

June 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 Forteath 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	

Minister's Letter

Church of St Giles' and St Columba's South

Dear all,

I hope that you are well and getting used to the “new normal”. I want to be cautiously optimistic that we are moving in the right direction and that perhaps we can almost say that the challenges we faced living with Covid over the last few years are hopefully becoming something of the past. As this magazine reaches you in the next few days, we are also about to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of The Queen. Our Sovereign has been part of our daily lives for 70 years. With her will to serve and her sense of wisdom, she has been a prime example of Christian witness during her reign. As we give thanks for her life of service to our country on the 3rd of June 2022 at 10:00 in St Giles' Church, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to celebrate her reign and to show our gratitude.

During the month of May, we also had the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which met at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. We were fortunate enough that one of our elders, Stuart Lynch, was a commissioner at this year's assembly. Many important decisions were taken during this week. Within the next few weeks, we'll get more information on decisions and how it will affect the life of the Church. One of these decisions we must deal with is Presbytery planning. With the draft plan out since April 2022 and with a very supportive meeting with the three congregations in Elgin, we hope to get some more positive news out after our Session meetings in June.

In his book, *A Comedian's Prayer Book*, Frank Skinner writes the following prayer:

“God, I just want to ask: What is better, to reach out or to reach in”.

I have been perplexed by this prayer as we have dealt with Presbytery planning over the last few weeks. What is the best? Reaching out or in? I sometimes get the feeling that we are so busy with “reaching in”, that we tend to forget the “reaching out” part. This is a generalisation and is not a reflection on our congregation. One of the commendable things about the Church, and specifically our congregation, was the “reaching out” during Covid. However, now the challenge has changed. Whilst it was normal to only think about our own situation, reaching out helps me to understand my neighbour, friends, family and even colleagues in my neighbouring congregations. Excited to learn that we are all one and sometimes in the same situation as humans and as a Church.

Perhaps the prayer of Jesus for the future believers in John 17: 20 – 21 helps us with the challenge of reaching out when He prays: ***“My prayer is not for them to be alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”***

We do have to reach into ourselves too. That is when we discover the gift that we are not alone and that there is a comfort in our Oneness with God. As we then continue our journey of faith, let us remember: We are already one with God, may we share our oneness with those around us.

Every blessing to you all,

Deon, Marese and all from the Manse

<u>St Columba's South</u> <u>June</u>		
5 th	Kathleen Thomson Mary Dawson	Ian Chambers Ann Forteath Ian Thomson
12 th	COMMUNION	Ian Thomson
19 th	Kathleen Thomson Eliana Cowie	Elizabeth Macrae Caroa Smith Ian Thomson
26 th	George and Marjorie Duthie Graeme Archibald	Mary Dawson Ian Thomson
<u>St Giles'</u> <u>July</u>		
	Details will	John Ralph
	be in	John Ralph
	the	John Ralph
	Summer	John Ralph
	magazine	John Ralph

FLOWER LIST

ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH	
<u>June</u>	
5 th	Ann Forteath
12 th	Doreen Johnston
19 th	Elizabeth McRae
26 rd	June Edmonstone
ST GILES'	
<u>July</u>	
3 rd	Vee Grant
10 th	Kathy Dale
17 th	Carol Archibald
24 th	Angela Ralph
31 st	Bertha Ritchie

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

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

St Columba's South

12th June

St Giles'

10th July

St Columba's South

14th August



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 Summer issue of
" the Church magazine should be
" emailed to both Mary,
" dawsonmarye@sky.com and Kathy at
" kathleendale2505@gmail.com by 23rd
" June

" 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

Presbytery Plan Draft 2022

9 Elgin Area

9.1 Elgin Area Headlines

Current parishes: Birnie and Pluscarden;

Elgin High;

Elgin St. Giles' and St. Columba's South

Population: 25760 (urban)

Proposed adjustment: Union with Team Ministry Number of posts: 1 FTMWS 1 FTE MDS Parish assistant 0.5 FTE Pioneer Ministry (in Team Ministry) (possibility of combining with other 0.5 FTE Pioneer post in Lower Speyside to recruit 1FTE across both areas) 1 OLM Local leadership, appropriately trained and supported

Buildings categorisations: (a) Retain (b) Dispose (sell / let / other)

