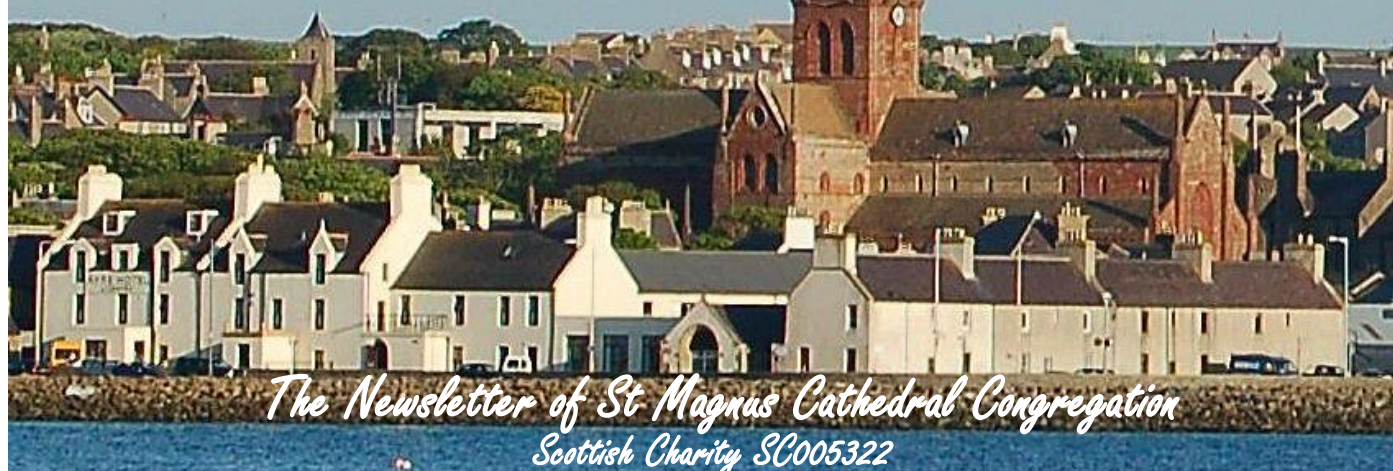


# The Grapevine



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

## Contacts

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Scottish Charity SC 005322/CCL No 119086

## Services for Holy Week and Easter

<b>Sun 2nd April</b>	11.15 am	Palm Sunday
<b>Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week</b>	1.10pm	Reflective Service in the St Rognvald Chapel
<b>Good Friday, 7th April</b>	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
<b>Good Friday, 7th April at 6:30pm St Magnus Cathedral</b>	6.30pm	Good Friday Meditation Music, poetry and hymns Presented by the Choir of St Magnus Cathedral
<b>Easter Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	11.15am	The Sacrament of Holy Communion

# From the Manse



“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.” – Luke 24:1-3

Traditional Christianity has missed the point of the Easter story. The miracle on Easter wasn't that Jesus was physically or spiritually raised to sit at God's right hand until he could one day return to judge humanity. The miracle was his followers recognising that they could continue to proclaim the message of God's Reign on this earth even once Jesus had been crucified. They realised that they were the resurrection and that whenever they continued his ministry, Jesus lived on through them. The Easter story is not about a literal resurrection, it is a powerful metaphor for how Christians ought to live their lives like Jesus. If Jesus followers would recognize this today, it would change everything..

Easter, above all, reminds us that we are the light of Jesus in this world. We, those who follow the life path and teachings of the Awakened One, Jesus, have been blessed with his humble example, he who found oneness with God and who saw God within all. The miracle of Easter continues on within our hearts and our daily actions. May we spread peace. May we model radical inclusion. May we honour the wisdom and the strength of women. May we see the spark of God within every aspect of this Universe. May we be less afraid to share the teachings that rise up from within. May we be willing to make the greatest sacrifices from our deepest and purest love of this planet and all creatures. May we celebrate new life at Easter and the gift of the sun rising on yet another day. Amen. May it be so.

