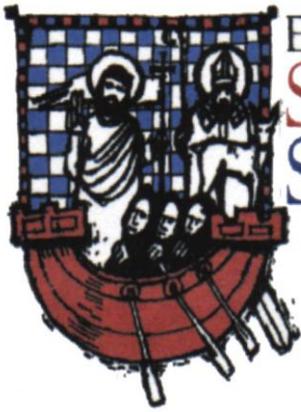


May 2022



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

We believe in life before death



Sunday 15th May – Saturday 21st May

PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH – WHO'S WHO

Minister	Deon Oelofse	01343 208786	
	Sonia Palmer	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)	01343 550257	
	Kathy Dale (St Giles')	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	Duff Avenue, Elgin	01343 551501
	Office Hours – Wednesday, and Friday 9:30am – 12:30		
	Email – stgileselgin@gmail.com		

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	01343 548482	
	Kathy Dale	01343 541437	
Bowling	George Robb	07708028555	
Badminton			2 – 3:30 group
	Margaret Paterson	01343 547924	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	
Craft Group			

Minister's Letter

Church of St Giles' and St Columba's South

Dear all,

By the time you receive this letter, we will be in the month of May! We were able to share wonderful moments in April as we celebrated two Baptisms, on consecutive Sundays. It was also the first time in three years that we were able to celebrate Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in our buildings. Sharing communion and being able to sing the words that reminds us of the pain of Calvary, but also being able to sing aloud our wonderful Easter hymns the Sunday morning was very special indeed! Bring in Souper Sunday and an almost normality in church life is beginning to show, we are indeed looking forward to the month that reminds us that summer is on its way!

However, the coming month of May will also be a busy one. On the 7th of April 2022 the draft Presbytery Plan for Moray was presented. For Elgin, the changes are as follows on the draft plan (please note this is a very brief summary and the full text will be available on the church website): An adjustment to be implemented to union Elgin St Giles' and St Columba's South with Birnie Pluscarden linked with Elgin High. The outcome of this adjustment will be that there will only be one Session for all of Elgin

The ministry team of Elgin will be: one Minister of Word and Sacrament, one Ordained Local Minister and one Ministry Development Staff member. There might be a future 50% post allocated to Elgin on the demission of the Minister of Lhanbryde. All these posts are currently filled by the Ministry team (Sonia, Paula and myself), and this will remain unchanged.

All the buildings of Birnie, Pluscarden and Elgin High are to be sold. The two church buildings of Elgin St Giles' and St Columba's South will be retained. The buildings conversation will continue in May and we hope to bring some amendments to the plan.

At a joint meeting of all the Sessions on the 27th of April, it was decided to accept the adjustment; this will be decided by each Session individually and will be brought to the congregations. I can confirm that the meeting was held in a very positive atmosphere and perhaps for many it was an opportunity to air their views and to be listened to. This continuing process of meeting and listening to each other is very encouraging!

As we find ourselves in the season of Easter, we reflect back to the disciples who also found themselves in a listening season. The gospels tell us that Jesus appeared numerous times in the presence of the disciples and taught and instructed them on the way forward. It was indeed on that Easter Sunday that Jesus entered the anxious and challenged lives of His disciples and said to them: "Peace be with you" (Luke 24: 30). As we continue to travel in a time of great uncertainty and challenging times, may the words of Jesus once again resonate in our hearts as we hear in our own troubled hearts: "Peace be with you". Not the peace negotiated by humanity, but a divine peace that transcends all our understanding and guard over our hearts and minds (my paraphrase on Philippians 4:6).

Peace to you all!

From Deon and the rest of the Manse family

Elders on Duty

<u>St Giles'</u>		<u>May</u>		
1 st	Audrey Gill June Edmonstone	Graeme Archibald Doreen Johnston		John Ralph
8 th	Iain Morrison Kathleen Thomson	Ann Forteath Margaret Paterson		John Ralph
15 th	Billy and Hilda Robertson Gill Mason	Angela Ralph		John Ralph
22 nd	Davie Small Bertha Ritchie	John Henderson Kathy Dale		John Ralph
29 th	Brian and Margaret Hamilton Ron and Marion Hay			John Ralph
<u>St Columba's South</u>		<u>June</u>		
5 th	Kathleen Thomson Mary Dawson	Ian Chambers Ann Forteath		Ian Thomson
12 th	Kathleen Thomson Ann Mitchell	Hugh Carter Nancy Brodie		Ian Thomson
19 th	Kathleen Thomson Eliana Cowie	Elizabeth Macrae Caroa Smith		Ian Thomson
26 th	George and Marjorie Graeme Archibald	Duthie Mary Dawson		Ian Thomson

