


September 2022



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



PEOPLE IN OUR CHURCH – WHO'S WHO

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Treasurer(pro term)	Graeme Archibald	07850205370	
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St Columba's South – Caretaker	Ian Thomson	01343545414	
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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	
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Monday Guild	Doreen Johnston	01343 547511	
Wednesday Guild	Lorna McCook	01343 549035	
Men's Association	Ken Wood	01343 543068	
Women's Group	Marjorie Duthie Kathy Dale	01343 548482 01343 541437	
Bowling	George Robb	07708028555	
Badminton	Margaret Paterson	01343 547924	2 – 3:30 group 7:30 – 9:30 group
Theatre Group	Lindsay Knight	01343 543393	07802438460
St Giles' Development Group	James S Macpherson	01343 546639	
Christmas Card Delivery Service	Brian Hamilton	01343 543993	

Minister's Letter

Church of St Giles' and St Columba's South

Dear all,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you have enjoyed, like ourselves, the wonderful summer weather. Arriving back from South Africa, we were surprised by the abundance of fruit and vegetables in our garden, a sign of a pleasant, perhaps even, a too hot summer. As harvest approaches, we'll have to get ready to hand out a few bags of apples!

Our trip to South Africa was as successful as could be. We managed to get my Mum into a nursing facility in July and are happy to say that there has been a tremendous improvement to her health. We hope that she will soon be able to move to more independent living, however, still in the care home but with more freedom to be enjoyed. We would like to thank you all for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers.

On arriving in South Africa and as we were driving from the airport to their home, my Father – in - law turned to me and asked: "When do you know that somebody is driving under the influence?". In general, the answer would be when the person is not driving straight in the car lane. His reply was, "well a drunk person drives straight and a sober person tries to miss the potholes". This still makes me chuckle when I think about some of the potholes we managed to miss on the roads. However, sometimes, even with the best of manoeuvres, you had to pass through the pothole. This image stuck with me as we travel through the difficult journey of Presbytery planning. Even with the best of manoeuvres and planning, you can't miss all the potholes, all the time.

One of these potholes was created by the General Trustees (the property holding arm of the Church of Scotland) when they advised that only one building should be retained in Elgin with the choice being between St Giles' and the site of St Columba's South. There is no easy answer, especially when the advice is to change St Columba's from pews to a more modern interior. Despite the best of manoeuvres, you sometimes can't help but hit a pothole. The question is, how do we deal with this? Do we get despondent and get ready for the end, or do we with logic and vision engage with the problem? I would hope that we would choose the latter. Elijah, after beating the Baal prophets to show the real power of God in front of Ahab, fled into the desert after it became known that Jezebel wanted to kill him. We read that in the wilderness and under a broom bush (1 Kings 19: 4 – 5), the man who managed to miss all the potholes hit rock bottom when he declared: "I have had enough, Lord". This still didn't stop God doing great things through Elijah. God takes our potholes, our fears and anger, and is able in the quietness of loneliness to give us back the energy and zeal that we need to bring the Good News. On the mountain, God sent Elijah back to continue his journey. I am of the firm belief that God is also instructing us to continue our journey of faith, despite the potholes.

May we find comfort in the presence of a God that seeks us from under broom bushes and deserts to follow Him each and every day. This is the church and family of which we are part of, even when the road is sometimes a wee bit rocky.

Every blessing to you all,

Deon, Marese and everybody at the manse

FLOWER LIST



ST GILES'	
<u>September</u>	
4 th	Mary Dawson
11 th	Ann Forteath
18 th	Kathy Dale
25 th	Gill Mason
St Columba's South	
<u>October</u>	
2 nd	Harvest Thanksgiving
9 th	Margaret Innes
16 th	Elsie Watson
23 rd	Names will be in the next magazine
30 th	

WELCOME DUTIES

		<u>BEADLE</u>	<u>READING</u>
St Giles' September			
4 th	Kathleen Thomson Stuart Lynch Duncan Alexander Doreen Johnston	John Ralph	Sarah B
11 th	COMMUNION	John Ralph	Audrey Gill
18 th	Bill and Hilda Robertson Eliana Cowie Ann Mitchell	John Ralph	Hilda Robertson
25 th	Audrey Gill Gill Mason Iain Morrison Kathleen Thomson	John Ralph	Iain Morrison
St Columba's South October			
2 nd	Hugh Carter Nancy Brodie Kathleen Thomson Ian Chambers	Ian Thomson	Hugh Carter
9 th	George and Marjorie Duthie Kathleen Thomson Brian Hamilton	Ian Thomson	Marjorie Duthie
16 th	Kathleen Thomson Elizabeth Macrae Muriel Gerrard Ann Mitchell	Ian Thomson	Elizabeth Macrae
23 rd	Mary Dawson Stuart Lynch Kathleen Thomson Eliana Cowie	Ian Thomson	Jeff Cowie
30 th	Audrey Gill Graeme Archibald June Edmonstone Doreen Johnston	Ian Thomson	Doreen Johnston

Laich of Moray Bus

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

Davie Small has been transporting folk in this bus, 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.





DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER		
1	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
4	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
5	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
6	10.00am-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
7	2.00pm	Wednesday Guild - Williamson Hall
	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	7.30pm	Women's Group - Williamson Hall
8	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
11	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Giles' - COMMUNION
	6.00pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall - tbc
12	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
13	10.00am-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
14	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
15	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room - COMMUNION
18	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
19	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
20	10.00am-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
21	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
22	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room
25	10.30am	Sunday Worship - St Giles'
	6.00pm	Healing Service - Williamson Hall - tbc
26	1.00-3.30pm	Monday Club - Williamson Hall
27	10.00am-12noon	Coffee & Chat - Williamson Hall
	2.00-4.00pm	Bowling - Williamson Hall
28	6.30pm	Bible Study - Williamson Hall
	7.30-9.30pm	Badminton - Williamson Hall
29	1.00pm	Midweek Worship - St Giles' New Room

News from Groups and Associations

MEN'S ASSOCIATION

2022/23 Season

The new season will commence on October 5th 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. The meetings include morning coffee with pancakes or biscuits so please feel free to join us.

2022/23 seasons dates are as follows:

October 5th and 19th

November 2nd, 16th and 30th

December 14th (Christmas Lunch)

January 4th and 18th

February 1st and 15th

March 1st and 15th

April 5th and 19th

For further details please contact

Ken Wood 01343-543068 or 07795-028490

MONDAY GUILD

Meetings will resume on 3 October in the Williamson Hall at 7.30pm.

Doreen Johnston

WEDNESDAY GUILD

Our first meeting for the new session takes place on Wednesday 7th September at 2pm. Our speaker will be Stuart Finlayson giving a talk on our Guild Theme "Wee Seeds, Big Trees". Stuart has offered to bring his guitar and will be playing our opening hymn and maybe more. We look forward to seeing all members and new members will be most welcome. We are still only meeting once a month and our following meeting will be on 5th October which will be a visit to Threaplans restaurant outside Lhanbryde for an afternoon tea or coffee.

Maureen Stephen

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group will resume on Wednesday, 7th September, at 7.30pm, in the Williamson Hall. Our first meeting will be a free and easy evening.

I hope you have all had a lovely summer, enjoying time with family and friends.

Look forward to seeing you all on 7th September.

Marjorie Duthie

www.elginstgileschurch.co.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC015164

EKWENDENI

We are still accepting knitted or crocheted garments etc to send to Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi. We already have 2 boxes ready to send. Many thanks to the ladies who have been busy making beautiful donations. Please get in touch if you have garments for the hospital who are very grateful to receive our help for the babies and toddlers.

Maureen Stephen 545847

BOWLING

The Bowling Club will meet for the first time on Tuesday 13 September from 2.00-4.00pm in the Williamson Hall. We wish them a happy season.

George Robb

ST GILES' THEATRE GROUP

During 'What's Up Westend', one of the sections that members enjoyed preparing was School of Rock. We were delighted that the rights for the show became available in February for 2023 performances. A professional tour of the show was taking place so we were not allowed to make any announcement about our 2023 performance until it was finished. There was much speculation amongst members about which show we might be doing so it was hard not to reveal whether anyone had in fact guessed correctly!

Our "Getting To Know You" day is on Sunday 4th September when past and new members will be welcomed to The Williamson Hall at 2 pm. Over the month of September we will be running various activities to allow members to identify which parts they might suit. We hope to cast the show by early October and after the school holidays, rehearsal will begin in earnest.

We welcome back Susan Munro as our Musical Director. Susan worked with us when we did Footloose so it's great to see her join with Emma Sharpe, Hollie Simpson and Erica-Jayne Todd as the main members of the Production Team for School of Rock.

Lindsay Knight



Church Flowers

Muriel and I have been approached by a couple of ladies who feel that they are no longer able to put the flowers into our Churches personally, but who would still like to have flowers given by them.

