

KIRKWALL EAST LINKED WITH SHAPINSAY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



September 2021



Dear all,

Here we are in September 2021—18 months since coronavirus disrupted our lives—and we're beginning to get back to where we were before. It is going to be a 'new normal' as return to what we used to have and do—and who we were—is impossible.

I fully understand that some folk are a bit nervous about gathering in any numbers yet but if you're in that situation, I encourage you not to hold off for too long. We don't want to rush you back but be assured that both buildings and the way we're holding services within them are fully compliant with the legislation and are as safe as they can be.

It's been a long time coming but it does feel that we're at least beginning to emerge from it and returning to some kind of life as a worshipping community. There's a place for you there.

Please do get in touch if you've any concerns or questions about how things are being done.

In September and October I'm hoping to run a four-session study on the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor, theologian, anti-Nazi dissident, and key founding member of the Confessing Church. In this video-based small group Bible study, New York Times best-selling author Eric Metaxas will help us discover the major themes of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writing and speaking and how he not only helped transform an entire faith community in Germany during World War II, but how his beliefs continue to impact the Christian faith of people throughout the world today.

Sessions include: What is the Church?, Living in Christian Community, Religionless Christianity and Come and Die. We can either do the study in person or online, in either or both churches. If you'd like to take part, please let me know.

On a more personal note, in August I have finished my two-year MTh (Master of Theology) Ministry studies course at Aberdeen University. It has been a lot of work but it nurtured me in significant ways too. I have thoroughly enjoyed my studies and my thanks go to both Sessions for supporting me in my decision to undertake the course, as well as individuals who were helpful in various ways. 'Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God!' Philippians 1:3 (The Message) Thank you for giving me a tremendous two years!

I look forward to seeing you all again soon!

Many blessings,

Julia



Choir Practices

The East Church choir practices have resumed on a Thursday evening at 7:00pm. If you would like to join the choir or come along to try, please contact Glenys on **872952** or glenys.hughes@hotmail.com





Music for Malawi

The Upper Room at King Street Halls will be the venue for a series of four Saturday lunchtime concerts organised by Malawi Music Fund. The concerts will start at 12.30pm, will last a little under an hour and admission is free, though donations to Malawi Music Fund will be gratefully accepted. MMF calendars will also be available.

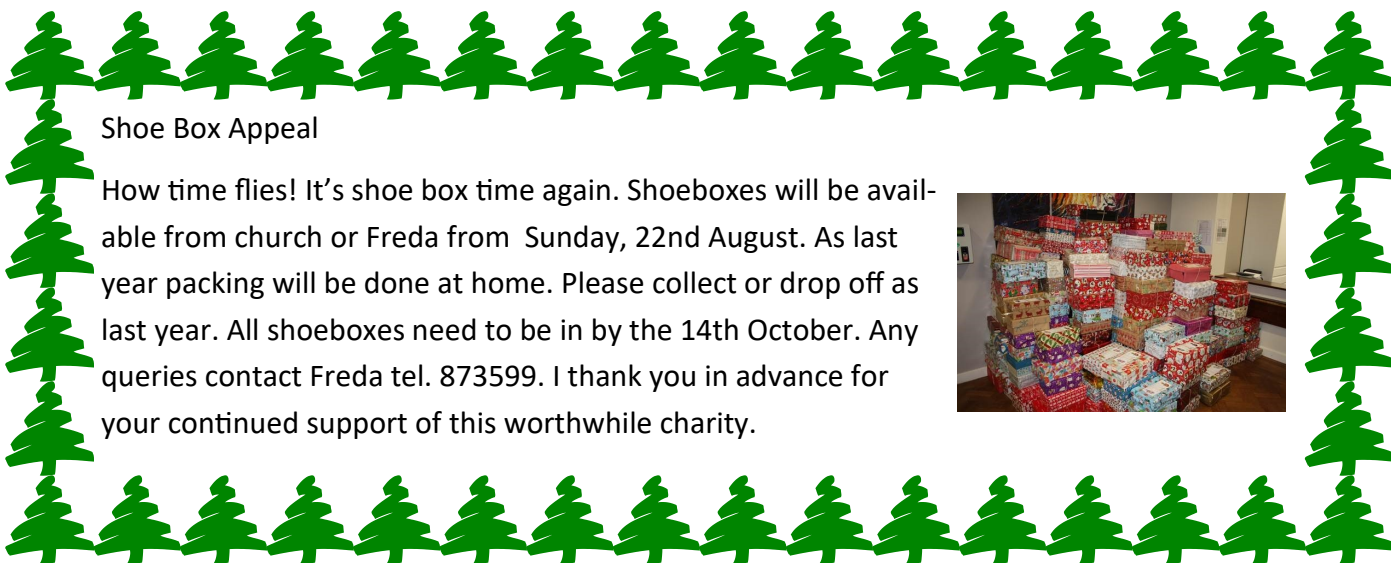
28th August Orkney Camerata's Archipelago Quartet – leader Elizabeth Sullivan, with David Griffith, recorder

