



**Chrystal Chronicle
Newsletter
June/July 2022**

Platinum



Jubilee

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

Tel 01556 610156

www.stmarysgreyfriars.org.uk

Scottish charity no. SC009432

Locum Minister's Message

In early May 2022 Hilary and I undertook our own Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James the Apostle, not on foot, but by air, river voyage and coach, joining pilgrims who had spent days walking, or cycling, by different routes, to reach the goal of the main square in Santiago de Compostela. Some of the pilgrims, exhausted following their marathon journeying, lay flat out on the paving in front of west elevation of the magnificent Cathedral of St James the Apostle of Santiago de Compostela, capital of Spain's northwesternmost province of Galicia.



Inside the Cathedral you may view in the crypt, dating from the ninth century, the reputed reliquary containing the earthly remains of Jesus' disciple James, martyred in Jerusalem, who is credited with having brought to the Iberian peninsula during his lifetime the Good News of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord. The crypt, here shown, is situated directly under the magnificent apse and altar of the Cathedral, where Mass is celebrated daily at noon, with both pilgrims and visitors, ourselves included, in attendance.



The scallop shell, a makeshift drinking vessel used by pilgrims in times past, along with the yellow arrow, constitute the appointed familiar signage used by pilgrims along the different routes (we saw such signage while in Portugal) of the Camino to Santiago de Compostela.



En route to Santiago, we visited other great Christian churches and cathedrals in both Portugal and Spain. The impressive Church of St Dominic, Lisbon, destroyed by earthquake in 1755 and devastated in 1959 when fire broke out in the building, leaving scars still viewable today on the pillars and walls of church interior. In Salamanca, the breath-taking, high-soaring vaulting of cathedral and chapels left a great impression, as did Porto's cathedral whose congregation offers shelter within the covered external areas to the homeless. Lisbon's fine Church of St Francis of Assisi, close to the banks of the River Douro, made a profound impression.

I recall one of my old ministers, Dr Leonard Small, of St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh, where I was once an elder, say one Sunday from the pulpit that the skyline of Edinburgh was characterised by church steeples pointing us upwards from the earthly to our Father in Heaven. So too has the steeple of our own church of St Mary's-Greyfriars' served the community for many a decade on the Dumfries skyline.

With the church building's closure now a nearer prospect, it will fall on us, both you and me, to be moveable, prayerful and worshipping churches during our time remaining here, to be living steeples by our everyday Spirited attitude, conversation and demeanour, in body, mind and spirit, to point others sent our way to the Church's living and eternal Lord, through whom our Heavenly Father is shown and made known.

May it be our resolve to make it our daily prayer to God that He continue to use us in our time remaining on Earth to point all sent our way to Him. He is our known, proven Heavenly Father - good, always ahead of us, preparing our way as we give ourselves into His Spirit's leading. So we may indeed let Him inspire and companion us in the Camino of His calling of us in Christ to the heavenly and eternal city where, in His promise, the time of our living, already eternal, with God will be spent.

We commend each other into His loving purposes above all other.

Yours in Christ,
Your Locum Minister and Friend,
Douglas

Church Register

Deaths – “I am the resurrection and the life”

14/4/22 Mr I Kirkpatrick
17/5/22 Miss L Lossius

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

Flower rota

June	12	R Brown
	19	B Jardine
	26	M Watson
July	3	E Haining
	10	G Boyes
	17	R McEwan
	24	D Edwards
	31	J Thomson
August	7	D McCaig

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

Thanks for flowers

Thanks for flowers and visits have been received from Nancie and Willie Howat, Freda Hunter, Irene Little, Grace Kirby, Sheena Stein, Anne Twiname and Liz Tanner, who also sent her thanks for all the kind wishes she has received. Anne said the beautiful flowers she received in March were special and really brightened her day.

David and Mary Cannan said “Thank you very much for the lovely flowers delivered from the church. Thanks also for the visit from the minister. Both were much appreciated and cheered us up.”

And from Janette Kirkpatrick “Very many thanks for the lovely roses delivered to me following Ian’s death. The support the family has received from our many friends and acquaintances has been very much appreciated and comforting.”

This year's stamp appeal.

Please keep saving your used postage stamps.

Liz Tanner



Collect stamps now to support pastors in Lebanon

During the 2021 financial crisis pastors in Syria and Lebanon donated half of one month's salary to start a fund to support the neediest families.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:

Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2022, PO Box 9191, Wishaw, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB
For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

f www.facebook.com/churchofscotland
t @churchscotland

Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has now finished for the current session. Eunice Sutherland sent this report on a recent visit by members.

On 9th May some members of the gardening club visited Colin Anderson's garden. Colin is a very likeable and extremely knowledgeable member of the Club.

Having visited his garden before on a general tour, and recently to see the daffodils, the prime reason, this time, was to admire and be in awe of his magnificent rhododendrons and azaleas. An absolute delight! We all had a laugh (including Colin) at the "dwarf" rhoddies he had planted years ago but, which, of course, are now anything but "dwarf"! The vibrant red and the pure simplicity of the white planted side by side had a stunning effect.

In a garden of almost two acres, there are many plants to see and a great joy to be had if we spotted something unusual and actually knew it!

Colin has created the garden totally by himself over some thirty years. It has a waterfall and a pond edged with stone from various local quarries etc. He is currently sowing a wildflower patch in the less cultivated area. There are many different trees - *Corylus Contorta*, known to us as "Harry Lauder's Walking Stick". Also a large Monkey Puzzle whose waving arms can appear quite menacing. The Snowball Tree (a type of *Viburnum*) looked particularly lovely. Worth a read is a little poem by Marilyn Lott "My Amazing Snowball Tree".

It was a very enjoyable visit to Two Acres.

It has been a good session for the Gardening Club and, at time of writing, 18th May will be our last meeting. We are looking forward to a musical afternoon provided by our organist, Robert Lind. A treat!

Changes, like gardens, happen, but, like gardens, something new is always coming up!

Christian Aid

Dumfries and District Churches (ecumenical) held a coffee morning with three sales tables in The Usual Place on Saturday 14th May - the first Coffee Morning since the pandemic. This was well supported by members, the Usual Place staff and by the public - the atmosphere and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

SMG support of baking, preserves and helpers was very much appreciated (and of course from the other churches). Happily, £965.50 was raised on the day but a final figure is not yet to hand.

Christian Aid Week ran from 15 - 21 May. SMG did not carry out door to door collection this year but there was a collection in church. The total raised for Christian Aid will be intimated in church.

Reflection

Praise - we praise Thee, O Lord.

Love - let us pray for and show love to those who feel they have no love in their lives.

Adoration - we worship and adore you O Lord.

Thanksgiving - let us give thanks for Her Majesty the Queen and her loyal service to her people for the last 70 years.

Inspiration - inspire us Lord to do Thy will.

None of our troubles and anxieties are hidden from you Lord and you are constantly watching over us, bringing comfort and help.

Ukraine - we pray for all those caught up in the war.

Majesty - we are in awe of you Lord and we know that you are with us today, tomorrow and for ever.

Useful contacts

Locum Minister

Rev Douglas Irving: 01556 610156

Session Clerk

Anne Mackie: 266186

Treasurer, Gift Aid and freewill offering envelopes

Rod Williamson: 251876

Next magazine

The deadline for August/September issue is **Sunday July 24** for items through the church – and 3pm that day for those sent direct. Many thanks as always.

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