

UNITED UPDATE SUMMER 2021



“Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days” Psalm 90:14

Back to the Future

Dear friends,

Despite the fact the pandemic continues to grind on the church has taken some very brave decisions nationally about moving forward. However on the ground the phrase I hear the most is we are looking forward to getting back to normal. Yet getting back to how things were is not something the church should be looking to. How things were, was actually, in reality quite depressing, decline in attendance, decline in finance, increasing pressure on the few to keep the show on the road, and a real lack of engagement of the community with what the church was doing and what it was about. But it is not just the church who are feeling this way, I saw this quote recently from poet and activist Sonya Renee Taylor. *"We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction... We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment. One that fits all of humanity and nature."*



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So getting back seems like a bad phrase whether in the church or in society in general, whereas the other phrase we hear more recently is “build back better.” Even here in Berwickshire our local Presbytery are in the midst of looking at new ways of how we as the church minister in this area and their new vision is entitled “Back to the Future.” Not a call to go backwards, but to get back to the basics of what church is about: worship, discipleship and service as the way forward into the future. Less emphasis on money, buildings or many of the other things we have long associated with church, but more emphasis on building worshipping communities of differing sizes and styles, led by the people who are part of these communities rather than expecting a minister to do it all. Helping members to engage with what it means to be a follower of Christ, to be nurtured and to nurture others in the faith, to take responsibility for their own faith journey and finally serving in our communities in Christ's name, possibly doing many of the things we already do, but with the understanding that we serve in Christ's name, as the church in our communities as we do those things. The future is certainly going to look very different from the past and even from now and the sooner we recognise that the sooner we can accept some of the harder decisions we need to make. But let us remember that above all these changes and uncertainties, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.” (Hebrews 13:8) And on this rock can we build our lives and our faith without fear.

God bless, Andy



MARRIAGE AND COFFEE



Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee. Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: “It’s right here – HEBREWS!”



Housing needed

A rental property is required in the Eyemouth/Coldingham area for one year. This is to house a Minister (and his family) from Zimbabwe who will be assisting Andy in his work and observing the "Kirk's" way of doing things - no doubt we will learn just as much from him. Please ask around and remember this need in your prayers.

Months of Summer

Along with faith, family and friends, being part of Liz Walker's Art WhatsApp group has helped me through this past year. We paint/draw to a suggested theme, and I have written haiku to accompany mine. Here are three that are appropriate for the calendar months of May, June and July.

**May sky blue nodding bells
smothering the woodland floor
will they ring again?**

**June roses soft as silk
beware thorns on shiny stems
no love without pain**

**July peeping from burrows
clowns of the coast, sea parrots
bring smiles to faces.**

There has been much said and written during lockdown of the physical and mental benefits there are to 'being in nature' – I prefer to use the word Creation as spiritual benefits can be gained too. Greater awareness of Creation can lead to greater awareness of the Creator.

Heather



Crossing the “What if?” line

‘You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.’ 2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV

Pastor Andy Stanley writes: ‘As you move forward in your relationship with God, occasionally He will test your grip on your wallet. It’s a faith thing...every so often, God will prompt you to step out of your generosity comfort zone. And if you really want to keep God in control of your finances, you need to follow. There’s a line you must be willing to cross. You must be willing to go where you can’t rely on your own financial stockpiling, but only on the Lord Himself as your provider. I’m not talking about acting irresponsibly with your money. I’m talking about an attitude in which God’s voice is louder than the soundtrack of “what ifs” in your life. You can think of that line as the “what if” line. You’ll know you’re getting close to it when your desire to follow your generosity is met by thoughts like, What if the interest rates change? or What if inflation picks up?...that line is different for everybody...As frightening as it might feel at times, God gives us financial seed for one purpose: sowing. Unless we open our palms and let the seed fly, we will never know what fruit He might bring from it.’ Here’s a biblical principle that you can always be certain of: ‘Whoever sows generously will also reap generously’ (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV). When you take that step of faith and cross the ‘what if’ line, God promises, ‘You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion’ (v. 11 NIV). Go ahead; start to sow and watch what happens!

