

The Challenge

Summer 2021



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A View From The Manse

Dear Friends,

On Saturday 22nd May I sat at the computer desk, coffee in hand, and ready for the opening session of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. In the closing moments of the Assembly names were being read out of those who served the church and had died over this past year. As they began to read out the names of those who served as Missionaries, my heart softened as I heard a name very well known to many of us at the High Kirk - Emma MacKinnon. Emma had been a faithful witness to Christ, a missionary in Nigeria, and a greatly loved member of Stevenston High Kirk. As I thought of Emma, I then began to think of other members who we lost this past year. As we read their names, we remember their life and witness. Although we feel the loss of dear friends, we cherish wonderful memories and therefore give thanks to God.

<i>Lorraine Robertson</i>	<i>Margaret McCaa</i>	<i>Aileen Mitchell</i>	<i>Edith Smith</i>
<i>Robert Reid</i>	<i>Maureen Curlett</i>	<i>Hugh Burns</i>	<i>Ted McDowell</i>
<i>Richard Earl</i>	<i>Betty McKirdy</i>	<i>Douglas Scaton</i>	<i>Emma McKinnon</i>
<i>Dan McNeil</i>	<i>Adam McLellan</i>	<i>Nell Humphreys</i>	<i>Evelyn Young</i>

The psalmist declares, "Though weeping endures for a night, joy comes in the morning!"

It has been a long year and, for many, a long night of weeping. As we journey on, we are now seeing a glimmer of light as restrictions begin to lift. It has been my prayer that we will see the joy of a new morning. Over these last months it has been wonderful to hear news of the arrival of babies, celebrations of marriage, and to see new members joining the High Kirk. As the vaccines continue to roll out, galleries are opening and church attendance is rising again slowly. But we also acknowledge that life is not the same.

I believe now more than ever we need a great visitation of the Spirit of God to fall afresh upon our church and nation. Oh how we desperately need to see God's mercy, healing and cleansing power at work. May God grant us such a hunger in prayer, a hunger for his Word, and a hunger to meet together.

*Floods of revival, Lord let them fall
streams of salvation reaching to all
pour out your Spirit, great is our need
sweep o'er our beings, now as we plead*

*Spirit divine, o quicken us now
whilst in your presence, humbly we bow
set all our hearts ablaze with your love
teach us the secret of life from above*

Your Friend and Minister

Scott Cameron

GUILD REPORT 2021

This session has been the third in the Guilds's three-year strategy under the overall title "One Journey Many roads". As for everyone, and every organisation, this past year has been a challenging one for the Guild, having meetings cancelled since March 2020, with the loss of so much fellowship and shared experiences at local, regional and national levels.

The annual theme for 2020-21 has been "the Extra Mile" and this was launched at the annual Gathering, held on-line for the first-time last September. The programme included talks from the Moderator, the Rt. Rev Martin Fair and from Dave Kendall, chief officer. Our retiring national convener, Marian Macintyre, who with her husband the Rev Tom have now come to live among us, and the incoming national convener, Mabel Wallace shared their experiences and their hopes for the Guild. The hymn singing was, as ever, uplifting and moving, but recorded rather than live on this unusual occasion. Many watched the event on-line and were able to watch a recording later.

The theme for the session, "The Extra Mile," took on a new significance in the light of all that has happened during the pandemic. However, Guilds have done all they can to stay in touch and have continued to support a range of Projects under the "One Journey, Many Roads" strategy.

CrossReach and their project "Join up the Dots" addressing loneliness, isolation and mental health issues.

The Sailor's Society and their project "A chaplain for our Ports" aiming to provide a chaplaincy service in every port in Scotland.

The Boys' Brigade and their project "Faith in Young people" looking to support

young leaders encourage membership and develop Christian education in the BB.

The three other projects are operating overseas.

- World Mission Council and their project "Journeying Together Empowering Teenage Mothers in Zambia" working with young mothers in Zambia.
- "Malawi Fruits" and their project "Growing the future", a scheme to encourage, support and train young farmers. This project will receive matched funding from the United Nations, so the Guild's funding is doubled.
- The Free to Live Trust and their project "Seema's Project" working to support sex workers and their children in Pune India.

2018 – 2021 projects.

Total money raised: £558,504.20
(£645,341.00)

- CrossReach: £104,958.34
- Sailors' Society: £84,830.46
- Boys' Brigade: £94,848.57
- World Mission: £86,879.70
- Malawi Fruits: £86,837.29 (UN matched + £87K)
- Free to Live Trust: £98,190.94

You will see from the slide the total amounts raised, under this three-year strategy, up until last week and, I hope that you will agree, that it is a phenomenal amount in spite of the difficulties faced in the last year.

