

Congratulations to ...

Seven members of **Chryston Parish Church Guild, Glasgow**, who celebrated over 40 and 50 years service. A special evening was planned, but was rescheduled due to the weather!

Members of **Hightae Church Guild, Lockerbie**, as they celebrated their Guild's 80th birthday. The longest serving members, *Margaret Pattie and Margaret Patterson*, cut the cake.

Coalburn Parish Church Guild, Lanarkshire which celebrated 75 years of service to Coalburn Church. Members old and new enjoyed a special birthday lunch. All the membership received a special commemorative certificate of the 75th Birthday.

Thirteen members of **Henderson Church Guild, Kilmarnock** who were presented with long service certificates as part of Guild Week celebrations. The members have served a total of 457 years between them and this is broken down to service of between 30 and 46 years!

St Nicolas Church Guild, Prestwick, which celebrated its centenary last November, with a special lunch attended by former National Convener, *Betty Dunn*. *Mrs Morris and Mrs Arbuckle* cut the cake!

Members of **St John's Church Guild, Gourcock**, who celebrated their Guild's 80th anniversary with a lunch at a local hotel.

Cardross Parish Church Guild, Dunbartonshire, which celebrated its 75th anniversary at their St Andrew's Night. An enjoyable and entertaining evening was a highlight of Guild Week for the members.

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Two members of **St. Laurence Church Guild, Forres**, recently received certificates marking their long and faithful service to the Guild. *Mrs. Marjorie Macleod and Mrs. Margaret Collins* have both been members for over 50 years, and attend meetings on a regular basis. Plans are afoot at St Laurence to mark their fast-approaching 110 anniversary!

Dollar and Muckhart Church Guild, Clackmannanshire, which celebrated its centenary recently with a special evening attended by Lord Wheatley. The local paper marked the occasion with stories from the history of the Guild

Lochmaben Church Guild, Lockerbie which celebrated its 115th anniversary with a year of special events, fundraising for the projects. They held a successful Gardeners' Question Time and produced a recipe book for Christmas. *(I understand they performed an amusing drama at their party too! – Editor)*

Four members of **Kettins Ardler Church Guild, Coupar Angus**, who received long service certificates for long service – all four each have over 30 years service.

Shortly before becoming a triple union, **Torthorwald Church Guild, Dumfries**, marked its 80th birthday with a special evening and meal. And they now excited and enthusiastic about joining together with sister members to become **Kirkmichael, Tinwald and Torthorwald Guild!**

News from Guilds and Councils

Edzell Lethnot Church Guild, Angus was among many Guilds who had to rearrange their Christmas lunch to January – Burns provided the theme! A good event to mark a successful few months, which included a busy Guild Week.

As part of their Centenary Celebrations, **Liberton Kirk Guild in South Edinburgh** is planning a Flower Festival in the church in September. This will set out the last 100 years in ten displays depicting the ten decades. The Festival will be open as follows:

Friday, 2nd September 10am – 8pm

Saturday, 3rd September 10am – 6pm

Sunday, 4th September 2pm – 5pm

Refreshments will be available in the church hall. Group visits are welcome, but please book catering in advance by telephoning Mrs. Ann Weir on 0131 664 3349.

Crown Court Church Guild, London decided to celebrate its 120th Anniversary by filling 120 shoe boxes for the Blythswood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

This would have been a mammoth task for its 8 members, but encouraged by the minister, Rev Philip Majcher, they asked help from all the congregation who were invited to bring, instead of the usual 'Fruit and Veg', suitable gifts to the Harvest Festival to fill the boxes.

Members of **St Anne's Church Guild, Edinburgh** are sending a big hello to a much loved member of the church and Guild – **Mary Ballantine**. Mary is 103 and while now unable to come to the Guild, is regularly visited by members. *(And I'll send best wishes to Mary too! – Editor)*

Members of **Wellpark Mid Church Guild, Greenock** decided to mark Guild Week a little differently – as one member's grandson was in Afghanistan, they decided to gather items to send to the troops there for Christmas, to show they were being thought of and prayed for.

