

October 2022



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



*Let's give thanks*

## 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	
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		Office Hours – Wednesday, and Friday 9:30am – 12:30	
		Email – <a href="mailto:stgileselgin@gmail.com">stgileselgin@gmail.com</a>	

### 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	6.30 – 8pm
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,

We are approaching the end of September and I must confess that it was a roller coaster of a month. At first a new Prime Minister was confirmed by The Queen, just for us to sadly learn 48 hours later that she had died at Balmoral. These moments touched our lives in various ways. St Giles' played a pivotal role in helping our community deal with the grief and allowing a safe space for people to share their memories of the late Queen. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped us during the ten days of mourning as people came to sign the Book of Condolence. We have heard from the Council that the Book of Condolence will be saved in a digital format and the original will be sent to the Royal Household.

Sitting in St Giles' during this time offered me the opportunity to engage with a lot of people passing through the door. Stories were shared of how people remembered The Queen, but also allowed people to share their own stories of Elgin. It also allowed people to speak about faith, a conversation that was encouraged by The Queen's own faith. What struck me was the fellowship and community we shared together. Families came in with children, grandparents came in with grandchildren or groups of teenagers, all sharing their grief and making sense of this occasion on their own terms. It is here where we find the story of Christ intersecting with our story. When we are at a low ebb or in the worst of times, we sometimes find Christ right there waiting for us.

In John 4, one of my favourite stories in the Bible, Jesus waits at the well for the Samaritan women. At first, he asks for something simple, a bit of water. A conversation starts to develop, until the story of how Jesus the Messiah intersects with this woman, who I might add, had some virtues which could be frowned upon in some circles. Here we find the King of creation speaking to a woman who would have had no standing or regard in her community. Jesus changed her story. From being, perhaps a bitter outcast, she is transformed by the story of Jesus to being someone who brought the Good News to her village. We read in John 4: 39 – 41: *"Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers."*

Let us be inspired by this story of hope. As we continue our own journey with Christ, may we continue to look out for those moments where we are surprised and inspired by the story of God. As we continue our journey as God's people, may we know that His presence will always be there to inspire us to listen to each other, love one another and care for His creation.

Every blessing to you all!

Deon, Marese and all at the Manse

## FLOWER LIST



<b>St Columba's South</b>	
<u>October</u>	
<u>2<sup>nd</sup></u>	<b>Harvest Thanksgiving</b>
9 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret Innes
16 <sup>th</sup>	Elsie Watson
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Muriel Gerrard
30 <sup>th</sup>	Muriel Gerrard
<b>St Giles'</b>	
<u>November</u>	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy Dale
13 <sup>th</sup>	Muriel Gerrard
20 <sup>th</sup>	Hilda Robertson
27 <sup>th</sup>	Marion Hay

## WELCOME DUTIES

		<u>BEADLE</u>	<u>READING</u>
<b>St Columba's South</b>	<b>October</b>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Hugh Carter Kathleen Thomson	Nancy Brodie Ian Chambers	Ian Thomson Hugh Carter
9 <sup>th</sup>	George and Marjorie Duthie Kathleen Thomson	Brian Hamilton	Ian Thomson Marjorie Duthie
16 <sup>th</sup>	Kathleen Thomson Muriel Gerrard	Elizabeth Macrae Ann Mitchell	Ian Thomson Elizabeth Macrae
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mary Dawson Kathleen Thomson	Stuart Lynch Eliana Cowie	Ian Thomson Jeff Cowie
30 <sup>th</sup>	Audrey Gill June Edmonstone	Graeme Archibald Doreen Johnston	Ian Thomson Doreen Johnston
<b>St Giles'</b>	<b>November</b>		
6 <sup>th</sup>	Billy and Hilda Robertson Gill Mason	Angela Ralph	John Ralph Gill Mason
13 <sup>th</sup>	Iain Morrison Margaret Paterson	Ann Forteath Kathleen Thomson	John Ralph
20 <sup>th</sup>	Davie Small Bertha Ritchie	John Henderson Kathy Dale	John Ralph Kathy Dale
27 <sup>th</sup>	Carola Smith Ron and Marion Hay	Margaret Hamilton	John Ralph Ron Hay

### Laich of Moray Bus

The bus brings folks to Church on Sundays, at least once a month.

Davie Small has been transporting folk to St Giles' for some years.

However, after this year he will no longer be of an age to do so.

If there is anyone out there who would be able to take on this task please contact Davie on 549670 or 07715707074 for details.



### Old Irish Blessing

May your days be filled with blessings

Like the sun that lights the sky.

And may you always have the courage

To spread your wings and fly.

Nutty Nanny's House  
Ashgrove Park  
September 2022.