Guilds within the presbytery have been using the resource material provided to plan events in support of these projects and taken part in a series of online fundraisers, including soup lunches, a quiz hosted by the Moderator of the General Assembly and an afternoon tea

on Mother's Day. Next year promises to be an exciting and rewarding year to be part of this great organisation as we look to restore the life of the Guild to its fullest. Last week we in North Ayrshire held a Zoom Annual Business Meeting and Rally. It was well attended and good to be able to see our fellow Guild folk. We thank our moderator, Allan, for conducting the business part of the meeting and we had a representative from Missionary Aviation Fellowship as our speaker.

One of our members, Bea Nicholson, from Saltcoats St. Cuthbert's Guild organised a virtual choir of Guild members from all over the country. They recorded the new Guild Blessing which it is hoped will be used by Guilds both locally and at bigger events. It was written by Iain Whyte (Guild General Secretary) and the words are:

*May the love of God the Father enfold you,
May the light that is his son guide your way.
May the Grace of his spirit empow'r you,
Whose you are and whom you serve.
Whose you are and whom you serve.*

Mary Ford

The Most Persecuted People in the World - By Greg Laurie

"God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers." Mt.5:11

Who are the most persecuted people in the world? Pew Research Center surveys say that Christians are. By persecution, I don't mean global crises that affect us all. I'm talking about discrimination, verbal assault, physical attacks, and arrests.

Every day our Christian brothers and sisters suffer barbaric treatment in nations all around the world. People hound, torture, and execute them simply for their belief in Jesus Christ.

Make no mistake, persecution is alive and well.

Yet the Bible says, that "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12 NLT).

We wish that verse wasn't there, but it is. And it's true. Every follower of Jesus will, in time, suffer persecution in some form. It might be financial, physical, or verbal.

So, what should we do when it happens?

Jesus said, "God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way" (Matthew 5:11–12 NLT).

By the way, let's make sure we're suffering for the right reasons. Sometimes Christians are persecuted not for righteousness' sake, but because they say or do offensive things. They're rude and mean. They're cranky.

And when someone calls them on it, they think, "Praise God! I'm suffering persecution for righteousness' sake."

No, they're suffering persecution because they're being obnoxious.

So, if you're experiencing persecution because of your faith in Jesus, take heart. God sees what you're going through. The Bible tells us, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21 NKJV).

And remember this: the Christian faith not only is worth dying for, but it's also worth living for.

'Tartan Pimpernel' war hero minister honoured in Paris



A Church of Scotland minister nicknamed the Tartan Pimpernel who helped orchestrate the safe return of around 2,000 men from occupied France during the Second World War has been honoured in Paris.

Rev Dr Donald Caskie is commemorated on a marble plaque erected on the exterior wall of the Scots Kirk where he was the minister 81 years ago.

Around 100 people attended the unveiling ceremony on La Rue Bayard yesterday including local church members and representatives from Mairie de Paris (Paris City Hall) and the Scottish Government.

Bagpiper Francis Sykes greeted guests with renditions of Auld Lang Syne, Flower of Scotland, Highland Cathedral, Scotland the Brave and The Skye Boat Song.

Local school pupils read aloud in English and French extracts from Dr Caskie's book, *The Tartan Pimpernel*, which tells how he fearlessly worked with the French Resistance to help trapped or imprisoned airmen, seamen and soldiers escape Nazi-occupied France.

The plaque was unveiled by Jeanne d'Hauteserre and Laurence Patrice of Mairie de Paris.

The commemoration project was led by Derek Bonin-Bree, an elder at the Scots Kirk, with the support of other office bearers and minister Rev Jan Steyn who said the war hero's faith "spurred him on to oppose injustice, intolerance and tyranny".

They were supported by the Scottish Government's office in Paris in their mission to persuade Paris City Hall to allow the installation of a commemorative plaque.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, was unable to attend the ceremony due to COVID-19 travel restrictions but said that it is a fitting tribute to an "inspirational, distinguished and courageous" man.

Dr Caskie was the minister at the Scots Kirk when the Germans invaded France in 1940 and frequently denounced the Nazis from the pulpit which meant he had more to fear than many after the invasion.

He was repeatedly urged to return home and after the Dunkirk evacuation he locked the church on the 9th of June of that year and joined the mass exodus of Paris, heading south.

