


Summer 2022



ELGIN
ST GILES' &
ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH
CHURCH MAGAZINE



PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH – WHO'S WHO

Minister	Deon Oelofse Sonia Palmer	01343 208786 01343 341008	
Session Clerk	Audrey Gill	01343 542566	
Assistant Session Clerk	Kathleen Thomson	01343 545414	
Treasurer(pro term)	Graeme Archibald	07850205370	
St Giles' – Caretaker	John Ralph	01343 545302	
St Columba's South – Caretaker	Ian Thomson	01343545414	
Hall Caretaker	Ian Thomson	01343545414	
Beadle – St Giles'	John Ralph	01343 545302	
St Columba's South	Ian Thomson	01343545414	
Flower Convenors	Muriel Gerrard (St Columba's) Kathy Dale (St Giles')	01343 550257 01343 541437	
Organists – St Giles'	Deborah Nealon	01343 549027	
St Columba's South	Angus Lawson		
Finance Convenor	Ian Chambers	01343 544792	
Tuesday Lunch Club	Kathleen Thomson	01343 545414	
Social Convenor	Brian Hamilton	01343 543993	
Safeguarder	Marjorie Duthie	01343 548482	
Christian Aid Co-ordinator	Bertha Ritchie	01343545285	
Property Convenor	Jim Manson	01343 547850	
Magazine Distribution Organiser	James S Macpherson	01343546639	
Church Office Secretary	Ann Forteach Office Hours – Wednesday, and Friday 9:30am – 12:30 Email – stgileselgin@gmail.com	Duff Avenue, Elgin	01343 551501

CHURCH ORGANISATION CONTACTS

Monday Guild	Doreen Johnston	01343 547511	
Wednesday Guild	Lorna McCook	01343 549035	
Men's Association	Ken Wood	01343 543068	
Women's Group	Marjorie Duthie Kathy Dale	01343 548482 01343 541437	
Bowling	George Robb	07708028555	
Badminton	Margaret Paterson	01343 547924	2 – 3:30 group 7:30 – 9:30 group
Theatre Group	Lindsay Knight	01343 543393	07802438460
St Giles' Development Group	James S Macpherson	01343 546639	
Christmas Card Delivery Service	Brian Hamilton	01343 543993	

Minister's Letter

Church of St Giles' and St Columba's South

Letter from the Manse

Dear all,

As I write this letter, we are ready to pack for our South African holiday. It will be the first time in three years that we'll return back to our country of birth. Than being said, Elgin over the past five years, has become home to us and it is with a heavy heart that we take on the journey back to South Africa. Perhaps it is also because it will be a time of grieving too. My Mum, who many of you have met, will be moving to a nursing home during our time there. She was sadly robbed at her local shopping centre five weeks ago and a few days later fell on the pavement, injuring her lower back with a compound fracture. Over the past weeks she has been in a step-down facility. Here she has been learning to walk and recover again. However, sadly her condition has deteriorated to such an extent that instead of assisted living, which we bargained on, she will need full time care. I am not sharing this story for empathy, but rather to share with you how we all at some stage have to deal with grief or loss. Or perhaps better phrased, the loss of the things we keep dear to our hearts.

Grief or loss is not something we deal with easily. Whether it is the loss of our independence or the loss of things that are important to us, we must sometimes deal with this grief in our own way. This grief is also found in the community of the faithful. Over the past weeks we had to deal with loss in our church community as all three Kirk Sessions in the Elgin area agreed to a Basis of Union. This means that at some stage in the foreseeable future there will be only one Kirk Session, one congregation namely "The Parish of Elgin" and at some stage we will need to dispose of some of the buildings in the Elgin area. This will be a process of grief and loss to many. A history and a story of so many that were part of a congregation and a building for perhaps 40, 50 or even 80 years and longer.

This loss or grief reminds me of Paul when he writes about the loss of his eyesight in 2 Corinthians 12. Paul recalls his loss in verse 8 – 9 when he writes:

'Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me.' But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'

Sometimes we, like Paul, yearn to what we had and rightly plead with the Lord to take it away. When the answer comes from God that His grace is enough, it might not be the answer we are looking for. There are so many things that we have to deal with in life - loss, grief and so much more. We sometimes try to keep it away from us, but despite our best efforts, it catches up with us. Sometimes quicker than what we might think. We deal with loss in many ways. Sorrow, anger, making deals and bargaining are just some of the stages of grief we learn from the field of psychology. Then there is the point of acceptance - many a time the place where we find God's grace.

In the time of summer with its lazy, long nights and bonny weather, we sometimes still have to deal with loss and grief. It is my prayer to all of us that in this process, we like Paul, may find the grace of a loving and caring God changing our weakness into something perfect. Whether in our personal life or in the life of our new congregation, may we find sufficient grace and may we find God's grace being sufficient.