Dear Friends

Well, what can I say, we all, after the last year, have been able to tick off from our personal achievement lists, ability to work and progress forward with Change. Through his earthly life Jesus adapted worked towards change in his time. Turning people's selfish views to loving thy neighbor as oneself. Yes, churches are closing, but people are coming together as a parish. It is hard for those who have worshipped in the same church together for years, but what did our beloved saviour say, "when two or three are gathered in my name" and he preached, healed, showed compassion more often with no roof over his head.

This past month I have had the most humbling experience of a lifetime, joining others on a pilgrimage to Oberammergau. What an emotional experience, from the outstanding voices of the choir to the realistic depiction of Jesus's last days, seeing him simply around a table sharing the bread and wine to the depiction of his torture and crucifixion by his fellow man. I was able to experience the wonders of the mountains of the Tyrol in Austria, the beautiful paintings on the houses and churches, depicting biblical and fairy stories. After the loss of my dear brother this year it helped me to find peace and reassured me that God takes people home early for a reason.

As we come together as one Parish in Elgin let's be willing and more open to sharing services together and instead of being them and us become us - the family Parish of Elgin. We are approaching Advent and winter, and yes, many are worrying about how we are going to pay our heating bills! But let's do what we do great as a Christian community, help each other, take it in turn to meet in each other's houses for a tea and chat - so share the cost of heating. Come to the church's organized meetings.

So, on a more cheerful note, Milly who was one in June is now walking and is a cheeky wee lassie, Holly Dolly well, "Holly will you use your potty?" "NO" says it all and Lacey continues to be the caring big sissy! Family has been given to us by God as a joy and I love to share my joy with you all.

Jesus loved and taught us to love thy Neighbour, let's try to do this this Advent and once again for Advent, I will be compiling my food bank advent box. Please, think of doing something, even putting a £1 away for each day, for a charity.

Blessings and God's Grace and peace to you all.

Love Sonia Nutty Nanny! (Rev Sonia Palmer)

## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

It's great to be back! After 2 pandemic interrupted years, Christian Aid Week in Scotland was showing signs that 'normal' had indeed returned. Our supporters across the country pulled out all the stops to ensure that events were planned, services were held, cakes were baked, miles were walked, books were sold, to name but a few!

Kinross Bread of Life Challenge: the Kinross committee took over the high street with their bread stall. Selling freshly made loaves, they were raising awareness of hunger in Zimbabwe and challenging people to raise enough 'dough' to support families to have their daily bread. The innovative fundraiser raised £3,603 for Christian Aid Week.

THANK YOU! To everyone who supported us in any way over Christian Aid Week, thank you. The work that we do is made possible by the efforts of our local volunteers and their wider church communities. We stand together to raise the vital funds that are needed to tackle poverty. We stand together to raise our voices to call for change. And we stand together, united in hope, that a better world is possible.

Val Brown, Community Relations & Fundraising Manager

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You may recall I told you in June about Jessica and her family from Zimbabwe who featured on the Christian Aid red envelopes this year. Jessica has faced several challenges since then, persistent harsh weather but also, most sadly, the death of her husband Phaniel. Despite these hardships, Jessica remains resilient. 'I hope for a better future for my family and for our living standards to improve'. She shared some of the support she is receiving from our Partners. 'I received several trainings from BRACK that include Climate Smart Agriculture concepts, village savings group, Quinoa production, chicken egg management and hay making. The village savings concept helped me when my husband died.

She sends a heartfelt message to supporters in the UK: Thank you so much for all your support this year and for the generosity of communities, churches and individuals across the UK and Ireland. We have been thrilled and humbled by the fundraising stories shared with us this year. JESSICA MWEDZI.

If anyone wishes to save any change they may now have for Christian Aid, please get in touch and I will drop off one of our Seed Boxes to you.

Bertha Ritchie, Christian Aid Treasurer. Tel. 545285



Dear George: Remember no man is a failure who has friends. **It's a Wonderful Life**

For what it's worth: it's never too late or, in my case, too early to be whoever you want to be. There's no time limit, stop whenever you want. You can change or stay the same, there are no rules to this thing. We can make the best or the worst of it. I hope you make the best of it. And I hope you see things that startle you. I hope you feel things you never felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. If you find that you're not, I hope you have the courage to start all over again. **Eric Roth**

Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. **Mahatma Gandhi**

A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow. **William Shakespeare**

I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think **Socrates**

### TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

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

**St Columba's South**

**16<sup>th</sup> October**

**St Giles'**

**13<sup>th</sup> November**

**St Columba's South**

**11<sup>th</sup> December**



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

## Eco-Congregation

Last month we were asked to start having conversations with friends and family as part of the ongoing climate change conversations to coincide with Scotland's Climate Change Week. The last theme was on energy efficiency, reducing emissions and reducing energy bills. Here is a reminder of a website for help with home insulation or replacement heating systems - [homeenergyscotland.org](http://homeenergyscotland.org). or tel. 0808 808 2282

This month's conversation theme is 'Eating for a Greener World'. We can probably all make an attempt at working out what not to eat if we're told to eat a low fat or low sugar diet but the idea of eating a diet for the good of the planet may seem far more complicated. Being asked to reduce the amount of meat and increase plant based foods meets a variety of responses, not all positive. Food waste is also a huge problem in Scotland. Finding creative ways to use leftovers becomes important.

