

# InTouch

June 2021

**The Glens and Kirriemuir United Parish Church  
Linked with Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church**



## **Return of in-person services**

Our in-person services have restarted and are currently every Sunday at Tannadice at 10am, Kirriemuir Parish Church at 11.15am and the first and third Sunday of the month at Cortachy Church at 11.15am. We can now have singing during services, however face coverings must be worn. The 2 metre distancing rule remains in place.

There is no need to book in for services but we ask you to please sign in at the door (for the NHS test and protect system). You are most welcome to come along on Sunday but please note that places will be limited. At the Parish Church and Cortachy there will be one seating sign per seating space. One, two or three people from the same household/bubble can sit in each of the seating spaces. We look forward to welcoming you to church when you feel ready to return.

## **Live-streaming**

All through lock-down, when we were unable to have services in the church, the WAAM ministry team offered many different ways to engage in worship and reflection. Our weekly pre-recorded worship videos were put on our WAAM YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/c/WestAngusAreaMinistryWAAM> - The live-streamed services can be viewed here or on the websites [www.gkupc.org](http://www.gkupc.org) and <https://oathlawtannadice.org.uk/> Both Kirriemuir and Tannadice have live-stream capabilities and you should be able to view a service most weeks from one or other or both. As we look to the future, this capability also gives us the potential for linking with other congregations to share services. It also opens up the possibility of joining other live, online events as a gathering, not just as individuals.



**Kirriemuir Parish Church**

**Cortachy Church**

**Oathlaw Tannadice Parish Church**

The Church of Scotland in Angus

**Ministers:**

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Kirriemuir Parish Church, Bank Street, Kirriemuir, Angus, DD8 4BG

**Office Open:**

Currently Closed

[www.gkupc.org](http://www.gkupc.org)

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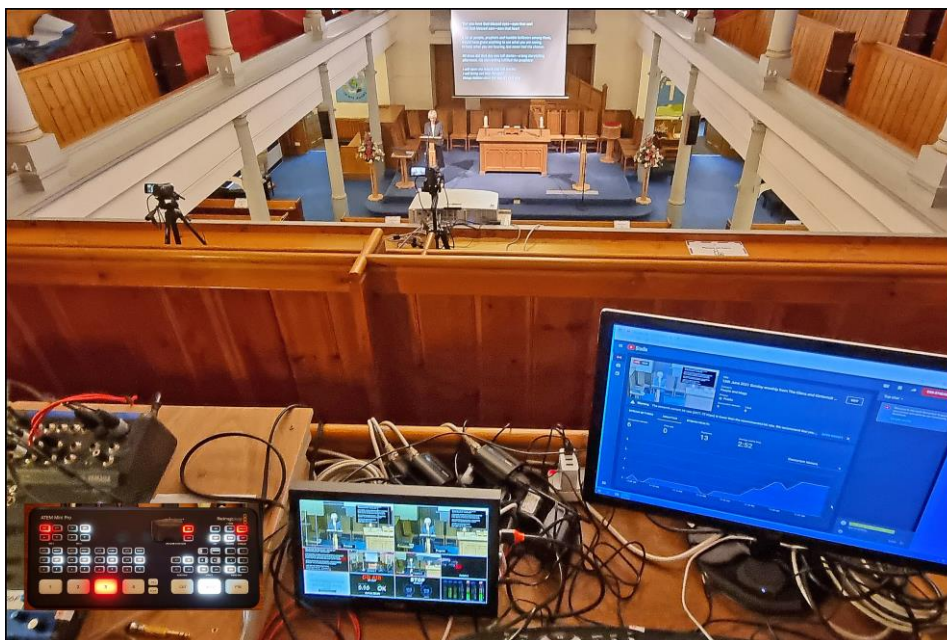
[www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk](http://www.OathlawTannadice.org.uk) Scottish Charity Number SC006317

*Caring for God's Creation*

*Fairtrade Church*



In Kirriemuir we have a small, but growing, team of people who are learning how to set up and operate the live-streaming equipment. It's not too difficult, and if you'd be interested in learning how to operate the kit for a Sunday service, please get in touch with John, Linda or Julia.