4th September Young Musicians 1 – Orkney's young string, wind and keyboard players

11th September Young Musicians 2 – more from Orkney's talented young players

18th September 'Last Tango in Orkney' – featuring music by the legendary Argentinian tango composer Astor Piazzolla

Do come along to enjoy the music while at the same time supporting Malawi's needy and vulnerable orphaned children. Booking is not necessary though anyone wishing to reserve seats may phone 872952.



Shoe Box Appeal

How time flies! It's shoe box time again. Shoeboxes will be available from church or Freda from Sunday, 22nd August. As last year packing will be done at home. Please collect or drop off as last year. All shoeboxes need to be in by the 14th October. Any queries contact Freda tel. 873599. I thank you in advance for your continued support of this worthwhile charity.



— — — Church Register — — —

Deaths Kirkwall East

Isabel Meil, Smiddybrae House, Dounby

Barbara Alexander, 7 Otterswick, Kirkwall

Deaths Shapinsay

Olive Foubister, Glebe, Shapinsay

Irene Simmons, Breckmyers, Shapinsay

Both churches have resumed in person worship: **Kirkwall East meet at 11.15 am and Shapinsay at 11 am every Sunday.** Kirkwall East stream their services live which you can access in any one of four ways (same as for the last 18 months):

- * Through Kirkwall East linked with Shapinsay Facebook page where our joint services are published every Sunday in the afternoon (accessible at any time afterwards too)
- * Through the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7Yg_uFSQsU7UWDC2SSnyCA or search for Kirkwall East Church or Shapinsay Church—services become available live at 11.15 am on Sunday morning and on catch up afterwards
- * 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). Those services will be available on Sunday afternoons.
- * By getting a script of the service by e-mail (do contact Julia if you would like that).



Dear all

I hope that you have kept well and that you have enjoyed the long days of summer. Now that “show week” has been and gone and the nights are slowly drawing in, it seems that the time to think about Guild is here again. This year we are grateful that there actually is the chance to meet once more.

We held an Orkney Guilds Together meeting this morning (Thursday 19th August) which I hope will be the last one on zoom! On behalf of OGT I really need to thank Julia and Colin for helping with this or it wouldn't have happened! Thank you both.

Following on from this meeting, it seems that our local Guild representatives are all thinking the same. First “meetings” or “get - togethers” - are being planned over a coffee and a goodie just to really be able to say hello to each other and take it from there. As yet, there is no date set for such for our own Guild. This note is simply an advance notice that once our committee can get together in the not too distant future, something will be planned.

Looking very much forward to seeing you all

Lillian



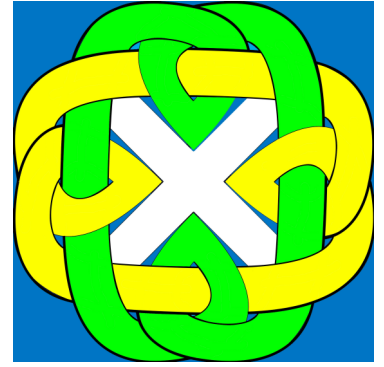
Sunday Club plans

We are going to start an 'all age' Sunday Club twice a month and supplement it with messy kirk, as well as outreach and community events e.g. trip to Shapinsay Church on a Sunday, visits to Care Home, projects, planning events, sports evening, etc. We will review how this is going to see if we need to make any changes to frequency of events, etc.

Dates for term are: 12th September, 26th September, 3rd October, 31st October, 14th November, 28th November (Nativity Practice), 5th December (Nativity Practice), 12th December (Nativity Practice), 18th December (Christmas Party 11-1pm with Nativity dress rehearsal 10.30-11am) and 19th December (Christmas Service with Nativity).

Northern Pilgrim's Way

On the 20th August, the East Kirk hosted a pilgrimage service launching the newly re-established Northern Pilgrims' Way from St Duthac's in Tain to St Magnus in Kirkwall (<https://www.northernpilgrims.org.uk/>). Harvey Johnston, Convener (Civic Head) of Orkney Islands Council, has written the following poem to mark the occasion.



Brave pilgrims all the way from Tain
We hail your Northern Way
How good it is to greet you here
On this, St. Rognvald's day.

The ties between our Kirks and Saints
Go back a thousand year
With hundred miles of track and moor
And boat to persevere.

