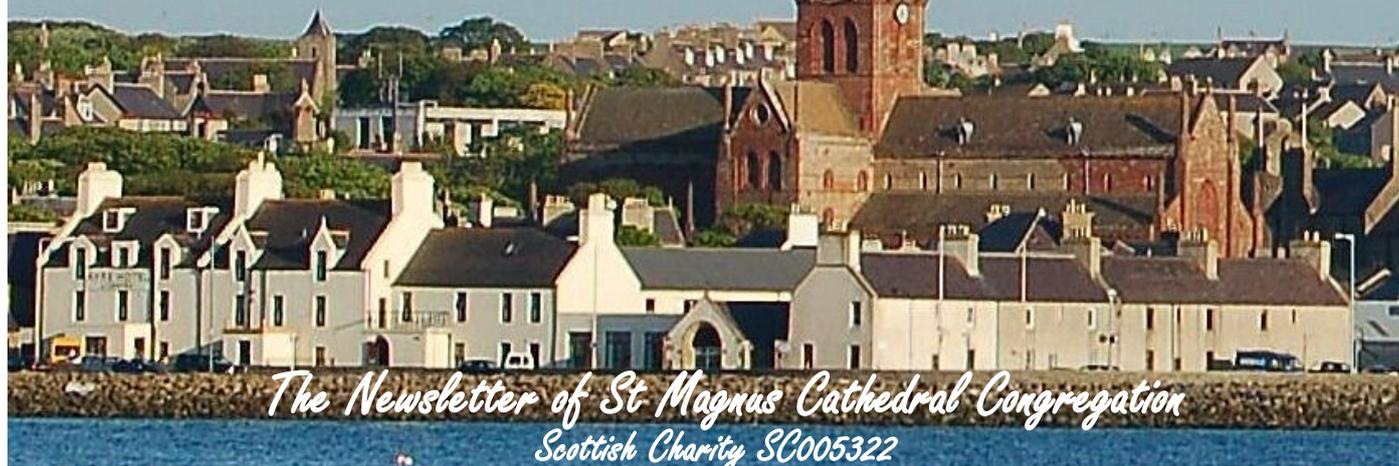


EASTER 2022

The Grapevine



*The Newsletter of St Magnus Cathedral Congregation
Scottish Charity SC005322*

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Scottish Charity SC005322/CCL No 119086

Sunday, 10th April	11.15 am	Palm Sunday. Guest Preacher: Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Presentation of Long Service Certificates.
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week	1.15 pm	Reflective Service in the St Rognvald Chapel
Good Friday, 15th April	12 noon to 3.00 pm	GOOD FRIDAY – Walk of Witness. This event will begin at St Olaf's at noon, and will go around the Kirkwall churches, with a short time for reflection in each, finishing at St. Magnus Cathedral at about 2.30pm. You are welcome to join for some or all of this short pilgrimage around Kirkwall, marking the time Jesus was on the cross on Good Friday
Good Friday, 15th April	6.30 pm	Stainer's 'Crucifixion' performed by the St Magnus Cathedral choir
Easter Sunday, 17th April	11.15am	The Sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

From the Manse



The Church of Scotland in Orkney worships our one God, but expresses worship, prayer and service in ways as diverse as our geography. We bring the love of Christ to our neighbours, knowing that the communities in which we find those neighbours range from our bustling county town to tiny islands with a few dozen residents each. We are led by the one Spirit, but our steps take us on different adventures of learning and faithful following.

We know, however, that we are no longer able to exist as nineteen traditional congregations under one small Presbytery; some of our worshipping congregations can no longer sustain it, while others understand that they are called to share their strength with those who need it... and discover blessing as a result.

In 2019, the Presbytery of Orkney, anticipating the depth of national change that was imminent, used the process of **Local Church Review (LCR)** in a special way. With *every* congregation asked *simultaneously* to undertake an audit of its mission, and the results shared across the Presbytery, a detailed picture emerged – stating the current life of the Church and looking to its future mission in each place.

After consultation with elders across the Presbytery, it was clear that two different initiatives were in view:

- the combining of ministry into a Team ministry, as the only way in which ministry could reach small and remote worshipping communities that our geography prevents us from uniting together;
- the uniting of Kirk Sessions, to provide for the needs of those worshipping communities unable to sustain their own governance by sharing the tasks of leadership by elders and not just ministers.

The strongest caveat to emerge from many congregations in the course of these conversations was the danger of losing the existing momentum for mission by dismantling local leadership in favour of central governance. Outreach, stewardship, community engagement, new initiatives, all of these are already vibrant in the lives of some congregations, such as the Cathedral with its specific ministry to the local community through its civic services and in support of the tourism sector through its ministry of hospitality via both the Cathedral and the St Magnus Centre. In order not to damage these examples of work and witness, it intends to utilise the new concept of Local Mission Church (LMC) to preserve local energy, inspiration and stewardship at its best. This will best enable each LMC to adhere to the Church of Scotland's Five Marks of Mission, as Orkney Presbytery unites with the new Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles (NENI).

In essence, the church in Orkney will unite as one charge with a Team ministry spread geographically across the county. St Magnus Cathedral LMC will still have a resident minister (by virtue of the Manse), whose time will be split between the Cathedral and other parish work in the new charge.