Many blessings and prayers to you all. We hope to see you all soon at the end of July!

Take care from all at the Manse!

Deon, Marese and the children

ELDERS ON DUTY

3 rd	Audrey Gill June Edmonstone	Graeme Archibald Doreen Johnston	John Ralph
10 th	Iain Morrison Ken Wood	Ann Forteath Margaret Paterson	John Ralph
17 th	Bill and Hilda Robertson Gill Mason	Angela Ralph	John Ralph
24 th	Davie Small Bertha Ritchie	John Henderson Kathy Dale	John Ralph
31 st	Brian and Margaret Hamilton Ron and Marion Hay		John Ralph
	<u>St Columba's South</u>	<u>August</u>	
7 th	Kathleen Thomson Mary Dawson	Ian Chambers Ann Forteath	Ian Thomson
14 th	Kathleen Thomson Ann Mitchell	Hugh Carter Nancy Brodie	Ian Thomson
21 st	Kathleen Thomson Elizabeth Macrae	Carola Smith June Edmonstone	Ian Thomson
28 th	George and Marjorie Duthie Graeme Archibald	Mary Dawson	Ian Thomson
	<u>St Giles'</u>	<u>September</u>	
4 th	Kathleen Thomson Duncan Alexander	Stuart Lynch Doreen Johnston	John Ralph
11 th	COMMUNION		John Ralph
18 th	Bill and Hilda Robertson Eliana Cowie	Ann Mitchell	John Ralph
25 th	Audrey Gill Iain Morrison	Gill Mason Kathleen Thomson	John Ralph

FLOWER LIST

<u>ST GILES'</u>	<u>July</u>
3 rd	Vee Grant
10 th	Kathy Dale
17 th	Carol Archibald
24 th	Angela Ralph
31 st	Bertha Ritchie
<u>ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH</u>	<u>August</u>
7 th	Kathleen Thomson
14 th	Isobel Henderson
21 st	Tricia Keil
28 th	Elizabeth MacPherson
<u>ST GILES'</u>	<u>September</u>
4 th	Mary Dawson
11 th	Ann Forteath
18 th	Kathy Dale
25 th	Gill Mason



DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY		
3	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
4	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
5	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
10	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
11	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
12	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
17	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
18	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
19	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
24	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
25	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
26	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
31	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
AUGUST		
1	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
2	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
7	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
8	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
9	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
14	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
15	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
16	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
17	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
21	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
22	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
23	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
24	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
28	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
29	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
30	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
31	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall

ST GILES EVENTS – WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS: Sunday Services return to St Giles' on 3 July at 1030 am for July and then Worship returns to St Columba's South on Sunday, 7 August at 1030 am.

THURSDAYS: There will be no Midweek Services in St Giles' during July and the beginning of August. They will recommence on Thursday 18 August at 12.30 pm with the service at 1.00 pm.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE in JULY

On Monday evening, 11 July at 7 30 pm, we welcome Eltham College to St Giles'. It's a very attractive programme performed by their Orchestra, String Orchestra and Brass Ensemble. It includes music by Bach, Vivaldi, Bizet, Karl Jenkins and John Williams. Entry is free, with donations to the Laich of Moray Trust.



CONCERT

ST GILES CHURCH
High Street, Elgin

MONDAY 11TH JULY
7.30 PM

The Orchestra, String Orchestra & Brass Ensemble of Eltham College, London

BACH, VIVALDI, BIZET
Karl Jenkins & John Williams

FREE CONCERT
With retiring collection for the Laich of Moray Trust (bus)

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET WITH QR CODE OR ON EVENTBRITE.CO.UK

oneSTAGE
Specialist Concert Tours

Celebrating 180 years, this school was founded in 1842 as the School for Sons of Missionaries. It began as a small boarding school in Walthamstow catering for the sons of Congregational and Baptist missionaries serving overseas, mainly in India, China and Africa.

In 1912, the school moved to its current site, the 18th century mansion Fairy Hall in Mottingham, South London, and became known as Eltham College. It has just over 1,000 pupils and is an independent school for girls and boys.

Students are reminded of the link with their missionary background via the House System – the Houses are named after four men who devoted their lives to their work as missionaries: David Livingstone and Robert Moffat in Africa, William Carey in India and James Chalmers in Papua New Guinea.

We look forward to welcoming Eltham College to St Giles'.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES IN AUGUST

Under Glenn Munro's baton, in his more familiar and much-loved role, he'll bring the sound of trumpets, trombones and all other instruments to St Giles' on Sunday, 28 August. Glen Munro Brass Ensemble to the fore once again. A mini festival of music to end the month of August. Both performances scheduled for 7 30 pm. Keep an eye out in local press, notices, social media for details in mid- August.