The crofter's son from the inner Hebridean island of Islay, said to have had the Celtic gift of second sight, endured weeks of hardship to get to Bayonne but in the end rejected the chance of safe passage on the last ship bound for the UK on the grounds that his

place should be given to a wounded man instead.

He walked to a village called Cambo les Bains where he met friends from Paris purely by chance and they all drove to the port city of Marseille - leaving just hours before the Germans arrived.

Dr Caskie believed that God had commanded him to stay in France and help stranded British subjects and he was warned that he must only engage with civilians and would be arrested if he assisted servicemen.

He ran a Seaman's Mission but was living a double life and secretly helped airmen, seamen and soldiers, under the noses of the Vichy Police, escape the country across mountains into Spain or by sea in a submarine or ship.

Dr Caskie, a Gaelic speaker whose codename was Monsieur Le Canard – Donald Duck – was eventually recruited by British Intelligence officers and was told that his mission was the last link of a chain of safe houses that they had set up, which stretched from Dunkirk to Marseille.

His main Resistance contact was General Sir Albert-Marie Guerisse, codenamed Pat O'Leary who is named on the 58cm x 35cm pink/beige coloured plaque.

There is a ring attached to the wall underneath it for flowers which are placed there every August by the Mairie de Paris in honour of resistance fighters around the date when the city was liberated after three years of occupation.

One of the soldiers Dr Caskie helped was Captain Derek Lang who was captured at St Valery-en-Caux in Normandy along with 10,000 soldiers from the 51st

Highland Division, mostly Scots, 81 years ago this weekend.

He managed to escape the Germans and fled to Marseille where he recalled meeting a "courageous and fearless" Church of Scotland minister.

"Evil in war produces heroes and Donald Caskie is one of these," wrote the army officer in the forward to the Tartan Pimpernel – a book he said moved him to tears.

Captain Lang was spirited out of the country on a ship to Beirut, Lebanon with the help of the padre and eventually returned to Britain and helped prepare Allied troops for the D-Day landings in 1944.

Not long after the Normandy invasion, he liberated St Valery-en-Caux as the commanding officer of the 5th Cameron Highlanders and later became Lieutenant General Sir Derek Lang, Commander-in-Chief Scotland 1966-69 and governor of Edinburgh Castle.

Reflecting on Dr Caskie's legacy, Mr Steyn said: "We see heroism but he saw his duty as a Christian.

"He helps us renew with strong values of selflessness, kindness and devotion. "His story still is an inspiration to us all."

Mr Bonin-Bree said the ceremony was also a chance to pay homage to all involved in the Pat O'Leary resistance network.

"Gathering intelligence, exfiltration actions, giving food and clothes to ragged and starved men were a part of a much bigger scheme, which led to the liberation and closed a dark chapter of World history," he added.

Lord Wallace revealed that Dr Caskie was one of his heroes when he was at school in Annan, Dumfries and Galloway.

“In my first year at Annan Academy, our rector read extracts from the Tartan Pimpernel at morning assembly,” he recalled.

“The narrative of speaking out against oppression, standing up, in faith, for principles, acts of daring, acts of courage, saving lives, being betrayed and survival ensured that the next instalment was eagerly anticipated.

“Moreover, the catchment area for the school included Gretna, where Donald Caskie had his first charge.

“He was a man who placed his trust in his Lord and Saviour, a man who refused to take the easy way out, a man who took huge risks to rescue others.

“But I pause to wonder how many young – and not so young – people today know the story of Donald Caskie?

“That is why plaques such as this one and this ceremony today organised by the Mairie de Paris are so important if we are to recognise and keep alive the memory of such selfless fortitude.

“And at home in Scotland, we should reflect on what more we need to do to keep such memory alive.”

Lord Wallace said Dr Caskie and the Kirk missionary Jane Haining, who died in Auschwitz after refusing to abandon Jewish school girls in her care at the Scottish Mission in Budapest, Hungary, were driven by their faith and prepared to “risk all in such loving and dangerous service”.

Several events were held this week by the Scots Kirk to honour Dr Caskie, who was nicknamed the Tartan Pimpernel by the BBC.

There is a permanent exhibition about the minister inside the building and his Gaelic Bible is on display, gifted by his nephew Tom Caskie.

Commenting on the new plaque, the Edinburgh man said: “I am proud that the Scots parishioners of Paris continue to honour my uncle, a peaceful, loving and heroic Scot in France during the Second World War.

“I remember his quiet highland voice telling us ghost stories as we grew up in the early years after the war.

“A gentle voice but one of Scotland’s great heroes.”

