

Christ's Kirk Chronicle

Glenrothes Christ's Kirk

Pitcoudie Avenue

Glenrothes

KY7 6SU

September 2021



Prayer Call

Living God, speak into the depths of our experience,
Speak the word that stills our fears
And calms our anxieties:
'Peace be with you.'
Speak your word to the lonely and to the broken,
To the bereaved and to those whose world has crumbled:
'Peace be with you.'

God whose name is love and whose gift is love,
Open our hearts to know you and to love you,
To love you and to love our neighbour
And as we do, to hear again: 'Peace be with you.'
May we find our strength in you,
And hear again:
'Peace be with you.'

Tribute to Isabelle Farquhar

Isabelle is such a loss to Christ's Kirk's Session and congregation and it will take time to fully take it in, especially since it was only in April when we suffered the loss of Amy Burns, another Elder. The amount of people who attended Isabelle's funeral service speaks for itself of how special she was. There was also a good attendance at the crematorium.

Isabelle lead an interesting and varied life, travelling with her husband as an RAF wife, with her three children being born in differing places. Having trained as a nurse and a health worker showed her supportive and caring personality and love of people - our Interim Moderator can certainly identify with her career.

Isabelle had a strong faith and she and her family Laura, Linda, Shealagh, and grandchildren Kirsty, Zoe and Frazer were well known in the congregation - the children were a happy part of the Sunday school. She was rightly proud of her grandchildren and of the mature young adults they had become.

Isabelle had recently become Convenor of Christ's Kirk Guild and inspired the Guild Committee with fresh ideas and plans. She will be sadly missed in the Guild. Isabelle didn't know the meaning of NO and was a keen volunteer wherever help was needed, prayers for the Chronicle, organising social events - always a willing helper!

She had recently taken over organising the flower rota and church flowers. The Moderator's memories of Isabelle were that she was the first person she met on her first Sunday at Christ's Kirk and made her feel so welcome. Also on 11th July, her last Sunday at Christ Kirk, she was chatting with another elder who said he was going back to Livingston when she said come back for lunch before you head off. A true reflection of her generosity to others. Isabelle was a faithful, thoughtful, kind member of this Session who will be sadly missed.

We pray that her husband Grant and family will be comforted and surrounded by God's love at this sad time.

Moderator's message

The Challenge of Change

As I write this the sun is setting on another sunny day and I wonder what will tomorrow bring?

Life at present is full of challenges. Some challenges can be enjoyable such as being able to achieve a longed-for goal, it might be to complete all the crossword in the newspaper, or bake that special cake that you have had the recipe for ages but not dared attempt.

Some challenges though are not so enjoyable and need us to move out of our comfort zone and embrace change.

Christ's Kirk congregation has been through a fair amount of change during the last few months as has all congregations but you have faced change over the last few years and remain resilient.

Every Church of Scotland congregation is facing challenges and change which cannot be avoided so we are not alone. Christ's Kirk have always risen to meet the challenge and this is no different, we are seeking God's plan in how we serve our local community.

As a congregation we have to be open to new ideas and ways of working. Before COVID 19 struck who had heard of Zoom and yet now we have been able to worship together in the sanctuary and on Zoom. Thanks to those who manage the tech and those who are learning how to work Zoom on a Sunday.

We all have gifts and talents although sometimes we are shy at sharing them. The Kirk Session is working hard looking at change and how Christ's Kirk serves the local community. All skills are appreciated so please if you could help in any way contact your elder or member of the Kirk Session.

It is good news to be able to inform you that Rev Willie McCulloch is settling in as your Locum Minister. He took up post on 1st August. This post is for 2 days and a Sunday and I would like to thank him for the support he is providing to the Kirk Session and members of the congregation. It is really appreciated.

When thinking about challenges and change I liked this quote from Mother Teresa who said "not all of us can do great things but we can do small things with great love". How true that is. We can all support one another and use our gifts whatever they are to further God's mission through love.

God Bless

Margaret

Interim Moderator.

Harvest Thanksgiving

This will take place on Sunday 26th September in conjunction with National Giving Day. The congregation can donate either food which will go to Glenrothes Foodbank or money to go to National Giving Day.

(This is an extract from the letter received about National Giving Day.)