FLOWER LIST

<u>ST GILES'</u>	
<u>May</u>	
1 st	Carol Archibald
8 th	Mary Grant
15 th	Angela Ralph
22 nd	Margaret Manson
<u>ST COLUMBA'S SOUTH</u>	
<u>June</u>	
5 th	Ann Forteath
12 th	Doreen Johnston
19 th	Elizabeth McRae
26 rd	June Edmonston

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

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

St Giles'

8th May

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,
" dawsonmarve@sky.com and Kathy
" at kathleendale2505@gmail.com
" by 24th May

" 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



DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY		
1	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
2	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
3	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
4	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	7.00 pm	Women's Group - Murder, Mystery Walk - Cathedral
5	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
	2.00-3.30 pm	Creative Minds - St Giles' New Room
	ALL DAY	WILLIAMSON HALL - POLLING STATION - LOCAL ELECTIONS
8	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
9	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
10	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
11	10.00 am	TASS - Williamson Hall
	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
12	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
14	10.00 am-12 noon	Williamson Hall - Christian Aid Coffee Morning
15	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
16	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
17	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
18	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
19	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
22	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
23	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
24	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
25	6.30 pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
26	1.00 pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles'
29	10.30 am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00 pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
30	1.00-3.30 pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
31	8.00 am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall
	10.00 am - 12 noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall



From Nutty Nanny's Hoose! Dear Friends

My goodness is it really May already! I hope you are all geared up for summer like wee Holly Dolly! This has been a busy year so far for myself, sadness at the beginning of the year with the loss of my brother Ian and I am so thankful to the church family for all your support, then COVID found its way to me and kept me confined to the house for a week. I thought it would give me a chance to tidy up the house, no it flooded me and made me realize how fortunate I was to be able to get out of the house, but it made me appreciate technology as I was able to face time my wee joys and the rest of the family, and phone Colleagues and the care package from the Oelofse household made me smile and soothed my sore throat. Then where was God when all this was happening? That's what someone without faith would say, yes I am human and I did waver when Ian was so ill and died, but my brother Adam relit my faith when he said, "Perhaps God saw how he was struggling and decided he needed peace". God is always there for us in sad and joyous times, when Holly learnt to say, "Hi Nanny," and "I love you Nanny".

The church is going through many changes now of which it can make us feel all the human emotions of anger, sadness, and fear. Yes, change is happening and we have to start looking at these as God would see them, how we enhance his kingdom here on earth and the Church of Scotland has put up the challenge giving us the five marks of mission to achieve simply put in these bullet points. • To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom • To teach, baptize and nurture new believers • To respond to human need by loving service • To seek to transform unjust structures of society • To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

I believe as a church we are trying to achieve these and all the work helping with the different appeals, for refugees and now the Ukraine situation, we are all trying to work as Jesus did when he walked this earth. Mathew 19: 21 tells us ²¹ Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." John 13;35 tells us ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." And as a church community I know we love one another and those outside our church community. Then don't forget to recycle and care for the earth as an eco-congregation. So, we have a task in front of us, but together and making sure God is in the Centre of our thoughts and actions they can be achieved. So please look forward to those lazy, hazy days of summer and embrace change.

God's grace and peace to you all.

Love Sonia (Rev Sonia Palmer)

News from Groups and Associations

MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Wednesday April 6th

With Covid once again beginning to show its presence we, as normal met for our bi-monthly meeting at 10.00am in the Williamson Hall. All members enjoyed refreshments and an informal chat, before our guest speaker, Mr Mike Ogden was introduced. He had recently moved up to Nairn to take up his new post in the Mentoring Service for the Moray area. He coordinates The Mentoring Young Talent Programme which supports young people aged 12 to 24 years of age to discover and develop their talents, increasing future employment options. The mentoring programme was explained in more detail and is a one to one help to the young who are showing signs of falling through the cracks in society. This for example can be picked up early in schools, and when handled with the appropriate mentor can turn things around for the better.

