



crystal chronicle

june 2015



Collecting for Christian Aid

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St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church
Interim Moderator: Colin Sutherland

Tel 01387 279954

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



Christian Aid week



Representing counting (above): Alice Hunt and Anne Motroni. Our front cover picture, representing collecting, shows Alan Franks and Ina McShane.

In Christian Aid Week (May 10-16) our house to house collection in Dumfries this year has enabled £2,089.52 to be passed to Christian Aid for their valuable work carried our worldwide.

We give thanks for all who have contributed to the sum raised, namely the distributors, collectors, counters and of course everyone who has donated.

We've featured two photographs – one representing all those who collected, the other those who were involved in counting.

In total we had involvement and support from 35 members and friends of St Mary's-Greyfriars'.



We had a separate retiring offering in church for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal on May 17, resulting in £452.24 being passed via Christian Aid specifically for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

Christian Aid sent on the day of the Earthquake £50,000 to be used immediately – this was taken from their Christian Aid funds.

Note that the New Abbey Garden Safari is on Sunday June 28 – a proportion of the funds raised will be allocated to Christian Aid.

Anne Twiname



From the Interim Moderator

There are occasions in our lives when we find time to sit down and consider the impact that we have had on the lives of those around us in this world. We also should look carefully at the people who over the years have had an effect on our personal and public lives.

Naturally when we look at the people who have had a bearing on our lives the first port of call has to be our parents. I often think it would be really good to know what our parents really thought about some of the decisions that we made in this life. I'm not that sure if that would necessarily be a good thing – for at the end of the day it is the person in a particular situation that makes the choice, and let's be honest, no-one makes a decision believing it to be the wrong one.

Following on from parents I guess our teachers at school and Sunday School help to shape the individual and give us the information that will enable us to take and make the decisions that we, in turn, have to live with. Then of course, for us who made the decision to get married, the husband or wife we live with shares in the many decisions that we make.

Not looking at the marriage decision – for I personally would not change the one I made – but I do understand that not always is that decision the best a person has ever made!

I think when we have to decide on something we need the best possible information so that we can make an informed choice. Unfortunately this is not always the case.

I remember how lucky I was once when I went to buy a car. My brother-in-law, who is a mechanic and therefore knows a heck of a lot more about cars than I do, was late in arriving at the sale. I watched carefully as car after car was being sold and I began to worry if I was going to miss out completely so I jumped in and bought the next one that I thought looked good value for money. Just five minutes later he arrived having been held up in traffic so I suggested that he come and look at this car and see if he thought worth buying. Fortunately he said it certainly looked worth considering, to which I replied thank goodness for that for I have just bought it.

We do not always come away from the decisions we make quite as happy as I was that evening, some people are just lucky. I know I was on that occasion.

Another person who helped shape my life was our minister at the church where we were members. Through his preaching and his friendship I'm almost certain he must carry a lot of the credit (or blame) for the fact that I did become a minister.

Some decisions we make are small and simple and then again others have a profound effect not only on the individual but on so many more people who we come into contact with. The best decision we can make in this world is to become a follower of Jesus Christ. We tend to follow examples that we see or have been set for us in our lives – by our parents, our teachers, our ministers – they all point us in the right direction, but they cannot live our lives for us. It's up to us to choose the path we follow. Take the path that will in the end lead you to the man who came among us, who lived a perfect life, and through him shaped the lives of so many people in this world. I trust that you will be a true follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, let him shape the decisions that you take in this world.

May God's richest blessing be yours now and always,

Colin



Church register

Change of address – “We have moved”

Ms E Manson from 315 Annan Road, Dumfries to 95 Queen Street, Castle Douglas

Please let me know of any changes of address: **Marion Bennett**, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY. Tel: 263106.

Guild outing

The Guild outing will take place on the afternoon of Tuesday June 23.

In order that we can make final arrangements for our visit to Ruthwell Church and the Savings Bank at 4pm, followed by High Tea at the Nith Hotel at 6.30pm, would all members who wish to go, please contact either Janet on 264973 or Janette on 253456 before June 7.

What's on ...

June

Monday 15: Buzz, Twittering on about birds, Dorothy Edwards

Thursday 25: Communion and soup in the hall, 12.15pm

Sunday 28: Communion in the church, 11.30am and 6.30pm

Monday 29: Buzz outing to Dunscore and Penpont

July

Saturday 4: Coffee morning

Monday 13: Buzz holiday

About the magazine

Our July/August double edition's deadline is **Sunday June 21** for items passed on through the church or **3pm on Tuesday June 23** for anything sent direct. If you have anything for inclusion, please include your name.