Congregations have been encouraged by the General Assembly to participate in a church-wide National Giving Day at a time of their choosing over the season of Harvest 2021. This will provide people of all ages an opportunity to reflect on God's presence with us through these challenging times and to offer gifts of thanksgiving back to God. Money received through this initiative will remain with participating congregations who will choose how to use these gifts. This money may be used to fund specific work, to launch a new project or simply to offset deficits taking into account the challenging financial circumstances faced by many of our churches over the last year. Congregations can use the money locally or direct it towards projects at home or overseas, provided that it will be used in line with the charitable objectives of the Church.

Finance

Income Jan – July 2021

January	£6,284.43
February	£1,834.16
March	£2,202.16
April	£3,527.86
May	£3,284.35
June	£2,781.63
July	£2,701.16

Income £22,615.75

Expenditure Jan – July 2021

January	£ 788.22
February	£2,874.16
March	£3,229.23
April	£5,481.84
May	£4,035.69
June	£6,124.04
July	£1,338.85

Expenditure £23,872.03

The first 7 months of this year has seen our income streams drop drastically because of Covid-19, and our premises being shut. Unfortunately the recent flood in our church hall has meant that we have been unable to re-start our Saturday coffee mornings and Time for a Cuppa on a Monday, which were good fundraising events. This loss of regular income combined with the news in June that there had been an error by 121 in our Ministries and Mission contributions is going to impact heavily on our bank balances by the end of this year. Our shortfall in the M & M contributions was £25,877 and we have agreed to start paying this back at £1500 per month until December after which we will review our finances and make a new plan for the following year.

I have detailed our income and expenditure for the first half of this year which shows that most months our income is less than our expenditure. On 26th September we will be holding our Harvest thanksgiving combined with a National Giving Day and it is hoped that any food donated will go to the Foodbank and any monies donated will go towards church funds and used for our congregation. Times are hard for everyone but it was felt that this would be a good opportunity for everyone to be able to give what they could, whether it was a tin of soup, a financial donation to church funds or both if you are in the fortunate position to do so.

Now that restrictions are easing, and we are even allowed to sing, it is lovely to see people feeling confident enough to start to return to worship in person and I am sure that this will have a very positive effect on both our finances and our personal wellbeing.

Wishing you all God's blessings

Rose

Fabric

The Jim Cumming hall is out of use. And, unfortunately will be so until all flooring is fixed. This obviously included the non use of the kitchen. Hopefully in the Autumn.

This is like in your own home. A spillage or burn or whatever on a fitted carpet will not lead to a patch repair. The complete carpet, or whatever, would be replaced. And this is why we pay for insurance cover.

Water was found on the hall floor adjacent to the church building, and a plumber eventually found the junction fault and repaired this problem. This is a fault that has occurred before and can be traced to the builders of the hall. However, 121 was contacted, our/their insurance company investigated, and as a result the complete flooring in the hall must be removed and replaced. Hopefully our insurance will cover this.

Ron



You cannot do a kindness too soon for you never know how soon it will be too late.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson~

Guild report



I feel we cannot start our Autumn session without a mention about the sad loss of our Convenor, Isabelle Farquhar. She will be sadly missed by all.

As Isabelle's funeral was on the 17th August and the Guild outing to Calder's Garden Centre in Cupar was on the 18th August we have postponed it to a later date.

The project for this year is "**Look Forward in Faith / Lights and Bushels**". I wonder if this is about hiding your light under a bushel.

The Guild Dedication Service will be on Sunday 12th September.

Please note that the meetings will now be on Tuesday afternoons at 2pm.

Tuesday 14th September – Rev Margaret Mateos

Tuesday 28th September – Elizabeth Bracher - Quilting

Tuesday 12th October – Rev Willie McCulloch

Tuesday 26th October – Exodus 91 Human Trafficking

Tuesday 9th November – Mission Aviation Fellowship

Tuesday 23rd November – Blether with Beat – Eating disorders

Tuesday 7th December – Christmas celebration – Ukelele Group

We hope the meeting on the 14th September will be in the church hall; it will be good to see everyone face to face.

The committee members held afternoon teas in their own gardens (due to covid). This was to help raise funds for the Guild projects. A big thank you to all of you.

Madeline Berry

Locum's introduction

Dear Friends,

I am your Locum Minister. My early years might be similar to many of yours in Fife. I was born, son of a miner, in Overtown, Lanarkshire. My dad worked in the village pit. I attended the local schools, primary and secondary, then left at 16 to train as an apprentice draughtsman. I changed after a couple of years to apprentice civil engineer.

