

***South Aberdeen Churches
of Scotland
Magazine***



June 2023

LETTERS FROM THE MINISTERS

Dear Friends,

This year was Torry St Fittick's turn to send commissioners to the Church of Scotland General Assembly (GA) which was held in Edinburgh from 19th to 25th of May 2023. Beth Robertson (Session Clerk) and I attended.

This was my third time attending the GA and I noticed significant changes from the previous ones. For example, the GA was attended in Hybrid as approved by the 2022 GA; which means commissioners had the option to attend on line or in person.

Also, as it was observed and acknowledged by the Assembly, for the first time since 1560, there were more women at the top table. This reflected how much the Church of Scotland has evolved since the first woman was ordained back in 1963.

This year, the Moderator of the GA, the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, is the sixth woman Moderator since Dr Alison Elliot became the first woman to be elected Moderator of the Church of Scotland GA in 2004.

Women have played an increasingly prominent role in the Church's administration. In 1996, the Rev Dr Marjory MacLean was appointed as the first woman to be Depute Clerk to the General Assembly and later served as acting Principal Clerk in 2002–2003 (and again in 2009).

Then, the Rev Fiona Smith, became the first woman to serve as full-time Principal Clerk since 2022.

Over the years, the Church of Scotland has been going through structural changes. The Rt Rev Dr John Chalmers, the former Convener of the Assembly Trustees, said that "Each of us has to be the change we want to see in our Church, and we need to adopt a new way of working – a way that is more effective, more efficient and more targeted on the growth of the local Church."

In 2019, The Commission of Assembly approved the first steps toward radical change in the Church of Scotland where the Assembly Trustees recommended the merger of the four central councils into two new agencies, provisionally named as Faith Impact and Faith Nurture, and now uniting as the new Faith Action Programme Leadership Team in 2023.

As part of the Radical Action Plan accepted by the 2019 General Assembly, the Church agreed to reduce the number of Presbyteries across the country, support local congregations in their ministry and mission and encourage new expressions of church.

Following on from the Radical Action Plan, the 2021 General Assembly approved the Presbytery Mission Plan Act to enable Presbyteries to effectively deliver Christ's mission in practice by developing a Mission Plan.

Presbyteries were required to have an Approved Mission Plan in place no later than 31 December 2022 and as you may remember, Aberdeen and Shetland Presbytery

plan was among the first to be approved, but Four Presbyteries had not submitted a Mission Plan by 31 December 2022.

The next change was the amalgamation of Presbyteries which saw Aberdeen and Shetland Presbytery joining the rest of North East Presbyteries to form the current North East and Northern Isles Presbytery.

Presbytery Plans from former Presbyteries continue to be implemented within the newly created Presbyteries and the Union between Torry St Fittick's and South St Nicolas is still planned for autumn 2024.

The Presbytery Mission Planning has not been easy to implement as the Rev Rosie Frew, Convener of Faith Nurture acknowledged: "the process has been the "hardest of things" for the Kirk as it seeks to reshape the Church for mission and service around fewer buildings and fewer charges due to diminishing finances and members".

Mr Cameron, Convener of The Assembly Trustees, said that they are encouraging people to be bold, take risks and "imagine" an exciting future for the Kirk. He also said that "they are grateful to the ministers, elders, church members and staff who have been pulling together faithfully to solve the serious challenges we face and making some very difficult decisions for the future of our Church."

There was a sense of optimism at the GA 2023 that the task that the Church has embarked on will be completed with the help of God through his Holy Spirit guiding each church member and the Church as whole.

Indeed, the theme of the GA was "Remember Who You Are".

The Moderator reminded the Assembly throughout the Assembly week, that "being a living, breathing, reforming and loving body of Christ in this place continues to be the mission and ministry of the Church of Scotland." And "Once we know that we are the body of Christ and loved children of God, we will not be overwhelmed by anything because we are not alone".

We are the body of Christ, eyes that see the world as good, who see every other human being as stand-ins for God; hands that are not afraid to work for a better world they may never live to see; feet that walk the extra mile, ones that slow down and wait and feet that are in it for the long haul and feet that dance too because there is so much to be joyful about.

The challenges ahead might be tough but, but I leave you with the call that the Moderator began with and ended with at the General Assembly: "Remember who you are".

Yours in Christ

Rev Dr Edmond Gatima

Dear FRIENDS

“I will learn to sit with you and I will learn to listen “

As many of you will know I have just completed a period of Study Leave provided by the Church of Scotland. This will be the last Study Leave I shall have before retiring next year and I am very grateful to the Church of Scotland and to the Kirk Session of South St Nicholas Church for the opportunity to take the time. My Study Leave was to visit Israel and to look and learn from the experiences of the work the Church is engaged in, in Tiberias and in Jerusalem. It was a huge pleasure to conduct the services in Jerusalem on the 7th and 14th May!