Much remains to be worked out, so it is important that people locally engage with the process, ask the questions no one has thought of and express their views and opinions - a process that has already started in the Cathedral community.

If Easter means anything, it means new life and looking forward in hope. I trust that we all take that up as we navigate the next few months and years under this proposed new structure.

Yours

Fraser

Malawi News

Kirkwall's St Magnus congregation has gifted part of a recent legacy towards the St Magnus Education project, which we outlined in the August issue of this newsletter. It is a very ambitious project, including the creation of a college (St Magnus Technical College) in the Chimvu area and accompanying St Magnus Bursary Scheme. There are hopes to create a much-needed secondary school as well (secondary education in Malawi is fee-paying and inaccessible to most pupils).

With initial start-up funding from supporters in Stromness, the £10,000 gift from St Magnus is a considerable and very welcome boost, which will help to move the project on significantly. Education is seen in Malawi as a crucial way to break the cycle of poverty, and our partners see this project as a major priority within that.

We were sorry to learn that a visit to Malawi by the Moderator of the General Assembly, Jim Wallace, had to be cancelled due to Covid travel restrictions. Having already been previously postponed, it's very unlikely that it can be rescheduled into the Moderator's timetable. Jim, himself a member at St Magnus (the one in Kirkwall, not Chimvu!), was due to travel with the Cathedral minister, Fraser Macnaughton, and a visit to see some of the projects in the Thyolo area was high on their agenda. Jim was also planning to re-sign the Covenant of Partnership between our two Presbyteries. We are now looking at other ways in which the signing can be completed.

This is the biggest project Thyolo Highlands Presbytery has received from Orkney Presbytery.

The pictures below show the building before work commenced and how it's looking now.

The project was split into three areas:

- Repair of the School Blocks
- Construction of Students' and Teachers' Toilets
- Construction, up to Foundation level of the Administration Blocks





“We are most grateful ...”

Since late October, the Presbytery Treasurer has transferred the magnificent and humbling total of over £40,000 to support the projects in Malawi.

This sum has comprised £10,000 from St Magnus congregation (see above), and further generous donations from the congregations of Evie & Rendall, Firth, St Magnus, Papay and Westray. £3,600 was from the Christmas Gift appeal (see over), £16,000 was received in four separate borehole donations (see over), and there was £350 of other personal donations, including some raised by June Freeth towards another borehole. On top of that, just over £8,000 was received in tax reclamation (Gift Aid), which has become an increasingly important way of boosting donations. We remain hugely grateful to Ian Cooper (Presbytery Treasurer) for so willingly dealing with all of this.

The Malawian Partnership Convener, Kelvin Matola, summed things up at the end of the year by addressing all the supporters in Orkney saying, *“Without your assistance, prayers and guidance, we should not have managed to achieve the high levels of development experienced since the inception of our Partnership.”*

Kelvin went on to describe the 13 years of work as *“a wide range of projects and areas including the Women’s Department, self-help business projects, Church building*



repairs and re-builds, feeding orphaned children, youth work, purchase of sewing machines, bicycles, motor cycles, IT equipment, book grants, manse repairs, pig rearing, borehole construction and, in the last two years, providing assistance in income generation activities (maize mills). Congregations and individuals have also now come in to assist us in providing student bursaries, setup of a Community Technical College and rehabilitation of a school

Kelvin added, *“We are most grateful to these congregations, individuals and everyone else that has come forward to assist in our projects all these years ... It is always our Presbytery’s prayer that our Partnership shall continue to the mutual benefit of both Presbyteries.”*

ST MAGNUS CATHEDRAL ORGAN SCHOLAR

Christa Bevilacqua

Christa lives in Stromness and is in her fifth year at Stromness Academy. She has been playing the piano for nearly ten years (currently taught by Jean Leonard), and also looks forward to developing skills on the organ. Christa applied for the Organ Scholarship because she has enjoyed playing the piano in the Stromness Church and wants more opportunities to be part of services that are meaningful to people. Christa will be starting her scholarship just after Easter, and will be a regular at Sunday worship. We warmly welcome her as the first Organ Scholar emerging successfully from a very competitive and talented field of candidates.



The Clearing - Martha Postlethwaite

Do not try to serve the whole world
or do anything grandiose.
Instead, create a clearing
in the dense forest of your life
and wait there
patiently, until the song that is yours alone to sing
falls into your open cupped hands
and you recognise and greet it.
Only then will you know how to give yourself
to the world so worthy of rescue.”

The Beatitudes and Social Media

At the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends eight beautiful qualities. But what do the Beatitudes mean for social media and life online?

> **Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**

I will remember that my identity comes from being made and loved by God, not from my online profile.

> **Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted**

This world is full of grief and suffering. I will tread softly and post with gentleness and compassion.

> **Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth**

I will not boast or brag online, nor will I pull others down

> **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled**

There are many wrongs to be righted. I will not be afraid to name them and look for justice in the world.

> **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy**

I will not judge others but be generous online. I will be conscious of my own failings.