Have a blessed Easter

Yours

Fraser



# Presbyteries: where are we now?

The latest developments in presbytery reform. [From Life and Work]

AMONG the sweeping changes to Church structures agreed at the General Assembly of 2019 was a reduction in the number of presbyteries in Scotland, from 43 to about 12.

There had long been concerns that, with the ever-increasing number of ministerial vacancies, smaller presbyteries in particular were struggling to cope with their statutory responsibilities of governance, finance, superintendence and charity regulations.

Wholesale presbytery reform had been proposed before – most recently in 2011, when it was rejected – but this time the Assembly was in a more receptive mood and passed the measure, to be completed by 2025.

The new, larger bodies, it was hoped, would be better able to fulfil the formal presbyterial functions than the small ones, but would also be better equipped to ‘provide leadership and focus alongside practical support for local congregations, freeing them for mission and ministry’.

Whether that aspiration will come to fruition remains to be seen, but what can be said is that the pace of change has met or exceeded the expectations of that 2019 Assembly. Not only are the final mergers expected to take place well ahead of 2025, but the ultimate number of presbyteries will be as low as nine or ten (in addition to the English and international presbyteries, which are undergoing their own reforms).

First out of the traps were Aberdeen and Shetland, who had already been in negotiations for union and completed the process in 2020, followed quickly by new Presbyteries for Clyde (the former presbyteries of Greenock and Paisley, and Dumbarton) and Fife (Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews).

2022 saw the creation of three new presbyteries: Edinburgh and West Lothian, Forth Valley and Clydesdale, and the South West.

This January, barring any last-minute hitches, will bring the biggest round of unions yet, including one of the new presbyteries merging into an even larger

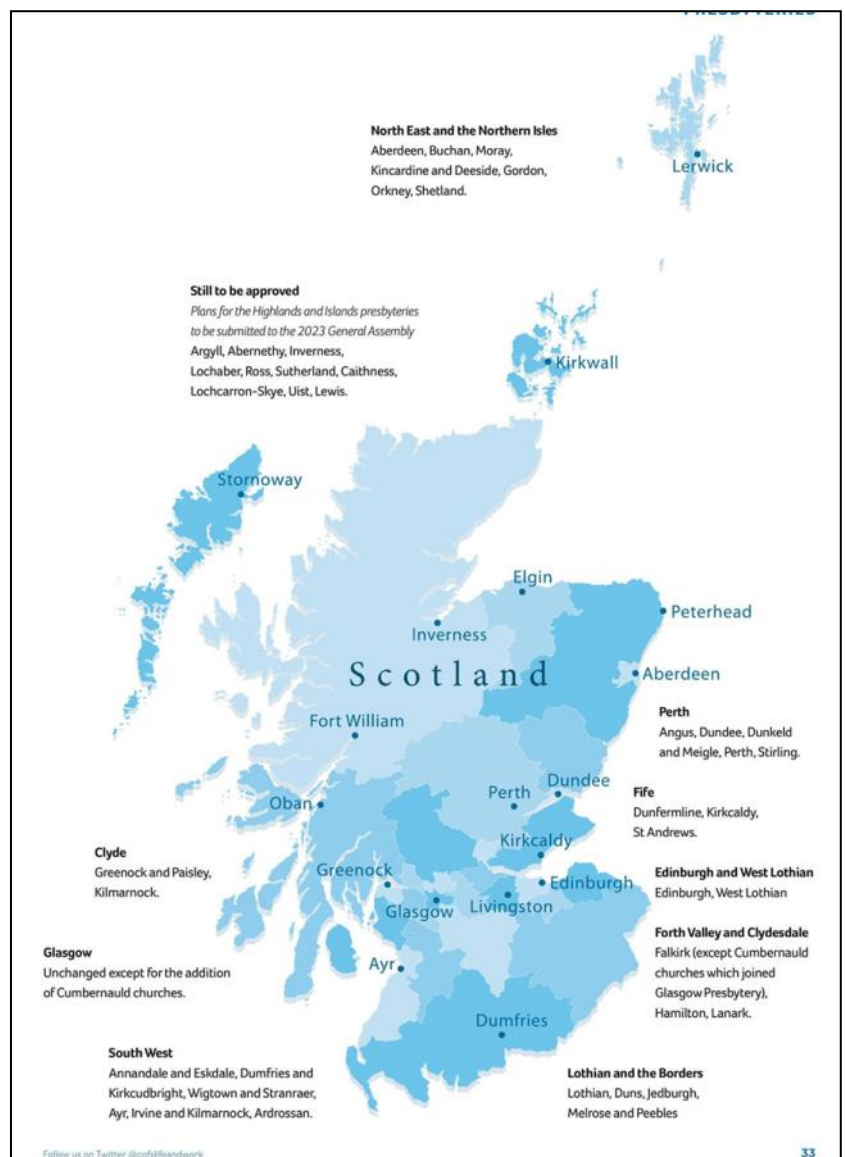
grouping.