Guild Link

Summer suns are will soon be glowing over land and sea and Guild members will be traversing Scotland on their annual outings. What better occasion on which to meet new friends? There are branches looking for a link and eager to make your acquaintance! Do not disappoint them! This summer could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship! Please contact me through Guild office.

Kathleen MacPherson, Guildlink Co - ordinator

Bridge Walk

Many of you will remember that in 2001, fellow Guild members Elva Carlisle, (then National Convener) Janette Henderson and Fiona Punton, visited Papua New Guinea to see at first hand the work of Mission Aviation Fellowship (a then project) there.

To mark the tenth anniversary of this humbling, inspirational and life-changing trip, Elva, Janette and Fiona plan to walk across four Scottish bridges. (Currently, they are expected to be the Forth, Tay, Erskine and Skye) It is hoped that people may wish to sponsor them – money raised will go to the continuing work in PNG.

If you want to sponsor the trio, contact Fiona at the Guild Office for more details.

Hello from Helen-May ...



Welcome friends to my last newsletter. How time flies! Having said that, the weeks in December and the first half of January must have been long weeks if you were stuck indoors because of the snow and ice. Many of you I know missed out on your Guild Christmas activities.

We were fortunate that the Perth service to mark the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence was just prior to the snow. Those who were there found the service very meaningful. The sermon preached by Very Rev Dr Sheilagh Kesting encouraged the reconnection to life, to be free to live and love again. Our visual focus for the service was a display of symbols of

violence and conflict - (domestic abuse, violence of creation, hunger, war and those who have lost freedoms) and symbols of reconciliation and peace (God's mercy, new life, light and bread) and in the centre was the cross reminding us of the violence to Christ and also life everlasting.

Whatever you decided to do in Guild Week I hope it went well for you!

For me there are two great things which are emerging from Guild Week which have come about through Guild members taking their Church service. The first is that more church members are at long last becoming aware of all the great things the Guild, through its members, is doing not only through the project partnership scheme but also through the various campaigns – human trafficking and domestic abuse. The other thing which fills me with joy is that many of you are having the opportunity to take the service. This may have been, or may still be, quite a challenge for you but the opportunity has brought personal spiritual growth and I'm sure the consequences through time will be far reaching. God continues to have a purpose for each of us, however what He calls us to do may change over the years. You may now not feel able to lead a Guild meeting or be able to drive members to meetings but you might be able to offer words of encouragement to those who are leading a Guild meeting for the first time or you might pray. On the other hand it may be that you have recently joined the Guild and it is you who is being asked to lead a meeting for the first time! You may feel inadequate but as those who have been taking their Church service during Guild Week have discovered it is amazing what you can do in His strength!

I am very thankful to the Guild for the opportunities serving as National Convener has brought. I have enjoyed travelling about our beautiful country visiting you and look forward to the visits I still have to make. I'd like to thank you all for your support and prayers which have carried me this year and as we all continue to serve the Guild and our Lord in whatever way, may we be mindful of the Micah challenge – what does the Lord require of you – to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God' so that God might be glorified in all we do.

With love and every blessing to you
Helen-May Bayne, National Convener

STOP PRESS National Executive has approved the appointment of Alison Angus from Lochcarron & Skye as National Convener, and Mary Ford from Glasgow North as Vice Convener, for 2011-12. Both take up their posts following this year's General Assembly.

...and from the Editor...

This may be Helen-May's last newsletter BUT her duties as National Convener are far from over! Do pray for Helen-May as she undertakes her last duty as NC at this year's General Assembly – the delivery of the Guild report!

Apologies to everyone for the (non)deliberate mistake in the last edition of the newsletter: NO, it wasn't another September edition; YES, it was supposed to read 'December'!

Now, thanks to all those who entered the competition – the answer was that 1300 folk are cared for by Erskine. The two winners, drawn by Marshall Paterson of the Church's Pensions Department, are: **Mary Ferguson of West Kirk Guild, Helensburgh and Mrs A McKechnie of Rutherglen, Glasgow**. They each receive books gifted by St Andrew Press.

The competition question this time is – what interesting new item has Marketing and Publicity produced? The answer, as always, is somewhere in this edition! Get your entries in by Friday 1st July!