A Way that pilgrims walked of old
In mediaeval times
For healing, or repentance for
Their sins, misdeeds or crimes.

They were the tourists of the day
Like now, we want them here
They'd need a bed and food and drink
And buy a souvenir.

You speak of Duthac, Man of Tain
An old and worthy Saint
A name that we in Orkney here
Are fairly well acquaint.

When Rognvald built his famous Kirk
That bore his uncle's name
A dedicated shrine therein
Confirmed St. Duthac's fame.

The Sandwick farm of Doe-house had
A stipend to provide
And's noted down as Duthushoose
In 1595.

When Duthac walked up on this earth
And preached and healed round Tain
The North was ruled from Birsay
During great Earl Thorfinn's reign.

They both died in 1065
And though both idolised
An incorrupted body led
To Duthac canonised.

His shrine became a Mecca for
The great men of the day
Where Rob the Bruce would bend his knee
And James the Fourth would pray

Through time the cult of Magnus grew
Killed young, and loved to bits
He had better social media and
Had far more likes and hits.

But we're not in competition
Pilgrim's Ways are all the rage
Let promote religious tourists
In this brand-new Pilgrim-age.

Your Northern Pilgrim way is good
For body and for mind
Let Magnus and St. Duthac show
A Way for folk to find.

Harvey Johnston August 2021

East Kirk Plant Sale

Dear Friends

The Church Plant Sale took place over a number of weeks with a day of selling at the Church (as previously done) on Saturday 5th June. The proceeds totalled overall **£1,668.60**. This sum does not include some donations given directly to the church.

Thank you for your support.

Thanks to Anne and Brian for bringing on some of the annuals.

A special thank you to Helen and Andrea who helped with selling off of the late annuals and as usual it could not be so much of a success without the Plant Sale Committee who put so much effort into making sure it happens.

It's never too early to think about what you would like (where possible) for next year. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Again thank you and keep well.
Plant Sale Committee

Life and Work: The Magazine of the Church of Scotland

If there is one individual who can be said to have shaped the Church of Scotland of the 20th century, it is probably the minister and theologian Archibald Charteris (1835-1908).

Charteris, Moderator of the General Assembly in 1892, was instrumental in the founding of the Guild, restoring the office of Deaconess in the Church, and helping to establish the national social care initiative that would evolve into the Social Care Council (CrossReach).

And in amongst all that, he found time to start a magazine.

Charteris, and his Committee on Christian Life and Work, identified that there was a demand for a distinctively Scottish Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes, complaining that the many English publications were 'very nearly unintelligible to the untravelled Scot'.

The General Assembly of May 1878 was persuaded, and eight months later Life and Work was born.

Later editors would recall that the new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment but, distributed through the parish churches with a supplement for local news, Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and - with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer's strike in 1959 - it has published monthly ever since.

Typically, Charteris handed over the editorship and moved on to his next project after a year, but by then he had established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church.

At the union with the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929, the churches' magazines merged too, becoming 'Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland'. Colour started to appear on the covers of the 1950s, and the magazine eventually went full colour in 1996.

With the editor answerable only to the General Assembly for the content of the magazine, Life and Work has never been a conventional 'in-house' publication or the mouthpiece of the Church hierarchy. Instead, it has been positioned as a critical friend: always wanting the best for the organisation, but free to publish negative opinion or to stray outside the official line.

With the coming of the internet it moved online, firstly on Facebook and Twitter and then with the launch of www.lifeandwork.org, which offers up-to-date news, exclusive features and extracts from the magazine. You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form.

But however you choose to read, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.



Life and Work Special offer

To celebrate Life and Work Sunday and support the magazine of the Church of Scotland we are offering new subscribers the choice of two money saving subscription offers.

Annual PRINT Subscription

Buy **12 issues for the price of 10** and pay **ONLY £30**

Purchase and save at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe using promotion code **LWS2021**

Annual DIGITAL Subscription

Receive **34% OFF** when you buy 12 issues and pay **ONLY £13.99**

Purchase and save at <https://pktmags.com/lwspromo>

Promotions valid until 30 September 2021

Please contact Colin - sessionclerk@kirkwalleastchurch.co.uk
or **07872998364** if you would like more information about Life and Work



The Church of Scotland
Presbytery of Orkney
Malawi Partnership



Update for congregations - August 2021

from the World Mission Committee

DOUBLE DELIGHT AS WATER FLOWS



In June's newsletter we highlighted the desperate need for safe and reliable water supplies at both Mbawera School and at Makanira. We're delighted to report that thanks to your ongoing generosity, these needs have now been met with new boreholes and pumps installed at both. This has been achieved through funds raised across Orkney by June Freeth, donations received from the South Ronaldsay & Burray congregation and the Rousay congregation, two substantial private donations from people in Westray, and several smaller, but very welcome, donations from individuals in Sanday, Kirkwall, Firth and Holm.