Being a group of advancing years, most of us have difficulty in understanding the pressures facing the young generation, but following a successful question and answer session most of our fears were allayed. After Mr Ogden departed, we discussed our final meeting for the season which was our trip to the Fishermen's Museum in Buckie

Wednesday April 20th

This saw the club have its final meeting for the season. This year's programme was shorter than normal due to the pandemic, which had played havoc for all organisations. Enough about the past let us focus on the day in hand. Unfortunately the dreaded Covid along with other ailments drastically reduced our numbers with only a mass total of 6 reporting at the Williamson Hall for our outing to Buckie. Having loaded up a couple of cars we headed out in convoy to our destination, the Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre. On arrival we were welcomed by the secretary, Billy Garden, along with today's team who were only too pleased to explain the setup and history of the Centre. We were divided into 2 groups to make things easier, and being part of the first group we were astonished at the number of items on show. There were numerous models of fishing boats that were either gifted or on loan to the museum. There was also models of the current lifeboat as well as its predecessor, and a model of the old lifeboat station which was located in the west basin before being filled in, and is now the site of one of Forsyth's workshops. We carried on round the displays of artefacts many of which were merely handed in. We then came to the magnificent display of the 'Captain Scott' which was a 3-masted schooner, built locally by the former Herd & McKenzie shipyard. This is the only exhibit that was purchased by the museum. Our time here was limited but we made our way to visit the Seaman's Memorial Chapel which was just a short way off. The chapel is located in New Street and was setup to remember the men that were lost at sea, although not all were listed as it depended on the permission of the bereaved families. On returning to the centre we had a final look around and thanked our hosts for a wonderful visit. On leaving the museum we headed for our soup and sandwich lunch at a local restaurant before we took the scenic route back to Elgin. All in all it was a wonderful day out on a beautiful April day, and I can highly recommend this as a place to visit.

Forthcoming Events

AGM is Planned for early June to which all current members will be invited to attend. Discussions will include outstanding business and organising the forthcoming season which will be due to start on October 5th.

Ken Wood

Chairman

This is a non-denominational men's group and a warm welcome is extended to all.

WOMEN'S GROUP

Our next meeting is on Wednesday May 4th May, when a walk is planned, weather permitting. We will meet at Elgin Cathedral, at 7pm, for our Murder Mystery Treasure Hunt. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Marjorie Duthie

MONDAY GUILD

Meetings for session 2021-2022 came to an end with the AGM on 6th April. These have been well attended and will resume in October when new members will be very welcome.

Doreen Johnston

WEDNESDAY GUILD

Our last meeting for this session took the form of our AGM. Our Committee remains the same and the ladies are happy to stay for another year. Many thanks to them all. Our meetings will remain at one per month up to the end of the year. Our first meeting will be on 7th September followed by 5th October, 2nd November and 7th December. We hope everyone will enjoy the summer break.

Maureen Stephen (Secretary)

THEATRE GROUP

Now that the last notes of music have died away, and the confetti has all fluttered down to the floor, it seems an ideal time to reflect on 'What's Up Westend'.

Having made the sad decision that we were going to have to cancel Shrek, the Musical, the Production Team began to plan how we could get Theatre Group back on the stage. The concept of working on songs from a variety of shows was devised as it meant we could work with smaller numbers during rehearsals and comply with COVID regulations. There were still lots of times when we despaired that the show would be able to go ahead. At one point or another, virtually every member of Theatre Group and the Production Team had to isolate with some not being able to return until the first night of the show!

Despite the need to reduce numbers of people to more manageable levels, it quickly became obvious to the Production Team that there was still plenty of talent amongst the young people of Moray. Hard work continued right up to the opening night when the youngsters realised that audiences really did enjoy the evening's entertainment. Theatre Group is all about helping young people to grow in their confidence and learn the benefit of team work. It was great to see smiles widen as the week went on and there was no doubt that the atmosphere in Elgin Town Hall was truly electric on the final night.