Birnie Church b by August 2027

Birnie Church Hall b by August 2027

Pluscarden Church b by August 2027

Elgin High Church and Hall b by August 2027

Elgin St. Giles' Church a

Elgin St. Columba's Church a

Williamson Hall (by St. Columba's) a

Networks: Children's and youth work; Pilgrimage, tourism and heritage

9.2 Elgin Area Mission Narrative

These three parishes, currently in a relatively recent Parish Grouping, serve just over one third of the population of Moray Presbytery, in the expanding urban context of Elgin and the rural areas of Birnie and Pluscarden. Within the town there are many other Christian denominations and fellowships also serving the communities, so this is an area where ecumenical working can clearly assist in fulfilling the commitment to territorial ministry, building on existing relationships (e.g. Holy Week, Advent trails) and complementing the mission of other fellowships. Parish boundaries should be discussed during the first year of implementation of the plan, with the Lossiemouth Area around the new development at Findrassie to the north, and with the Lower Speyside around the developments at Linkwood and Barmuckity to the south and west. a) Children's and youth work: Reaching out to children and young people, and their families, was identified as important in all three congregations. Statistics show high proportions of under 16s in and around Elgin, and this area includes eight

primary schools and two secondary schools, so there is huge mission potential. There is also much to build on, including (but not limited to) existing relationships with schools (chaplaincy and Easter Code), thriving Messy Church in Birnie and Pluscarden, Sweaty Church and KIX children's activities at St. Giles', and family engagement by Elgin High. This area of work, across a range of communities and a large population, will benefit from partnerships with other denominations, para-church organisations such as School Pastors and community groups. Intentional engagement in a supportive network with people engaged in similar mission activity in all the areas of Moray will help new and existing volunteers to be equipped and develop mission to children and young people.

b) New developments There are very large housing developments ongoing to the north and south of Elgin. To the south that already includes the new Linkwood Primary School and Moray Sports Centre offering new community spaces in which people can gather. On the north side of Elgin, the development just beginning at Findrassie will also include community space outdoors and in a new Primary School. Statistics for the Elgin area also have the highest proportion of people of "no religion." Awareness of the needs of these evolving communities led the congregations of the Elgin area to come together into a Parish Grouping at the end of 2020, which included a Pioneer Ministry post "developing mission and new worshipping communities across Elgin, particularly its new housing areas." That intention is affirmed and encouraged across all five Marks of Mission, while recognising that such work is best done through small teams rather than individuals.¹³ More limited staffing resources and the potential to share learning across different local contexts lead to the proposal for 0.5 FTE Pioneer Ministry post in the Elgin Area, in parallel to a similar post in Lower Speyside.

c) Overcoming isolation: All these congregations have a strong sense of call to connect with people in their communities (urban and rural), with a particular concern to overcome isolation. This is primarily articulated in terms of the third Mark of Mission, responding to human need by loving service: directly meeting needs for food and connection in community partnerships, and offering the use of church buildings to host community groups who also meet those needs. This work will also assist in proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom to those supported, and will nurture believers as people are connected to others and equipped to serve. However, gathering people together does not necessarily need an ecclesiastical building. In the rural communities, use can be made of community halls. Within Elgin, there is a high concentration of church buildings (sanctuaries and halls, across denominations) within the town centre. It may be that the partners using Elgin High Church Hall could be best supported by transferring ownership of the property to a community organisation, which may allow access to funding for more flexible modern adaptation of the sanctuary and halls to meet practical needs in Elgin. d) Pilgrimage and heritage: The potential for pilgrimage developments, both in terms of heritage connections and through walking, is very strong. The rural area includes the history around Birnie Kirk and the spiritual centre of Pluscarden Abbey, while the ruins of Elgin Cathedral and the presence of a range of ecclesiastical buildings offer further mission potential around spiritual heritage. Urban and rural areas also connect to short and long walks in the area. Intentional engagement in a supportive network with people engaged in similar mission activity is proposed, including with the Upper Speyside Area (heritage) and Lossiemouth Area (walking routes)



DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE		
1	6.30 pm	Women's Group Summer Meal - Laichmoray Hotel
	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
2	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
3	10.00 am	Jubilee Service - St Giles' (Friday)
5	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - JOINT SERVICE IN ELGIN HIGH - Queen's Jubilee
	12.30 pm	Congregation Jubilee Lunch - Williamson Hall
6	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
7	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
8	10.00 am	TASS - Williamson Hall
	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
9	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
12	10.30 pm	Sunday Worship - COMMUNION - St Columba's South
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
13	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
14	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
15	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
16	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
19	10.30 pm	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
20	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
21	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
22	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
23	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
26	10.30 pm	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
27	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
28	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
29	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
30	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'

Nutty Nanny's Hoose:

23rd May 2022

Dear Friends

Well, this very fortunate Nanny has just come back from a lovely holiday in Turkey with my daughter, son-in-law and two of the grandchildren. My battery has been recharged from rest and a change of space, but at the same time it makes me very aware of what's going on in the world, our country, and our own community. Those countries at war and the refugees wishing they had a permanent home to go too, the cost of living becoming too much for people, people isolated still afraid to come out of their homes. So as an individual I am going to see what I can do to just help even one of these causes.

While in Turkey it made me very aware of other religious beliefs and hearing the Call to worship resonating around communities from their local mosques, A call at sunrise and sunset and at different times of the day. The family went on an excursion which included a visit to a mosque. I have been to a mosque before, a very elaborate mosque, the blue mosque which was covered with ornate gold arches. This mosque we visited was less ornate but as you walked in ladies' heads and bodies covered as the Islam tradition, yes the inside was ornately painted, but it was the peace one felt as you walked in and wee Lacey stood and put her hands together in prayer and in her 8-year-old way said a prayer to God.

A lesson that wherever you are, be it a church, mosque, house, hall or outside in God's creation we can communicate with God anywhere. Jesus was our example praying in the Synagogue, the mountains, by the sea of Galilee, in the garden of Gethsemane, so my call to worship to you all is pray wherever you are, pray for our world, peace, loving everyone as Jesus did. Pray for our church community, those people isolated and living in fear, those who are ill, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Pray for our church and help people to change, accept and work with the changes going on. Pray for Gods creation that man will look after it instead of destroying it. But most of all let's all pray and thank God for all our blessings.

So as some of us are able to celebrate the Queen's jubilee, let's try and reach those who can't get out to share the celebrations. Summer is on the horizon and some of our church groups close for a few weeks, but let's be reminded to try and keep in touch with those who find these groups their only way of speaking to someone during their long, lonely weeks.

God's grace and blessings to you.

Sonia X (Nutty Nanny)



To my friends at Elgin St Giles and St Columba's South Church of Scotland,

I cannot help but ask the question, "Where does the time go?" The reason I ask, believe it or not, is I have had the pleasure of being with you during my probation for one whole year now! I must say I have found my time with you very formative and uplifting and I thank Rev Deon and Rev Sonia for their guidance during this final placement, and to you my sincerest thanks for your encouragement and hospitality. Recently I received the results of the Church Law assessment which I'm happy to say I passed with 19/20! By the time you read this I will also have had my final review and I believe that this will have been successful as well. And even though it isn't quite the end of my probation yet I feel like I should update you on my next steps.

Traditionally after twelve months of probation a Trainee Minister will use the final three months to eagerly discern where a call to full time ministry may be, preparing letters of introduction, cv's and visiting various vacant charges from the official list. This is not a possibility at the present time and won't be until the Presbytery Mission Plans are finalised and we go into the implementation phase of this process. What this means for myself and my fellow probationers is we have been asked by the Faith Nurture Forum to work creatively with our presbyteries and seek out a way to facilitate moving forward into meaningful ministry that takes into account the unique position we find ourselves in as well as affirming our call to Ordained Ministry. This is no easy task, quite simply because currently we are trying to cut back our number of full time posts while simultaneously graduating our trainees. I have had some interesting and encouraging conversations with both Moray and Inverness Presbytery with a view to discerning where I might best serve over the next year or so. As you can imagine this is a stressful and complex time so I ask you all to keep my family and I in your prayers going forward. Since first entering the training programme for full time ministry we have known that all of this will be of God and his perfect timing and so we cling to the hope that His plan for us is already well known to Him and is just around the corner for us. That isn't to say that we aren't having a few sleepless nights but our prayer is that our hopes and dreams align with His and we can enter a new season of ministry, affirmed and ordained soon.