Dr Caskie was eventually arrested and imprisoned by the Gestapo and sentenced to death.

His life was only saved through the intervention of a German pastor and he spent the rest of the war in a Prisoner of War camp.

Dr Caskie returned to Scotland after a spell in Paris and died in 1983 at the age of 81 and is buried at Bowmore on Islay.

Reproduced from the Church of Scotland website:

<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/news/2021/articles/tartan-pimpernel-war-hero-minister-honoured-in-paris?fbclid=IwAR1zgKYZa4iDgdo2H9KJLnEyuyPeu4NYazpxj0tlSA3ucQFgFUAyDgSWzjU>

The Coronavirus Diaries: We will Survive by the Grace of God

The Rev John Probhudan Hira of the Church of Bangladesh says supplies are low, as the country deals with both pandemic and the aftermath of Cyclone Yaas

Coronavirus or Covid-19 was a name not known to Bangladeshi folks. Last year, this new disease caused much panic and distress among the common people. When they saw a picture of the virus they thought that if this big ball enters into their body then they will definitely die! Generally, the ordinary people of Bangladesh had no idea how to prevent and fight it.

At the same time there were various rumours spreading all over Bangladesh regarding Coronavirus that created mountains of negative impact on every aspect (socio-economic, political, religious, cultural) of human life especially the marginalised poor people of the country.

Some of our Church members passed away due to Covid-19, and the impact was felt mentally on bereaved families as others in society looked down upon them. The Church also experienced a huge financial crisis due to closing schools, college, hospitals and the church itself.

As Covid-19 outbreaks quickly surged worldwide, our Government took preventive measures such as travel bans, restricted office activities, country lockdown, washing hands, wearing masks, using sanitisers and maintaining social distancing. These measures were a challenge in Bangladesh, particularly amongst the marginalised poor people. Bangladesh has some of the world's densest populations. Due to lockdown many lost jobs - daily labourers, household helpers, rickshaw pullers, farmers, fishermen, construction workers - they were not able to pay rent, so many went home to their villages, while others struggled to survive.

The shutting of educational institutions, now for over 18 months, has damaged the education system and students are suffering from depression, especially the private sector including Church institutions, and the situation of teachers is dire. Because they cannot go out, children and teenagers are addicted to internet games, gambling etc. There is a huge rise in domestic violence as husbands and wives quarrel and fight, and children are also become angry and aggressive. Those who live from hand to mouth are starving.

At first, the Church was helping to feed people in the community as our congregations extended their hands towards the poor and suffering people irrespective of their religion, but now the continuous lockdown and low income of the Church means they have little left to help the needy people.

Now some of the border areas like Chapainobabgonj, Satkhira, Rajshahi, Natore, Mongla Port have identified the Indian variant and people are scared as every day the numbers of infections and deaths are increasing.

On top of this, on May 26 we were hit by SuperCyclone Yaas which has caused double distress, agony and disaster to the coastal and border area people. Yaas is an effect of climate change and global warming. Therefore we all need to seriously change the life style and care for creation for future generations to survive on this planet.

The whole world is fighting against this Coronavirus with their best scientists and advanced technology. Unfortunately developing countries like Bangladesh are fighting to achieve even the limited preventive measures to prevent spread. Preparedness is the key to address any pandemic or health crisis, to provide preventive measures particularly resources for health workers and the sick. Timely measures taken with proper co-ordination may help the country to fight this deadly virus. As the situation unfolds, is the world watching how Bangladesh will navigate this crisis?

We will survive by the Grace of God. Along with our Church partners, whatever limited resource we have, we are using and serving the people of God to witness Christ even in the midst of the pandemic.

Thanks for all your kind support and prayers as we face the challenges together.

The Rev John Prohudan Hira is Synod Secretary, Church of Bangladesh and Principal of St Andrew's Theological College, Dhaka.



Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother may even kick the poor animal away. Once a ewe rejects one of her lambs, she will never change her mind.

These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with its neck. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called “bummer lambs.”

Unless the shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you

know what the shepherd does? He takes that rejected little one into his home, hand-feeds it and keep it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the bummer can hear his heartbeat.

Once the lamb is strong enough, the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock. But that sheep never forgets how the shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him.

When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess who runs to him first? That is right, the bummer sheep. He knows his voice intimately. It is not that the bummer lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it.

So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken. But He is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heart beat. We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd.

Reproduced from Ayr: St Andrews Facebook page.

News Around The Kirk

The Church of Scotland has paid tribute to Zambia's founding president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, who has died at the age of 97.