I got married in Overtown Parish Church to a local girl, Jean Wilson (best thing I ever did) and moved to Carluke, near our home village. Early in our married life, Jean and I moved to Largs. After 8 years and with two daughter we moved to Bahrain in the Middle East. 12 years later we moved to Edinburgh. There were now five of us. Jean, Joanna, Jenny, Alastair and me.

Our flat in Edinburgh, overlooked 'Holy Corner', a road junction with a church sited at four adjacent points. This seemed appropriate as I was about to study divinity at Edinburgh University, supported by Jean's primary teaching.

While abroad we had attended the Anglican Church and learned to love worshipping there. This was a broadening experience for me. A church elder when we left Scotland, I had all the answers. After a time, it began to dawn on me that God might not be Scottish after all. What was harder to take was the evidence that God might also love the auld enemy. Seriously though, I came back home with a much bigger God than the one I left with.

After ordination in 1997, 4 years in Kirriemuir and Tannadice, 15 years in St Andrew's Church Rome, I retired in 2016 to life in Dunfermline.

Nothing is certain in this life. I would like to remain with you for a few years but that depends on my health and other factors. After a short time in the parish, I sense that there is hurt, anger and indignation as well as deep faith and goodness. Whatever happens, I promise to do my best to help you to heal, grow and move forward together.

God bless,
Willie McCulloch

Flowers in church

Our friend, Isabelle Farquhar who was the church Flower Convenor, sadly died and will be missed by all for the work she did organising church flowers on a Sunday. I have volunteered to take over as Flower Convenor and along with the help of the Pastoral Care group who are willing to deliver the flowers to people who are in need, to let them know that our thoughts and prayers are with them.

My job will be to organise and look after the flower list and also keep a record of who receives the flowers. Flowers or donations of money could be brought to church on a Sunday morning. It would help if you have a special date this could be added to the flowers list.

I pray you will be able to help me organise this and I will work hard to make sure it is successful. I look forward to being Flower Convenor as this was a job I loved doing before and because of circumstances I had to give it up. Now that I feel better and have managed to come back to church I look forward in faith and love.

With thanks

Anne Crombie

If you have a date in mind either contact Anne direct or email the church - christskirkglentrothes@yahoo.com

Zooming in on Christ's Kirk

Sunday services continue to be streamed on Zoom. Details to join are circulated by email beforehand. If you know anyone who cannot come to church and would like to join on Zoom please ask them to send their email details to the church and they will be added to the distribution list.

As we cannot access the church hall we are continuing to stream the Monday morning "Time for a Cuppa" and the monthly Coffee morning on Zoom.

GROW

Unfortunately during lockdown GROW has not been able to be involved in schools or churches and we also lost our GROW Oskar who moved to Inverness. However the committee has continued to meet on Zoom and the AGM was held in-person on Thursday 26th August in St Luke's Episcopal Church.



We are hoping to appoint a new GROW Worker this Autumn - the closing date for applications is the end of August.

The committee wishes to encourage and welcome new members to continue supporting GROW activities for young people in schools and in churches. Committee meetings are held monthly and anyone wishing more information please contact Wilma Page.

We would appreciate your prayers and financial support for the vital work of GROW which involves all Glenrothes churches and fellowships.

Wilma Page

	<p><u>Do This in Remembrance of Me</u></p> <p>The Sacrament of Holy Communion</p> <p>will be celebrated here at</p> <p>Christ's Kirk on the</p> <p>5th September at 10.30am</p>	
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Events

5th September 2021	Communion Sunday
12th September 2021	Guild Dedication Sunday
11 th September 2021	Coffee morning on Zoom
26 th September 2021	National Giving Day / Harvest Thanksgiving Day
28 th November 2021	Communion Sunday



Time for a Cuppa	Every Monday at 10am (On Zoom)
Guild	Every second Tuesday at 2pm (see Guild report)

Church Family News

Died	Catherine (Rena) Mitchell	4 th July
Died	Isabelle Farquhar	24 th July
Died	Emma Williamson	27 th July
New member	Cathie Smith	

Newsletter by email

If you know of anyone who would like to receive future publications of the church newsletter electronically, please ask them to send an email with their name (their email address will be at the head of their email) along with a short notification to the newsletter editor at christskirkglenrothes@yahoo.com and we will send it to them.

If anyone would like to join our team, please speak to me or get in touch at the email address above.

Ian Morgan
Editor

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*** In following Church of Scotland guidelines, the office is not in use. If you need to contact us please use one of the alternative methods above.**

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