> **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God**

I will be truthful and honest, and I will not pretend to be what I am not.

> **Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God**

I will seek to reconcile those of different views with imagination and good humour.

> **Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**

I will not add to the store of hate in the world, but I will try to be courageous in standing up for what is right and true

St Magnus Cathedral Contributions to Charitable Donations for 2021

Due to current circumstances with Covid 19, the usual sums collected from donations for the votive candles have been substantially reduced. However, it was agreed in principle that a sum from the Cathedral would be set aside for charitable donations.

The Administration Group has now met and recommends that the funds should be allocated as follows:

Locally –

Crossroads Care Orkney aims to improve the life of carers and those for whom they care by giving information, emotional support and practical help. [Home \(crossroadsorkney.co.uk\)](http://Home(crossroadsorkney.co.uk))

Inclusive Orkney, a newly formed charity - number SCO51274 - in aid of children with complex additional support needs

Orkney Foodbank: We don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why we provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis. We are part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK. [Orkney Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Woman's Aid Orkney: A charity that provides free and confidential support to women and children affected by domestic abuse. [Women's Aid Orkney - supporting women & children affected by domestic abuse. \(womensaidorkney.org.uk\)](http://Womens Aid Orkney - supporting women & children affected by domestic abuse. (womensaidorkney.org.uk))

Nationally -

British Heart Foundation: The British Heart Foundation is a cardiovascular research charity in the United Kingdom. It funds medical research related to heart and circulatory diseases and their risk factors. [British Heart Foundation - Beat heartbreak forever \(bhf.org.uk\)](http://British Heart Foundation - Beat heartbreak forever (bhf.org.uk))

Crossreach believes that, with the right support, at the right time, every person can flourish and every life can be fulfilling. [Home | CrossReach](#)

Royal National Lifeboat Institution - saving lives at sea. RNLI - Royal National Lifeboat Institution - Saving Lives at Sea

Refugee Action: At Refugee Action, we help refugees who have survived some of the world's worst regimes. We get them the basic support they need to live again with dignity. Then we help them build safe, happy and productive lives in the UK.

Our vision is that refugees and asylum seekers will be welcome in the UK. They will get justice, live free of poverty and be able to successfully rebuild their lives.

[Home - Refugee Action \(refugee-action.org.uk\)](http://Home - Refugee Action (refugee-action.org.uk))

Internationally-

Guild Projects: There are six projects (including one in Scotland and one in UK)

Beat UK - an eating disorder charity <https://www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk/>

Hear my voice - training women for ministry and service in Brazil <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects/projects/unida>

Finding the light in every child Uganda – understanding and supporting to aid those with Autistic Spectrum Disorder, additional support needs and physical disability <https://churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects/projects/starchild>

Chocolate Heaven - using chocolate to provide employment, fair pricing for local growers and help spread the word of God in south East Asia. <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects/projects/pioneers>

The Vine Trust – building a sustainable village in Tanzania near Mount Kilimanjaro. The Village of Hope will provide housing, training, education, healthcare and employment <https://www.vinetrust.org/volunteer/home-building-expeditions>

Home for Good – finding a home for every child that needs one. <https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/>

FINDING CALM MOMENTS

‘An invitation to look for the moments of silence woven into the fabric of everyday’



Ian Cunningham

The following quote from Sara Maitland's book, *A Book of Silence*.

‘One of the things I discovered at this point was that there were bits and pieces of silence woven into the fabric of each day, and I began to try to keep an eye out for them and move into them as swiftly and quietly as possible. Some of these moments I had to create for myself—unplug the phone, maintain a pattern of meditation, walk where or when there are least likely to be other people, say ‘no’ even to delightful invitations to work or social events— but some were just there, waiting for me as it were.’

Parish Register

Weddings

26 February, 2022 Kamile Mikalauskaite and Alisdair Mills

Funerals

Below is a list of Cathedral funerals which, in normal circumstances, may or may not have taken place in the Cathedral but which were conducted by the Cathedral clergy.

26 September, 2021	Florence Stout, 13 King Haakon Street,
14 December, 2021	Ann Marwick, 15 Royal Oak Rd
14 December, 2021	Magnus Croy, 19 Clay Loan
18 December, 2021	Rita Jamieson, Hillhead, St Ola
24 January, 2022	Jim Anderson, 20 High Street.
11 February, 2022	Kathleen Kemp, 6 Viewfield Drive
25 February, 2022	Morag McCallum, Fairhaven, Annfield Crescent
23 March, 2022	Sylvia Dearness, 14 Marston Road, Sanday



May the sun bring you new energy by day,

May the moon softly restore you by night,

May the rain wash away your sorrows,

May the breeze blow new strength

Into your being

May you walk gently through the world, from this day forth and for evermore.

May the strength of the wind and the light of the sun,

The softness of the rain and the mystery of the moon,

Reach you and fill you.

May beauty delight you and happiness uplift you,

May wonder fulfil you and love surround you.

May your step be steady and your arm be strong,

May your heart be peaceful and your word be true.

May you seek to learn, may you learn to live,

May you live to love... and may you always know God holds you in the palm of his strong and caring
hand. For God did love you first.

Celtic Anon