



Chrystal Chronicle

June/July 2019



Walk of Witness

David Matheson carries the cross during the annual Easter walk through Dumfries

St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church
Minister: Rev David Logan

Tel 01387 270128
www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no SC009432



Members of St Mary's-Greyfriars' Guild who were presented with long service awards at their AGM. More than 620 years of membership were recognised with Helen Holland, front centre, being presented with an award for 60 years. Two members are absent from this picture.

First Minister's praise for Kirk

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has praised the Kirk for the "enormous and highly valued contribution" made across Scotland and beyond. Her comments came as she addressed the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which she described as a "deep honour".

Ms Sturgeon said: "Thank you for the enormous and highly valued contribution that the Church of Scotland makes to communities across our country, and indeed around the world.

"Everyone in Scotland – Christians, and those of other faiths and none – benefits from the work that you do."

During the speech, she highlighted the Church of Scotland's "investment in young people, social security and gender justice work" and "invaluable support for and encouragement of interfaith co-operation". The work of the World Mission Council was also singled out for building bridges with communities around the globe.

Ms Sturgeon also thanked Very Rev Susan Brown for fulfilling her duties "with style, humour, humility, compassion and distinction" during her year as Moderator.

Rt Rev Colin Sinclair, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, thanked Ms Sturgeon, saying: "We want to assure you and your colleagues of our prayers and good wishes."



From the Manse

Dear friends,

As I write this, the Kirk is meeting in General Assembly in Edinburgh. In many cases this means nothing to the church member sitting in their pew. The Church of Scotland is very good at preserving the status quo. In other words, doing nothing!

Well, last year, things changed and a number of Commissioners made their feelings felt and, demanded a “radical action plan” from the church – and to make matters worse it was to report back to the 2019 General Assembly! The good news is that it has and although parts of it will have to wait to the end of the week the major parts have been accepted. It is indeed radical stuff. A new board of trustees to run the church under the authority of the General Assembly. Four of the major councils will merge into two and a 20-30% cost saving to be achieved within three years.

It looks like we shall move to approximately 12 Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions will be given greater powers too. It is a massive change but one that reflects the way the church is today in Scotland. We are having to adapt not only to changed circumstances but far fewer finances. Churches in urban priority areas and those displaying a mission based approach to their parish will from now on be getting the lion's share of what money is available.

You may not think that all this change is good news but believe me it frees us up to do what we should have been doing all along and that is advancing Christ's Kingdom in our parish and looking after the needy and the lonely and the friendless.

Lets us look forward to the new chapter in our Church life.

Your friend and Minister,

Cards for Good Causes

The Church is again hosting a pop up shop for Cards for Good Causes from Saturday October 26 until Saturday December 14 in the small hall. The 25 charities that were represented last year will be represented again as well as The 1959 Group and Bargain Packs of Cards. There will also be a supply of Christmas goods.

I am hoping that those who volunteered and assisted last year will assist again this year. Should anyone wish to assist this year, they will be made very welcome to join the happy band! Full training will be provided. Two people are required to be in the shop at all times. Volunteers are not expected to be there all day, every day. Even if you only have one or two hours to spare please consider coming along to help us raise monies for the church. There is a remuneration fee paid to the church which is dependent on the amount of sales made in the short season – seven weeks.

Janet McSherry, 01387 264973 or 07743 940639



Food bank support

It was decided recently that St Mary's-Greyfriars' would contribute regularly to the Trussell Trust food bank in Dumfries. A collection box is available at the back of the church and a poster shows the sort of items that would be appreciated. It's being well supported by our members and every item contributed helps someone in need. Particular items needed are:

- Tinned meats
- Tinned fish
- Tinned veg
- Tinned fruit
- Cooking sauces
- Instant coffee
- UHT milk
- Breakfast cereals
- Long-life fruit juice
- Tinned puddings
- Jam
- Instant mashed potato

Please ensure that all gifts have a long best-before date. Gifts left will be collected from the church when the tray is full.

What's on ...

June

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|-----------|---|
| Thu 6th: | Churches together "Let's Celebrate", 7pm at Troqueer Church |
| Sun 9th: | Flower service |
| Mon 10th: | Buzz Club, Philately and music with Douglas Irving |
| Tue 11th: | Arts and Crafts in the hall, 2-4pm |
| Tue 18th: | Guild outing to Moat Brae |
| Wed 19th: | Gardening Club outing to 2 Acres at Heathhall |
| Mon 24th: | Buzz Club outing to Ellisland |
| Mon 24th: | Family service and soup and in the hall, 12.15pm |
| Tue 27th: | Arts and Crafts in the hall, 2-4pm |

July

- | | |
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| Sat 6th: | Coffee Morning in hall with the Men serving |
| Mon 8th/22nd: | Buzz Club holiday |

August

- | | |
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| Mon 5th: | Buzz Club restarts |
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Christian Aid

Lent lunch update: The total amount raised at Lent lunches after expenses was £5475 – up £475 on last year. In addition £385 was donated for the Cyclone Idai appeal. With quiz sales and other donations (special mention to Durisdeer church) a total of £5900 has been sent to Christian Aid for Lent and Easter fundraising. Thanks to all who have supported in any way.