**Phone Line** - Our dial-in service is also available on 01575 527007.

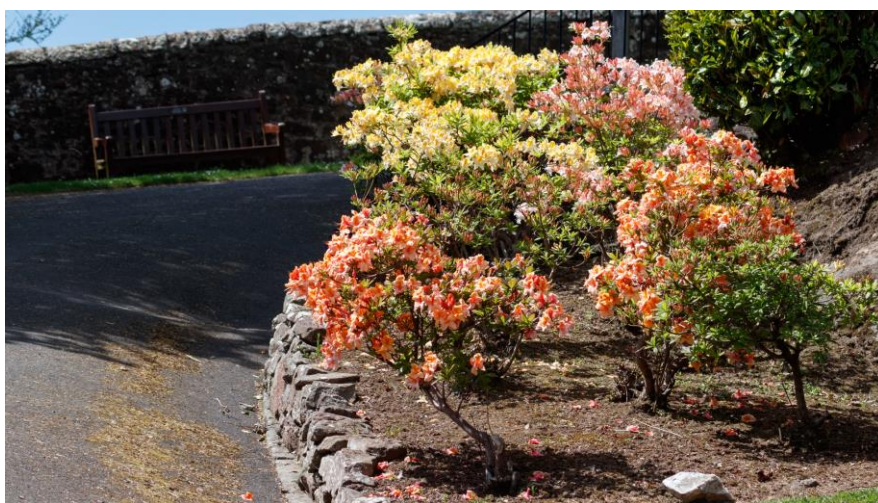
To listen to the full service, dial '1' when you hear the welcome announcement. The weekly service is available at any time throughout the week.

## From the Minister

It feels as though summer is just around the corner. We've had a run of warm days, and even a fair bit of sunshine at times. On the downside, for some, it looks less likely that summer holidays abroad will be happening any time soon. Although disappointing, I'm certain that there is plenty in our own country, and even on our own doorstep, for us to enjoy and appreciate. As I've mentioned before, one of the pleasures I've enjoyed since early last year has been a daily walk through Kirrie cemetery and up round Kirrie Hill, through the woods. Having walked the same path for over a year you'd think there was nothing new to see and yet each day brings something previously unnoticed or that has changed with the course of the seasons.

I've made use of the walks to build up a huge collection of photographs, many of which

have been used in our videos, and now on the slideshow in our services. I've often thought that I should try and find new views but perhaps, like me, you've appreciated the changing appearance of the landscape, or seeing something new. Perhaps because I am looking for something eye-catching, I've



become more aware of just how much joy can be found in our area. There's even a corner of the graveyard which, just a week or so ago, was a riot of vibrant colour. I can't think how many times I've walked past it and never really considered it, yet one day, suddenly, it grabbed my attention and I paused to appreciate it (and take some photographs).

Psalm 8 begins, "O Lord, our Lord, your greatness is seen in all the world!" I wonder how much of it we really notice and how much of it passes us by. Perhaps there is one moment of time when we suddenly see something that has always been there, or perhaps we are all too aware of the changes wrought by time and season on something that is close to us.

I hope that you might feel inspired to look more closely at the world around us and, in it, catch a glimpse of God's greatness and mystery. Whether captured as memory or photograph, seen for the first time, or as a familiar landmark, may all that surrounds us bring you joy, and in that joy may you find God's love for you.

*John*

## Baptisms

*"He took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them"*

Evie Robertson  
Finlay Alexander

## Deaths

*"I am the resurrection and the life"*

Sonia Proctor  
Elma MacKay  
Les Kettles  
Stewart Webster  
Jill Anderson (formerly Gordon Park)  
Alison Duncan  
Jean Smith (formerly Kirk Wynd)  
David Gray  
Florence Menmuir  
Irene Peters  
David Wilson



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## GKUPC Photography Competition

We would like to thank all the photographers who have entered the competition this year. Once the judges have had the chance to meet, we will announce the winners. We look forward to another amazing GKUPC calendar in 2022.

## Eco News

At the 2020 General Assembly the Church of Scotland voted to develop a strategy for the entire organisation to transition both locally and nationally to **net zero** carbon emissions by 2030.

Would you be interested in helping GKUPC become carbon neutral? If so, please contact John or Julia.



## Kiriemuir Food Hub

If you are out and about in Kirrie, why not pop in to the Kirriemuir Food Hub and check out the Community Food Share? **The food is for anyone to use and helps reduce food waste. The Food Hub has so far saved almost 8 tonnes of food from waste!**



The mission of the Food Hub is to reduce food waste and also to help combat food insecurity by repurposing and redistributing food. Donations are also welcome to help address local food insecurity.