So, to answer the question, "where does the time go?" I can only say, "wherever God wills it to go." Only He is sovereign and only He will decide what is next but from the bottom of our hearts we thank you for all your kind words and encouragement over the past year. My family have enjoyed getting to know you and I hope we can still manage a few more special moments between now and the end of August.

Grace and Peace

Stuart

News from Groups and Associations

WOMEN'S GROUP

For our May meeting, we met at Elgin Cathedral, where Kathy had arranged a Murder Mystery Quiz for the group. A great evening was had, solving clues on our walk round Elgin, and eliminating suspects, then finally finding out who did it and with what!! We were delighted to be joined by Catherine and Eliana that evening, guests of Marese.

Our last meeting for the session is our meal, which is being held at the Laichmoray Hotel, on Wednesday 1st June, at 6.30 pm.

Marjorie Duthie

Eco- Congregation

The Annual Gathering and Annual General Meeting was held at St Blame's Church in Dunblane. The theme was Caring for Creation: Unlocking the Future.

'Everything in moderation' was the mantra we learned from our medically minded family members when growing up and I suppose we have stuck to that. We are now far more aware that we should be cutting back on meat eating, particularly red meat (excluding some venison) and particularly beef and lamb. Taking into account size, age, activity etc the average human requires 2,350 kcal daily. That works out at 114 watts - an electric kettle gets through twice that when it's on!

We need approx 50gms of protein daily. If we consume twice the calories we require we become very unhealthy in a short time. With protein we wouldn't know we were doing it. The wealthier nations consume more meat protein than required, leaving fewer edible crops for human consumption. Distribution is generally not the problem.

The world's farmed animals destroy nearly three quarters of the protein they eat. Most of their feed comes from human-edible food. An estimated two thirds of all antibiotics are taken by animals. Grass fed animals with the minimum use of antibiotics are a better bet but of course the meat costs more.

The following information refers to the number of calories provided daily, per person worldwide, by the edible crops grown. Roughly 2,350 kcal required daily for healthy living.

Edible crops	5,940 kcal			
Edible crops harvested	5,600.	Not harvested	340	
Crops available for use	5,270	Lost in storage	330	1,270 fed to animals
Edible crops available.	2,520			810 to biofuels
Crops for eating	2,520			
All food for eating	2,790	320 lost in processing and distribution		
Eaten food	2,530	Household waste	260	
Required for healthy living.	2,350	Excess consumption	180	



Grass and pasture provide 3,810 kcal for animals which contributes to the 89 kcal from edible food crops but, of the grass and pasture kcal (3810), 4,960 kcal are animal energy losses through heat and methane. Processing, distribution and international trading cause about 390 kcal.

Soya beans, gram for gram, have more of almost every human essential nutrient than beef or lamb. Deforestation is blamed on the growing of soya beans. When soya beans are used for animal feed, as they are, about one tenth of their weight comes back in meat. This is a disaster for human nutrition. Beef herd production has by far and away the greatest impact on both deforestation and greenhouse gas emissions. Dairy herds have a lesser impact because they produce protein, without being killed. Beef and lamb are ruminates and burp up methane.

Obviously at present the situation in Ukraine will add to the world's food problems. If much of available grain is fed to animals, more of the world's poor will starve.

During Christian Aid week we are reminded of their slogan, 'we believe in life before death.'

Thanks to the book 'There is No Planet B' for this information and for its upbeat messages. We can all do our bit.

Carola Smith

Eco- Congregation representative

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week ended on Saturday, 21 May 2022. Our thoughts are with Jessica Mwedzi and her family from Zimbabwe who feature on the Christian Aid red envelopes this year. Jessica said, just like families all over the world, she only wants what's best for her family but in rural Zimbabwe drought makes every day a struggle for survival. 'The scorching sun burnt my crops' she says. 'My children crave a decent meal, but I can't provide.'

For the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. The combined effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, conflict and drought have robbed communities like Jessica's of the power to provide for their children. It's unjust.

During Christian Aid Week:

We stood with the resilient women - like Jessica - who are determined to lift their families out of hunger.

We raise our voices to call for climate justice.

We pray that families will stay strong during times of drought.

Please give what you can to help women grow crops that survive in the drought. You can help turn hunger into hope.

With every gift, every action, every prayer, everyone of us can change lives.