Fiona Punton,
Information Officer



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GUILD
newsletter

Copy date for September edition: Friday 1st July 2011
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Please send items to: The Editor, Church of Scotland Guild,
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Councils and Committees

Church and Society

Imagine if we could mobilise thousands of church members to campaign, lobby and stand up for the rights of the poor – the marginalised – the oppressed – the people whom Jesus told us to care especially for. What a difference we could make!

At last year's General Assembly commissioners agreed that it would be good to have someone in each congregation who would take on the role of receiving news from Church and Society and passing it on to

members of their own church – someone who would help their members to make this difference in our communities and in wider society. Our church needs to speak out and stand up for a society that models the way that Jesus taught us to live. We need to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God".

So who is your Church and Society Contact Person? Do you hear about our news and take action in campaigns? Ask your Kirk Session

if they have appointed someone. If they have, keep up to date with the news. If not, why not offer your services. Let's spread the word and make that difference. For more information and to receive the monthly e-news please contact Irene on icrosthwaite@cofscotland.org.uk or 0131 225 5722 (you can also contact Irene for speakers and resources on lots of subjects – education; justice, prison, climate change; eco-congregations; credit crunch; end of life issues; ethics and much more.

World Mission

El Araqib: the story of a Bedouin village

Our Mission Partner, George Shand, who is the Church of Scotland Minister in Jerusalem, posted on his blog this week an account of a visit to the village of El Araqib in the Negev region of Israel. In his blog George says:

"I was participating in an interfaith act of worship at the village – Muslim, Jewish and Christian worship. This was organised to demonstrate support to the village community by representatives of the three faiths, and to share a sign of compassion in

the midst of a very difficult situation.

"[The Sheikh] told us how the children have learnt to behave as a result of the ongoing destruction of the village. 'As a parent, I know my children have favourite toys, as do all children. I see the children play with them every day. But I do not know where they keep them. The toys appear in the morning and then disappear before bedtime. My children hide their toys in safe places – where the bulldozers will not get them.'

"He [then] said, 'I look at the boys around the village. Some of them are aged around 10, and I see they are very angry. I fear for what they might do with that anger in the years to come. They are angry because they have been treated with such hostility and brutality. It was never necessary to treat us this way – but my fear is that it will have long-term consequences."

See the full story on the blog at georgeshand.wordpress.com or contact World Mission on 0131 225 5722

News from the Guild Committees

Marketing and Publicity



Always looking for new ways to promote and help fund the Guild, M&P are looking at some exciting new items over the coming months – but have now just taken delivery of a very smart gent's tie retailing at £9.00! If you'd like a sale or return bookstall for your event, contact the Guild Office (with plenty of notice, please!)

Finance and General Purposes

February saw this committee receive the Guild accounts for 2010. Stewardship of the Guild's funds is vested in this committee as well as budget setting for 2011.

National Executive

February is a busy month for NE – accepting the Guild accounts and endorsing the nomination of the new National Convener and Vice Convener are just two of the things on their agenda. Finally planning for the Theme and Topic Days is also checked. Booking forms for those were also in the January mailing, as were the booking forms for the 2011 annual meeting.

Programmes and Resources



Guilds should all have received the theme packs for 2011-12, *Called to walk humbly with God* – if your Guild hasn't received this in their January mailing, call the Guild Office.

Project and Topics



Like P&R, this committee is hoping every group has received their mailing which Also contains the topic guidelines for 2011-12, *Let's talk about.....thanking God for His creation*. If not, contact the Guild Office. Planning is also in hand for the Council Project Co-ordinators' annual conference, to be held in April.

Useful Contacts

Former GA member?

Were you a member of the Girls Association / Girls Auxiliaries in years gone by? Linda Anderson-Kerr, former librarian, is doing some research into the GA and would love to hear your reminiscences about your time in the GA. Contact Linda on 01631 571032, mobile 07714753206 or linda.k58@btinternet.com

CHAS

Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) is inviting Church of Scotland Guild members to its Open Days in March.