ST GILES and ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH – PAST TIMES

There will be a short break to this feature on snippets of history and events of both Churches. A hoped-for return in the Autumn to "tales of past times".

Eco-tips

With the huge increase in petrol and diesel prices these tips may help to reduce fuel consumption. Walking, cycling, local bus and car sharing will help.

Driving tips

Make sure your tyres pressures are correct.

Maintain a steady speed on the open road - around 55mph

Accelerate slowly and smoothly.

Anticipate stops and starts.

Shampoo bars reduce plastic use. Rub the shampoo bar over wet hands then rub hands in a circular motion to make lots of foam before applying to hair.

Many pharmaceuticals can be bought more cheaply in supermarkets but try to use local small pharmacies too. They rely on our custom and we rely on them for help and invaluable advice when our medical practices are so busy. Use them or lose them.

Egg boxes and cardboard packaging can be used as layering in compost heaps.

Look up the Good Fish Guide online to find out which fish are the most eco friendly choices.



We hear a great deal about the depletion of the soil caused by modern farming methods. Permaculture tries to encourage sustainable development without creating waste and should encourage communities to use and control its own resources generatively. Look out for literature on the subject.

To cancel advertising mail aimed at you find Mailing Preference Service online or phone 020 72913310 or contact the company directly giving your full name and the date. Write 'Please stop processing my personal data for direct marketing purposes in accordance with Article 21 of the Data Protection Regulation.' Add the date you wish the mail to stop. It can take a few months.

You can also mark 'opt out' for the open register part of the voters roll which may help a bit.

Wishing you all a lovely summer with stress free travel if you are holidaying away from home. For those with bus passes, a bus to Lossie, a stroll over the new bridge, a walk and picnic on East Beach followed by an ice cream or a cup of tea or coffee if the weather is kind, could be tempting!

Carola Smith

Eco-Congregation representative.

News from Groups and Associations

WOMEN'S GROUP

We finished this session with a meal at the Laichmoray Hotel, which was enjoyed by all, and it was an evening of fun, friendship and fellowship.

Wishing everyone a lovely summer break and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Marjorie Duthie

EKWENDENI

We are now able to collect knitting/crochet items to be packed in boxes to send to the Ekwendeni Hospital. Please phone me if you have items to be collected or delivered. We are very grateful to receive your donations. Thank you.

Maureen Stephen Tel 545847

MONDAY GUILD

Meetings are now ended and will resume on Monday 3rd October at 7:30pm in the Williamson Hall.

I intend to arrange an afternoon outing sometime over the summer break.

Doreen Johnston

World Mission News

Journeying Together Project continues to support and succeed

In 2018 the Guild supported the Journeying Together Project, empowering teenage mothers in Zambia. This project supported young single mothers to get back into education or work. Four years on and a number of the girls are doing really well – 30 girls went to study Agriculture at Chipembi Agriculture College, 25 of whom are graduating this year, with the remaining five continuing on to do the Crafts Certificate.

Of the seven girls that went to Mbereshi Midwifery School, two are now entering their next year of study, and the other five have graduated. One of those five, Violet Banda, graduated top of her class and won two awards, one for best performing student and the other for the most disciplined and hardworking student. Violet has twin girls and when she was selected to go to Mbereshi School of Midwifery she had to make the hard decision of leaving her twins with her family. She has made this sacrifice so she can give her children a better life.

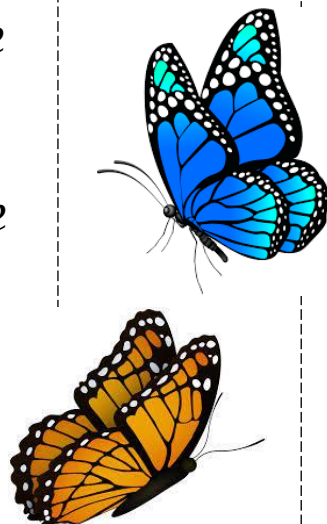
Mission Partner visits Sindyanna of Galilee

Sindyanna of Galilee is a long-term partner with the Church of Scotland, and we have supported their work as a non-profit making organisation led by a team of Arab and Jewish women. 'The Scottish Grove', which was originally a project funded by the Church of Scotland, produces some of their best olive oil and is used in the Scots Hotel Tiberias. Rev Muriel Pearson, a Church of Scotland mission partner based in Tiberias, went to find out more.

She learned about Sindyanna's aim to bring about social change from the ground up, their work in training and employing women, the Fair Trade standards they work to, and their exciting new ventures including hydroponic growing projects (a method of growing crops without soil) in schools and homes.

