

# JULY NEWS



## **MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR**

It is generally accepted that humanity cannot work for 24 hours a day, 365/366 days a year. Jesus grew up in the Jewish culture which acknowledged as the wish of God that people needed to have one day in seven as a day of rest, and that they should take time out from work several times a year to travel to Jerusalem to celebrate the religious festivals. Given the journey required to get to Jerusalem in those days, and the sort of accommodation available, it wasn't our idea of a 'holiday', but it did mark a change in the usual pattern of life – seeing other places, being with other people, and acknowledging that God is not confined to one location (the one where we usually live).

As we come to the summer holiday period we may or may not be planning to go away this year, but we have Jesus' example reminding us that we do need to take a break, we need to do something different from the usual routine, to recharge our batteries and restore our energy and enthusiasm for the challenging autumn and winter that lie ahead. Many ministers and office-bearers in congregations are very tired after coping with fifteen months of Covid-restrictions. Without being 'busy-bodies' we should be concerned for their welfare, expressing our appreciation for all that they have done, and gently but firmly encouraging them to make sure they take time off over the summer.

Whatever you do this summer, wherever you go, remember the words of the Psalmist:

...he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over [his people]  
will neither slumber nor sleep...  
he will watch over your life;  
the LORD will watch over your coming and going  
both now and for evermore.



## **MISSION COMMITTEE**



Faith Impact Forum recently hosted a joint event with Christian Aid, during which various ways in which churches can engage in the climate emergency was discussed, these ranged from worship/prayer resources, to hosting delegates attending COP26 and becoming an eco-congregation.

Links to the event and ways to engage are listed below and I encourage congregations to engage in these in any way they can:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgAixt9lQKg&list=PLcE1-KuB42WlQF5pkwNyxQb9xutmWabyA>

Homestay hotel: <https://www.humanhotel.com/cop26/>

Amen to Climate Justice Prayer chain: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/prayer-chain>

Climate Sunday this year is 5 September: <https://www.climatesunday.org>

Some of the easier campaign resources from Christian Aid <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-justice-every-moment-matters>

Glasgow Presbytery Padlet (notice board of resources) <https://padlet.com/glasgowyouth/tjo2fo33vbq20asn>

Sign up to the Faith Impact weekly newsletter: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/newsletters>

Join the Faith Impact Forum Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/churchofscotlandfif>

*Revd. Gary Noonan, Clyde Presbytery: Mission Convenor*

## **LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW**

I realise that during the life of Clyde Presbytery, I have been rather quiet. As congregations were grappling with the impact of COVID, it didn't seem appropriate to add LCR into the mix.

However, not only are we now 15 months into dealing with COVID, we are now also grappling with the impact of this year's General Assembly, and the implications for presbytery planning and ministry allocation.

Previously, the Local Church Review process was focused on finding out the strengths of each congregation, and sometimes noticing things that might be done better or differently, now as we work towards a post COVID / living with COVID world, it's beneficial to look particularly at what we have learned over the last year or so. Using all of these and working together it should be possible to put together a plan that will help to direct the activities and energy of the members over the next few years.

As we look now to the start of a new church year in September, I would like to offer the services of the LCR committee to work with your Kirk Sessions and congregations to explore what came before COVID, what has been learned in the (by then) 18 months since March 2020 and, looking towards our new future, to think about what your congregation's vision of 'church' will be.

Clearly, we are still in a world where much of what we have to do will be done over Zoom, but we're all getting better at this and many of us are more comfortable with the platform, there is also the hope that by September or so some more restrictions may be lifted, and we may be able to meet in person.

If you would like to discuss how this might work for you and your congregation, I would be happy to discuss this with you – please either email me or call me.

*Christine Cavanagh - LCR Convener*

## **HOLY LAND BURSARY SCHEME**

"Please give our children an education". Those are the words of a friend which inspired the establishment of the Holy Land Bursary Scheme in 2008.

On a pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, ministers Tina Kemp and Norma Moore were shocked to learn of the challenges facing parents wishing a Christian education for their children who are marginalised in state schools. Many are unable to afford the fees at the few Christian schools available.

With the support of the former Presbytery of Dumbarton, the bursary scheme was established and over the past 13 years has paid for the education of more than a dozen children.

Students attend the Arab Evangelical Episcopal School in Ramallah in the West Bank, a co-educational school offering primary and secondary education. Bursary students are selected on the basis of severe financial hardship.

Congregations within the former Presbytery of Dumbarton area continue to contribute a suggested £70 a year towards the scheme, with the money sent via 121 George Street to St Andrew's Church of Scotland in Jerusalem from where it is transferred to the school.