Christian Aid Week: 17 members and friends have been involved in house to house collecting in various areas in the town Sunday 12 – Saturday 18 May and on Monday a further team of seven were involved in counting donations for the ever needed work of Christian Aid wherever it is needed in the world. Grateful thanks to all for giving and for working for this special cause.

The New Abbey Garden Safari is on Sunday June 30 (a proportion of the money raised is donated to Christian Aid).

The Christian Aid Coffee morning is on Saturday September 21 at The Usual Place, from 10am-12noon.

Anne Twiname

Church register

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

Mrs A Rodger on 4/2/19

Mrs S McSherry on 15/4/19

Mr D Skilling on 23/4/19

Please let me know of any changes of address:

Marion Bennett, 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY.

Tel: 263106.

About the magazine

Welcome to our June/July edition. The deadline for our next edition is **Sunday July 21** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always!

Editor: David Bennett

Write: 2 Wolfgill Drive, Dumfries DG1 4XY

Call: 01387 263106

Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Minister

Rev David Logan..... 270128/07793 542411

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie 266186

Treasurer

Rod Williamson..... 251876

Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Rod Williamson..... 251876



From the flower team

The flower list for 2019 is now displayed in the vestibule. There are several vacant dates now, especially in the second half of the year, if anyone would care to make a donation for the church flowers.

No need to be put off by thinking you can't arrange flowers – someone else can do them for you, though we are always pleased when people like to do it themselves.

Many thanks to all volunteers who donate, arrange and deliver flowers. Members of the congregation who are ill, housebound or bereaved receive flowers and they are very appreciative.

Flower team contacts: Norna Francis (250199), Moira Cannon (720394) Betty Jardine (257691), Margaret Thomson (253484) or Maureen Wilson (255008).



Notes of thanks

Freda Hunter would like to convey thanks for flowers and well wishes from friends during and after her knee surgery. It will be a slow process but she hopes in time to be able to join in at church again.

Jane Gillis would like to say thank you for the lovely flowers she received.

Thanks for flowers from Mr and Mrs R Hain- ing with a big thankyou to Isobel Evans.

Bunty Hogg says many thanks for the lovely flowers delivered from the church.

Norma Latimer would like to say thank you very much for the lovely gift of

Flower rota	
June 9	Vacant
June 16	R Brown
June 23.....	D Edwards
June 30	M Watson
July 7	M Wilson
July 14	H Little
July 21	D Edwards
July 28	Vacant
Aug 4	Vacant

flowers, which were very much appreciated.

Mrs Margaret Montgomery wishes to say thank you for the flowers that she received recently.

Stamp appeal

The World Mission Stamp Appeal is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In its early days the Stamp Appeal helped raise funds for the general work of the World Mission Council but since 2003 money raised has gone to a specific project each year.

This year the Stamp Appeal is supporting the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi, who are also celebrating their 50th anniversary. The Centre is delivering a broad range of skills' training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi. By providing training in tailoring, fashion design and chicken farming, the Centre will improve the women's skills in marketing and entrepreneurship. The aim is that the women's socio-economic status is improved and their chances of future employment will increase. By selling the produce made at the Centre the plan is that when the funding finishes the project will be self-sustainable – helping to continue to improve the lives of the women of Malawi.

Thank you for all the stamps you have collected in the past and by continuing to do so you can be part of supporting the work of this project that is changing lives simply by bringing your stamps to church.

Liz Tanner



In 2018 the stamp appeal contributed £2433 for day care centres run by the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine which provide support for children and young people with disabilities.

Other previous projects include books for the library at the Giffen Institute of Theology in South Sudan and a refuge for women experiencing domestic abuse in Milotopos, Greece.



From the Buzz

On April 1, two ladies (right) arrived at our meeting clutching Royal Garden Party invitations and wearing their best clothes (apart from the wellies in one case!) They had taken a wrong turn and once it was pointed out to them that this was the Buzz, they also realised it was April Fool's Day. The rest of the meeting was a mixture of fact, fiction and creativity with plenty of laughter – and, as seen at the top of the page, some interesting headwear!

At our meeting on April 15 Bill Holland showed us a selection of old slides that told some fascinating tales.

On April 29, we had a lovely afternoon of music, with some of our company joining in with a dance to a St Bernard's Waltz and many also taking part in a singalong to Coulter's Candy.



We heard about skincare and beauty at our May 13 meeting, with a very informative and instructive demonstration from a student at the college.

We were able to experiment with all kinds of different gels, sprays and creams. We felt very enhanced – and even more beautiful than usual by the end of our meeting!