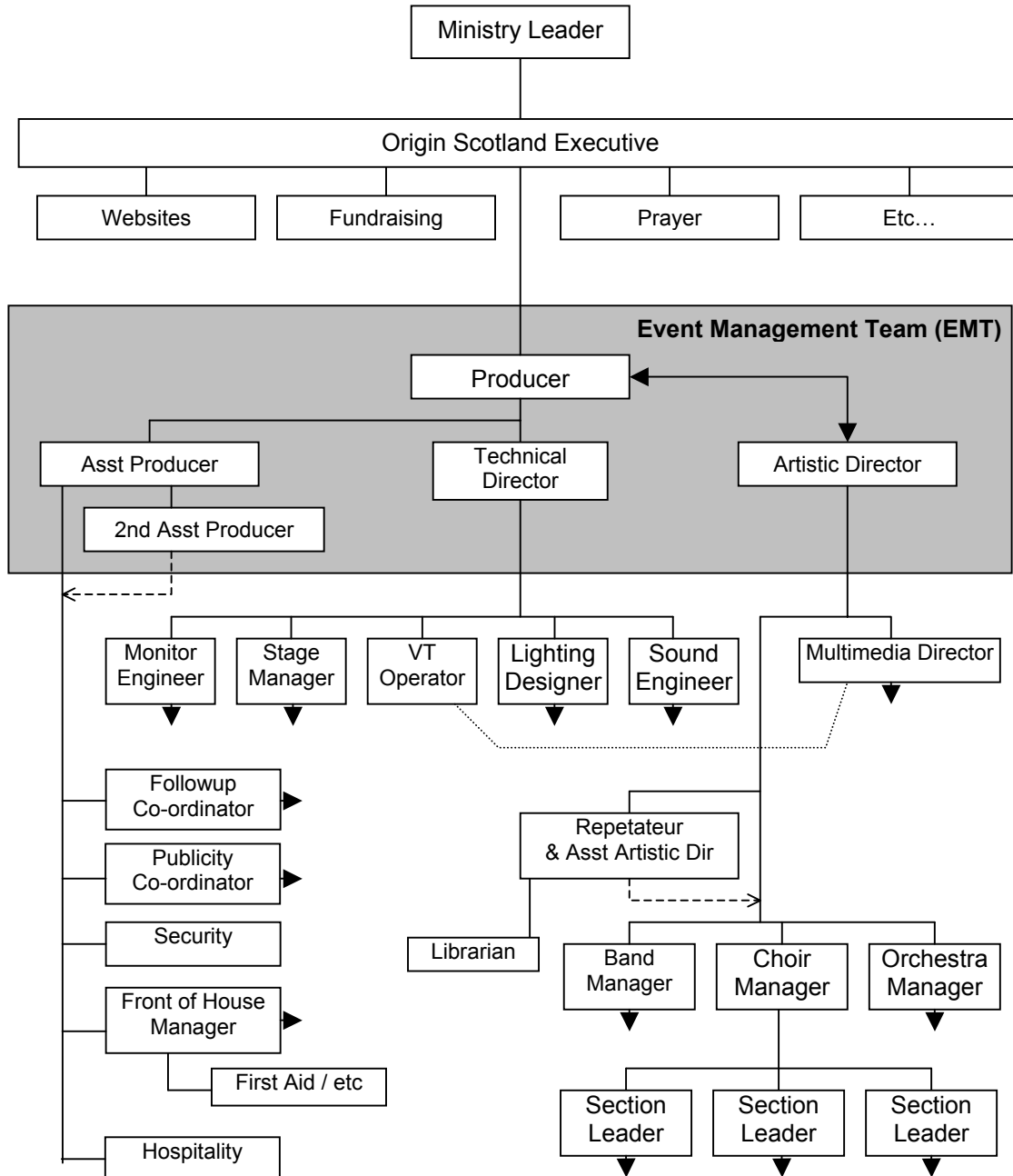
Similar technical problems plagued the indoor events in Cape Town as had done in Edinburgh, but to a lesser degree. The multimedia was used on the backup VHS system, and an additional technical rehearsal on the Sunday afternoon helped considerably to sort the equalisation problems by the evening performance.

We know of at least four people who committed to Jesus at these events, and a wonderful time was had by all out in Cape Town. Visits to the townships (Kayelitsha, Langa, and others) were a highlight, as was a visit to the Beautiful Gate AIDS baby clinic.

Conclusion

The Event Management Team

This new structure was the outcome of the investigation into the technical problems at Gospel Night 2003. In addition, our future technical requirements have been outsourced to Room 3.