We are currently supporting three girls and a boy. Some of our former students have gone on to further study with dreams of becoming, among other things, a surgeon and a cardiologist.

Tina said: "The Christian community in the Holy Land continues to decline rapidly, depleting a resource vital to providing a balance in the relationship between Muslims, Jews and Christians. The Christian students of today are the community leaders of tomorrow and so, for economic, social and cultural reasons, Christian schools are vital to the future. Thanks to the support for the scheme our students have an opportunity to receive a good education and to hopefully play their part in creating a more balanced, fair and tolerant society.

"What has been achieved through this scheme may be small in the grand scale of things, but it is making a significant impact in the lives of these children and their families."

We would love to hear from any congregation, group or individual in the Presbytery of Clyde who would like to support the scheme. We are also happy to visit congregations and organisations to tell you more. Thank you.

*For further information Tina Kemp – [tinakemp@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:tinakemp@blueyonder.co.uk) or Norma Moore – [norma-moore@sky.com](mailto:norma-moore@sky.com)*

## **FROM THE CLERK**

One of the traditional old 'saws' in the personal motivation world is the phrase, 'If you fail to plan, then you will plan to fail.' Few of us can have missed the fact that the 2021 General Assembly called for a new round of Presbytery planning. It would be difficult to overestimate the scale and scope of the challenge that this will present to us as a Presbytery. Despite having some superficial similarities to the previous Act re Appraisal and Readjustment, the Mission Plan Act 2021 is a radically different document in intent as it seeks to put mission deliberately at the heart of our planning.

It is no longer simply about hitting the right amount of ministry numbers – though they will face a reduction of around a third. It will involve a significant reassessment of our building stock in the light of what the mission of the church demands of our buildings in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These decisions will be difficult and it will require the deep wisdom that resides in every part of Presbytery if we are to make our plan a success. Ministers will need to engage and be flexible as never before, and that reservoir of experience and talent will be of inestimable value to us.

Elders will provide insights drawn from the rich diversity of their skills, aptitudes, talents and varied backgrounds. Congregational members will tell us what the church needs to be and do on the ground where they are. We have an abundance of skills at our disposal and we need to make sure that everyone is engaged with this process as we go forward. We need your imagination, creativity, generosity and courage as we face tough decisions about the shape of our future life together, allied with a willingness in some cases to let go that we might rebuild.

It is our particular task and calling in this place and this time to rethink the life of the church on a scale not done perhaps for over a hundred years or more. What a privilege and responsibility. Above all we will need to be deeply attentive to the leading of God's Spirit as we are led into a fuller realisation of what it means to follow in the way of Jesus and his Kingdom in 2022 and beyond. The following paragraph from the Mission Plan Act will be the crucial interpretative guide for the formation of our next plan.

I invite everyone to read it and reflect on it and to discuss it locally and to feed back into our deliberations that rich wisdom that resides within the Presbytery of Clyde.

*Peter McEnhill - Clerk*

### **2.1 CONTENT OF A MISSION PLAN**

2.1.1 A Mission Plan shall describe how the Church of Scotland's engagement with Christ's Mission is to be shaped and resourced in the following five years and to that end shall demonstrate how the Presbytery will:-

- i. ensure that the life of the Church of Scotland is shaped around Mission and adequately reflects the outcomes of Local Church Review and ideas for local mission;
- ii. sustain the commitment to a territorial ministry as described in the Third of the Articles Declaratory appended to the Church of Scotland Act 1921 and affirmed in Declaratory Act V 2010 including its commitment to ecumenical working;
- iii. make appropriate use of such ministry posts as may be permitted by the General Assembly so that the number of post holders in each Presbytery conforms to the numbers and time- scales set by the General Assembly;
- iv. ensure that new ways of being Church, other than stipendiary Ministers of Word and Sacrament or traditional MDS appointments, are reflected in the Mission Plan;

### **MINISTERS' SERVICE**

The Business Committee felt it would be appropriate to mark a ministers' service after 10 years, 25 years, 40 years and 50 years from ordination. The onus must be on ministers/congregations to advise the office if this is something they wished to be recognised, as not all ordination dates are held on file. If your minister is approaching a significant milestone, please let the office know.

### **INS & OUTS**

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed Rev Jonathan Fleming as the new minister at Greenock Lyle Kirk and also Rev Eddie Marshall, retired minister now living in Paisley and Rev Paul Read, retired minister, now living in Erskine.

Rev Archie Speirs has retired from Inverkip linked with Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay. Rev Peter Gill has accepted a call to Allen Bannockburn in the Presbytery of Stirling and Rev Ruth Morrison has accepted a call to Kirkintilloch St Mary's in the Presbytery of Glasgow.