They have asked that they give us the money, and we put the flowers into the Church.

This we are very willing to do.

If anyone else would wish to contribute this way, please just let us know.

Kathy Dale 01343 541437
Muriel Gerrard 01343 550257



Eco-Congregation

Moray Eco-Congregation group is planning to organise a prayerful afternoon walk starting at 2pm at the Grant Park car park, off Victoria Road, Forres, on 22nd September. These walks are always interesting and very sociable as well as prayerful and it will take place around the Season of Creation. All very welcome.

Eco- tip

All used ball point pens can be disposed of in a container in WH Smith, Elgin, near the card section.

All unwanted computer equipment, printers, mobile phones, plugs and leads, accessories can be collected for recycling by ReBoot, Forres. Tel. 01309 671681. Secure data wiping can be arranged but make sure you really want to recycle the item. The data wiping process cannot be reversed. The recycled equipment and parts can then be sold to pay for the running of the business now that the council grant for ReBoot has ceased. Much of the work is done by volunteers.

With the expected horrendous rise in energy costs some people may be eligible for help with home insulation or replacement heating systems through homeenergyscotland.org or tel. 0808 808 2282. The help comes through loans which have a five year repayment period and/or grants funded by the Scottish Government and it comes under Net Zero Scotland. An online form is available for initial enquiries or just make a phone call.

Eco-Congregation is keen for all eco-congregations to hold Climate Conversations during the period which includes Scotland's Climate Week from September 26th. This year after soaring temperatures, fires, floods, high winds and changing weather patterns world wide we must all be aware of how the climate crisis is impacting countries around the world. Action is required now and the world cannot afford more procrastination.

Scottish Government's Net Zero Scotland is asking us all to have conversations with friends, families and colleagues to help create a ripple effect of positive action. No one should be blamed, judged, attacked or criticised and people are asked to be mindful of where people are coming from - economically, societally and emotionally. By 2030 Scotland should have enough off shore wind to power 8 million homes. At present a fifth of Scotland's total greenhouse emissions come from our homes and buildings and they come from burning gas or oil. Only 11% of households have a renewable energy heating system.

Here are some questions we can start asking one another.

1. What is the relationship between improving energy efficiency, reducing emissions and reducing energy bills?
2. How can we improve our own home energy efficiency?
3. Can we improve our insulation and install a heat pump or modern storage heaters.
4. Can we use smart meters or a room thermostat to better control heating?
5. How can we afford to make these changes when bills are increasing so quickly?

I expect that during Climate Week there will be quite a bit of information about the subject on television and other news outlets. Let us hope there will be some positive news. We will also be asked to discuss waste, nature, transport, food and climate change itself. Eco-Congregation Scotland wanted us to talk about holidays for the month of August. Should we still fly or take a cruise? Should we holiday nearer home? Can we really off set our travel journeys? Should they be rationed?

So many questions. No easy answers.

Eco- Congregation prayer.

Creator God,
You made us for relationship,
relationship with You and one another
we love you because you loved us first:
help us to show your loving care to others,
through our words and actions.

Loving Lord God
We seek your leading,
That we might perceive the way to go,
To take the right paths of action,
In caring for your creation and all your creatures.
Amen

Carola Smith Eco-congregation representative

World Mission News

United Mission to Nepal celebrates project agreements

Our partners at United Mission to Nepal (UMN) have written to tell us that they have signed two project agreements, which will allow them to carry forward their work for the next five years, with a vision of fullness of life for all.

All their project agreements have been delayed for up to two years, with the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in politics and transitions within the Social Welfare Council panel all having an impact on the process.

Dhana Lama, UMN's Executive Director, wrote to us with the following message: "Thank you once again for continuous prayers and support to UMN. Finally, we made it and celebrated. God is very faithful and good."

Note:- The above news items are taken from the weekly emails issued by the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum. This is because World Mission is now part of the remit of the Faith Impact Forum, whose full remit is as follows:-

The Faith Impact Forum seeks to enable and support the church, congregations and presbyteries as they engage with local, national and international issues. We help presbyteries and congregations identify ways to work with both local organisations and the world church on issues that impact the wider world as well as those closer to home.

Our work includes providing support for Twinning, Mission partners, Interfaith discussions and cooperation, Study visits and pilgrimages, which enable people of all ages and experience to learn from partners around the world.