Whilst people were arriving for the Saturday evening show, a lady approached me at the Ticket Desk and explained she was on holiday from Australia and wondered if there were any tickets available. She knew nothing of Theatre Group, or the show, but had seen there was something on in Elgin Town Hall wanted to sample an event whilst on holiday. At the end of the evening she came back over to speak to me and said, "I've travelled halfway round the World and I don't believe I could have attended a more professional show anywhere. It was a fantastic night!" Theatre Group had returned with a real BANG!

I would like to thank everyone who participated in any way to our production. We look forward to continued success in future years as we begin to plan for the 2023 performance.

Lindsay Knight

Eco-Congregation

Gus Speth, an environmental scientist, stated that selfishness, greed and apathy cause the top environmental problems. Do you think this is true?

April's report from the Intercontinental Panel on Climate Change was bleak. Humanity probably isn't going to prevent Earth from at least temporarily warming 1.5degC above pre-industrial levels. The window to reduce warming is rapidly closing. Above the 1.5degC level the chances of extreme weather and collapsing eco-systems grow.

The Eco-Congregation pastor Rev David Colman finds it increasingly uncomfortable when he is asked to visit congregations. He knows what he has to say but he feels he is constrained by the fact that he is a guest and the situation requires good manners. His words could cause upset.

We have the knowledge and technology to turn things around but it requires very urgent action now. Sadly the war in Ukraine will mean political thoughts may be elsewhere, for understandable reasons. If the climate challenge is not addressed quickly the movement of refugees worldwide will accelerate. Poor nations which were not responsible require financial aid to help them meet the technology challenges.

It's easy to feel depressed by these facts but just listening to the BBC Sounds recordings of '39 Ways to Save the Planet' can change the mood. There are so many ideas and inventions which require some support and investment.

From my library book I have discovered that about 40% of UK electricity is now produced by renewables. Scotland is nearly self sufficient in renewable electricity generation, almost 97% is claimed. - onshore wind 56.7%, solar, marine, biofuel and waste 8.3%, hydro 15.5%, offshore wind 9.4% (when weather conditions are unfavourable nuclear and some carbon emitting fuels are imported to the mix, so there is some way to go yet). Scotland has only 8% of the UK population and so can export about 20% of the renewable power. The UK has to move quickly on both insulation, reducing demand and investment in new technology.

China produces 43% of the world's wind-powered electricity generation, the USA 19%, Germany 11%, India 7%, Spain 5% UK 4% followed by France, Brazil, Canada and the rest of the world combined. Many desert areas and other sunny areas have the potential to produce huge quantities of solar power.

The prophets of old warned people about the consequences of their actions. Our scientists are like modern day prophets and we should be thankful that we are being given a warning and the chance and time to meet the challenges ahead. Let us pray that we can rise to these challenges which should lead to a cleaner, greener and less polluted world. We can all find ways to encourage one another.

There are now boxes in the vestibules of both churches for used stamps. These are used to help fund pastors in Lebanon. The economic crisis in the country and the huge Beirut explosion have struck hard. Some pastors have had to leave their vocations to take on other work to make ends meet. The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) which employed the pastors is a partner church of the Church of Scotland, and has struggled to pay salaries.

Carola Smith
Eco-Congregation representative.



WORLD MISSION NEWS

Our Souper Sunday lunch: the result

As a result of our Souper Sunday lunch on Easter Day, we have donated £406.25 to the Church of Scotland HIV Programme – many thanks to all who contributed, and to our Social Committee for their hard work and excellent soups.

World Council of Churches Condemns Israel Attacks (news from early April)

The World Council of Churches has condemned a series of terrorist attacks in Israel which killed 11 people in one week, and extended condolences to those who have lost loved ones.

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum, also commented, saying:

"We are deeply shocked and saddened by the wave of indiscriminate terror attacks that have taken place in the last week in Israel, and the West Bank.

"We pray for all those who have lost loved ones and we pray too for peace and for peaceful co-existence.

"We join with local and international partners of all faiths in condemning such extremist violence, and pray that people of all religions will be able, safely and freely, to pray and worship in the coming festivals of Ramadan, Easter, and Pesach."

Alongside other churches and international church bodies, the Church of Scotland has long worked with local churches and organisations to advocate for equal rights for all who live in Israel and for a peace which would see the end of occupation and bring justice and peaceful coexistence to all the people in the land of Christ's birth.