In the April magazine I mentioned the 300,000 Step Challenge in May for Christian Aid. Has anyone managed to complete the 300,000 steps in May? I decided to do the 200,000 Step Challenge, and as at the 23 May my total is 152,742 - should reach my target comfortably. Anyone wishing to sponsor me, please get in touch. Also, anyone who has completed the challenge, let me know your steps so I can send off our grand total to Christian Aid by the end of June.

Our Church coffee morning on the 14 May raised the magnificent total of £758.33 for Christian Aid. Yes £758.33. Thank you to all the helpers on the day, too numerous to mention, but always so willing to be involved in this wonderful fundraiser. Thank you also to everyone who came along to enjoy the delicious Tesco pancakes and the biscuits donated by Walkers of Aberlour.

Lastly, in each of the Churches you will see the little red envelopes I mentioned earlier for you to make a donation if you wish. I have also left a supply of the Seed Boxes, please pick one up and fill with any change and bring it back to church when it is full. Please do not sellotape the box though, I try and reuse the boxes, pop the seed box into a poly bag or use a rubber band. Thank you.

Bertha Ritchie

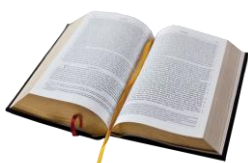
Christian Aid Treasurer.



Bible Study, Wednesdays at 18:30 Williamson Hall

1st June until 29th June
then a break for July
before meeting again on
the 17th August

We shall be looking at the
Epistles.



Healing Service dates:

Sundays 18:30 St
Columba's Chapel.

29th May

12th June

26th June

10th July

31st July

14th August

28th August



World Mission News

In pursuit of peace - COP26 chairs help foster dialogue in Middle East

Our mission partner, Rev Muriel Pearson, has taken up the post of Associate Minister at St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias Church of Scotland, a move which had been delayed by six months due to Covid-19 regulations and visa restrictions. With her, Muriel takes two chairs that were part of a COP26 art exhibition created by visual artists Gardner & Gardner in Glasgow which have been shipped to the Holy Land to help bring people together in the name of peace.

"I was struck that amid the exhibition of chairs, jumbled and precariously balanced, symbolising unequal power relationships among individuals, communities and nations, two sat face to face at speaking distance, creating the space to listen," Muriel said.

"Peace with justice seems a long way off but there are people of peace working selflessly for it and I hope, by just being there, to support this work."

Prayer request for Lebanon amidst economic crisis

Rev Rola Slieman, the pastor of Tripoli Evangelical Church in Lebanon, shared the tragic story of a boat filled with 70 people, mostly family groups, illegally trying to escape the poverty of Lebanon for a new life in another country. The boat capsized and most of the people in it drowned in Lebanese waters, only ten minutes from reaching the international waters of Cyprus. Those who could swim and who lived told the story of mostly women and children drowning.

Rola knows relatives and neighbours of some of the deceased and one family were neighbours of one member of the congregation. He had worked fixing furniture; he died with his wife and five of his kids - only one child survived.

This is not the first boat, or indeed the last, to leave for hope of a better life. Families bring together the money required to buy a boat for the journey. Some have made it to Cyprus.

Lebanon is not a country where we expect to hear about raging poverty but the deterioration in the economic situation in the last few years has meant that people who once had a comfortable life now struggle to make ends meet and those who had little now find they have nothing. It is this situation of helplessness that makes people risk lives in order to live again.

Italian churches welcome Ukrainian refugees

"We are constantly evaluating how best to offer support to refugees fleeing from the war in Ukraine," says Marta Bernardini, the coordinator of [Mediterranean Hope](#), the refugee and migrant ministry of the Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy.

"Working together with Protestant churches in Poland, we are inviting families to come to Italy where they will be welcomed by 'host communities'. It's a model which we hope to replicate for migrants fleeing from other conflicts and situations of danger, always in the hope that peace can be sought, and that the violence and hatred generated by war will end, both in Ukraine and everywhere else."

These families are being hosted by different churches in and around Milan and the Ukrainian guests have all been given 'temporary protection'; a legal status that Italy and other European Union countries accord to refugees. Fiona Kendall, a Church of Scotland Mission Partner, works with Mediterranean Hope as a legal advisor and has been instrumental in helping to develop this safe and legal passage for refugees.

ST GILES' EVENTS – WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS: On the 5th June we have a joint service in Elgin High Church to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee, then Services return to St Columba's South with the first of these at 10:30 am on 12th.