He led the country for 27 years and championed Africa's struggles against apartheid and HIV and AIDS.

Rev Ian Alexander, interim head of the Faith Impact Forum, said: "The Church of Scotland sends its deep condolences to the family as well as to the president and people of Zambia on the death of His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda, the First President of Zambia.

"His father, David, was a missionary of the Church of Scotland mission at Lubwa, and his mother was the first African woman to teach in colonial Zambia.

"Dr Kaunda went on to play a crucial part in southern Africa's liberation struggle.

"In retirement, he was involved in various organisations, especially in the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS.

"He was an active member of St Paul's, Kabwata of the United Church of Zambia, with which the Church of Scotland remains in close cooperation, and always warmly welcomed Church of Scotland visitors."

Dr Kaunda, who was affectionately known as KK, became Zambia's first president in 1964 when the country became an independent republic.

His son Masuzyo died of AIDS in 1986 and he began a personal crusade against the disease.

Dr Kaunda is pictured with Mr Alexander during a visit to Zambia in 2013. The United Church of Zambia has been a partner church of the Church of Scotland since 1965 when it was formed.



OBITUARIES

Douglas Seaton

Douglas Seaton was born on 1st April 1931 in Ardrossan. He attended Ardrossan Academy and then Paisley Tech. He was very athletic and won the "Campbell Cup" at school. He was a keen footballer and would have considered turning professional. He also played cricket for the school and was a keen Boy Scout. Although Douglas was unable to do National Service, due to health problems, he often said that he would have liked the RAF.

He became a Laboratory Technician at Glengarnock Steel Works and then, for 32 years, he worked with Shell Refinery in Ardrossan. He retired when it closed in 1986.

He met Marie Fleming at a Burns Supper, and they were married on 26th of March 1958 in Saltcoats. They were overjoyed with daughters Julie and Flora, and later they were happy to welcome sons-in-law Hugh & the late David Hunter. In due course, they were thrilled to welcome their grandchildren - Marie and April. He was a supportive, caring husband, and was totally in tune with Marie. He was one of life's gentlemen, chivalrous and mannerly. To his daughters, Douglas was a loving Dad, who was always there for them. He also loved his granddaughters dearly, and was proud of all their achievements.

Although he could be serious, he had the most infectious laugh. He had a strong sense of right and wrong and was extremely protective of his family. He was a proud Scotsman who took great interest in politics, and had an extensive general knowledge.

Douglas wasn't just a member of the High Kirk, he was a cherished friend and an absolute gentleman. With his warm smile and gentle humour he will be greatly missed. We therefore give thanks to God for Douglas' life.

Nell Humphreys

Nell was born in Dunoon on the 8th of March 1922, and grew up attending Dunoon Grammar School. On leaving school, she began work in Dunoon Laundry. She was a hard worker.

It was through her love for dancing that she met Alex Humphreys at the Pavillion Dance Hall. They were married on the 15th of August 1942, and in time, they went on to have two children, Catherine and Alex. Over the following years Nell was overjoyed in having four grandchildren - Douglas, Carolyn, Stefanie and Alexander. Eventually Nell also became a great grandmother to nine girls.

After the war the family moved to Glasgow and stayed there until the 1960s. Nell worked in the family grocery store while Alex was a painter and decorator. They moved to Stevenston in 1969, but sadly, Alex died in 1979. Although a difficult time, Nell experienced such peace in God.

Many in Stevenston will remember Nell from her days working in the CO-OP, and from her voluntary work for Cancer Research.

As well as her family, Nell had another great love - her Church family at the High Kirk. She loved being at all the church meetings, especially the Bible Studies with the "Golden Girls".

In her latter years, she moved to sheltered housing in Bonnie Lesley Court, then in 2017, she moved to South Beach House,

where she received excellent care from all the staff. They loved Nell, as we all did. She has left us with wonderful memories and some great laughs.

Edith Smith

Edith Smith was born on 19th September 1929 in Ardrossan. She attended Winton Primary and Eglinton School, and then Ardrossan Academy. She began her working life as an Administrator at the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald. She worked there for 6 years, but gave it up when she got married.

She met Bill while he played for Winton Rovers, and were married at the Ardrossan Park Church on 25th March 1950. They were thrilled with the arrival of their children: Matthew, Gordon, Billy and Elaine, followed by 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

She was extremely proud of her family, and took great interest in everything they did. She especially enjoyed the opportunity to look after the grandchildren. She was always kind and thoughtful and would always help in any way she could. She especially took a great interest in politics, current affairs, and football.