Kelvin Matola, Partnership Convener in Malawi writes, *"Please, as always, relay Thyolo Highlands Presbytery Management's appreciation to the donors for their*



continued support for our Borehole Drilling Ministry. Christians and the community at Makanira will no longer draw water from unsafe sources." The Head Teacher at Mbawera added his own thanks on behalf of the staff, pupils and wider community.

Newly installed boreholes at Mbawera (left) and Makanira (right) waiting for the concrete run-offs to set.

MAGNUS IN MALAWI

Our Malawian partners have now formed a development committee to pursue several goals including educational bursaries and the setting up of a small community technical college (to be known as the St. Magnus Bursary Scheme and St. Magnus Technical College). This is in touching tribute to the Orkney links and is done with full approval of the Stromness based supporters who have offered start-up funding. The committee are also working on the creation of a new secondary school (secondary education is fee paying in Malawi and therefore inaccessible to most pupils).

To start the latter they've identified an abandoned two-room school block at Chimvu which needs:

- construction of three toilets (one for staff, one for female pupils and one for male) - £1800
- fabrication and installation of seven steel window frames and three door frames - £550
- twelve hardwood doors - £250
- sundry maintenance and painting - £500

This all comes to a total of £3,100 and gives some indication of the difference in construction costs between Malawi and here. The site is situated in a highly populated area with the nearest secondary school being 8km away. It is also ideal for future development and expansion with room for a further three (two-room) school blocks, staff room, admin office, library, lab and three teacher's houses.



If you would like more details about any of these innovative and life-changing projects, or if you, your congregation or group would like to help with part of it please contact us at the address overleaf.

- SCHOOL DAYS - SCHOOL DAYS - SCHOOL DAYS -

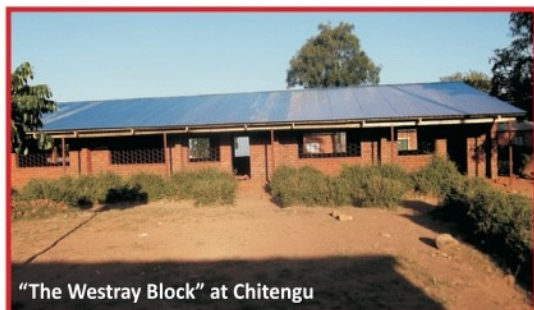
Our Malawian partners are keen to encourage more links between schools in Orkney and Thyolo Highlands. We invited Helen Lumsden, Principal Primary Teacher in Westray Junior High, to describe the partnership there with Chitengu School in Njeresia Parish. If you would like to know more about how to develop school partnerships please do contact us at the address below.

Chitengu School has been linked with the school in Westray for almost 12 years and in this time the link has proved of enormous benefit for the schools in Westray, and in Chitengu, providing both with extremely valuable educational opportunities.

Several areas of *A Curriculum for Excellence* make mention of developing understanding of children's lives which are different from their own, along with ensuring some knowledge of the global economy. The link provides excellent opportunities in these important areas.



Thumbs up for school partnerships



"The Westray Block" at Chitengu

Although finding ways to transfer information with Chitengu is challenging, in order to develop greater understanding, it has always been an important part of what we do. Photos, drawings and pieces of writing have been sent both ways. We have successfully managed a live phone conversation.

Highlights of the link have included:-

The refurbishment of 2 classroom blocks

A classroom block is around 3 classrooms. The average class size at Chitengu is between 200 and 300 pupils. The refurbished blocks mean fewer children are now having to be educated outdoors in high temperatures.



Reuben Mlongoti teaches Malawian dancing to Westray pupils

The provision of a well

The well serves the school and its local community. As was said at the opening ceremony, 'There is no more precious gift than clean water.'

A visit from our link teacher and 2 pupils from Chitengu.

We all spent a very happy time together sharing experiences and activities. Much was learnt in a very short time.



The school well is a resource for the entire community

The link is a very valuable part of our school life and continues to be very successful due to the huge level of support it has received from the wider Westray community. All the staff and pupils at the school here in Westray would highly recommend the benefits of a school link.

Presbytery's World Mission Committee currently comprises Sally Bartkowiak, June Freeth, Iain MacDonald (Convener) Catriona Matheson, Liz McVicar and James Watson as well as the Moderator, Clerk and Business Convener. For details about the World Mission Committee or how to donate to any project please speak to any of the above or contact Iain : imacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk / 01857-677357.