



**Chrystal Chronicle
Newsletter
October/November 2021**



**St Mary's-Greyfriars' Parish Church
Locum Minister: Rev Douglas Irving**

Tel 01556 610156

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no. SC009432

From the Locum Minister

Hilary and I had a brief two-day sortie into Cumbria following our return from Colonsay in August. In Brampton we came across this Carr's Biscuits Carlisle England Sample Tin from a bygone era. The mention of Carr's Biscuits took me back to a memorable first time of study leave in Kenya in 2004 looking into "Deliverance Ministry in the East African Church".



During my two months in Kenya, I had the privilege of preaching in PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa) churches in a variety of locations in and around Nairobi and at Mombasa on the coast. I was privileged also to speak to a doctors' and nurses' fellowship at PCEA Hospital at Chogoria, in the foothills of Mount Kenya, to which I had travelled by a hair-raising transport, the fast driven and crowded Matatu minibus. At the fellowship, I spoke on my time of work in the early 1980's with Mother Teresa and her Brother Missionaries of Charity in the Home for the Dying in Kalighat, Calcutta. Later, during my overnight visit to the hospital, I enjoyed supper provided by a resident Church of Scotland Missionary Doctor, Alison Wilkinson, a gynaecologist and obstetrician, there serving Christ. Our evening, which included her playing flute to my piano accompaniment, was brought to an abrupt conclusion as a patient, who had had a rupture of the uterus, required immediate surgery. Unfortunately, the mother's baby died but her life was saved by her surgeon, Alison's skill, called by God there to serve, there that evening to be used of God to save a mother's life.

PCEA Hospital Chogoria was built in the early 1920's by another Scots Missionary, Doctor Clive Irvine. In the early 1920's he had been looking for a suitable site in the area for such a hospital. A waterfall offering a plentiful supply of water at Chogoria commended itself to him. But where would he secure funding? A meeting with one of the directors of Carr's Biscuits yielded not only the construction costs of the new hospital but also the first five years hospital's running costs. In the process he met with the company director's daughter and thereby secured a wife for himself, too. Clive Irvine would memorably remark "The Lord who guides, provides!"

That's surely your life's testimony to God and mine! The Psalmist rightly puts it "No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk His way." Psalm 84.11.

Billy Graham memorably said this, speaking from his own lifetime's experience in God's holding, "The will of God will not take us where the grace of God cannot sustain us."

With the hymnalist, Joachim Neader, we can in faith together affirm to a world we are called by God to serve in Jesus Christ's name:

"Praise to the Lord who in all things is wondrously reigning,
Shields you from harm and is gently yet firmly sustaining.
Have you not seen
How your heart's wishes have been
Granted by God's wise ordaining?"

Your Locum Minister and Friend,

Douglas Irving

Church Register

New member – welcome!

Mrs P Walker

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

June 12: Mrs I Wright

August 19: Mr K Sverd

September 21: Mrs J Thompson

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

Locum Minister’s September 2021 Honey Harvest

This month saw a good harvest of honey produced by Douglas’ bees at Dalbeattie, with all the family involved in the extraction of honey from comb.



Honey frames first removed from the hives



Son Roan gently brushes off bees from the frames



One hive produces a whole box of brood comb of honey



Daughter Jean uncaps the sealed honey from the frames



Electric extractor does its work with all hands on to minimise equipment's vibrations



The golden "honey flow."



The harvester's honeyed hands attract the bees' attention

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ian and Bette Archibald who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 10th September. And also to Robert and Anna Fisher who celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in October.

Dates of church services

Harvest 3rd October

The Flower Ladies have some seasonal decorations in mind. Donations will be for the Food Bank, as in previous years, and we will need volunteers to open the church on Saturday 2nd October between 10am and 12 noon to receive gifts.

Communion 31st October

Remembrance 14th November

David Cannon will lay a wreath on our behalf, and I am sure we will remember with affection Dick Geddes who carried this out for us last year, aged 100.

Christmas 19th December

Blythswood Care Shoe Box Appeal

We are again inviting you to be involved in filling shoeboxes or drawstring bags for Blythswood Care or simply donate - to aid transporting costs. Alternatively, you may prefer to donate a few items e.g. toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, etc and either bring them to church or let us know and we will collect.

The Blythswood lorry collection date is on Monday 1st November at Tesco Cuckoo Bridge overflow car park from 15.00 to 15.45.

We will collect your filled shoeboxes and deliver and collect donation leaflets if required. Leaflets are also available at church.