This is a unique opportunity to visit one of CHAS's two children's hospices, Rachel House in Kinross and Robin House in Balloch to find out more about CHAS a charity that provides the only hospice services in Scotland for children and young people with life-shortening conditions. Lasting approximately one hour and ten minutes, tours of up to eight people at a time will be guided around the hospice by CHAS staff and volunteers. Offering an extraordinary behind-the-scenes look at the building, you'll hear about the activities and care offered to families and dispel any myths you may have about a children's hospice.

No families will be staying during the tours, though the hospices will remain open for emergency visits.

Refreshments will be available after the tour and there will also be the chance to purchase goods from the CHAS gift shop.

To make sure that you get the most from your visit it is necessary to book ahead. To arrange a suitable time for your group, or for further information, please contact CHAS on the numbers below:

Robin House - Balloch

Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 March / Tour times 9.30am – 7pm
Contact – Charlene Mullan at Glasgow fundraising office – 0141 779 6180

Rachel House - Kinross

Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 March
Tour times 9.30am – 7pm
Contact – Kinross fundraising office – 01577 865222

Scottish Women's Aid

On the 25th November Scottish Women's Aid launched their Stop Domestic Abuse campaign. As part of this they are asking people to pledge to do one thing to stop domestic abuse - this can be writing to your MSP/MP; understanding the causes and impacts of domestic abuse on women, children and young people or reading the tips on how you can support someone experiencing domestic abuse. They have put together 10 things you can do, but they want to hear your suggestions too.

SWA believe that domestic abuse is preventable, and together we can stop it.

Please visit their website and sign their pledge here:

<http://www.togetherwecanstopit.org/> Or contact Fiona Buchanan on 0131 2266606

Scottish Churches' Disability Agenda Group

SCDAG was founded in 2008 to encourage and enable congregations to include disabled people in the life of the

Churches. Many Churches make themselves accessible with ramps and toilets, but they have often missed the fact that disabled people must also be involved in everything from the Eldership to leading worship. They have also neglected the needs of other disabilities like sight impairment and hearing impairments. SCDAG seeks to rectify some of these matters.

At a recent meeting, the mother of a grown up daughter said how nice it was to be in the company of so many people who understood the struggles she had had and her daughter had suffered. SCDAG meet twice a year and discuss an interesting topic.

The executive committee seeks to campaign on issues of importance to disabled people. Recently, SCDAG made representations to the Scottish Parliament about the End of Life Bill and the group is trying to improve the provision made by some festivals of materials for those with sight impairment. They have also worked on the format of official Assembly documents.

If you would like more information, please look us up on Facebook or Contact Graham Monteith on wg.monteith@btinternet.com or 0131 552 2564

Thistle Foundation

Thistle Foundation is a boundary-pushing, pioneering Scottish charity offering support to people with disabilities and long term health conditions. Thistle believe that everyone has the right to feel involved and empowered to live the life they choose, regardless of any disability or health condition. They support people to lead great lives where they are in control, and services include Supported Living, Health & Wellbeing and Training & Consultancy.

For more details contact Aileen Deas on 0131 661 3366 or aileen.deas@thistle.org.uk

A Box of Surprises

John Coutts is a popular poet and broadcaster based in Stirling. To inquire about booking "A Box of Surprises", "The Galilee Man", or "Lines of a Lifetime", phone 01786 470930 or email johnjcoutts@gmail.com

Girlguiding Scotland

To mark their centenary last year, the movement is hoping present and past members will consider giving their reminiscences of amusing events, disasters, high moments and the sheer fun of guiding.

You can record your memories on the storybank via www.girlguiding.org.uk/storybank
Or contact the story-gathering project at Girlguiding Scotland, 16 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7AH

Why not.....visit Luss

Guild members are invited to visit Luss Parish Church. Here is a chance to hear about the history of Luss where the local congregation has just completed its 1500th anniversary year. In addition to visiting the beautiful Church building with its fine stained-glass windows, the nearby Heritage and Museum Centre and the souvenir shop, there is the opportunity to walk the pilgrimage pathways in the extensive Church Glebe. Finish the day with afternoon tea in the manse. Groups welcome.
Contact: dane@lussonline.net or call 01436 860240