THURSDAYS: Midweek Services at St Giles' between 1 pm – 1 30 pm continues.

MORAY HANDYPERSONS SERVICE – 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating their 25th Anniversary, the Moray Handypersons Service is holding an information day on **Saturday, 25 June from around 10 am – 4 pm in the New Room** and possibly part of the Sanctuary.

This helpful group is designed to help and keep older and vulnerable people in certain groups to live independently and safely at home, by delivering minor adaptations and repairs. Here are some examples of what they can do:

Change taps/basic plumbing, Electrics; change plugs/light fittings/fuses/basic repairs, - basic window repairs, hinges, handles, fitting spy holes/door chains
-Putting up shelves, blinds, curtain rails, hanging pictures/mirrors, assembling flat pack furniture, fitting key safes, fitting grab rails, replacing toilet seats, moving furniture, etc

ELGIN BID – MARKET

The team at Elgin Bid, working hard at re-generating business and activity in the Town Centre, will be supporting the Farmers' Market on Saturday, 25 June and will access some areas of the Church.

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES RETURN but TWO NO MORE – SUMMER

The good news or the bad news? Let's get the disappointing news out of the way first. Both the Mahler Players in June and the Lancashire County Youth Orchestra in late July will no longer be able to travel to Elgin and perform.

However, the very good news is that on Monday evening, 11th 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 Laich of Moray charity.

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

ST GILES' – SNIPPETS of NEWS FROM PAST TIMES

Invoice for damaged light bulbs. You will remember the letter (see April 2022 Magazine), sent by on behalf of the Church in November 1956 to the company servicing the organ, seeking an explanation for 14 broken bulbs at 2/10d each. The reply noted the bulbs were uncaged lamps (uncaged as they had to be passed through confined spaces) and the least touch to these aged lamps resulted in higher numbers of breakages. There was an expression of regret from Messrs Hilsdon Ltd of Glasgow and *“we would agree to paying half the cost if agreeable to you”*. A suitable compromise?

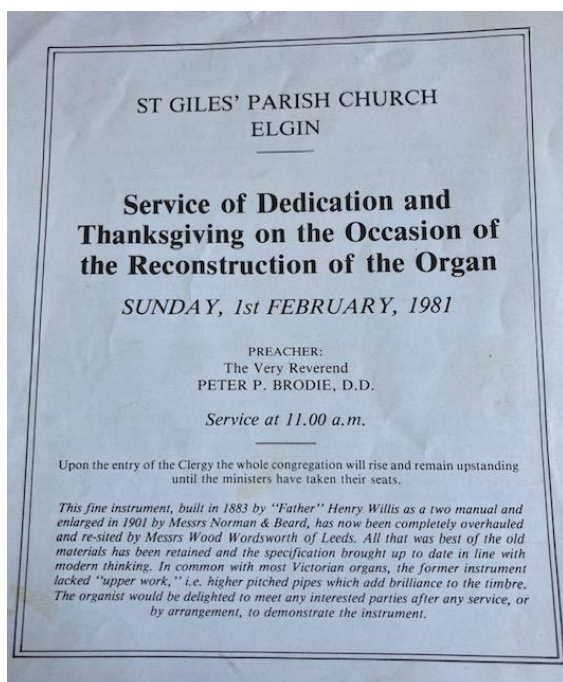
“FATHER” WILLIS – ST GILES’ CHURCH ORGAN

Henry Willis (27 April 1821 – 11 February 1901), also known as "Father" Willis, was an English organ player and builder, who is regarded as the foremost organ builder of the Victorian era. His company Henry Willis & Sons remains in business today.

In 1875, instrumental music came in the shape of a harmonium and in less than 10 years, **in 1883, the organ built by Henry Willis & Sons was installed.** Over succeeding years, it was modified and enlarged making it one of the finest in Scotland.

In the late 1970's, with the encouragement of Ministers, the Session was asked to consider the re-siting of the organ (which had been installed at the east end of the Church, where the present pulpit sits). This was approved in 1979 and the then Session Clerk, the much-respected Willie Tullo secured a quotation of around £38,000 to remove and modernise the Willis organ and install in its present location at the west end of St Giles'.