Aberdeen and Shetland have joined **Orkney** and five north-eastern presbyteries to become the new Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles; while Duns, Jedburgh, Melrose and Peebles presbyteries will combine with Lothian to make up the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders.

Meanwhile, five central and eastern presbyteries will join to become the new Perth Presbytery.

That leaves the 10 presbyteries representing the Highlands, including Argyll, and the Western Islands. Proposals for these presbyteries are expected to be brought to the General Assembly of 2023, and to be completed early in 2024.

The new presbyteries have had to hit the ground running, as presbytery mission plans detailing the deployment of each area’s ministry allocation were to be approved and submitted by the end of 2022. At the same time, new Clerks and Moderators have been appointed and are getting to grips with their new roles.



## "Crabbit Old Woman" By: Phyllis McCormack

What do you see, nurse, what do you see?  
What are you thinking, when you look at me-  
A crabbit old woman, not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes,  
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply  
When you say in a loud voice, I do wish you'd try.  
Who seems not to notice the things that you do  
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe.  
Who, unresisting or not; lets you do as you will  
With bathing and feeding the long day is fill.  
Is that what you're thinking, Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse, you're looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still!  
As I rise at your bidding, as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of 10 with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters, who loved one another-  
A young girl of 16 with wings on her feet,  
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet,  
A bride soon at 20 - my heart gives a leap,  
Recalling the vows that I promised to keep.

At 25 now I have young of my own  
Who need me to build a secure happy home;  
A woman of 30, my young now grow fast,  
Bound to each other with ties that should last;  
At 40, my young sons have grown and are gone,  
But my man is beside me to see I don't mourn;  
At 50 once more babies play around my knee,  
Again we know children, my loved one and me.

Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,  
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,  
For my young are all rearing young ones of their  
own. And I think of the years and the love that I've  
known; I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel-  
Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.  
The body is crumbled, grace and vigour depart,  
There is now a stone where I once had a heart,

But inside this old carcass, a young girl still dwells,  
And now and again my battered heart swells,  
I remember the joy, I remember the pain,  
And I'm loving and living life over again.  
I think of the years all too few- gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last-  
So open your eyes, nurse, open and see,  
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer-  
See Me

## A Nurse's reply "To the 'Crabbit Old Woman"

What do we see, you ask, what do we see?  
Yes, we are thinking when looking at thee!  
We may seem to be hard when we hurry and fuss,  
But there's many of you, and too few of us.  
We would like far more time to sit by you and  
talk,  
To bath you and feed you and help you to walk.  
To hear of your lives and the things you have  
done;  
Your childhood, your husband, your daughter,  
your son.  
But time is against us, there's too much to do -  
Patients too many, and nurses too few.  
We grieve when we see you so sad and alone,  
With nobody near you, no friends of your own.  
We feel all your pain, and know of your fear  
That nobody cares now your end is so near.