Editor: David Bennett

Write: 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY

Call: 01387 263106

Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Interim Moderator

Colin Sutherland 279954

Session Clerk

David Matheson 252042

Treasurer

Stewart Williamson 261257

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Billy Simpson 252278



Singing Children concert

The Singing Children of Africa are coming to Dumfries with their concert, “Love can turn the World”.

See these inspirational children on Monday June 8 in St John’s Church, Lovers Walk at 7pm, and Tuesday June 9 in St Andrew’s Church, Brooke Street at 7pm.

Entrance is free (a collection will be taken). A treat not to be missed.

Quiet time

Loving God

We thank you for your constant guidance throughout our lives –
and for all it means to us,
the way you encourage us,
challenge us
and renew us.

Day by day you are there to lead us.

Anne Twiname

Your new-look Chronicle

Welcome to the first edition of our new-look magazine!

Following the feedback after our special Christmas edition, we’ve had a bit of a refresh, and are now able to include much more pictures and news from the church community. All our regular features are here too, though they might have moved around a bit!

This month, we’ve also featured news on some of the issues and debates held at the General Assembly, as well as from the wider Guild community in Scotland. We’re hoping to be able to feature these kinds of items more regularly in the future, whenever space allows us to do so.

We’re also delighted to be able to include better-quality pictures for the first time, and this month we feature some from the recent Christian Aid Week, from Janet McSherry’s visit to Hungary and from the Church of Scotland’s Heart and Soul event in Edinburgh.

We hope you enjoy the new look, but please do get in touch with any feedback or items you think should be included – contact details can be found at the bottom of page four.

David Bennett, Editor

August coffee morning

Note that there will be a coffee morning in the hall in August – on Saturday August 8, to raise funds for patient transport for the Order of St John.



'Improve palliative care' call

The Church of Scotland has written to MSPs urging them to do more to improve palliative care for those approaching the end of their life rather than passing "assisted dying" laws.

Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, who is Convener of the Church and Society Council, contacted MSPs, speaking of her deep concern that people are able to live life in all its fullness.

"We believe that rather than seeking to legislate for assisted dying, the Parliament must instead increase its efforts to ensure that there is high quality palliative care available to people in every part of Scotland," she said. "We often spend time with those who provide astonishing levels of care in hospital, hospices and at home to people in the final stages of their lives. The certainty of world-class palliative care is the best response to those who are fearful of the final stages of their lives or the life of one they love."

Ms Foster-Fulton previously addressed the Scottish Parliament's health committee on the Church's opposition to the proposals when they took submissions on the Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill at Holyrood. In her letter she states the committee has subsequently concluded the Bill is deeply flawed.

She said the experience of the church in providing pastoral care for those at the end of their lives has led to the firm belief that the Bill is not the correct way of addressing society's concern for the dying at this time: "We believe that this Bill represents much more than simply a tinkering with the law, breaching as it does the societal prohibition on the taking of human life. It carries implications for the whole of society, not just for those who will seek assisted death, and for attitudes to many aspects of health and social care."

New rules allow ministers in civil partnerships

The Church of Scotland has voted in favour of allowing people in same-sex civil partnerships to be called as ministers and deacons.

The historic decision was made by the General Assembly, where the motion was passed by 309 votes in favour and 182 against. It is the culmination of years of deliberation within the Church. In all, 31 of the Church's presbyteries endorsed the move; 14 opposed it.

It means the Church has adopted a position that maintains a traditional view of marriage between a man and woman, but allows individual congregations to "opt out" if they wish to appoint a minister or a deacon in a same-sex civil partnership.

The outgoing Moderator, Very Rev John Chalmers, said: "Of course we need the freedom across the Church to shape the life and worship of the Church according to local needs and local gifts but we cannot go on suffering the pain of internal attacks which are designed to undermine the work or the place of others. It's time to play for the team.

"It is time to stop calling each other names, time to shun the idea that we should define ourselves by our differences and instead define ourselves by what we hold in common – our baptism into Christ, our dependence on God's grace, our will to serve the poor and so on."



Pioneering ministers

A new style of Kirk minister is to be created, charged with reconnecting large parts of Scotland with Christianity.

Five new groundbreaking “Pioneer Ministry” posts were approved by the General Assembly, with the 46 presbyteries of Scotland’s national church being asked to bid for the new roles.

Rev Neil Dougall, Convener of the Church of Scotland’s Ministries Council, said: “We realise there are many people out there who feel disconnected from the Church but not with God or Jesus.

“We need ministers who can go into areas where there is no Church of Scotland presence, read the needs of the community and bring the benefits of Christianity to them.

“The ideal candidate will have to be a good self-starter and have an entrepreneurial outlook. The Church of Scotland has a long history of pioneering ministry. We are looking for ministers who can bring this pioneering spirit for the benefit of 21st-century Scotland. We’re hopeful we will get some really good bids.”

