

Church of Scotland

East Mainland Church News

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February 2023

Issue 56



Manse Letter February 2023

From beginning to end, our Scriptures are full of journeys—the First Couple - journey from the Garden of Eden westward. Father Abraham journeys from Ur of the Chaldeans (Southern Iraq) to Southern Levant. Moses takes a long journey with his people from Egypt, through the wilderness and into the promised land.

As we approach Easter, we go on a journey through this season of Lent, travelling in the footsteps of Jesus through his final days on Earth to that cruel cross.

I particularly enjoy journeys, travelling. I've found many times the journey is more pleasurable than the destination! As I write this, I'm setting off for an 11-hour flight from Doha to Perth.

I look forward to meeting good friends and, of course, some of what has eluded me for a few months - early sunshine.

Christians start their Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday and follow the stories of Jesus as he goes to Jerusalem, renews his Father's house of prayer and weeps over his beloved city. That journey involves sharing in special festive meals, in particular, his final Passover meal with his good friends before being betrayed and arrested, tried and crucified.

Of course, the final destination was beyond that cruel cross. The Lenten journey arrives at its destination on Easter day. Resurrection! Grief turned to rejoicing.

There is richness in walking the journey of Lent.

When I touch down in Perth, the sun will shine, and the uncomfortable seats of economy class, 21 hours in total in the air, will disappear. I know the trip will be worthwhile.

I hope you will find your faith journey worthwhile this Lent. You will be welcome to join us in East Mainland for Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday meditation in The Hope and when Easter arrives on 9th April, please do come and celebrate with us. You'll be made most welcome.

Chris Wallace Minister.

2.



The **Guild** meets on the First Wednesday of each month at the regular time of 2:30pm in the Session Room in the East Mainland Church.

On **Wednesday 5th October**, Maureen opened the meeting, welcoming nine guests and the speaker for the afternoon, Gary Foubister from Trading standards at Orkney Islands Council.

She announced that Gareth Williams, the former Kirk Treasurer and Worship Group member, had sadly passed away on the previous day, 4th October. She also spoke of the celebration of our late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Her Majesty's deep faith and of her sad loss.

Ruth played for the opening Hymn 543 verses 1-3, Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Carol then read from Luke ch.11 v 33-36. Maureen followed with a prayer.

An interesting talk from Gary Foubister was enjoyed by all.

Tea was served by Morag and Marilyn.

Marilyn then gave the vote of thanks to Gary and to Ruth for playing.

The meeting closed by singing Hymn 543 verses 4 & 5 and saying the Lord's Prayer.

Morag Shearer

On **Wednesday 2nd November**, Morag opened the meeting at 2:30pm by welcoming 10 members, a guest and Rev. Chris Wallace, the speaker for the meeting.

Ruth played for the opening Hymn 173, Sing to God new songs of worship verses 1 and 2. She then read from 2 Corinthians ch.9 v 10-17 from the Good News Bible and followed with a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Allocations were discussed and it was agreed that £500 be given to the Kirk, £40 to the Leprosy Mission and £80 to the Vine Trust (Guild's project for support).

The December Carol Service, in Deerness Hall on the 4th December was discussed and logistics decided upon.

Morag then handed over to Rev. Chris Wallace. He produced a book "Jerusalem Through My Father's Eyes" from pre-Israeli state days. He had visited the Holy Land regularly pre-pandemic going there about every 18 months. He then gave a fascinating talk on a myriad of significant sites and buildings throughout the state, with a host of beautiful photographic slides. There were shots of Old Jerusalem, including the Damascus Gate now in the Muslim Quarter, the Jaffa Gate near the Church of Surtlaw School. Scouts feature large in Israel.

After his talk, in response to questions, we learned that Israel can be very hot in summer, cold in winter and has a lively, modern culture alongside its incredible history.

3.

Ruth and Marilyn served teas and lovely cakes made by Marilyn. The collection was uplifted and Val gave a very expressive and comprehensive vote of thanks, including looking forward to more about Israel from Rev. Chris Wallace in the future. He said, in effect, that he had barely scratched the surface.

The closing Hymn was 127 O Worship the King v. 1 & 3 followed by a closing prayer.

Morag Shearer

Festive Fun was had at the December Meeting when members braved the wintry weather for a fun-filled afternoon.

Merylin welcomed everyone and shared out playing percussion instruments to play as 'The Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy' was sung.

Merilyn read from Luke 2 Ch6, then led in Prayer

Following the business, Guild Members had each brought some Festive entertainment

A Reading – Memories of a Christmas Cake

A Poem – Magic Night

A Game – Christmas Scattergories

Story Telling - Tales of Christmas Presents of terrible tasting toothpaste, 3 balls of wool, a model yacht, shells (used for sheep and cattle) and a beautiful Doll's House – which miraculously had the SAME lino as in their kitchen.