But nurses are people with feelings as well,  
And when we're together you'll often hear tell  
Of the dearest old Gran in the very end bed,  
And the lovely old Dad, and the things that he  
said,  
We speak with compassion and love, and feel sad  
When we think of your lives and the joy that  
you've had,  
When the time has arrived for you to depart,  
You leave us behind with an ache in our heart.  
When you sleep the long sleep, no more worry or  
care,  
There are other old people, and we must be there.  
So please understand if we hurry and fuss -  
There are many of you,  
And so few of us.

# Building for HOPE in Malawi



Malawi Music Fund is an Orkney charity which enables orphaned children in Malawi to transform their lives through education. Glenys Hughes, the founder and a trustee of the charity writes about an exciting and ambitious initiative – Building for HOPE.

‘Educate a Girl, Educate a Nation’ says an old African proverb. Over the past 16 years our small charity has funded many orphaned girls through secondary school (which is not free in Malawi) and some through post-school education or training. We’re proud of their success. But in Malawi only 13% of girls complete secondary school and 42% are married before the age of 18. The causes for the high drop-out rate are many and include poverty, lack of positive role models and overcrowded households.

The orphaned girls we support live with guardians who are usually responsible for a number of children of their own as well as several orphans. They may be tempted to leave home to fend for themselves, making them vulnerable to exploitation, teenage pregnancy and early marriage. So, after consulting with our Malawian partners, we’ve embarked on a project to build a hostel - creating a supportive environment where girls will be cared for by a house parent. As well as going to school they’ll be taught simple farming and life skills. We’ll pay for their school fees and we’ll provide bicycles for those who have far to travel to school.

Our partner in the project is the CCAP (Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian), the church in Malawi which has long-standing links with the Church of Scotland. The CCAP is generously providing us with land in the grounds of Likhubula House, a church-run community and youth centre in Mulanje, a rural area in southern Malawi, which is the base for our regular activities with the children.

So we have the land, building plans have been drawn up and costed and we know the need is there. We are half way towards securing the funding and now we’re launching a ‘Sponsor a Brick’ campaign to raise funds towards the remainder. To find out more about the project and how you can help by sponsoring a brick (or a window, a door, or even the roof!) please take a look at our website – [www.malawimusicfund.org.uk](http://www.malawimusicfund.org.uk) – or pick up a leaflet in the Cathedral.

Our dream is to have the hostel ready for the start of the school year in September.

We’ll be so grateful for any contribution you can make.

# Donations made by the cathedral congregation in 2022

£10,000 to be split between Orkney Foodbank, Blide Trust & MS Society;

£10,000 to be split between Crossreach, Kidney Research, Stroke Association, CEREBRA;

£10,000 to be split btwn DEC & Christian Aid;

£10,000 to the Malawi Christmas Appeal.

A selection of thank letters from recipients:-

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On behalf of Orkney Foodbank I would like to thank the congregation of St Magnus Cathedral

For their Kind donation of £1,000.

Once again, your support is most welcome especially at this time of year.

Yours sincerely

Tim Clewett

Treasurer

Orkney Foodbank

Hi Karen

Thanks for your email and thank you for choosing the Blide this year We are always grateful for the support we get from within the local community:

Annie Stevenson

Admin worker Orkney Blide Trust

Hi Karen

Hope all is well and you are no doubts all ready for Christmas

I can now confirm that the extremely generous donation from your good selves, to the MS society

has been received. Thank you, so, so much.

Best wishes

George

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George

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Dear Karen,

My colleague, Fiona, passed on your email regarding St Magnus Cathedral's very generous donation to CrossReach. We are incredibly grateful to everyone at St Magnus Cathedral for their commitment to Crossreach.

With all good wishes

Rozelle Bosch, Donor Relations Officer

Fundraising and Engagement, Charis House

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Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well.

I am contacting you today as I would like to thank you, on behalf of Kidney Research UK for St Magnus Cathedral's recent donation to the charity. It often feels like kidney disease and kidney research don't get the support and awareness they deserve. By choosing to support Kidney Research UK, the cathedral is helping to give us a voice and get our message out there, which is an amazing thing to do!