For more information have a look at the Shoebox Appeal website www.shoeboxappeal.org

Thank you
Anne Twiname, Liz Tanner and Gillian Boyes

September 2021 Wedding

Postponed from last year on account of COVID, it was a September 2021 wedding for the grandson of our members, Robert and Eleanor Haining, Ryan Cruikshank, and his bride, Laura Robert. The couple exchanged their marriage vows before Douglas, our Locum Minister, in glorious sunshine outside Hetland Hall, Carrutherstown, on Saturday 18 September 2021, with the reception afterwards taking place in the hotel. Ryan and Laura are glad to share a wedding photo of themselves taken in the hotel grounds and another image of their beloved labrador, Leo, in full “Highland Dress” in the company of the groom’s mother and brother.



Thanks for flowers

We are once again able to distribute the church flowers after the Sunday service. Thanks have been received from Mr and Mrs Gall for flowers received for their Golden Wedding Anniversary; Cheryl Smail, Cherry Saad, Jean Jardine, Louisa Gourlie, Grace Kirby and Jane Gillis. And Janet McSherry wrote "I would like to thank all my friends at St Mary's-Greyfriars for the lovely flowers which I received on Sunday, delivered by Maureen Wilson and also for the flowers which I received from Liz Tanner a few months ago. It is pleasing to know that I am being thought about by members of the congregation whilst I am recovering from a stroke. My thanks also to Douglas Irving for his visits and phone calls. Also thanks to Isobel Evans for her help whilst I was struggling to walk again."

Flower rota

October	10	J McSherry	November	7	A Rodger
	17	I Evans		14	Remembrance
	24	N Francis		21	B Archibald
	31	E Sutherland		28	B Jardine
			December	5	A Miller

Flower Team contacts: Maureen Wilson (255008), Moira Cannon (720394), Betty Jardine (257691) and Margaret Thomson (253484).

Crossreach Christmas cards and calendars

I will be sending away an order at the end of this month. If you would like to order calendars with beautiful pictures of Scotland, or Christmas cards, please let me know by 25th October.

Liz Tanner

Guild update

It was with joy and not a little caution (masks, hand sanitizer, socially distanced seats and Dettol wipes for the chairs before and after the meeting) that 18 members of the Guild met in the Big Hall on the afternoon of Tuesday 14th September. This meeting took the form of our postponed AGM from 2020 when we prayed for two members no longer with us - Helen Gray and Stan Tanner, listened to reports from the Convenor, Secretary and Treasurer, elected the committee for this session and then watched a Guild video which gave us information on the new three-year projects, interspersed with singing hymns and songs which had been recorded at past national gatherings.

We could not have our usual cup of tea but we did all enjoy a good catch up with each other.

Alison Burgess from the library will be the speaker at our next meeting on October 19th at 1.30pm and on Tuesday November 16th we will have a speaker on the Guild Project “BEAT - there is hope”, a project which will help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work in schools, colleges, universities and church congregations to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and encourage people to seek help.

We will be delighted to welcome everyone to our meetings.

Rubber Band Blessing

God give me the grace and space to hold things together –
with a bit of **bounce**.

Gardening Club - dates of meetings and report

The Gardening Club have now drawn up their syllabus for the forthcoming Autumn session.

Date		Speaker	
October	6	Willie Taylor	Snowdrops and honey
	20	Colin Anderson	2-Acres wildlife problems
November	3	Graham Finch	Stained glass
	17	To be confirmed	

“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”

September 8th saw the first meeting of the Gardening Club for many months, and it was gratifying to welcome so many members, all looking very fit and healthy. Observing the current regulations, we enjoyed a most convivial afternoon and a sense of near normality, despite being as yet unable to serve tea and coffee.

Our first guest speaker of the season was Duncan Ford, countryside ranger at Hoddam Estate. We always enjoy Duncan’s enthusiasm for and impressive knowledge of the natural world. This time his chosen topic was fungi, many thousands of species existing in Great Britain, and found most abundantly in woodland or grassland. Duncan concentrated his talk mainly on mushrooms. The task of identifying mushrooms can be tricky, and with the aid of beautiful photography he gave us essential safety tips about which are edible and which are to be avoided at all costs! It was surprising - and comforting - to learn that comparatively few can have fatal results if consumed. As an experienced forager, Duncan knows exactly how to make the most of autumn’s fruitfulness and is looking forward to some delicious home-cooked dishes.

Dorothy Edwards

Reflection

Together we worship you O Lord. Thanks-giving and praise we bring to you.

Hear our prayer

Especially we pray for all those who are homeless and suffering due to ongoing famine and disease in the world.

God, grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, the courage to change the things we can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Use us Lord to further your purposes and bring people to know and love you.

Inspire us Lord to look around us and not to take for granted the beauty of autumn.

Loving Lord, we thank you for keeping us safe and ask that you be with us each and every day.

Donna nobis pacem.

Next magazine

The deadline for our December/January issue is **Sunday November 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: 263106
Email: magazine@stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Useful contacts

Minister

Rev Douglas Irving: 01556 610156

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie: 266186

Treasurer, Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Rod Williamson: 251876