A beautiful spread of Festive Food was prepared, shared and enjoyed by all members before the meeting closed with Hymn 301 Hark the Herald Angels Sing, followed by a short prayer.

The Guild members were delighted to be able to hold their **Christmas Carol Service** on Sunday 4th December after several years of absence. Welcomed and compered by Val Kitchen, the Deerness Hall was packed, and in good voice, as we joined together to sing Christmas Carols. We were so pleased the pupils from St Andrew's Primary School could join us once again, and we were treated to a varied programme of most wonderful performances by string and woodwind players and beautiful songs sung by the Choir. A showcase of amazing talent. A huge thanks to all the pupils and staff, and a special thankyou to Mrs Jenny Keldie. Thanks too to all who provided tea, juice and biscuits at the end of the evening.

Ruth Harvey



4.

St Andrews School

It is a real pleasure to be writing my first newsletter as head teacher at St Andrews School. The whole community have made me feel so welcome – it truly is a special place.

This term, P 4 – 7 learners are busy practising for their upcoming show 'Ye Ha!' You will be transported from Toab back to the wild, wild west and to a little ol' town – Splodge City!

Our P 6 and 7 learners comprise the cast and band with P4 and P5 as the chorus, adding volume to the songs throughout.

Under the very helpful direction from Chris Giles, who has kindly given up his time to help out yet another St Andrews show. The children have been learning their lines and their delivery throughout the term and are looking forward to their performance next term in the new school hall.



Ronnie in P6 is playing the character 'Billie Jo Brisket' and here is what she said:

My character is a girl who doesn't like to be called a silly sissy girl. She is a cowgirl who wants to be taken seriously like the other cowboys. I like my character because it kind of represent s who I am, for example, I'm on the gymnastics and netball teams but also the football and rugby teams. I love practising for the show and I can't wait for the performance next term.

You are not going to want to miss this one!

Jesus Is Alive! Hidden Pictures

Find each of these items hidden in the picture: snake, magnet, horseshoe, lemon, shovel, ice cream cone, hat, star, eye, butterfly, and a bugle. When you find all the items, you may color the picture.



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We Remember - Gareth Williams	4/10/22
Kenneth Sutherland	30/10/22
Anna Russell	17/11/22
Jean Smith	31/12/22
Sidney Cromarty	1/1/23
Dorothy Rendall	7/1/23
Molly Aim	22/1/23

Editorial Team: Sheila Eunson, Joy Tait and Laurence Tait
Please email articles, using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to
Joy.tait1@outlook.com

6.

Church, Fund Raising and Social Events

Each **Sunday at 11:00am Worship** takes place in the **East Mainland Church**. All Welcome.

1st March – 2:30 – The **Guild** meets in the session room for the **AGM** and a talk on Flood Defences by Richard Francis. All welcome.

3rd March 2:30pm – **World Day of Prayer** in East Mainland Church. All welcome.

2nd April – East Mainland Church **Annual Stated Meeting** after Church Service

Easter Events

6th April - Maundy Thursday 7.00 p.m. Short remembrance and Communion in *East Mainland Church* – Joint event with St. Margaret's in the Hope

7th April - Good Friday, 7.00 p.m. Joint Mediation in *St. Margaret's in the Hope*

Every day in Holy Week – a short meditation in the Cathedral at lunchtime -

Good Friday walk of witness around the Kirkwall Congregations

Easter Day - Easter Morning worship at 11 a.m. East Mainland Church

7th May - **Sacrament of Holy Communion** in East Mainland Church. All welcome.

Messy Church – in East Mainland Church Halls - Friday **21st April** 4-5.30 p.m. Messy Church is for all ages, Children come along with an adult for games, crafts, a bible story and songs and round the time off with tea – or do you call it dinner in Orkney? Refreshments for the adults will be on tap throughout. This is a joint venture with all the churches in Kirkwall and ourselves. The first is in East Mainland.

New Venture: Friendship Club – a get-together for a blether – board games – or bring your knitting crosswords, uno, scrabble, dominoes etc. – East Mainland Church Halls. 2.00 p.m.- 3.15 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the Month – **19th April, 17th May and 21st June**. Come along and enjoy some company, tea, and pancakes.

Fund Raising

4th June Savoury Teas 3:00 – 6:00pm and Sales Tables in Deerness Community Centre

Small Change- Big Difference Tubs are available at the Church to gather loose change.

A Big Sing – Ruth, our organist, is going to organise a **Big Sing** which, it is hoped, will take place in September.

Blue Door Week in October 2022 raised £2632.20 for Church funds.

Blytheswood Shoebox 2022 Appeal – 43 Shoeboxes sent away.

Harvest Appeal 2022 for Christian Aid Raised £727.11.

Thank you for your generous support for those events.