## Blessings

Do you ever have trouble falling asleep? I tend to fall asleep easily but then waken up in the middle of the night and lie awake worrying about everything! It is often in those small hours that the sound of Bing Crosby singing these words come to mind:-

“If you're worried and you can't sleep  
Just count your blessings instead of sheep  
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings”

Good advice I always think. What do we mean though by counting our blessings?

I have a friend who always says when we are parting, “Every blessing”.

I hear that as “Every blessing of God on you”. Those words never fail to touch me and uplift me.

Another friend once sent me a card with the words, “Blessed to be a blessing” written on it.

Two sentiments reflecting two sides of a coin.

In the first, we are the ones who are blessed.

In the second, the fact that God has blessed us, means we respond by being a blessing to others.

I think that just about sums up my faith.

Every blessing. Blessed to be a blessing.

With the past year or so of lockdown and restrictions it may feel that blessings have been in short supply in our everyday lives. But there are blessings to count if we look for them. The love of friends and family whose presence or connections have carried us through. Simple things like the advancement of technology enabling services to be broadcast online or via the phone-line. Or, the folk who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure we can gather together to worship safely. Or, the care of those who phone, do messages, send cards and support others.

However this past year has been for you and whatever your sleep is like, I wish you every blessing and may you be blessed to be a blessing to others.

God's blessing be yours,  
And well may it befall you;  
Christ's blessing be yours,  
And well may you be treated;  
The Spirit's blessing be yours,  
And well may you spend your lives,  
Each day that you rise up,  
Each night that you lie down.

God bless you all,

*Linda*



## Living in Community on Iona

Last month I had the joy of experiencing something I had read about often, but seldom encountered: living in genuine community with people of shared values and beliefs.

The Iona Community is an ecumenical Christian community which was founded in 1938 by the



Rev George MacLeod DD and is committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel in today's world. Gathered around the rebuilding of the ancient monastic buildings first established by St Columbus after landing there from Ireland in 563 AD, the Community has sought to rebuild the common life, bringing together work and worship, prayer and politics, the sacred and the secular in ways that reflect its strongly incarnational theology.

This year marks a special time in the long history of Iona Abbey and the Iona Community with the re-opening of their newly refurbished guest accommodation and facilities made possible by £3.75m donated by members and supporters from all around the world. This generosity has secured the future of the wider abbey buildings and cloisters for many years to come, enabling the community to practice its gifts of welcome, hospitality and sanctuary for all. The Abbey Church itself is in the exclusive care of Historic Environment Scotland and the community continues to use it daily as a place of worship.

Having lost my wife Liz to cancer last summer and slowly becoming accustomed to living on my own, I had re-engaged with church and started to rediscover my own spirituality, long since dormant. A combination of 'God-incidences' and amazing encounters with skeins of geese, drew me to explore the possibility of sharing in a genuine community, a subject I have long been interested in.

Ultimately I was fortunate enough to be invited to join the Iona Community whilst still in the midst of its final preparations for the official re-opening on 7<sup>th</sup> June by HRH Princess Anne, the culmination of three years during which the Community had been unable to host and facilitate guest groups and visitors.

From the moment I set foot, the welcome and acceptance was like few places I have ever experienced. The whole atmosphere is one of peace and togetherness and I quickly found that what often used to take up a fair bit of my day . . . email, Facebook, reading news, following covid updates . . . faded away and became so much less of a priority.

The daily rhythm of community life soon became evident, beginning each day with a short morning service at 9am attended and led by staff members and volunteers like

myself in the ancient Abbey Church, thereby continuing the tradition of daily worship in this very special 'thin' place in the footsteps of those from centuries past. There is no benediction at the end of the morning service; we simply left to continue our worship of God in the daily tasks for which we were responsible before ending the day at 9pm, gathered once more to give thanks and praise for all that had been accomplished.



The Choir and Chancel

Whilst there, I took on the role of Sacristan and was responsible for preparing the Abbey for worship services as well as short times of prayer for healing and intercession and regular Sunday Communion services attended by members of all the other local churches.



Prayers for Healing

The Abbey was the only church on Iona to have remained open without interruption throughout covid restrictions and worship continued ecumenically along with all other denominations on the island.