Myanmar Civil War continues

[Recently], our colleagues in the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar wrote to us about further attacks by the military in the ongoing civil war. The family of Elder Van Khaw Tiam, a finance officer in their General Assembly Office, were seriously injured when Hmuntha village was bombed. Further to this, a youth member of the Church, Abednego, who had joined the People's Defence Force, was shot and killed.

In the next village of Sekthan, 50 villagers, including many church members, were gathering for a funeral when they were arrested. Another church member, Mrs Darchhingpuii, was injured by a bomb in Tahan. Later, the local militia opened fire on the police station in Tahan.

Please pray for the grieving families, for those who are injured and detained.

Moderator signs statement from Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe on Europe's response to refugees

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Lord Jim Wallace, has added his signature to a statement released from the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe, which addresses Europe's response to refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine.

The statement addresses the concerns of discriminatory treatment of non-Ukrainians and minority ethnic people in this context and the more general question that the generosity shown in recent weeks often has not been extended to those fleeing from elsewhere.

Reflecting on why church leaders requested such a statement, and what lies at the heart of some of their different inputs, [Dr Torsten Moritz, general secretary at the Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe](#) adds, "Our Christian faith is extremely clear about the hospitality to the 'stranger' or the alien – so exactly towards the person who seems to be different from us. International law also is very clear on the equal treatment irrespective of ethnic background, colour of skin, religion or belief."

Lord Wallace added his signature to that of another 30 leaders of Christian churches and organisations across Europe prior to Easter, declaring: "As you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me. – Matthew 25:40 – ALL refugees welcome."

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING



Saturday, 14 May
In the Williamson Hall



Coffee/Tea and pancakes served
Along with Shortbread donated by Walkers of Aberlour
From 10 am - 12 noon

Raffle/ Bottle Stall/ Mystery Parcel Stall
Donations will be welcome at the start of May
Please hand any items into Church Office or
Phone Bertha Ritchie Christian Aid Treasurer 545285

Please put this date in your diary
We look forward to seeing you there.

Quotes from Illusions written by Richard Bach

Here is a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished. If you're alive – it isn't.

Your only obligation in any lifetime is to be true to yourself.

Being true to anyone else or anything else is impossible.

You are led through your lifetime by the inner learning creature, the playful spiritual being that is your real self.

Don't turn away from possible futures before you're certain you don't have anything to learn from them. You're always free to change your mind and choose a different future, or a different past.

Your friends will know you better in the first minute you meet, than your acquaintances will know you in a thousand years.

Learning is finding out what you already know. Doing is demonstrating that you know it. Teaching is reminding others that they know just as well as you. We are all learners, doers and teachers.

STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on the 22ND of May 2022 in St Giles Church at approximately 11:30 a.m. after the morning service.

Agenda

- 1 Opening
- 2 To receive the Annual Account for the year ended 30th November 2021
- 3 Ministry report
- 4 To elect members to the Congregational Board
- 5 Closing of meeting

Any member of the congregation can propose a member for election to the Congregational Board, but should (unless they are sure that the person will be present at the meeting) obtain their consent beforehand. It is important to have a good number of elected members on the Board to work with the elders in managing the affairs (matters material) of the congregation.

We hope to see you at the meeting, Sunday the 22ND of May 2022 at 11:30.

ST GILES' EVENTS – WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS: Sunday Services return to St Giles' Church for the month of May with the first of these at 10:30 am on 1st May, 2022.

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

For the time being, hands will continue to be sanitised on entering and leaving the Church and those on duty, will advise on face mask protocols.

CREATIVE MINDS ART GROUP – For coffee and creativity - next session will be on Thursday, 5th May at 2 pm – 3:30 pm when the group will meet. Stuart Finlayson, our energetic and enthusiastic Probationer Minister runs the **Creative Minds Art Group**. It is free to attend and all ages welcome. Any queries, please contact Stuart at sfinlayson@churchofscotland.org.uk. (Whilst some resources will be provided at the sessions, if you do have your own art supplies, please bring them along).

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, 30th April and will access the areas, except the Sanctuary.