The move follows the launch of the Church of Scotland’s major recruitment drive for new ministers, “Tomorrow’s Calling”.

The key skills being sought for the pioneering roles are the abilities to work with people outside of the traditional Kirk network, an understanding of contemporary culture and a clear idea of how their specific parish can benefit from the Christian message.

Finding new places to worship, rather than in a church, will also be in the remit, with the possibility of using sports clubs and various community venues on the cards. The Pioneering Ministry model has been used by the Church of England since 2007.

Funding boost as Guild’s charities chosen

The Guild has chosen three Scottish and three international charities to support for the next three years. The projects are in line for a huge boost in volunteer energy – and around £100,000 in funds – as Guild members put their talents and energy to work.

Care for the Family Scotland’s “Let’s Stick Together” project offers new parents relationship education and support.

The Ascension Trust’s Street Pastors go out into our streets in all weathers from 10pm – 3am on weekend nights to listen, care and help people.

Prospects in Scotland’s “All Friends

Together” helps churches welcome people with learning disabilities and include them in all aspects of church life.

Feed the Minds is a partnership with communities in the Kuria district of Kenya, which aims to break the cycle of female genital mutilation.

Christian Aid’s “Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia” will help desperately poor families build and use solar ovens.

Mission International’s Haiti Project is working with a church Ouanaminthe to construct a building that will include a school, community centre and new church centre.



From the Treasurer

	April 2015	April 2014	Reduction
Open Plate	£ 624	£ 772	£ 152
Weekly Freewill Offerings	£ 2410	£ 2626	£ 216
Banker's Orders/Cheques	£ 2119	£ 2387	£ 268
Collection Boxes	£ 206	£ 421	£ 215
Total	£ 5359	£ 6206	£ 851

I have shown the reduction between the April 2014 and 2015 givings – a drop of 13.7% Please keep this in mind as similar drops as this are not sustainable in the long term. 2015 Year to Date (17 Sundays): £17,282; 2014 Year to Date (17 Sundays) £18,130. Deficit £848 – 4.68%.

Stewart Williamson, Treasurer

Flower rota

June 14	Vacant
June 21	Vacant
June 28	M Wilson
July 5	Vacant

Anyone wishing to donate flowers please contact:

Norna Francis.....	250199
Moira Cannon	720394
Betty Jardine.....	257691
Margaret McCafferty	268673
Margaret Thomson	253484

The 2015 flower list is now displayed in the church vestibule.

There are some spaces if you would like to donate flowers.

There is now a notebook on the vestibule table for names of members who are ill or housebound who might like to have flowers. We would be most grateful if you could let us know of anyone who is ill, at home or in hospital.

Notes of thanks

Mrs E Marchbank of Locharbriggs would like to express her thanks for flowers she received after her recent stay in hospital.

Mrs Grace Kirby would like to thank the congregation for the lovely flowers received following a recent family bereavement.

Thank you for the beautiful arrangement of flowers I received in hospital. They cheered me up. **Jean Low**

Thanks from Bunty Hogg and her family for the lovely flowers received following the death of her husband, Norman.

Thank you from Jessie and Roy Whyte, Marchmount Drive, for flowers received and kind thoughts when Roy was in hospital.

Thanks also from Mr and Mrs King, Cheryl Smail, Mr and Mrs Thompson.



Time for a party?

The Kirk Session has agreed that we're going to organise two special events later this year as part of our mission within our congregation and with our neighbours.

The first event is going to be a "Harvest Kirn" on a Saturday afternoon near to our Harvest Thanksgiving Service, when we will celebrate the wonderful food that we have access to. We want to invite couples who have been married in our church and also our neighbours across the road and round about to share in this celebration of God's bounty.

The details are still to be developed but some suggestions already put forward include tasting sessions of local foods and cookery demonstrations. If you have some ideas and would be able to help it would be great to have a team working together to make this a fun and family event.

Our second event is a Christmas Party for all the children that have been baptised in our church over the last four years. Again, we would welcome ideas and some help with this special event. We're planning to have it early in the Advent season so that the kids are aware of the reason for all the festivities that take place later on, and so that it doesn't get caught up with school and other events.

If you are able to join in, please speak to Liz Manson or Anne Twiname. And even if you can't help in a practical way, feel free to share your ideas and also pray for the success of these new events in sharing God's love with our church family and wider parish.

In the garden

The Garden Club had a very successful visit to Garden Wise on April 29. Alistair Bertram's theme was "Changes". He started with a small garden centre 35 years ago, which has expanded, gaining a coffee shop and retail outlet for clothing, ornaments and books. He demonstrated the changes in gardening during that time.