At the High Kirk we remember Edith as one who loved the Lord, and was so appreciative of her Church family. We cherish wonderful memories of a special lady, a greatly loved mother, gran and great-gran. And so we give thanks to God for her life.

Ted McDowell

Ted McDowell was born on 7th of May 1940 in Dublin. After attending Wesley College Dublin and then Leicester Technical College, he began his working

life as a sales assistant. He was a grafter, and eventually had his own menswear shop. He enjoyed working in various jobs and, in retirement, Ted became a volunteer with the RNLI.

While attending Stoke Newington Presbyterian Church in London, he met Bea, and formed a wonderful friendship. They were married on 7th June 1976.

Ted enjoyed playing badminton, and was a keen stamp collector and photographer. He also played piano and organ. He was in various choral societies, and acted with the Leicester Little Theatre. And of course, we'll never forget his gift in reciting poems. The Hogmanay Fellowships in the Manse will not be the same without his humorous contributions.

Ted will be remembered with much affection. He was an absolute gentleman, who loved life and a good conversation. We especially remember Ted as a man of deep faith. He loved his Lord, and held a strong conviction that faith should be lived out in active love for God and others. He was especially inspired through the ministry and writings of the late George MacLeod.

We thank God for a beloved husband, a loving brother, and to all who knew him well, a precious friend.

Emma MacKinnon

Emma was born on the 2nd of February 1927 to John and Annie MacKinnon in the town of Iquitos in Peru. Her parents had been missionaries, taking Bibles to the indigenous people of Peru. While in South America she was taught by her father as they moved throughout the country from Peru through Bolivia to Brazil.

They returned to Scotland when Emma was nine years old to take up a ministry

post with Stirling Free Church, and later was inducted to the Church of Scotland in Stirling. John and Annie were then delighted to see the arrival of another daughter Margaret, now deceased, and a son John. Although older than her siblings, Emma was delighted to be a big sister.

After completing her schooling at Stirling High School, she went on to Glasgow University and successfully graduated with her M.A. After she completed her training at Jordanhill Teacher Training College, she took up her first appointment at Adelphi Street Secondary School in the Gorbals of Glasgow. It was a rather traumatic experience for Emma, and so she transferred to Possilpark Primary School.

Like her parents, Emma's heart was set on the missionary fields. She went out with the Church of Scotland Missionary Society to Nigeria where she would teach in a teacher training college.

Sadly, in the following years, Emma was to be caught up in the war in Nigeria when the Igbo's tried to set up the separate state of Biafra, and so, she returned home in 1966 in a plane which had been supplying the Biafrans with arms.

On returning to Scotland, she worked at the Church of Scotland offices and then returned to teaching at Ardrossan Academy as an English teacher. She retired in 1987.

We give thanks to God for Emma's life and witness. She had been such a faithful member, keeping in touch with our Missionary & Prayer partners. She loved her Lord, her church, and especially appreciated her friends at the High Kirk.

IN LOVING MEMORY 2020-2021

Lorraine Robertson

Robert Reid

Richard Earl

Dan McNeil

Margaret McCaa

Maureen Curlett

Betty McKirdy

Adam McLellan

Aileen Mitchell

Hugh Burns

Douglas Seaton

Nell Humphreys

Edith Smith

Ted McDowell

Emma McKinnon

Evelyn Young

WEDDINGS

On Saturday 8th May 2021 it was a joy to share and celebrate the wedding of
Catherine McKee to Andrew McGhee.

On Friday 28th May at the High Kirk we celebrated our first church wedding since lockdown with **Victoria McMillan and Brett McKenzie.**

We therefore wish Mr & Mrs McGhee and Mr & Mrs McKenzie every blessing in their married lives together.

COVID Protection - LEVEL 1 - For Churches

Worship (in places of worship including grounds under jurisdiction of Kirk Session)

- Worship allowed with a maximum number determined by safe building capacity as physical distancing in building dictates, including use of balconies/ galleries. Baptisms are permitted as part of worship.

Funerals & Weddings

- 100 person limit for both funerals and weddings subject to physical distancing and building safe capacity limits
- Post-funeral gatherings and wedding receptions for up to 100 permitted

Live events (including outdoor worship) NB Indoor events DO NOT include Worship

- Outdoor events permitted with maximum number of 1000 outdoors seated or 500 outdoors free standing, subject to physical distancing.
- Indoor live events permitted with max of 200 people (physically distanced)

Singing

- Congregational singing may resume in worship (indoors or outdoors) and/or a small group (choir or band) may sing as part of an act of worship as per worship section of 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance.