There was much to see and much to learn! I think I'm still processing it all to be honest, and there will be more to say in due course.

I commend the work of the Church of Scotland in Israel! The quote above is part of the work the church is engaged in. Originally part of Glasgow Cathedral's response to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (Cop 26) held in Scotland this exhibition featured a jumble of chairs and two chairs facing each other.

You can learn more about this installation here.

<https://www.gardnerandgardner.co.uk/portfolio/i-will-learn-to-sit-with-you-and-i-will-learn-to-listen/>

The Minister of Tiberias, the Revd Muriel Pearson received two chairs to take with her to her then new post as Associate Minister with the Church of Scotland Congregation in Israel.



<https://www.standrewsjerusalem.org/friends/news/>

I'm hoping in the months to come to provide an opportunity for our congregations to learn from this wonderful work and the work being done by the church in Israel.

As we approach the Summer perhaps, we can take time out to rest up and to learn afresh how to listen!

Blessings

Eddie

H O L Y



C O M M U N I O N

**Will be celebrated in Torry St Fittick's Church on
Sunday 25th June 2023 at 11.00am. All are welcome.**

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World Day Of Prayer 2023 At South St Nicholas

The World Day of Prayer 2023 service took place at South St. Nicholas Church, Kincorth on Friday 3rd March 2023 at 2pm. The service was attended by 22 people. Four people helped deliver the service which was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Taiwan and was based on the Bible reading from Ephesians 1: 15-19. Mairi Gair, World Day of Prayer Convenor at South St Nicholas, lead the service and gave the address. An offering of £219 was uplifted and has been sent to the World Day of Prayer Committee.

We were all challenged to continue to pray for Taiwan and using the prayer Paul gave to us, for each other. Paul's prayer for the Ephesians is still relevant for us today, that knowing God will open our eyes and hearts to how hopeful our calling is, how rich the gifts God bestows, and how mighty the energy he works in us.

Mairi Gair
WDP Convenor

Burundi Orphanage – New Project

We are setting up a new project which we hope the whole community will eventually become involved with. The young men at the Burundi Orphanage who have completed secondary school require support so that they can become empowered to create a livelihood and continue to transform their lives. The plan is to help them acquire skills and set up a workshop to help others in their community and at the same time provide themselves with a basic income.

We are collecting tools and equipment to send to them, ranging from sewing/knitting machines to carpentry, plumbing, bricklaying, agricultural and mechanics tools. Even keyboards and musical instruments. In doing so, we can help reduce what is going into landfill. If you have any such items, please drop off at Torry St Fittick's church/contact the office 01224899183 stfitticks@btconnect.com to make sure someone is around.

Men's Group
Torry St Fittick's Men's Group

Burundi Orphanage Special Coffee Morning

Saturday July 15th from 10.00am to 12 noon

We are resuming the annual coffee morning in aid of the Burundi Orphanage. Home bakes, preserves, bric-a-brac, books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, games.

Please come along and give your support to this worthwhile cause.

David Hunter

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Teas

Thank you to everyone who donated to Sunday Teas in 2022. £500 was given to the Fabric fund and £62 to Christian Aid. From January to April 2023, £207 was given to the Fabric fund after expenses of £74.80 for milk, coffee, biscuits and Easter Eggs. May donations will go to Christian Aid. Thank you to all our helpers who give so willingly of their time. Our helpers are few and it would be very much appreciated if we could have some new faces (male or female) to come onto the rota system which is every four weeks. More helpers would mean the team would have fewer weeks to cover. If you would like to know more about what is involved, please speak to me, Hazel Duncan, Tea Convenor.

Torry St Fittick's Coffee Mornings

We continue to hold a coffee morning on the last Saturday of every month from 10.00am until 12 noon, except December.

24th June Summer Fayre (see separate notice)

29th July ***26th August*****30th September*****28th October**

18th November : All things Christmas

Torry Summer Club

This year it is our Ruby Anniversary – 40 years!

For Primary School age children

Monday 14th August to Saturday 19th August

(last week of the school holidays)

from 9.30am until 12 noon each day.

Planning and preparation meeting to be advised in due course.

Torry St Fittick's Summer Fayre

Saturday 24th June from 10am until 12 noon.

Looking for some new ideas for Stalls

One commitment to date is for a Bottle Stall from the Guild

Can your Organisation bring something new to fundraise

for YOUR Church?

Fayre Committee

Torry St Fittick's Choir News

Well done to members of the Choir who performed at Dr Gatima's 10-year celebratory event. We are looking ahead for choir members to take part in a concert in September. Please let me know if you are interested. This will be a fund-raising event. Thank you.