One of the daily notes from UCB’s Word for Today
(<https://www.ucb.co.uk/word-for-today>)



Climate Change is real in Malawi

(Extract from a recent post from Gary Brough, Church of Scotland Mission Partner in Mzuzu, Malawi working alongside Linus Malu)

Climate change is high on the agenda this year with Glasgow hosting the COP26. Climate change is not the battle for control of the global central heating thermostat. For me, the most succinct description of climate change came from a smallholder farmer in Nkhoma, Malawi. She explained it like this: *“I used to get five bags of maize from my garden every year. Now, I’m fortunate if I get two.”*

I understand this description of climate change. They don’t hide human consequences like increased hunger and prolonged poverty. Agriculture is a huge part of Malawi life and the nation’s economy. A third of GDP, more than 80% of employment and 80% of foreign exports. The national budget is measured in the harvests of tobacco, maize, coffee, tea and groundnuts, among other things. So when that harvest is pressed and squeezed by a changing climate then so are the funds available to pay for schools, doctors and roads.

“Is it too late to turn the tide of climate change?” This is an increasingly urgent question. But it’s a political one. Too late or not the damage has been done, is still being done. That damage is being felt among some of the world’s poorest communities. As a Christian, I don’t need an answer to a political question, more scientific evidence or a global climate accord. Scripture tells me: *‘The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world and all who live in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters...’* (Psalm 24:1-2)

So wherever we’ve got to as a planet is a measure of our success or failure as stewards of God’s creation. It is still His creation, ‘the world and all who live in it’. How we respond now reflects not just our love for God’s created earth but also for His cherished people.

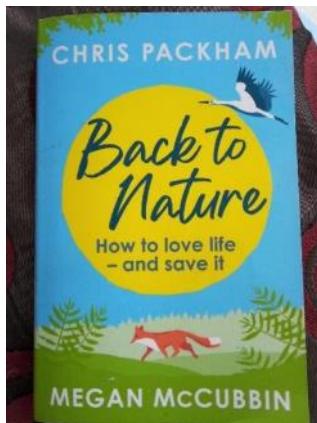
Climate change is a justice issue and the stories of countless people in Malawi make that clear. They don’t have the loudest political voices. Proverbs 31:9 says: *‘Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.’* So we must do what we can, when we can, to give a voice to those for whom climate change is evidenced by daily lived experience and not statistics.

Creation Kind – East Berwickshire Eco Group

We have had two sets of online meetings with the newly formed Creation Kind group and we've already had lots of fruitful discussion and actions: Eyemouth PC is in the process of applying for Eco Congregation status, we are taking part in a Tree Survey by Napier University, we are linking up with St Anne's Scottish Episcopal and Methodist Church's Eco Group in Dunbar for joint working & sharing of resources, we are looking into cycling routes to the new Reston Station, we are looking for solutions for non-recyclables such as ice-cream tubs, we are keeping ourselves updated with developments around the COP26 event this November, and we are taking part in online training & reading books.

It's difficult to start a new group during a pandemic, but some of us were tired of waiting any longer. We realise that it's not a perfect set up, being on Zoom, but at least we can get ready for when we are able to join in with activities again. Our meeting times are advertised in the Order of Service and the invitation to join is always there.

For anyone interested, here is a book recommendation for those interested in finding out more about environmental issues, and how to love life and save it:



Please order from a local independent bookshop. *May the Lord continue to inspire us and compel us to care for His wonderful Creation!*

Els Nicol



What is COP26?

The COP26 is the 26th UN Climate Change Conference that will take place in Glasgow from 1-12 November this year. It will be presided over by the UK in partnership with Italy. As most countries around the world have declared a Climate Emergency (and some even an Ecological Emergency) it has never been more important to work together to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Why is it important?

The COP26 summit will bring together global, national and local organisations and governments to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The science is clear: If left to increase without control, rising temperatures will ultimately threaten life on earth, due to a possible increase of as much as 4 degrees Celsius in the near future.

What can I do?

Why not join in by finding out more about COP26, or let others know it is happening and pray for a positive outcome. Throughout the year, preparations and pre-meetings are being held, each with important outcomes to achieve, so perhaps as a Church we should pray every Sunday with reference to this? Young people in particular are pinning their hopes on drastic action, a true commitment of resources & finances, policy changes and an end to meaningless promises. Please pray that all this will be brought about, for our children and grandchildren.

Els Nicol



Summer holiday at the top of the world.
(Well, outside the café at the top of the funicular railway, Cairngorms, before someone broke it!). *It wuz COLD!*
Editor



Priory pre-worship coffee time; normal service is almost resumed!

George



Edlingham church nr. Alnwick, worth a visit if passing and a great picnic spot.
Julia

Help While You Shop

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be collecting free donations for the Church?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/coldinghamstabbs/> or <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/eyemouthparishchurch/> and join for free. 2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping, or download the easyfundraising donation reminder for your web browser. 3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and the Church will be really grateful for your donations. You can now even download a handy reminder that reminds you to activate your donation when shopping on participating webpages.