Conversation starters.

1. Have you made changes to the way you eat to be more environmentally friendly? If so, what did you find easy or difficult?
2. How do you feel when you are confronted with unfamiliar foods or new recipes to cook?
3. Do you plan menus before going shopping?
4. What do you do with leftover food?

How about swapping recipes for using up leftovers.

The Green Christian website has a saying- Use Your LOAF. The letters stand for: Locally produced, Organically produced, Animal friendly, Fairly traded.



Exodus 16 tells the story about the grumbling Israelites and how God provided for them, enough for their needs.

Some greedy Israelites tried to hoard food but it spoiled.

We too need to make sure we use only what we need of the world's food supplies and not be so greedy that we have too much and up throwing away good food.

The Organic Soil Association website tells us what difference organic farming can make. Eating locally grown food saves on carbon from transport. Fairtrade aims to ensure the producer is given the correct payment.

I hope to put out some Climate Conversation Starters leaflets for people to think about.

Carola Smith  
Eco- Congregation representative

Any material for the November issue of the Church magazine should be emailed to both Mary, [dawsonmarie@sky.com](mailto:dawsonmarie@sky.com) and Kathy at [kathleendale2505@gmail.com](mailto:kathleendale2505@gmail.com) by 26<sup>th</sup> October

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

*You cannot prevent the birds of sadness from flying over your head, but you can prevent them building nests in your hair.*

Chinese proverb.

# News from Groups and Associations

## MEN'S ASSOCIATION

October/November

The new season will commence on October 5<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am and will have a slightly different format from previous years. We will have some additional 'days out' which should be of interest to a wider selection of members. As we are always looking for new members we encourage you to come along and see what we can offer you and your friends.

We will kick off the season with an open meeting to welcome both new and existing members. As usual tea/coffee and home bakes will help to nourish the gathered throng. We will then discuss all future meetings and proposed format and generally discuss any subject that may be topical.

Meetings for October and November 2022 are as follows:

October 5th - Open Meeting - Williamson Hall

October 19th - Rev Sonia Palmer - Williamson Hall

November 2nd - Liz Tait, Red Cross Co-ordinator - Williamson Hall

November 16th - Speyside Cooperage - Visit & Tour - The Cooperage Craigellachie

For further details please contact

Ken Wood 01343-543068 or 07795-028490

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group met on 7th September, when we had a free and easy evening and a quiz, which was good fun. We also welcomed along 3 new members. Our next meeting is on October 5th, when our speaker will be Rev Sonia, following her trip to The Passion Play.

Look forward to seeing you then.

Marjorie Duthie

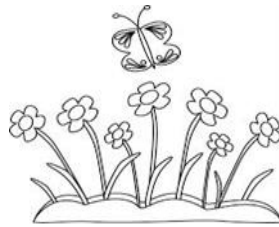
## ST GILES' THEATRE GROUP

Since our first meeting for this season on 4 September, we have been busy giving all members - currently over 80 - the opportunity to shine in auditions for principal roles. Not everyone feels able to take on a principal role, or can be chosen for one, but it is emphasised to everyone that they are all important to the final production. We hope to make decisions by the start of October before we break for the school holidays.

On return on the 23rd of October, rehearsals will begin in earnest as we build towards the performances next April. School of Rock includes actors who have to play instruments on stage which has been an added twist for auditions! As ever, we know that our members will provide audiences with an excellent night's entertainment.