Charlie Mair, Choir Leader

Torry St Fittick's Charity Shop Week

We had a very successful week in the charity shop in May. We raised £1,100 for church funds. Thanks to everyone who contributed items for sale and gave their time to transport all the goods to the shop and work in the shop.

A huge thank you.

Lorna Thomson

23rd Aberdeen Girls' Brigade - South St Nicholas

The 23rd Girls' Brigade currently has 29 girls enrolled - 12 Explorers, 13 Juniors and 4 Brigaders. Since the last newsletter, all sections have taken part in Divisional Competitions and we were delighted when 2 of our Explorers came second with their action song. We celebrated Shrove Tuesday by making pancakes and topping them with chocolate, syrup & fruit. The Division held its Annual display at the Beach Ballroom in March, after a 2-year absence due to Covid, which several of our girls took part in and had a great time. The girls also made lovely cards, flower baskets and home-made cookies for Mothers' day. We celebrated Easter with the retelling of the Easter Story, a special prayer and crafts for all sections. The Brigaders also enjoyed hot chocolate topped with Easter bunny marshmallows and tucked into Easter themed sweets.

We held our Open Night in May, where the girls took part in dancing, drama, action songs and Makaton. The girls were presented with their well-earned badges and trophies in front of their families and friends. They were all in uniform and looked so smart. The leaders were so proud of each and every girl. This was finished off with everyone coming together with tea/coffee and biscuits.

We finished off our current session with a special party to celebrate the Coronation of our new King with Royal themed games including "hunt the corgis" and "pin the crown on King Charles". We then enjoyed some snacks and juice. A great fun night was had by all.



We have now finished this session, will enjoy our break and getting organised for our return in August.

Angela Wilson



46th Aberdeen Boys' Brigade – South St Nicholas

At the time of writing we are busy preparing for our upcoming Open Nights, where we will celebrate the Boys' achievements of the last year.

We were lucky to have been visited by a real life scientist (and former member of our Girls' Brigade) Dr. Fiona Murray who gave a science demo, complete with inflating pig's lungs and various experiments which the Boys enjoyed. Older Boys have been climbing and 10 pin bowling. Juniors took part in the Battalion Quiz competition.

We are pleased this year to be awarding the highest award, the Queen's Badge to one of our Boys after completing his final residential weekend at the Cairngorm Christian Centre at Kincaig. 2 years of hard work, volunteering with younger Boys, volunteering at a charity shop and at Portlethen Men's Shed. learning cookery skills and following a fitness programme at a local gym. We are delighted that Jamie will continue his BB journey as a leader next session.

Michael Aberdein

Torry St Fittick's Garden

Maintaining the Church gardens is a lot of work, done currently by Bill and Ian. It would be greatly appreciated if they could get a bit of help with this work. Anyone willing to help, please speak to Bill Clark or Ian Balfour or phone the church office 01224 899183.

Stewardship Committee

MacMillan Bake Sale

A bake sale with all proceeds going to MacMillan Cancer Support will be held under a gazebo in Lynda's front garden at the top of Victoria Road on Friday 22nd September at 10am. Please come along and buy lots of fine pieces to support a good cause.

Let's ZOOM together!

If you fancy an informal Bible Study then why not join us from the comfort of your own home! We started during Covid, but have continued on Zoom with the occasional meal in person. Thursday Morning 10.30-11.30. Further information from Ann Lundie or the Church Office.

Torry St Fittick's Sunday Youngsters

We meet every Sunday during morning worship to read a Bible story followed by a game or some craft work. Please encourage boys or girls you know to join us.

Lynda, Sunday School Superintendent

Torry St Fittick's Guild Projects

The Guild Aim

The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action.

Our Motto: Whose I am and Whom I serve.

We restart our Guild Session on Tuesday 26th September at 7.30pm and meet fortnightly.

This is the third and final year of our Guild strategy: "Look forward in faith".
The Theme: New wine, new wineskins, and The Topic: "Looking after God's World".

We begin our meetings with worship then we either hear from very interesting speakers or have some "fun" evenings always finishing with tea and time for catch up.

We would love to see some new members male or female. Why not come along and see if our meetings are for you or speak to one of the Guild members? You would be made very welcome. We had a very successful fashion show on 29th April which raised over £600. Thank you to all who came and supported this event.

