



KIRKWALL EAST LINKED WITH SHAPINSAY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

December 2020



Dear all,

We find ourselves at the beginning of the new church year—Advent 2020. It feels a little subdued and uncertain as we are still in the grip of the pandemic. Our Advent and Christmas celebrations are going to be therefore very different.

As mentioned last month, our Facebook Advent calendar—with ‘windows’ (i.e. videos) coming from members of all three congregations worshipping together online (Kirkwall East, Shapinsay and Moncur Memorial Stronsay) - is live. Check the contributions every day throughout Advent. If you do not have access to Facebook and would like a printed copy of some of the contributions (poems or reflections, clearly pieces of music cannot be included), please contact Julia.

Sunday ‘windows’ are going to be joint Kirkwall Council of Churches services prepared by ministers, priests and church leaders from the 8 churches in Kirkwall. We hope you can join us in worship every Sunday. You can access our services in any one of four ways:

- * Through Kirkwall East linked with Shapinsay and Kirkwall Council of Churches Facebook pages where our joint services will be published every Sunday
- * Through the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Yg_uFSQsU7UWDC2SSnyCA or search for Kirkwall East Church, Shapinsay Church or Moncur Memorial Church.
- * By dialling 01856 404667 from your phone and listening to the audio recording of the service. You will be charged as you would normally be for a local phone call (and that of course depends on your contract).
- * By getting a script of the service by e-mail (do contact Julia if you would like that).

In addition to this, we are going to offer 2 Zoom services: the loss service (joint with the Peedie Kirk and the Cathedral) on the 7th December at 6 pm and the Christmas Eve one on the 24th December at 7 pm. Details of how to join both services are in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and Christmas and a healthy and wholesome 2021 when it comes!

Rev Julia Meason (01856 874789, jmeason@churchofscotland.org.uk)



This is the Newsletter of Kirkwall East linked with Shapinsay Churches of Scotland,
Scottish Registered Charity Numbers SCO 018002 and SC006097 respectively.

Printed on recycled paper.

Please pray...

Please pray for IJM and our partners in South Asia as we work on a potential case of child labour in the cotton industry.

The team has identified a farm where about **20 children are suspected to be planting and picking cotton**. We attempted to investigate the farm and rescue the children last week, but there was a tip-off on the case and the children were not present when our team arrived.

Please pray as we re-strategise and work to bring these kids to safety soon.



A note to East Kirk Guild members:

Hello all

I do hope this note finds you well.

I promised to get back to you once we had held an Orkney Guilds Together meeting. The meeting took place on Thursday 5th November. Time does seem to

fly past!

The meeting carried a positive note and ways to keep in touch with our respective Guilds were spoken about.

The biggest issue was indeed the question of capitation fees.

Although we cannot meet together as a Guild, work is continuing at Head Office level where theme packs are being prepared for 2021-2022 and applications for possible new projects are being invited. To help enable the continuation of this work along with online virtual events, National Reps have been asked to encourage Guild members to pay their fees for the current session 2020-2021. The fees have been reduced from £12.00 to £9.00 as we have been unable to hold meetings. No fees will be paid to Orkney Guilds Together this year where normally £2 per member is paid.

We (Anne Findlay or myself) will contact each of you individually once Christmas and the New Year are behind us and make a plan as to how best to collect money from those of you who wish to pay.

Sadly it now seems extremely unlikely that we will be able to meet together over the Christmas season. This does not mean that we won't be in each other's thoughts.

With very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year

Lillian

Service of Remembering

Christmas can be a difficult time, particularly if we have suffered some form of loss in recent times. We feel it is important to remember and acknowledge that for many Christmas will be different this year, especially so if it is the first one without a loved one.



We would like to invite you to a short service to help families and friends to come together to remember and celebrate the lives of loved ones.

This service is a very special part of our calendar and is open to all. Please do pass on the details to other family members. It will take place on **Monday 7th December at 6pm**. This year because of COVID-19 restrictions, like so many other events it will take place **on-line**. The *Zoom* invitation is below. If you would rather, or are only able to join by phone this is an option. The access phone number and password are also below.

It really is not as complicated as it sounds. If you are likely to join via a computer/ tablet etc. it is easier to just click on a link. Please do let Julia know and she can e mail the zoom link directly to you. Also, if you need any other assistance please do get in touch.

This will be an opportunity for people to come together with others in a similar situation and reflect on what the Christmas message offers us in times of loss.

We do hope you can join us on that evening.

You may wish to have a candle ready to light at home during the service in order to remember your loved one.

ON LINE DETAILS

We will open the service at about 5.50pm and allow participants to join. Then just before 6 we'll begin to play the introductory music and begin at 6.

There will be an opportunity if folk wish to join breakout rooms after the service to spend some time together with other people attending.

Julia JMeason@churchofscotland.org.uk Tel 874789

ZOOM DETAILS

Topic: Reflective Service Time: Dec 7, 2020 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting:

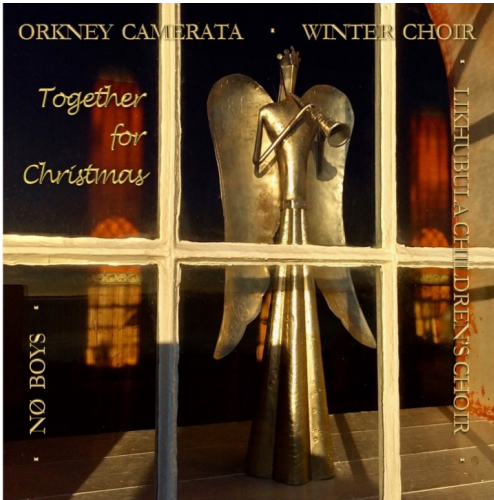
<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 967 7789 8825

Passcode: 657453

Dial by your location 0131 460 1196 and use meeting ID and passcode as above.