Amazon Smile

If you use Amazon for your shopping you can also persuade them to donate on your behalf by signing up for Amazon Smile. Simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk from your web browser on your computer or mobile device. This will allow you to connect your Amazon account and select a charity to receive donations, both congregations are registered (The Church of Scotland, Eyemouth Parish Church or The Parish Church of Coldingham & St. Abbs) with Amazon and once linked when you shop on Amazon Smile, donations will be made automatically with no cost to yourself!



Sweets for my Sweet

TINY DIAMONDS. (6,4) _____

WOBBLY NEW-BORN! (5,6) _____

BOWLS, HISTORICALLY. (8) _____

TAKES DELIGHT IN THESE. (6) _____

SPEECH HESITATES, TWICE. (1,1,1'1) _____

VERY FOND OF PUMPERS! (4,6) _____

REALLY HOT, SAID THE MEERKAT. (8) _____

SHORT STUDIES TO BOOST MEMORY. (10) _____

NO CASH FOR THEIR RETURN. (4,7) _____

LLYDO, YOLOD, DYOLL. (5,8) _____

CROCKERY FROM ANOTHER PLANET. (6,7) _____

TYRES FOR ZETA-JONES OR TATE. (9,6) _____

GOODGOOD. IN FRANCE. (3,3) _____

FLESHY FRUIT. NAE SUGAR! (4,5) _____

TWO OF A KIND. ONE FALLS. (4,5) _____

CAPITAL PIECE OF AGGREGATE. (9,4) _____

SORT OF TURK LOVES THIS. (7,7) _____

DON'T SPEND ONE, PICK IT! (5,5) _____

(SCOTS) BIG-MOUTH BLOCKER! (10) _____

ONE A DAY, AFTER MEALS. (6) _____

MUDDY THE ISSUE. (5) _____

The Guild

The Guild continues to enjoy meeting in the summer – this is obvious by the way no-one rushes to go home after our cup of tea but everyone sits and we have a good time of fellowship and chat and discussing what we have just listened to in the talk. After our three week break at the beginning of July we have had an interesting talk from one of the Projects – World Mission’s work with teenage mothers in Zambia. Carole let us hear her Playlist and when the Holiday Club was on in the hall everyone met in Margaret’s house for an evening of Musical Theatre – hearing selected numbers from some of the musicals Margaret had worked with in both Eyemouth and Berwick. Bill Stewart is coming to talk about genealogy; Claire MacIntosh will tell about some of *her* Companions on the road; some members of the Coldingham Ukulele Band are coming to give us a ‘masterclass’; Alan Grant will be deserted on a desert island; then it will soon be our AGM and the Echo Choir are coming for our closing concert in late September after which our final get-together will be our annual dinner. The Guild will be taking the morning service in Eyemouth on 8th September marking the start of Guild Week, which from this year on will be after the Annual Gathering in Dundee. The Annual Gathering will be streamed live to our hall on Saturday 7th September from 10.30 and anyone is welcome to join us on that day – in fact **everyone** is welcome to join us at any of our meetings!

Audrey, Carole, Jean and Margaret

Quiz Answers



Midgeet Gems, Jelly Babies, Skittles, Revels, M&Ms, Love Hearts, Revels, Boilings, Refreshers, Cola Bottles, Dolly Mixtures, Flying Saucers, Catherine Wheels, Bon Bon, Sour Plums, Pear Drops, Edinburgh Rock, Turkish Delight, Penny Chews, Gobstopper, Tablet, Fudges.

Walking In Faith

Those familiar with my website Only Christians (www.onlychristians.co.uk) know my argument: that a Christian is not someone who believes in ‘Christianity’, but one who lives the life Jesus taught. But what does that look like? The answer is Asfaw Yemiru. I read about him in the Economist.

At the age of nine he left his village in Ethiopia and walked to Addis Ababa, 75 miles away in search of a better life. He ended up a street child, sleeping in a churchyard, begging and doing whatever jobs people threw at him. His big opportunity came when a Turkish woman dropped cheeses from her basket and he helped her to pick them up. She took him on as a general help. That meant he was able to go to primary school where he sailed through all the tests. He won a scholarship to a boarding school, but as a street child his place could have gone to a rich youngster. However, he learned enough English to go to the school and say to the headmaster. ‘My name is Asfaw Yemiru, I have come to learn.’ He was taken in and did well.