Guild Projects

We support 6 projects over 3 years. Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise £458 this past year. The Guild nationally have raised (from 1/6/21 to 30/4/23) the following:

BEAT: £43,777.21

PIONEERS: £31,963.94

STARCHILD: £43,792.81

VINE TRUST: £49,336.55

HOME FOR GOOD: £59,236.82

UNIDA: £21,271.23

TOTAL: £249,382.56

Short update on the projects

PIONEERS	Chocolate heaven supporting those making chocolate in SE ASIA. Their chocolate is now available from the Guild office.
STARCHILD	The sunflower sanctuary in UGANDA has now been built for children with autism and other learning difficulties.
VINE TRUST	Kazunza Village of Hope are concentrating on the construction of a single-story school with 8 classrooms in TANZANIA.
HOME FOR GOOD	Supporting Christians to be involved in adoption and fostering in SCOTLAND. Rosie Campbell has taken on the role as Scotland North regional lead.
BEAT	Eating disorders in SCOTLAND. GPs only receive 2 hours of training. It's hoped with our funds this can be speeded up.
UNIDA	In BRAZIL they have been able to increase their scholarships for students on under and post graduate programmes for theological education.

To support the 6 projects, we will have a fund-raiser later in the year.

Hazel Duncan/Project Partner

There is now a YOUNG ADULT GUILD, an official group of the Guild for young adults, providing a platform for fellowship, service, and representation. While there is no age limit, the steering group is made up of members between 18 and 30.

The group currently meet via ZOOM about every 6 weeks. The bigger and wider aim is that the Young Adult Guild grows enough so that they can have smaller local groups which would meet in person.

They would welcome more to join them. If you are interested in getting involved/want to find out more/get ZOOM meeting details/meet the team:

email Yag@churchofscotland.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/CofS.YAG>

https://www.instagram.com/cofs_yag/

Blankets for Charity

Many of the ladies from South St. Nicholas Church have been knitting or crocheting squares. I volunteered to sew the squares together into cot or pram blankets. Sometimes I would have enough to make single bed blankets. Some of the ladies would crochet the whole single bed blanket. The blankets can be



very colourful as most ladies use up oddments of wool but sometimes the charity ask for baby colours of pink or blue or gender-neutral colours like grey, yellow or turquoise. If the charity is working with a pregnant mum who doesn't know the gender of her baby, they still like to give a nice cot or pram blanket. We decided to take the blankets to the charity AberNecessities. This charity provides disadvantaged families with the essential and necessities that no child should go without.

Since November last year I have delivered over 40 cot, pram, or single bed blankets to the charity.

I would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the ladies who have provided me with the squares. I hope they will pick up their stitches again next autumn and when winter comes, we will have more cosy blankets to deliver to the charity.

Mairi Gair

South St Nicholas Afternoon Teas

We have continued to organise afternoon teas this year, at South St Nicholas. We had Easter Tea in April, when we were delighted to host the 'Singing Hands' Choir. The Singing Hands Choir, which interprets songs in British sign language, was created by Reverend Mary Whittaker, from Lhanbryde, Moray, who lost her hearing at the age of two, as a way to allow those with hearing impairments to continue to engage with music. A lovely afternoon was had by all.

In May, we had a Coronation Celebration Afternoon Tea where we played pass the parcel (with a difference), coronation bingo (no money involved) and finished the afternoon with a quiz. Another great afternoon.

This year we also introduced a craft table at the teas. This was the suggestion of Mu Lyon, CrossReach Representative at South St Nicholas, who wanted to raise awareness of and some funds for CrossReach. Mu, Elaine and Mandy have worked hard knitting, crocheting, sewing, etc to stock the craft table. As a result, and because of the generosity of those attend the teas, £340 was raised at the Easter Tea and has already been sent to CrossReach. Around £250 was raised at the Coronation Tea and will also be sent to CrossReach.



Well done to everyone involved with the craft table and the afternoon teas – and thanks to all who come along! We will meet up again after the Summer.

Join us for
a musical afternoon


with Marisha and Jim Addison

Refreshments

Tickets £5

Saturday 24th June at 2.30pm

Torry St Fittick's Church



www.southstnicholas.com
SC016043

YOUR PROGRAM TEXT

SOUTH ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, KINCORTH

Family Fun Day

FUN FOR ALL - PICNIC GAMES, RACES, SCAVENGER HUNT

CHILDREN UNDER 8 TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY ADULT

SATURDAY 19TH AUGUST 2023

1.30 TO 4 PM

KINCORTH CIRCLE, KINCORTH

PICNIC PROVIDED



***Deadline for material for the next magazine is
Friday 15th September 2023.
Please send to Morag Simpson (SSN) or Val
Taylor (TSF)***

Let's Grow prayer

Almighty God, you delight in growth,
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
So that our church may grow spiritually and in numbers.
Give us confidence to reach out to others
So that the communities in which we live and work
may know the power of your transforming love.
We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(Source: Stanford Bridge Group of Churches)

Contacts

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