It's such a privilege to walk in the footsteps of nearly 900 years of worship since the site was later established as a Benedictine Abbey and to be a part of that long history of the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. Whilst there, I was invited to lead a morning service and to do so in such a setting, sensing the presence of others gone before, was a profoundly moving experience. There were also group opportunities to explore and develop more contemporary and creative forms of worship and bible reading which reminded me of how much I have missed them over the years.

As well as looking after the Abbey, I soon found that the community openly welcomes others' gifts, skills and experience in an inclusive and encouraging way and was soon setting up a more efficient wireless network ahead of the royal visit. I was also able to put my photographic skills to good use by taking staff and volunteer portraits, as well as special shots for use in producing orders of service and social media.

I had originally planned to live with the community for much of the summer, however I developed a knee injury which eventually curtailed my activities on Iona, ultimately forcing me to come home to seek treatment.

I loved my few weeks spent with a wonderful group of people and had quickly become conversant with the role I went to fulfil. Being in the Abbey alone at night preparing for next day was a joy and a privilege discovered while serving others. Who would have thought that filling more than 80 oil candles every other day could become a task which brought peace and contentment, knowing that they helped bring others to a place of quiet and stillness before God at the beginning and end of each day? I discovered the joy of a servant heart, loving and caring for others, at the same time allowing myself to be loved and cared for in the rhythm of community life. Being a part of a group of people committed to living a common life together was all that I had hoped it would be and has already and will continue to change me as I reflect on what has been a truly transformative experience.



Brian snuffing out the candles

M. Scott Peck in his book 'The Different Drum' speaks of four stages of becoming community as: Pseudo Community . . . Chaos . . . Emptiness . . . and only then . . . True Community. I believe that in some small way and in such a short time, I experienced all of these and finally, literally brought to my knees, came to know an expression of true community from which I shall be forever changed.

At first I was bewildered that God would lead me so strongly and set me in the midst of the community in a role that showed me the joy of a servant heart . . . only to then



seemingly make it impossible for me to stay for long . . . and yet I believe that he has shown me that it's time for me to begin to live again, to trust and follow, knowing that I still have much to offer if I will but go where he leads.

It is the custom in the refectory at the end of each shared community meal to ring a bell and ask if anyone is eating with the community for the first or last time . . . to allow an opportunity for them to say hello or goodbye. On my final evening, I gratefully found the words to say what I had truly come to know about the warmth, the integrity, the care and concern for each other, the respect, the love and forbearance; all of which shine through in the resident community of which, for a short but very special time, I was privileged to be a part.

*Brian Forsyth*

If you'd like to hear a short service from the Iona Community which was broadcast on 13 June 2021, please follow this link: [BBC Sounds - Iona Service 13 June 2021](https://www.bbc.com/sounds/programmes/iona-service-13-june-2021)

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### **General Assembly News**

For a good overview of the decisions and key moments of the 2021 General Assembly, please have a look at the Life and Work special supplement:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/general-assembly-2021-special-supplement>

It may seem that the decisions of the General Assembly have little to do with the local church. That certainly cannot be said of this year's Assembly. Pressures on ministry and building resources will be felt across the church and in every congregation. A cut in ministry numbers of around 40% will mean new ways of working within and across congregations. Sitting alongside this though is a welcome move for greater understanding and co-operation between the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

There was a welcome announcement that the Kirk had now disinvested from fossil fuel companies. All members are encouraged to engage with COP26. Ambitious targets for the environmental impact of our buildings will present a significant challenge, with the encouragement to be 'Net zero' by 2030.

It seems that every General Assembly needs to have the usual controversial item. Further steps were taken with the introduction of church legislation to allow ministers to solemnise same-sex marriage. This now passes to Presbyteries for their approval before returning to next year's General Assembly for its final decision.

Last, but not least, the Guild reported that they had been able to offer financial support of £551,434 to the six partner projects between 2018 and 2021. With UN matched funding for the Malawi Fruits project the grand total is £638,000. This is an amazing achievement and our own local Guild has played its part in this work.



## The Guild

Hello again, Guild members and friends. We have not been able to meet now for a whole Guild year. As we did not manage to have our AGM in 2020, a skeleton committee of those who agreed to remain on the committee has been keeping things ticking over during this difficult time. We have sent for a video presentation of the projects just completed and for one of the Big Sing. We hope to show these when we meet again.

Meanwhile the team in Edinburgh have been busy. The new strategy for the next three years is "Look Forward in Faith" with the theme for 2021-2022 being "Lights and Bushels". We have received the theme guide and look forward to making use of it during our next session.