As he started to learn, he started classes outside the school gates for other street children. This eventually grew into what is now called the Asta Hawariat School for the poor. By 2020 120,000 poor children had passed through its classes. They were taught not only the three ‘R’s’ but practical skills like growing vegetables, rearing chickens, making pots and garments. And were taught something else by the example of Asfaw: they must use their new skills and knowledge, in the service of others. They must work not to enrich themselves but to narrow the gap between rich and poor. On one occasion, the then emperor of Ethiopia Haile Selassie visited the school with all the display and pomp of power, but Asfaw, the Principal, attended barefoot, as he always did - and as he had done on his long walk from his village to Addis Ababa all those years ago. Asfaw Yemiru *was* a Christian.

Bryan Webster



Eyemouth Larder

The Eyemouth Larder opened on Wednesday 10th March 2021 but it has been an aspiration for many, many months. It has been set up by, and will work in partnership with, many local organisations including Eyemouth Foodbank, Splash, Eyemouth Response Team, Rotary Club of Eyemouth and District, Eyemouth Parish Church, Eyemouth Early Years Centre and LINKS Eyemouth. The larder will be open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9am to 12pm although this may change depending on demand. It currently operates from the hall entrance of Eyemouth Parish Church; it is hoped that we can move to the Eyemouth Community Centre when the current restrictions are removed.

Eyemouth Larder mainly aims to reduce food waste and tackle food poverty. It is unacceptable that one third of the food produced for human consumption globally is lost or wasted every year. The Eyemouth Larder is for everyone's use and as well as reducing food waste we are aware that it will help people and families in the community who have fallen on hard times through no fault of their own.

Our main supplier is Fareshare who are a national charity set up to fight hunger and tackle food waste by the redistribution of good quality in-date surplus food from the food industry, to frontline charities across the UK. We are also currently engaging with our local supermarkets and hope to be able to get regular surplus or near end-date fresh food to offer to our larder visitors too.

Remember the larder is for everyone to use and when you visit you may see something you are short of or find a wee treat or you may have some surplus items at home which you could donate. Whichever way, you are helping to reduce food waste by preventing this food going to landfill.



Wearing Daddy's Shoes

Shuffling along, triumphant,
In Daddy's outsized shoes,
We stumble and are caught.

We shuffle.

Almighty?
Hiroshima remembers.

Immortal?
Still no Methuselah pill.

Invisible?
And lonely for the old and poor.

Omniscient?
Facebook knows our every thought.

Omnipresent?
With frequent flying viruses.

All loving?
This broken world still ruled by sin.

Our Father's shoes are still too big for us,
Such grace that He lovingly picks us up.

Richard Bond, May 2021



Wearing Daddies Shoes: (a guide for the perplexed)

At heart this is a poem about original sin, the rebellion that makes us believe that we can all be “Gods” - just like the familiar boldness of the toddler stepping into “Daddy's big shoes”. With our clever technology we believe that we have no limits but somehow it all goes wrong. By the juxtaposition of the attributes of God (big shoes) with our “shuffling” that goes wrong, it emphasises the folly of playing God.

A Lesson In Practical Trust!

There was a preacher who fell in the ocean and couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked "God, why didn't you save me?" God replied, "**Fool, I sent you two boats!**"



Work Place Chaplaincy

Work Place Chaplaincy (WPCS) is a Christian organisation working in partnership with local worshipping communities of all denominations as well as secular organisations and other faith groups. WPCS is not a preaching organisation, an individual who requests further information on Christian faith, would be guided towards the appropriate local Church's. However, if asked, I would be happy to discuss my faith with those who wish to know more about it, 1Peter3:15-17.

Therefore, it was a very pleasant surprise when I received a letter by email from the WPCS office inviting individuals to enquire more about the Chaplaincy, Andy our Minister was very encouraging and those who I work with were similarly encouraging. Therefore, after further discussions and online study modules I was willing to then apply for an appointment with WPCS for which I was accepted and now have two charges within Eyemouth with a working agreement to give telephone support at other towns within the Scottish Borders.

It's good to talk, good to listen and more so, good to give support to individuals.

George Power



Coldingham & St. Abbs Financial Update

The Congregation may again miss out on the Stated Annual Meeting this year, so I hope that this update would alert members and adherents to our financial position. The Church of Scotland has responded to the Covid crisis with a reduction in all Mission & Ministries requirements. But aside from that our expenses have risen, not least because we are now paying for our electricity. Meanwhile, our income has deteriorated further.