Alistair showed us various products and told us about how feeding and weed and pest control have changed drastically. He also showed a range of garden footwear, kneelers and kneepads, and answered a range of questions from members. Tea, coffee and goodies were served courtesy of Garden Wise.

Donations for the charity "Perennial", the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society,

amounted to £115 – which was passed over to Alistair.

On May 13 we saw a presentation of Jimmy and Ann Kirk's visit to New Zealand, with a stop-over at Singapore. The contrast between the modern skyscrapers and the lower "national quarters" was tremendous. The orchid garden was incredible.

The New Zealand photos took in the "Lord of the Rings" filming areas, now with a permanent "Hobbit" village, mountains, majestic coastal scenes and river gorges as well as scenes in Auckland. There were also family homes and Jimmy's sister, Frances, and her husband, Joe Beattie, who were known to some of the members. It was a very enjoyable meeting.



From the Buzz

At our meeting on Monday May 4 we welcomed Mary Wilson for a musical afternoon. Mary is a retired music teacher and really enjoys entertaining. She played a medley of songs from musicals, including My Fair Lady, Get Me to the Church on Time and many more. We all played a variety of musical instruments accompanied by Mary on the piano. We enjoyed playing the hand bells to some of the tunes too. We finished our musical afternoon playing the quiz Name that Tune and drinking tea.

On Monday May 18 we were visited by Anne Rinaldi who is employed at the Dumfries and Galloway library service. Anne informed us of the services available from the library service. As well as loaning books, they offer use of IT equipment, access to job advertisements and you can read magazine subscriptions including Hello, Good Food and Ideal Homes. There is also a lot of local historical news to read about the ongoing flooding of the Whitesands back in the 1980 so the library is well worth a visit. We ended our day with our usual cup of tea.

Freda Hunter

PS ...

Against all hope

Against all understanding

Against all the odds

Jesus is risen

For the hungry child

For the grieving widow

For the beaten prisoner

Jesus is risen

In the refugee camp

In the hospital ward

In the local street

Jesus is risen

In the forests

In the mountains

Beside the seas

Jesus is risen

In the lives of the faithful

In the witness of the hopeful

In the hearts of the loving

Jesus is risen

Amen



Janet's Arpad Ter visit

As you may recall a notice was placed in the magazine for people to consider going out to Hungary to visit our twinned church, Arpad Ter in Debrecen, as part of a Presbytery visit to Hungary.

I went on this trip along with another 12 people, leaving from Edinburgh on April 21, returning a week later. It was an extremely pleasant but busy trip – visiting Hungarian Reformed Churches in Debrecen and the surrounding countryside and spending a day in Romania, again visiting Reformed Churches.

I was made to feel very welcome by Arpad Ter Church – even on my first night, by attending the Scottish Bible Group when we all said the Lord's Prayer in English. My Hungarian was non-existent but I now understand three words – greetings, yes and no.

Arpad Ter Church is in the process of turning an area of land at the back of their hall into a lawned area for children to play in. They have been busy working on this area by clearing it of weeds and dog mess – at the time of my visit two large black bags of rubbish had been cleared. I did a little to help by watering and firming in some cactus-type plants outside to try to prevent cars parking outside the hall.

I also met with Ildiko and Janos, who stayed with David and Bella Matheson last year, and Eva, Janos and Gergo with whom Stan and Liz Tanner stayed two years ago.

I was lucky enough to stay with Piroska Selyben, a 66-year-old retired pastor who welcomed me into her home and introduced me to all her family, either in the flesh or by Skype (her son lives in London). Agnes Moinar, who acted as my interpreter, and her family, will be visiting Scotland



Janet working outside Arpad Ter's hall, top; and, above, the Great Church in Debrecen.

between mid-June and mid-August and wish to visit the church during their time here and I hope that we all will make them feel as welcome in our church and I did in theirs.

It was a very worthwhile visit which I would recommend to anyone. A full resume will be given to the Guild in March; any member of the congregation is welcome to attend.

Janet McSherry



Putting our heart and soul into it!



Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, the Moderator of the General Assembly, met members of our congregation at the Heart and Soul event in Edinburgh. Right: our Presbytery's banner on display at the event.

This recipe card was available at the World Mission stand at the Church of Scotland Heart and Soul event. As it comes from Hungary, perhaps you would like to make this and think of our friends in our twinned church in Arpad Ter while you are eating it!

Borscht soup

- 3 small peeled raw beetroots
- 1 medium sized onion
- 2 pints of beef stock
- 3 tablespoons of sherry
- Seasoning
- Sour cream/chopped chives



Grate the beetroot and put in a pan with the onion and stock. Bring to the boil and simmer for 45 minutes.

Strain and add the lemon juice and sherry.

Adjust the seasoning and serve with a swirl of sour cream and/or chopped chives if desired.

The soup can be chilled and served cold too.