The Project Partners for the next three years have also been chosen and are -  
BEAT – concerning eating disorders,  
PIONEERS UK – sustainable cocoa production in SE Asia,  
HOME FOR GOOD – homes for vulnerable children – promoting fostering and adoption,  
VINE TRUST – Kazuma Village in Tanzania,  
STARCHILD UGANDA – finding the light in every child with learning difficulties and  
HEAR OUR VOICE – Theological education for young women in Unida, Brazil.

I have just watched our National Convener, Mabel Wallace's excellent address to the General Assembly and recommend you do too, if you can. It is on the Church of Scotland website.

We are saddened to report that Elma McKay has died so very soon after her husband, Bill and we also hear that Jill Anderson, a former member who recently moved to Edinburgh, has also died. We are thinking of their families and friends at this difficult time.

Once again we hope that we will soon be able to meet and look forward to the friendship and fellowship that the Guild provides.

Blessings to all.

*Charlotte.*

**From the Church of Scotland Website** - The Guild has raised more than £638,000 for life changing projects over the last three years. National Convenor, Mabel Wallace told the General Assembly that she continued to be "inspired, encouraged, amazed, privileged and humbled" by the work of her fellow members.



The Guild visited Zambia in February 2020.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, described the Guild as one of the most "energetic agencies" of the Church and educates and inspires people. He said it plays a "vital" role.

**A message from Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC,  
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**



At the closing of the General Assembly, I had the opportunity to launch a joint initiative between the Church of Scotland and Christian Aid, encouraging members to give a financial gift in thanksgiving once they had received full vaccination for Covid-19. It has been much on my mind as to how fortunate I have been to have received my two vaccinations; but had I been living elsewhere in the world, the story would have been quite different.

The World Health Organisation have said no-one is protected until all are protected, therefore we are urging the UK Government to do all that it can to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available throughout the world. By supporting Christian Aid in their efforts to provide basics such as soap, water, and food, we can ensure that vulnerable communities stay safer as they wait for vaccination.

In this very tangible way, as we seek global justice, here is a practical opportunity to give real expression in 2021 to loving our global neighbours. I sincerely hope that you will join with me and together we will respond generously, as a mark of our gratitude for what we have received.

To give a gift, please click on the following link:

<https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/cos-just-vaccine-rollout>



**The Sustainable Kirriemuir Website** is now up and running!

You can check out all the fantastic things that are going on in the local community. The vision is for Kirriemuir and the surrounding area to be a great place to live where people and nature thrive, now and in the future.

If you would like to know more or get involved, please get in touch.

[www.sustainablekirriemuir.co.uk](http://www.sustainablekirriemuir.co.uk)

Reflective space idea – for all ages



## Be the Light

### Can you be an encouragement to others?

When things change people find it hard. We might need someone to encourage us and help us. When someone encourages us or helps us it is like they are lighting up our darkness. Our friends or family might need someone to encourage and help them, someone to lighten up their darkness. Can you do that?

Think about others from your family, friend group, school class, or elsewhere. Who do you know that needs encouragement or help? Who needs light in their darkness?

Light a candle (young folk may need to ask an adult to supervise lighting of the candle). Say a prayer (talk to God) for the person or people you've thought of asking God to help them and/or think about how you could encourage them today. Could you send them a message? Why not go and do it!

**The Bible says: 'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up'**

## Scotland's GARDENS Scheme

Looking for things to do outdoors this summer? There are 4 local gardens taking part in the gardens open scheme. Pippa and Roger Clegg's garden at Easter Derry, Kilry, PH11 8JA will be open on Sunday 27 June & Saturday 31 July, 2pm – 5pm, admission £3.00, children free.

The nearby garden Estire Bogside, Alyth, PH11 8HU is also open on 27 June and you can visit both gardens for £5. (Both gardens supporting Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance and Banardo's Scotland: Dundee Group).

Inchmill Cottage, Glenprosen, DD8 4SA by appointment 1 April – 31 October (Supporting The Archie Foundation).

Torwood, Milton of Ogilvie, Glenogilvy, Glamis, D8 1UN by appointment 1 April – 31 December (Supporting Alzheimer Scotland). For more info please see

[www.scotlandsgardens.org](http://www.scotlandsgardens.org)



### Angus Plant Sale

Logie Walled Garden, Kirriemuir, DD8 5PN

Saturday 7 August, 2pm - 5pm (2021)