The summary below shows the 2020 figures and my 2021 budget for the Unrestricted Funds in the accounts of the Parish:

Coldingham & St Abbs				General & Fabric Accounts					
	2021	2020		2021	2020		2021	2020	
	Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual		Budget	Actual	
Regular Receipts	£ 24,425	£ 28,059	Regular Payments	£ 38,412	£ 41,523		Surplus/Deficit	Surplus/Deficit	
							-£13,987	-£13,464	
Donations inc Gift Aid	£ 24,425	£ 28,059	M&M	£ 20,778	£ 24,562				
			Heat & Light	£ 6,000	£ -				
			Insurance	£ 3,892	£ 3,824				
			Minister's Expenses	£ 850	£ 688				
			Other Expenses	£ 5,092	£ 10,649				
			BCYT	£ 1,800	£ 1,800				
Investment Receipts	£ 5,540	£ 6,092	Fabric Payments	£ 5,700	£ 3,345	-£	160	£ 2,747	
Interest	£ 40	£ 208	Priory Fabric	£ 3,700	£ 961				
Investment Income	£ 5,500	£ 5,884	Manse Fabric	£ 2,000	£ 2,384				
							-£14,147	-£10,717	

To viably sustain ministry in the Parish we need to generate more income and I would urge everyone to consider, as Carol and I have done, if they have the resources to contribute more generously through regular giving.

Thank you.

David Campbell, Treasurer.



Eyemouth Kirk Session

We are delighted that Jeanette Wilson has recently been selected as a candidate for training in the Church of Scotland and wish Jeanette God's blessing in her training and in the years ahead.

The Session has agreed that our registration as a Fairtrade Church should be renewed. This means we are committed to serving Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar at all church events and meetings.

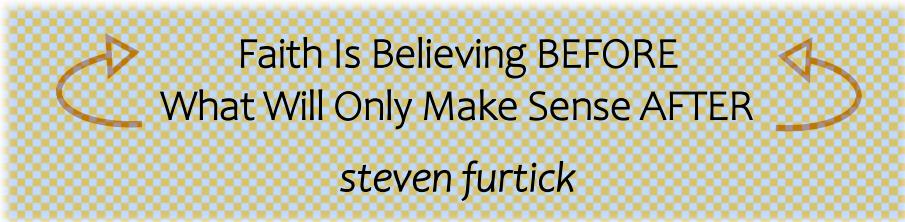
Christian Aid

Many thanks to everyone who contributed online or by envelope at church to this year's Christian Aid week collection. A total of £647 was raised and this will go towards Christian Aid's work to help poor rural communities adapt to their changing climate. If you were unable to donate during Christian Aid week you can still do so by visiting their website.

Young People's News

We have been keeping in touch with our young people and families with activity packs, the last one being at Easter. Difficult to do much over summer holidays but we have provisional plans for a gathering in the Priory Garden on Friday afternoon September 3rd. Our theme is 'Water' and will be linked to the story of 'the woman at the well.' We will also buy gifts of books and give them out at this time. Please pray for this event, for the preparations that need to be made and for those making them and for the children and their families that they may feel comfortable and enjoy meeting together.

The Sunday Club Team



Faith Is Believing BEFORE
What Will Only Make Sense AFTER

steven furtick

Foodbank

Demand on the foodbank continues to be fairly steady. Overall the number of parcels are slightly reduced, although there was a small peak in April. In March 42 parcels went out feeding 84 people, while April saw a peak of 47 parcels feeding 73 people, then in May a small reduction saw 36 parcels sent out feeding 63 people. As we move into the Summer we may see an increase with the school holidays having an impact on families who rely on the free school meals and the ongoing changes to support for businesses may see folk unexpectedly needing support through a transition. As always can we take a moment to thank you all for the generosity and effort that you continue to show and display for the cause of feeding the poor and for this Foodbank.

There is no question that the delivered food parcels provide a great source of help, encouragement and support. It's not unusual for a food parcel to be described as a 'life saver', as they can really help people get back on their feet. The foodbank clients are most grateful for the care shown to them and that somebody somewhere is thinking about them and their needs.

If you would be interested in helping out with food parcel deliveries, or organising the collected food at the Foodbank store then please contact Andy.