We are committed to supporting General Assembly decisions on social justice and the pursuit of a fairer, more ethical world by campaigning for gender and racial justice, help for refugees, democracy, education, and ending poverty. As part of our work on climate change, we will help develop a strategy for the Church to transition to net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Duncan Alexander

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH SERVICES

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

St Giles'
11th September
St Columba's South
16th October
St Giles'
13th November



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

When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my garden. My kids see flowers for Mum and blowing white fluff you can wish on.

When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.

When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.

When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that. My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight."

When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross, and worms to play with.

I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from? No wonder God loves the little children! Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things.

I wish you Big Mud Puddles and Sunny Yellow Dandelions!

Any material for the October issue of the Church magazine should be emailed to both Mary, dawsonmarye@sky.com and Kathy at kathleendale2505@gmail.com by 28th September.

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.

Manv thanks

Every man has his secret sorrows which the world knows not; and often times we call a man cold when he is only sad.— **Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.— **Margaret Mead**

In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. **Abraham Lincoln**

Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact. **William James**

Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive. **Elbert Hubbard**

Sing the song that only you can sing, write the book that only you can write, build the product that only you can build... live the life that only you can live. **Naval Ravikant**

I tell you, in this world being a little crazy helps to keep you sane. **Zsa Zsa Gabor**

Lighten up, just enjoy life, smile more, laugh more, and don't get so worked up about things. **Kenneth Branagh**

In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."
— **Robert Frost**

"All the world is made of faith, and trust, and pixie dust."
— **J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan**

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Happy Moments, Praise God

Difficult Moments, Seek God

Quiet Moments, Worship God

Painful Moments, Trust God

Every Moment, Thank God

I read this little story in a magazine from another Church and thought that it was an ideal start to my Kids' page this month....

Once upon a time, an old man spread rumours that his neighbour was a thief. As a result the young man was arrested. Days later he was proven innocent and after being released he sued the old man for accusing him.

In court, the old man told the judge, "They were just comments, they weren't meant to harm anyone,"

The judge, before passing sentence on the man, told him to "write all the things that you said about him on a piece of paper, cut it up into little pieces and on your way home, throw the pieces of paper out of your car window. Then tomorrow, come back to hear your sentence."

The old man did as the judge had told him and went back to court the next day where the judge said, "before delivering your sentence, I want you to go out and gather up all the pieces of paper that you threw out of your window yesterday."

The old man argued, "I can't do that!. The wind spread them all over the place and I won't know where to find them."

"Exactly," the judge replied, "the same way, simple words and comments may destroy the honour of a person to such an extent that the person may not be able to get their good name back. If you can't speak well of someone, then don't say anything at all!!"

We are not told whether the old man did get into trouble or not, but, hopefully he stopped gossiping after that.

We all say things that we wish we hadn't, and sometimes that later we wish we had, particularly pleasant words that we feel embarrassed to say.

Part of a poem by a gentleman named James Foley, called 'Drop a pebble in the water' has these words in it ..

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness: just a flash and it is gone,
But there are half a hundred ripples circling on and on,
Bearing hope and joy and comfort on each splashing dashing wave,
Till you wouldn't believe the volume of the one kind word you gave.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness: in a minute, you forgot,
But there's gladness still a-swelling and there's joy according yet,
And you've rolled a wave of comfort whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water, just by dropping one kind word.*



One of my favourite films is called "Pay it Forward" which tells the story of a young boy who told people that if someone did or said something kind or helpful to you, you had to pay it forward by saying or doing something kind or helpful to three other people.

Being a film, wonderful things ended up being done by ordinary people and by the very wealthy, and wouldn't it be lovely if once a week we heard on the news of the wonderfully ordinary people in our world who do simple acts of kindness every single day, instead of hearing about just the horrible and nasty things that people do to each other.


This wonderful world that God created has more kindness and generosity in it than nastiness and we should hear more about it every day.



**GROUP
MEETINGS**

RESTART

*Wed 5th
October*



New members welcome
Tea/coffee with biscuits
Freshly made pancakes at times
Guest speakers
Varied subjects covered
Twice a month (1st & 3rd Wed)

**New 2022/23 Season
Starts 5th October**

MEN'S ASSOCIATION

**The Williamson Hall
Duff Avenue. Elgin 10:00am**

New members welcome, please join us for tea/coffee & biscuits and
have a chat with fellow members.

Refreshments followed with a presentation from a guest speaker.
During the season a varied selection of subjects will be covered

Further Information contact: Ken Wood

phone: 01343-543068

email: ken@gracemount.co.uk