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care Visits may take place in people's homes, churches or manses in line with 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance. If visiting in a person's home standard socialising rules are in place for how many people can gather.

Support Services

- Counselling, mutual aid groups, support groups, weight loss groups which are peer or professionally led can take place.

Meetings & Groups

- Church Meetings (Kirk Session, Presbytery etc) may resume with suitable mitigation.
- Regular and Organised Indoor Activities and Groups for adults, such as the Guild can resume meeting

Church Offices & Workplaces

- Church Offices are NOT permitted to open and working from home should be the default position.

Hospitality

- Church Cafés (Regulated) – On premises consumption and takeaway permitted but time restrictions may apply
- Informal Hospitality (Teas and coffees after services or during groups) & Coffee Mornings permitted following indoor socialising rules, currently 8/3

Socialising

- 6 people from up to 3 households can socialise in a private dwelling and 8 people from 3 households in a public place e.g hospitality.
- 12 people from up to 12 households can socialise outdoors.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings must be worn by all within a place of worship with relevant exemptions in place. For current exemptions visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

Travel & Transport

- No travel to or from level 3 or 4 areas in Scotland unless for a permitted reason, such as leading an act of worship or attending your *usual* place of worship, work, education, shopping, health etc; outdoor exercise; weddings and funerals; and transit through restricted areas.
- Avoid car sharing with people outside extended household wherever possible.
- No 'lifts to church' or transport to appointment schemes should be in operation

Schools (& school chaplaincy)

- Schools open, but school chaplains must follow direction of Local Authority guidance on place of visitors and school chaplaincy.

Youthwork

- Sunday Schools and Bible Classes are permitted to run under youthwork guidance with limits on numbers.
- Formal youth work as defined in the 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance (including Uniformed Organisations) can take place with limits on numbers.

Early learning and childcare (ELC) (formal childcare)

- Church nurseries, after school clubs, breakfast clubs (if regulated by Care Commission) can open with standard protective measures in place.

Unregulated Children's Activities

- Youth clubs, carer and toddler groups and similar can take place

Sport & Exercise Classes

- Indoor and Outdoor classes for all ages, except indoor contact sports for over 18's are permitted to take place (with exception of professional sports)

Entertainment

- Church run entertainment (cinema etc) can take place up to physically distanced safe numbers.

Visitor Attractions

- Churches which have, or are, visitor attractions can open

COVID Protection - LEVEL 2 - For Churches

Worship (in places of worship including grounds under jurisdiction of Kirk Session)

- Worship allowed with a maximum number determined by safe building capacity as physical distancing in building dictates, including use of balconies/ galleries. Baptisms are permitted as part of worship.

Funerals & Weddings

- 50 person limit for both funerals and weddings subject to physical distancing and building safe capacity limits
- Post-funeral gatherings and wedding receptions for up to 50 permitted

Live events (including outdoor worship) NB Indoor events DO NOT include Worship

- Outdoor events permitted with maximum number of 500 outdoors seated or 250 outdoors free standing, subject to physical distancing.
- Indoor live events permitted with max of 100 people (physically distanced)

Singing

- Congregational singing should not be a part of a worship service (indoors or outdoors). A small group (choir or band) may sing as part of an act of worship as per worship section of 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance.

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care Visits may take place in people's homes, churches or manses in line with 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance. If visiting in a person's home no other household should be present.

Support Services

- Counselling, mutual aid groups, support groups, weight loss groups which are peer or professionally led can take place.

Meetings & Groups

- Church Meetings (Kirk Session, Presbytery etc) may resume with suitable mitigation.
- Regular and Organised Indoor Activities and Groups for adults, such as the Guild can resume meeting

Church Offices & Workplaces

- Church Offices are NOT permitted to open and working from home should be the default position.

Hospitality

- Church Cafés (Regulated) – On premises consumption and takeaway permitted but time restrictions may apply
- Informal Hospitality (Teas and coffees after services or during groups) & Coffee Mornings permitted following indoor socialising rules, currently 6/3

Socialising

- 6 people from up to 3 households can socialise in a private dwelling and 6 people from 3 households in a public place e.g hospitality.
- 8 people from up to 8 households can socialise outdoors.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings must be worn by all within a place of worship with relevant exemptions in place. For current exemptions visit <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/>

Travel & Transport

- No travel to or from level 3 or 4 areas in Scotland unless for a permitted reason, such as leading an act of worship or attending your *usual* place of worship, work, education, shopping, health etc; outdoor exercise; weddings and funerals; and transit through restricted areas.
- Avoid car sharing with people outside extended household wherever possible.
- No 'lifts to church' or transport to appointment schemes should be in operation

Schools (& school chaplaincy)

- Schools open with enhanced protective measures, but school chaplains must follow Local Authority guidance on place of visitors and school chaplaincy.