The Food List

Tins or packets of Soup

Tins of mince, stew, meat balls, curry pies in tins

Corned beef, spam, ham, tuna, sardines, pilchards, baked beans

Tinned veg and potatoes

Pasta

Pasta sauce

Tea & Coffee, Breakfast cereal

Dried or UHT milk

Custard

Tinned fruit

The following items are added when the parcel is made up and delivered, so donations of money are always accepted: bread, margarine, fresh milk, fresh potatoes (nappies and baby food, if required).

World Mission Report Presbytery June 2021

At a recent Climate Crisis conference organized by the Faith Impact Forum (FIF) and Christian Aid I was very much struck by the urgent and shocking details reported by our friends in Nepal and Malawi. In Nepal the effects of Climate Change are producing great difficulties that are new to the country, according to Joel Hafenstein, Director of United Mission to Nepal (UMN) and Church of Scotland Mission Partner.

The same rain comes but at different times, badly affecting the crops. In the high altitudes there is less snow, but more environmental degradation (buildings and tree collapsing). In the North/South valleys heat is increasing and species are dying out. The predictability of the Monsoon has gone. There are new pests, and disease is increasing. Outbursts of water from glacial lakes are a new danger. Temperature changes alter habitats – mosquitoes, dengue fever and snakes are now found higher up than ever before. Devastating floods in the southern, Terai region left 80% of the land underwater. Tornadoes and wildfires Kathmandu's air quality is now the worst in the world. UMN, supported by the Church of Scotland, is working hard on irrigation and new crops, relief support, reforestation and training people for new jobs now that their farms are no longer viable.

Gary Brough, also a Church of Scotland Mission partner, reports in similar terms from Mzuzu in Malawi. Unpredictable rains are damaging the vital maize crop, there are landslides in the mountainous areas and widespread deforestation. New ways of farming are urgently needed, and he and his team are exploring new mulches and compost, and new varieties of sweet potatoes and cassava. Non-farming sources of income like bee-keeping and chicken farming also being investigated and encouraged. Both countries are of course presently struggling with the difficulties and suffering arising from Covid19. Let us pray for healing and justice for their people.

Marianne

Reflections at the Quay

Like many others we have been enjoying the variety of speakers on the above programme. There has been a great variety of music from traditional hymns to join in with and new music from Celtic groups and artists some of whom I know as our daughter has played with them. For me the flowers have been a delight to see and they have reminded me of a visit I made to the STV studios many years ago.

I was asked to arrange flowers to accompany talks given one week on a programme entitled Late Call, a short religious slot broadcast at the end of the day. I had the scripts and set about painting backgrounds, gathering accessories and making lists of flowers I would require. I had a visit at home from the director to



see some mock ups I had done and he was glad to see I had remembered TV screens were landscape not portrait! I was picked up early one morning and transported with all my bits and pieces as well as buckets of flowers and foliage.

As I prepared all the exhibits in a very quiet studio with an enormous ceiling height I remember thinking "I could be in a Cathedral." On finishing I was invited to the production gallery with its banks of monitors, each one showing a green flower bucket with a strip of tape with *Greta Philp* embossed on it. Then the director said " What are you going to give us, John ?" The cameraman zoomed in on two flowers still in the bucket, and..... it was a beautiful picture! At that moment I learned a lesson which has stayed with me ever since. Those untouched flowers were just as beautiful as the arrangements we went on to film later that day. However, my interpretations did have an important Christian message. Subsequently, every evening at 11.00pm several friends and I tuned in to see the broadcast. As it turned out, we had a long wait; the Falklands war had started that same week so it was about three in the morning when the news bulletins ended - a very late call indeed ! *Greta*

News from 121 George Street

The Moderator of the General Assembly welcomed the “constructive” talks he had this week with political party leaders about the need for a collaborative approach in tackling some of the most pressing issues facing society. Lord Wallace said they were in common agreement that the climate crisis, mental health, adult social care reforms and how the country recovers from COVID-19 are top priorities that must be addressed. He held online discussions with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the SNP, Anas Sarwar of Scottish Labour, Patrick Harvie, co-convener of the Scottish Green Party, Willie Rennie, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats and Douglas Ross, leader of the Scottish Conservatives.

He said “The purpose of these meetings is to demonstrate the Church’s commitment to, and involvement in, national life and its concern about social and political issues. Lord Wallace continued, “I attended these meetings as a representative of a Church that has deep roots in communities across the country- one which does not just merely talk about social issues but is actively engaged in working within the sphere of all the topics discussed with party leaders for the greater good. It is a real force in the delivery of social care through CrossReach and on the climate crisis, particularly ahead of COP26 in Glasgow later this year; we are very vocal on the need for a better stewardship of God’s creation.”

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