Together for Christmas



The Winter Choir and Orkney Camerata aren't able to give their usual fundraising Christmas Concert in aid of Malawi Music Fund. So they've found a new way of making music - by becoming a virtual choir and orchestra! Singers and players have recorded their parts at home and all the contributions have been mixed to create a very special CD of seasonal music – *Together for Christmas*. The CD includes excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, carols from the Nø Boys and organ music played by Alan Massey on the East Church organ and by Michael Mappin and Heather Rendall on the Cathedral organ.

All proceeds will contribute to the Malawi Music Fund so, to highlight the Malawian connection, the CD features songs from Malawi, performed by Likhubula Children's Choir, the group of orphaned children whose education is made possible by MMF.

Together for Christmas is available, price £10, from Kirkness & Gorie and The Brig Larder. Or you can order your copy by emailing malawimusicfund@gmail.com or by phoning Glenys on 872952. An ideal Christmas gift!

ORKNEY FOODBANK

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

GIVE HELP

We want to make sure that no one in our local community has to go hungry, but we need your help to make this happen. Your gift of financial support, time, business partnership and food can make a real difference. All food and money donated will remain in Orkney and provide support to those in need in our community.



Phone us

07719 293 378



Email us

info@orkney.foodbank.org.uk

Offerings and donations

Over this period of COVID restrictions, our congregation have faithfully given their offerings and donations to ensure that the ministry and mission of the East Kirk and the Church of Scotland continue to be resourced. Your continued support is a blessing for which we are truly thankful.

We realise that, due to the restrictions, it has not been easy for people who make their offerings by open plate or freewill offering envelopes to continue to do so. If you would like to discuss how your offering could be collected please phone James Watson (873157), Colin Gunn (761710) or Karen Rendall (873544).

The Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2021 have been received and will be posted out to everyone who uses them, probably with the January 2021 newsletter. If you currently use freewill offering envelopes and do not wish to use them in 2021 please contact James Watson (873157).

***Life and Work* is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In a history spanning over 140 years, it has established itself as the voice of the Church of Scotland.**

Though firmly rooted in the affairs of the Kirk, it also aims to cover a broad range of subjects of interest to church-goers across the spectrum, from international affairs and British political and social issues to science, ethics, and the arts.

Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues; a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life; reviews of the latest books, videos, and Christian resources; and regular features on the Church worldwide.



Our subscription service offers you the convenience of having *Life and Work* magazine delivered direct to your door or any digital device; you can also arrange a gift subscription. Free Gaelic supplements are also available.

Visit the *Life and Work* website for regular news and exclusive features, and find us on Facebook and Twitter.

If you have any questions about *Life and Work* or taking out a subscription Please contact Colin on 761710 or sessionclerk@kirkwalleastchurch.co.uk

Request for assistance

Dear all,

My name is Luigi and I am a Sustainable Development student currently in the process of completing my fourth year at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The following questionnaire has been designed by me with the support of Rebecca Smith, my tutor and supervisor for this project. This dissertation is aiming to explore the relationship between religion and willingness to adopt sustainable practices, with a special focus on Christianity in Orkney. I wish to be able to reach as many Christians in Orkney in order to improve the accuracy of the study.

The first section of the survey is dedicated to collecting general information about the participant (gender and age group) and their religious, political and moral views (Christian denomination, Biblical interpretation, political and moral orientation). These factors will be tested to identify any correlation with the 10 criteria present in the second section which were chosen as representative of the willingness to adopt sustainable practices.

If you wish to take part in this study, please follow the link below and read the data protection and privacy section on the first page before beginning the questionnaire.

<https://uhi.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/sustainability-christianity-orkney>

God bless,

Luigi M. Borsotti

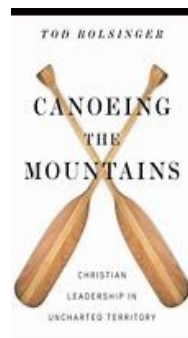
The final total for the Christian Aid Smartie tubes collection is £2,076.14. The gift aid forms totalled £407 so we'll get a bit back from that too.

It's not as last year but at least a significant sum. We'd like to thank everyone who donated and helped gather in money. Special thanks to those who counted their money and bagged it too. Who knows what next year will bring but well done for this one!



FaithQuest

A group has been meeting to consider Tod Bolsinger's 'Canoeing the Mountains'. It is such a rich and worthwhile book that we are going through it chapter by chapter. At the end of December/beginning of January, we will look at chapter 5 of the book, entitled "PREPARING FOR THE UNKNOWN". We are going to look at relationships of "genuine affection, warmth, and...love" among the leaders. If you would like to join us, please do get in touch with Julia.



Christmas Eve service

Time: Dec 24, 2020 19:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7976629067?pwd=bk84dWd2TEhNRVVGRFRZT2d6dExOZz09>

Meeting ID: 797 662 9067

Passcode: EastKirk

Or dial in: +44 330 088 5830

Meeting ID: 797 662 9067

Passcode: 12054355

If you are joining us by phone, have your hymnbook ready and you can join in with the singing!