Wood, Wordsworth & Co Ltd of Leeds were commissioned to carry out this work and were of the view *“that there is undoubtedly a far greater advantage to be obtained by positioning the Organ, Choir and Organist in the West Gallery of the Church it has been our experience when this arrangement has been made in a church, there has been a noticeable and often considerable improvement in the congregational singing There is a greater encouragement to sing better if the leading source of sound comes from behind rather than the traditional forward positioning”*



All the works were carried out at their Leeds factory and having recently taken over Messrs Hilsdon of Glasgow, they would be able to provide future tuning and servicing. A 6 to 8 month period was set aside for carrying out this work and Organist, Sandy Edmonstone, fondly remembered by many, accompanied Choir and Congregation at Sunday Worship. On Sunday, 1 February 1981 at 11 am, a Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving on the occasion of the Reconstruction of the Organ was held. The Very Reverend Dr Peter Brodie, of Alloa, a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was guest preacher.

New pulpit installed – during organ restoration period, the present-day pulpit with its domed canopy picked out in white and gold, started life at Newington Parish Church, Edinburgh built around the same time as St Giles' in Elgin. It was used for the first time at the Organ's Dedication Service on 1 February 1981.

As we hear and think about the continuing war in the Ukraine and the problems facing many people in other parts of the world I realised that in every area people from the Red Cross are there, helping those in need, so, once again here is the story of how this wonderful group of people started out.

Henri Dunant was a rich young Swiss banker, who, in June 1859 was on a tour of northern Italy when he found himself caught up in a war. The French and Sardinians under Napoleon III of France were fighting against the Austrians. The battle centred on a village called Solferino where over one hundred thousand men on both sides were trying to outdo each other. The weapons used were deadly, guns and cannons and grenades – hollow bombs filled with pieces of metal – caused many deaths and some terrible wounds.

Henri Dunant was horrified by what he saw, it was bad enough that the dead were just left lying, but the wounded were much worse. The French had been ordered to attack Solferino itself, a village on a hill which meant that the defending Austrians could cause havoc, slaughtering and wounding thousands of the attacking Frenchmen before the village fell to the French. Wounded men were everywhere, crying out for help, some had lost arms and legs, others were bleeding from terrible wounds but no-one came to assist them. The soldiers helped each other as best as they could, but the badly wounded were just left to die.

Henri persuaded local people to take the wounded into their houses paying for drugs and bandages himself, he also asked the French Colonel to release the captured doctors, orderlies and surgeons so that they could help the wounded, but still many, many men died.

Dunant was determined that this kind of wasted death would not happen again and in 1862 he published a book called *a Memory of Solferino* in which he described what he had seen and the shocking way in which brave soldiers were left to die without help. He pleaded for countries to organise volunteers who in times of peace would learn how to help in times of war.

In 1863 he was part of an international convention in Geneva at which sixteen countries were represented and the International Humanitarian Law was established with each country agreeing that there would be a voluntary aid society for war casualties which would be recognised by all governments. This society would help all wounded soldiers in times of war regardless of which side they were on.

At last something was being done to help the wounded, the prisoners and others who suffered in wars. Henri Dunant chose as the symbol of the new organisation a red cross on a white background – this was the reverse of the Swiss flag. In 1876 Turkey felt that the red crescent was more appropriate for them and they as well as some other countries still use this sign today.

Because he helped found the Red Cross, in 1901 Henri Dunant was the first person ever to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dunant died in 1910 but the work he started continued.

During the First World War millions were killed and wounded but the volunteers were at the battle fronts ready to help, many others helped pack boxes containing food, clothing, tobacco, glasses and medicine which were delivered to prisoners of war in their camps.

In World War Two thirty six million parcels and one hundred and twenty million letters were sent to prisoners of war through the Red Cross.

Today the Red Cross makes sure that victims of war, civilians as well as soldiers receive food and other items needed for survival, they send medical aid, they dig wells for water, they even vaccinate livestock. The Red Cross has orthopaedic centres for those who have lost limbs, they try to reunite families who have been separated during fighting, and do so much more to help in whatever way they can.

They can be found at any incident, epidemic or disaster with their aim to relieve suffering, protect life and health, promote mutual understanding but most of all try to ensure friendship and lasting peace between all people.

The Red Cross has the respect of all nations in our world and needs all the help ordinary people can give them through supporting them by giving money or purchasing items from their charity shops. We have one in South Street in Elgin.