Youthwork

- Sunday Schools and Bible Classes are permitted to run under youthwork guidance with limits on numbers.
- Formal youth work as defined in the 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance (including Uniformed Organisations) can take place with limits on numbers.

Early learning and childcare (ELC) (formal childcare)

- Church nurseries, after school clubs, breakfast clubs (if regulated by Care Commission) can open with enhanced protective measures in place.

Unregulated Children's Activities

- Youth clubs, carer and toddler groups and similar can take place however differentiated restrictions are in place and should be checked before activity next meets at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-activities-for-children/>

Sport & Exercise Classes

- Indoor and Outdoor classes for all ages, except indoor contact sports for over 18's are permitted to take place (with exception of professional sports)

Entertainment

- Church run entertainment (cinema etc) can take place up to physically distanced safe numbers.

Visitor Attractions

- Churches which have, or are, visitor attractions can open

COVID Protection - LEVEL 3 - For Churches

Worship (in places of worship including grounds under jurisdiction of Kirk Session)

- Worship allowed with a maximum number determined by safe building capacity as physical distancing in building dictates, including use of balconies/ galleries. Baptisms are permitted as part of worship.

Funerals & Weddings

- 50 person limit for both funerals and weddings subject to physical distancing and building safe capacity limits
- Post-funeral gatherings and wedding receptions for up to 50 permitted

Live events (including outdoor worship) NB Indoor events DO NOT include Worship

- Outdoor or Indoor events are NOT permitted
- Drive in events are permitted

Singing

- Congregational singing should not be a part of a worship service (indoors or outdoors) with the exception of a solo singer where essential to the act of worship as per worship section of 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance.

Pastoral Care

- Pastoral Care Visits should only take place where they are deemed to be essential and if possible should be moved online. If visiting a person's home no other household can be present

Support Services

- Counselling, mutual aid groups, support groups, weight loss groups which are peer or professionally led can take place but should be online wherever possible.

Meetings & Groups

- Church Meetings (Kirk Session, Presbytery etc), the Guild and recreational or social groups (WRI, Camera Club etc) are not permitted to meet

Church Offices & Workplaces

- Church Offices are NOT permitted to open and working from home should be the default position.

Hospitality

- Church Cafés (Regulated) – On premises consumption and takeaway permitted but time restrictions may apply
- Informal Hospitality (Teas and coffees after services or during groups) & Coffee Mornings permitted following indoor socialising rules, currently 6/2

Socialising

- No socialising in private dwellings. 6 people from up to 2 households can socialise in a public place e.g hospitality.
- 6 people from up to 6 households can socialise outdoors.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings must be worn by all within a place of worship with relevant exemptions in place.

Travel & Transport

- Unrestricted travel to all level 3 areas. No travel to or from level 0 - 2 areas, or level 4 areas in Scotland unless for a permitted reason, such as work, education, shopping, health etc; outdoor exercise; weddings and funerals; and transit through restricted areas.
- Avoid car sharing with people outside extended household wherever possible.
- No 'lifts to church' or transport to appointment schemes should be in operation

Schools (& school chaplaincy)

- Schools open with enhanced protective measures, but school chaplains must follow Local Authority guidance on place of visitors and school chaplaincy.

Youthwork

- Sunday Schools and Bible Classes are permitted to run online or outdoors under youthwork guidance with limits on numbers.
- Formal youth work as defined in the 'Reshaping Church Life' Guidance (including Uniformed Organisations) can take place with limits on numbers.

Early learning and childcare (ELC) (formal childcare)

- Church nurseries, after school clubs, breakfast clubs (if regulated by Care Commission) can open with enhanced protective measures in place.

Unregulated Children's Activities

- Youth clubs, carer and toddler groups and similar can take place however differentiated restrictions are in place and should be checked before activity next meets at <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-organised-activities-for-children/>

Sport & Exercise Classes

- Indoor classes for under 18's only.
- Outdoors classes for all ages are permitted to take place with the exception of no outdoor contact sports for those 18 or over (with the exception of professional sport).

Visitor Attractions

- Churches which have, or are, visitor attractions may be able to open subject to government guidance

For more information visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk

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