Thanks to the cathedral's generous donation, our brilliant doctors, nurses, and researchers can continue their life-saving work. Your gift of £2,500 means our scientists can continue their vital research, helping to take us one step closer to our mission of ending kidney disease.

Once again, thank you so much for your support and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind regards,

Leanne Balchin

Supporter care officer

KIDNEY RESEARCH UK

Dear Karen

I work in the Communications team at Cerebra and I wanted to get in touch to say thank you so much to St Magnus Cathedral for your incredibly generous donation of £2,500. This is such a wonderful gift and we are all so grateful to you for choosing cerebra as one of your national charities.

Your donation will go such a long way to helping children and their families all across the country. From advice and support to making toys and equipment for children to break down barriers and take part on the activities they love, you'll be making a huge difference. Thank you so much again and if you would ever like to know of the impact you'll be making, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Best wishes

Derek@Cerebra

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Dear Karen,

On behalf of the DEC and our 15 member charities, please accept my heart felt thanks for your generous donation of £ 6,666.00 of which was received to the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal on 8 December 2022, for which we are very grateful. The DEC launched this appeal in response to overwhelming destruction and humanitarian need caused by extraordinarily heavy rainfall, submerging the country in muddy, dangerous flood waters. Homes, possessions and lives have been lost. Your gift will make a real difference to Pakistan's most vulnerable communities. With your support, DEC charities are providing emergency relief. Many people have been left homeless and exposed to the elements, forced to leave everything behind. DEC charities and partners are providing temporary shelter, household items, medical treatment, emergency food support and clean drinking water. They are also helping people keep themselves safe from waterborne diseases and to quickly treat people who have become infected.

On behalf of all those your donation will support, we want to say thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Daleh Salen Saeed

Chief Executive, Disasters Emergency Committee

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Hi Karen,

Many thanks for your generous donation. Please accept this as confirmation that your gift of £10,000 has been gratefully received by Orkney Presbytery and will be transferred to Malawi with a note as to how it should be used.

Kind regards,

Ian Cooper Treasurer Orkney Presbytery

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Dear Mrs Groat,

What would we do without incredible supporters like you?

We've already put your recent gift of £2,500 to good use, helping

people whose lives have been changed forever by stroke.

By supporting us, you've done something really special. Rebuilding

lives after stroke is a huge team effort. It takes determined stroke

survivors and carers, brilliant healthcare and research professionals,

and wonderful supporters like you.

Everything we do here at the Stroke Association - providing

specialist support, funding critical research, and campaigning for

better care for stroke survivors - we simply couldn't do without

gifts from supporters like you.

Best wishes

Juliet Bouverie

Chief Executive, Stroke Association

A similar sentiment was expressed by the MS society... on a paper letter!!!!



Derek's attempt to cut out religious jargon hadn't quite gone to plan. That sermon lasted only two and a half minutes!



# PARISH REGISTER

## Weddings

29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Hollie Walker and Fergus Scott
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Cara Stephen and Neil Innes

## Funerals

Below is a list of funerals which were conducted by the Cathedral clergy in the Cathedral or the Funeral Home.

1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Yvonne Shearer	9 Ashville Terrace Leith
5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Eva Herdman	19 Buttquoy Park
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Mary Hancock	Nord House Broad Street
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Jeanette Ridgway	The Old School House Orphir
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Colin Plant	Braevilla Rendall
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Robin Preston	Kingsdale Lodge Grimbister



Remember that resurrection is more than mere resuscitation! It is life transformed!  
It is faith in possibilities, when others are convinced of inevitability.  
It is the courage to love others, when they don't love you in return...  
to show compassion, when others are heaping judgment...  
to live by peace, when others are being violent...  
to work for justice, when others are working for wealth...  
to respond with gentleness, when others are reacting with rage...  
and to trust that life, well-lived, even if short-lived,  
is preferable to longevity without virtue.  
Don't remain caterpillars when you can become butterflies!  
Live beautifully! Birth goodness in all you think, say, and do!  
For you are called to life abundant!  
God's blessings be with you.