Lindsay Knight





## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>OCTOBER</b>		
2	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South - <b>Harvest Thanksgiving</b>
	6.00pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
3	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
	7.30pm	Monday Guild - Williamson Hall
4	8.00am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall <b>ONLINE</b>
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
5	10.00am	Men's Association - Williamson Hall
	2.15pm	Wednesday Guild - Visit to Threaplans Garden Centre
	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	7.30pm	Women's Group - Williamson Hall
	6.30 – 8pm	Badminton - Williamson Hall
6	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
9	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
10	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
11	8.00am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall <b>ONLINE</b>
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
12	10.00am-12.30pm	TASS - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Craft Group - West Room - Williamson Hall
	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	6.30 – 8pm	Badminton - Williamson Hall
13	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
16	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
	6.00pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
17	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
18	8.00am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall <b>ONLINE</b>
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
19	10.00am	Men's Association - Williamson Hall
	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	6.30 – 8pm	Badminton - Williamson Hall
20	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
23	9.00-9.45am	Breakfast Church - Williamson Hall
	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
24	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
25	8.00am	Prayer Reflection - Williamson Hall <b>ONLINE</b>
	10.00-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
26	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	6.30 – 8pm	Badminton - Williamson Hall
27	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
30	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Columba's South
	6.00pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall
31	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall

## **World Mission news**

### **PARTNER organisations and churches overseas have offered condolences to the Church of Scotland following the death of Queen Elizabeth.**

In a letter to Church staff, Dr Bernard Sabella of the Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches said they had been following the cortege.

He wrote: “On this sad occasion to many in Scotland, we wanted in DSPR/MECC to pay our respect to her memory and long reign,” adding: “As a person, she was a model for civility, yearning for peace and reconciliation.”

Reflecting on a personal memory, he said he treasured a meeting with the Queen at Windsor Royal Chapel during his attendance at a conference on peace and reconciliation.

“I have also followed King Charles III’s statements on support to the Church of Scotland and I certainly see this as quite positive considering that our world needs more openness to others based on our different religious and faith backgrounds. The tradition that I have seen at the annual General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and that I attended on behalf of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches always impressed me with the Royal Address to the Church Assembly. This, for me, was an occasion in which the Head of the Nation addresses issues implicated in the values that a faith community, the Church of Scotland, upholds.

“This mixture of royalty and church remains poignant particularly at a time when political systems appear to be far off the issues and values that invigorate faith and its practice across our world.”

He added: “Let me end by once again offer our respect for the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and to wish well for King Charles III and the country, irrespective of geography, national origin, ethnic and religious backgrounds.”

Condolences were also expressed by Dr Annette Kurschus of the Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany who wrote: “With sorrow and intercession we stand with the British people and the Church of Scotland in these hours and share your grief for HM Queen Elizabeth II. God blessed her with a long reign and allowed peace to grow between our countries during this time.

“We have found this to be a great gift after the times of the Second World War, in which we inflicted such deep wounds on your country. The Queen also reached out to us Christians and the churches in Germany so that reconciliation between our peoples could become a reality. We are grateful to her for this.”

Rita Famos offered condolences from Switzerland: “The Protestant Church in Switzerland would like to extend its deepest sympathies to the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and the Presbyterian Church of Wales in the loss of their inspirational, comforting and faithful Queen.”

“Our hearts go out to the church members, to the Royal Family and to all who will miss Queen Elizabeth II. May the God she so trusted comfort and strengthen you for all of the challenges that lie ahead.”



# Kids' Page

In October our Church has a Harvest Thanksgiving Service to celebrate another successful year of growth throughout the countryside.

Our Church will be decorated with flowers, fruit and vegetables with tinned and dried goods being collected and displayed. After the service all that has been brought to the church will be given to those in the area who needs these items for healthy living and survival.

Harvest is a wonderful time. It is a time when we come to church and say 'thank you' to God for all the good things he has given us. Some people think that harvest is only about food but it is much more than that. At harvest we do say 'thank you' to God but we do it for many reasons. Let's think about the letters in the word

## HARVEST

### **H stands for HOMES.**

Homes that are warm and clean and comfortable. Homes where we can be part of a loving family, where we feel safe and cared for.

### **R stands for RECREATION**

That's a big word meaning our free time when we play games, go on holidays, have fun and enjoy ourselves.

### **V stands for VEGETABLES**

We may not always like eating green cabbage but we have lots of fruit and vegetables to enjoy. Look around as you shop with Mum and you will see apples and bananas, carrots and cabbage, and many, many more varieties.

### **E stands for EDUCATION**

You could read and spell the word HARVEST because you have been to school and learnt to read. We enjoy many things in our lives because of our education-which has taught us to read, write and understand numbers.

### **T stands for THANKS**

At harvest we should come to say a big 'thank you' to God for all the wonderful things that he gives us-our homes, our families, our friends, our recreation, our food and our education.

*So that's what some of our letters stand for. But H, R, V, E, T don't spell harvest. There are two letters missing.*

### **A stands for ALL**

At harvest we shouldn't just think of ourselves. We should think of ALL people everywhere. We should think of those who have no homes, who cannot play because they are ill, of those who do not ever have enough to eat and of those who have no schools to go to.

### **S stands for SHARE**

We should SHARE our harvest, share with those who have very little of the things we take for granted. Our gifts of food will be shared with people nearby.

Harvest is a happy time-made even happier when we share it.