One of Sindyanna of Galilee's latest awards is an honourable mention from the 11th international convention of virgin olive oil producers. The winning olive oil is a production of The Scottish Grove and one of the main components in their Extra Unified Olive Oil bottle. The Olive oil from Sindyanna can be bought by emailing om@oilmerchant.co.uk where there is an offer – six bottles for £8.95 (with free delivery).

*You can't change the
past,
But you can ruin the
present,
By worrying about
the future.*



*Yesterday is history,
tomorrow is a
mystery,
And today is a gift,
that is why it is called
the present*

Kathy Dale's Apple Cake

8oz plain flour
1lb cooking apples, chopped small
6oz soft marg 4oz sultanas
6oz caster sugar 2 beaten eggs
Juice and rind of one lemon

Topping

1oz light brown sugar
1 teasp. Cinnamon

- Beat flour, marg, sugar and eggs until smooth
- Fold in the chopped apples, lemon and sultanas
- Turn into a lined 8" cake tin
- Sprinkle on topping
- Bake for 1½ hours 180° C

Absolutely delicious, and if Kathy can make it – anyone can!

I believe there's an inner power that makes winners or losers. And the winners are the ones who really listen to the truth of their hearts. **Sylvester Stallone**

When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves. **William Arthur Ward**

Just what future the Designer of the universe has provided for the souls of men I do not know, I cannot prove. But I find that the whole order of Nature confirms my confidence that, if it is not like our noblest hopes and dreams, it will transcend them. **Henry Norris Russell**

All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me.... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you. —**Walt Disney**

I'm selfish, impatient and a little insecure. I make mistakes, I am out of control and at times hard to handle. But if you can't handle me at my worst, then you sure as hell don't deserve me at my best.

— **Marilyn Monroe**

There are two basic motivating forces: fear and love. When we are afraid, we pull back from life. When we are in love, we open to all that life has to offer with passion, excitement, and acceptance. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in all our glory and our imperfections. If we cannot love ourselves, we cannot fully open to our ability to love others or our potential to create. Evolution and all hopes for a better world rest in the fearlessness and open-hearted vision of people who embrace life."

— **John Lennon** "



TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

The Laich of Moray minibus will bring members to the Church services on these dates.

St Giles'
10th July

St Columba's South
14th August

St Giles'
11th September



If you would like the bus to pick you up and take you home, please contact David Small on 549670 or 07715707074

" Any material for the September issue
" of the Church magazine should be
" emailed to both Mary,
" dawsonmarye@sky.com and Kathy at
" kathleendale2505@gmail.com by 24th
" August

" While we are only doing a web copy it
" is easier if all material is just emailed
" to us.

" The sooner we get the material, the
" easier it is for us.

" Many thanks

We have all enjoyed the celebrations this month for our Queen's 70 years of reigning our country, she has seen so many changes in those years and has been part of so many things that have happened in our world over this time, however, there is someone whose whole life was less than half of this time, and He had a far greater influence on our world than any king or queen anywhere, at any time, since our world began.

He was born in a remote village, the son of a peasant woman and grew up in another small village where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. For three years he then became a wandering preacher. He never wrote a book, he was never an important person in his home village.

He never had a family or owned a house, He did not go to college. He never visited a big city, in fact He never travelled even two hundred miles from the place He was born. He did none of the things one usually associates with greatness. He had no certificates or medals, just himself.

He was only thirty three when his popularity vanished and people turned against him, his friends ran away when he was turned over to his enemies and suffered a mockery of a trial, He was then sentenced to death and executed by the men in power at that time.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only things that he owned and when he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

More than twenty centuries have come and gone since his death happened, and today He is the central figure of the human race and worshipped by millions of people throughout our world.

All the armies that have ever marched, all the navies that have ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that have ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one solitary life.

Socrates and Aristotle each taught for 40 years, Plato for 50, Jesus taught for only three, yet His influence far surpasses the combined 130 years of teaching by these men who are said to be the greatest philosophers of all time.

He painted no pictures, yet the finest paintings of Raphael, Michelangelo and Leonardo Da Vinci have Him as their subject. He wrote no poetry, yet Dante, Milton and many of the world's greatest poets were inspired by Him. He composed no music, yet Haydn, Handel, Beethoven and Bach reached their highest perfection in hymns, symphonies and concertos composed in His honour.

Magnificent cathedrals and beautiful churches all over our world were designed by famous architects and built to allow people to meet in and worship this man.

Because of Him, children can enjoy and celebrate Christmas and Easter. Adults and children alike have festivals to remember Him and the disciples who followed His teachings and preached after His death.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's 'Jesus Christ Superstar' would never have been composed and written and millions of people would not have enjoyed the show, sung in their language, throughout the world.

Our church in Elgin would not exist without Him and we would have no reason to gather together on a Sunday, but because He did live and die the way He did, you are reading this and worshipping the greatest person who ever lived in our world.