It has been amazing to see how God has taken something that seemed an insurmountable obstacle to grace, and worked through it to His glory. For that we thank Him and worship Him, and trust Him for the future. This year, about 3,700 people attended Gospel Nights, and despite the problems we can truly say that God has not let us down, and as we move on to other programmes, we commit to His ongoing care those who over the last few years have attended the Gospel Night events. We know that we will meet many in heaven who came to Jesus through the Gospel Night programme. One other thing worth mentioning. For the first time we had no underwriter. And for the first time since the large-scale Gospel Nights began, we not only broke even, but also ended up with some funds in the account. God is great.

Financial Report

Profit & Loss Account

For the year to 31st May 2003

	£	£
INCOME		
Ticket Sales	13,237	
Program Ads	350	
2001 CD Sales	163	
Gifts (note 1)	28,275	
Donations from Edinburgh Churches	1,750	
Offering at Edinburgh event for Cape Town event (note 2)	1,902	
Bank Interest	29	
Charity Collections at Cape Town events	<u>354</u>	46,060
EXPENDITURE		
Venues	5,160	
Technical Equipment	8,448	
Publicity	2,860	
Music	1,734	
Speakers	50	
Administration	863	
IT	605	
Hospitality	170	
Programmes	96	
Fixed Asset Depreciation	727	
Misc	518	
Choir Travel and Accommodation for Cape Town	17,628	
Donations to Cape Town Charities	<u>354</u>	<u>39,221</u>
Surplus for the year		<u>6,839</u>

Note 1 This figure includes gift aid recovered from the Inland Revenue

Note 2 The offering collected for Cape Town was to cover event expenditure and is included in venue / tech expenditure.

Balance Sheet
As at 30th May 2003

	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
	Cost	Depn		
Tangible Assets	2,182	(727)		1,455
Current Assets:				
Bank Balance as at 30 May 2003			<u>5,421</u>	
Net Current Assets				<u>5,421</u>
 TOTAL ASSETS AT THE YEAR END				 <u>6,876</u>

RESERVES:

General Reserves at 31 May 2002				37
Surplus for the year			<u>6,839</u>	
General Reverses at 31 May 2003			<u>6,876</u>	

Conclusion

The Future

One of the decisions taken early last year was to seek to partner more with existing ministries where there is an overlap of interest, so as not to be trying to compete. To this end, we are partnering with STL and The New Scottish in *An Evening with John Ortberg* to be held in the SECC Armadillo and The Usher Hall in March 2004.

We have also investigated partnerships with other organisations and hope to develop those in the coming years.

We have also reached the end of our three-year plan to make the Praise Nights a major part of the Church in Edinburgh. We will be hosting the first Usher Hall Praise Night "City Praise" in October 2003, and adding another annual event to the calendar in the Carol Service "Original Christmas: Not a *Silent Night*" on December 06th.

Events for coming year

<i>Praise Night</i> Bristo Baptist Church Sunday 17 August	As part of the "Room 3 @ the Festival" Christian arts festival, the Origin band and singers present this free event, in our Priase Night Series.
<i>Prom Praise</i> Edinburgh Playhouse Sunday 31 August	Not an Origin event, but we are providing the choir for a few numbers and to lead the congregation in singing with the All Souls Orchestra from London under Noel Tredinnick.
<i>City Praise</i> Usher Hall Sunday 19 October	The first of the major Praise Nights. Origin is paying for this event out of our own pockets to make it entirely free for the Edinburgh Church. Wide consultation has taken place for what we hope will be the start of a major new feature on the Edinburgh Christian calendar.
ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS <i>Not a Silent Night</i> Usher Hall Saturday 06 December	The first of a brand new series of outreach events. God answered prayer in a wonderful way to make this event possible, as venue booking during the Christmas period is next to impossible.
<i>An evening with John Ortberg</i> SECC Armadillo Saturday 06 March Usher Hall Sunday 07 March	A new partnership with The New Scottish and STL brings the STL author tours to Edinburgh for the first time. Previously these tours have been with J John, Philip Yancey, Matt Redman and others. We trust that this will also be the start of a good relationship between all our organisations.

In so many ways we have seen God move in our own lives as leaders of the ministry, among the choir and the various music groups, and in the audiences and congregations that have gathered at Origin events this year.

We have heard of people becoming Christians at Praise Nights, Gospel Nights and later in the year following the events, which were quoted as key milestones for individuals in their spiritual journeys. For this we give all the glory to God.

We trust Him for the future as we continue to serve in Edinburgh and beyond, and restate our complete reliance on Him as the ministry grows and is established in the city. There is an exciting road ahead, and we trust you will join us in prayer and praise to the God we serve.