ELGIN CITY BAND

Making a welcome return to St Giles' is the ever-popular Elgin City Band with an attractive programme on Saturday evening, 7 May. No details of start time available – 7 pm earliest or 7:30 pm latest. Keep an eye out in local press/posters.

MORAY CONCERT BRASS



Join us to celebrate 30 years of Moray Concert Brass with an evening of fantastic music

Saturday 14th May
St Giles Church - Elgin
Doors 7pm - 7:30pm Start

Tickets £8 - Conc £6
To book in advance visit our
website - www.morayconcertbrass.com
or email - mcbinfo21@gmail.com

Scottish charity number - SC050031

MUSICAL PERFORMANCES RETURN – SPRING AND SUMMER

(As reported in last month's magazine), May, June and July, the sounds of music are back to St Giles'. First up on Saturday evening, 7th May is Elgin City Band. Saturday, 14th May, Glenn Munro and Moray Concert Brass will entertain for the second time this year. They brought a lot of fun and sheer exuberance and the end of March as they celebrated scores from well-known movies. Growing very much in stature and reputation, The Mahler Players, under the baton of Tomas Leakey will perform on Friday evening, 17th June. In the absence of the Cologne Philharmonia late July visits, we're delighted to welcome The Lancashire County Youth Orchestra on their Scottish tour. One for your diaries – Thursday evening, 2th & 8 July 2022. As with Moray Concert Brass, more details closer to performances.

A reminder - the Glasgow Phoenix Choir who often visit, late September, for logistical reasons are not able to tour the Highlands in 2022 but have provisionally booked St Giles' for 23-09-23 – remember that date!

ST GILES' – SNIPPETS of NEWS FROM PAST TIMES

A promise of news of the St Giles' Organ this month will be deferred for another month – sincere apologies. However, the organ would have led, as it does to this very day, joyful hymn singing – read on:

An LP from St Giles' Parish Church

In the archives, an interesting find – there may yet be other copies intact in Elgin.



CENTRE of LP reads: Community Hymn Singing, from St Giles' Parish Church, Elgin
Hymns introduced by the Rev William M MacCartney.
Record made by Sound News Productions, dated 7th September 1958.

LEFT HAND LABEL reads: Why not ask SNP* to reserve and later sent a copy of this record as a gift to your friends and home and overseas. Sound News Productions, 10 Clifford Street, London, New Bond Street, London W 1.

RIGHT HAND LABEL reads: A Few Words of Advice.
Please play this 33 ½ r.p.m. "direct" record with a modern light-weight pick-up with a permanent sapphire needle. If in doubt, test your instrument on the last few grooves of a side. You are warned NOT to use auto-changers; they easily damage records.

(SNP* one for our MSP?)

The "B" side label reads: "Conductor of Praise: Kim Murray, Organist, Amy Laxton"

Vigilant Finance Committee – November 1956

A letter dated 9th November 1956 to Messrs H Hilsdon, Ltd, Glasgow Organ Works. (engaged to clean/overhaul St Giles' Church Organ):

Dear Sirs – At a Finance Committee meeting held last night, your account was presented for payment by the Treasurer. Before passing the account for payment, attention was drawn to a report by the Beadle that your men had broken fourteen 100 watt bulbs and these had to be replaced at a cost of 2/10d each. It appears that these were broken in your inspection lamp without protection, hence the number broken. I have been asked to get your comments and your kind attention will oblige. Yours faithfully, W G Anderson.

Church funds well managed in past and invoices continue to be carefully scrutinised to this day.

Kids' Page

Just to remind us how long Christian Aid has been helping the more vulnerable people in our world.

In the 1940's after World War II, British and Irish church leaders met, determined to do everything possible to help European refugees who had lost everything during the fighting

The name they gave themselves was Christian Reconstruction in Europe. Their purpose was not to preach, but to help ordinary people who were suffering, no matter what their faith.

They began to look beyond Europe and expanded their work to support development in newly independent nations in Africa and Asia, and respond to emergencies worldwide. They were involved in the creation of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) – an organisation dedicated to sending skilled volunteers to work in the developing world – and provided grants for Palestinian, Chinese and Korean refugees.

They made sure that the public was aware of continuing problems in the world by organising the first Christian Aid Week in 1957 and in 1964 changed their name to Christian Aid.

As world food shortages increased, Christian Aid began to look more deeply into the causes of poverty – not just at dealing with its symptoms and set about helping people to help themselves by teaching them new skills, particularly in farming.

The 21st century has brought new challenges to Christian Aid. The war in Ukraine, Covid 19 virus, climate change, the increasing number of natural disasters, and the fact that almost half the world's population live on less than £1.50 a day, mean their work is needed more than ever. They now work with more than 650 overseas partners in around 50 countries and are putting into practice their aim of turning hope into action.

I went into the Christian Aid website and slightly altered article that they had written, this year, for children.

Think about your most treasured possessions, what is it that makes this object important and meaningful to you? Often, the value of an object has little to do with what it is worth in terms of money... a beloved teddy bear, a special letter, or a prized photograph might mean much more to us than expensive jewellery, say, or a fancy music player. Sometimes, our most treasured possessions are things that hold special memories of important people or places, and often, they are things that couldn't easily be replaced if they were lost or stolen.

In most cases, the importance of these things has little to do with what the thing cost, and everything to do with a deeper meaning – be it love, memories, fun or usefulness.

Keep that thought in mind as you think about what it is that people really need. What things are essential for human beings – the things we really cannot do without. Material things like food, water and medicines are very important, but what about things that cannot be seen, but which are still important (like love, friendship, family, safety).

Often, in our society, we are encouraged to want more than we need. Many of those messages come from the media, with adverts constantly telling us that we must get the latest gadgets, the most fashionable clothes and the newest toys. Many of these things do have the power to make us feel good about ourselves, but often that feeling only lasts until we see the next thing we want. And those feelings of never having enough and of always wanting more can leave us feeling quite dissatisfied; they can cloud the things that really matter.

It is part of human nature to want more stuff – but that doesn't mean that 'stuff' makes us happy. Throughout history, wise people have advised that we should resist the temptation to always try to get more, and instead try to be happy with what we have.



In ancient times, the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu told people: ‘Be content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are. When you realise there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you.’ This message is also in the Bible: ‘Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have.’ – Hebrews 13:5

Oscar Romero was a famous archbishop from El Salvador, a country in Central America. He bravely spoke up for poor people, but his views were unpopular with some and because of this he was murdered in 1980. He encouraged people to: ‘Aspire [aim] not to have more, but to be more’. How can we ‘be more’? Ideas about living simply and having less are particularly important in today’s world, where we have a better idea than ever before about the damage that our wastefulness and greed can cause. We all understand now that the Earth has limited resources, and that we need to be careful not to use everything up – this is why we all recycle our waste. But perhaps we could also think about using less in the first place, and what we might gain from living simply. In the UK, we can be very wasteful even with the essential things that people need to live, like food and water. The Love Food Hate Waste campaign estimates that 7 million tonnes of uneaten food is thrown out from our homes every year. This wastefulness costs the average family around £60 a month in wasted food. We also tend to consume much more than people in many other countries. For example, most people in the UK use around 1050 litres of water per week, which is nearly 10 times more water than most people living in Ethiopia use. In just over a week, people in the UK produce enough rubbish to fill Wembley stadium and in one year, we produce enough waste to fill dustbins stretching from the Earth all the way to the Moon, but people are becoming smarter about the resources that they use. Just think about what we are already doing . Everywhere you look, people are working together to waste less and recycle more. In the UK, we now recycle or compost over a quarter of our waste. And across the world, people are recycling more and more each year – as well as coming up with creative ideas to re-use materials. The charity Christian Aid wants to make sure that people everywhere make good use of the Earth’s precious resources, and is supporting people in many of the poorer countries of the world who are finding clever new ways to re-use old materials. In Haiti, young people are getting creative by turning rubbish into plastic bags... and scrap metal into art. In Bangladesh, scrap wood has been used to make a playground... while in Mali, an old tin becomes a watering can. Christian Aid also asks the government of this country to make sure that it does everything it can to help reduce the harm that we do to the environment.

By putting money into the red boxes found in Church we can assist Christian Aid in helping those in need throughout our world. Every penny helps.



If there ever is a tomorrow when we're not together,

There is something you should always remember.

You are braver than you believe,

Stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

But the most important thing is,

Even if we are apart, I'll always be with you.

