

AUGUST 2025.

LIFE & WORK

A Magazine

OF

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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COMMEMORATIVE FINAL EDITION

The 146-year history
of the magazine of the
Church of Scotland

Reflections and memories

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OUR CHURCHES

Three members explain what
Church means to them

USING GOD'S GIFTS

The Parable of the Talents,
and why the Church needs people
of vision and imagination

PUBLISHED MONTHLY UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE EDITING TEAM.

Publication Offices of the Church of Scotland

121 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH EH2 4YN

We hope you enjoy this commemorative final issue of Life & Work.

The Selfish Choice



Just one drink can put you over the limit.

You can still be over the limit the next morning.

Only time will remove alcohol from your system – not black coffee, a meal or a few hours sleep.

It is **SELFISH** to drink and drive. It can affect your family and others.

It is **SELFISH** not to report someone who you know is drink driving.

Drink driving can ruin lives.

None for the road.

This month

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The Law of Want

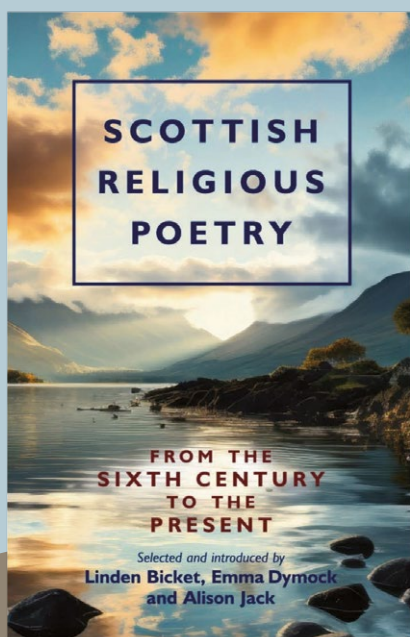
David Charnley

'THE LAW OF WANT'

Good Thoughts
Good Words
Good Deeds
Calon Lân

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*David Jasper, University of
Glasgow*

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Welcome



Thomas Baldwin

“ So the sad privilege of bringing down the curtain on 146 years falls to me. Like all the best funerals, this is an occasion for mourning but also for celebration... ”

“SURELY I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20).

So the sad privilege of bringing down the curtain on 146 years falls to me. Like all the best funerals, this is an occasion for mourning but also for celebration: of an extraordinary publication, a magazine which has brought pleasure, enlightenment, comfort and support to countless people for so long.

One of the many perks of this job has been the name-dropping opportunities, which peaked with Desmond Tutu. But it is the words of another archbishop, Rowan Williams, that have come back to me recently: “Archbishops come and go, but the work of the Kingdom goes on.”

Well, communications media come and go. Magazines and newspapers have nearly had their day, but the work of communicating the message to a mass audience goes on – in podcasts, social

media and online worship. Considering that *Life and Work* was first published 14 years before the invention of the radio, it hasn’t been a bad run.

Likewise, churches come and go. It seems the Church of Scotland may have had its day, at least in the form with which we are familiar. But the work of the Kingdom will go on, in models of church that are as-yet undreamt-of.

Personally, it has been an honour beyond words to have been involved with this iconic title for 17 ½ years. Thank you to everyone who has helped make the journey so memorable, within 121 George Street and further afield. Even in straitened circumstances, this is an extraordinary organisation, filled with extraordinary people.

I want to end by paying tribute to my *Life and Work* colleagues: Jackie Macadam, features writer for most of my time;

the indomitable Muriel Armstrong, my predecessor as deputy editor; business manager Dianne Sanderson; and the people who did the actual work, our administrators: (in chronological order) Margaret Wilkinson, Fiona Skellett, Elizabeth Doyle, Rebecca Hook and Melissa Grimley.

But most of all, of course, to Lynne McNeil: thank you for taking a risk on this nervous young Anglican in 2007, and for putting up with my – let’s say ‘relaxed’ – attitude to deadlines ever since. You have helmed the magazine for nearly a quarter of a century, under increasingly difficult circumstances, with never-failing integrity, judgement and grace. You’ve been a great editor, a great boss and a great friend.

Now, let’s celebrate. ■

Thomas Baldwin
Deputy Editor

Statement on Life and Work subscriptions

For our readers on an annual or quarterly subscription please note that the July issue of Life and Work will be the final chargeable issue, and you will be refunded pro-rata according to how many issues remain in your subscription after July. No charge will be made to our current subscribers for the August commemorative issue. Please be patient with us as we work through repayments. We will endeavour to make repayments as quickly as possible and these will be made directly to your bank account where you have previously provided details. We will contact everyone in due course who has not previously provided bank details. You can contact us by email at admin@lifeandwork.org or write to us at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN, clearly marking the envelope 'Life and Work Refund'.

Acknowledgements

The Life and Work team would like to acknowledge and thank the many people, within 121 George Street and beyond, who have played a part in the production and running of the magazine:

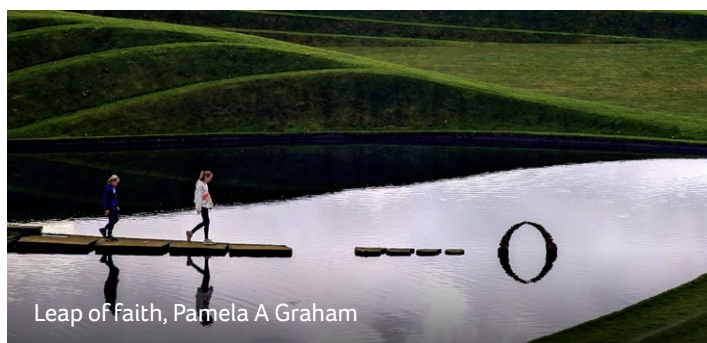
All contributors in words and pictures, designers, finance, legal, advertising, printers, management and conveners and members of the editorial advisory committee.

Thank you also to the Church of Scotland communications team, and colleagues in the Faith Action team and its predecessors.

A special word should go to the hundreds of Life and Work co-ordinators in parish churches, many of whom have served faithfully for decades.

And finally to all the readers, past and present, who have sustained the magazine for 146 years.

Thank you all.



Leap of faith, Pamela A Graham



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Prayer

Most loving God,
Lord of yesterday, today and forever,
To You the passing of ages
Goes by in the blink of Your Creator's eye,
You are the Lord of beginnings and endings,
Of time reaching out into a fresh start,
Of time come to its fullness.
In all times of transition,
The exhilarating,
The disconcerting,
The anxious,
The hopeful,
Be to us, Lord,
A source of steadying presence.
Give us, each day,
Sufficient strength, sufficient courage,
And sufficient humour
To walk with You;
And the faith that trusts that in Your hands,
Our future is already held.
As we move onwards,
Making wrong turnings and right ones
Along the road,
Bring us each time to places of decision,
Where our faith in You
Reaches out to be guided, to be helped,
To be carried if needs be,
Until we can place our feet upon the road again
And walk on.
For Your Church we pray in days of nervousness.
We plan, but do not always see clearly,
We decide, but do not always understand fully,
We pray, but do not always believe completely.
Forgive us, humble us, and embolden us.
Remind us that our Church is Your Church,
And that we are worshippers and stewards -
To praise in the present, and to hand on to the future.
Loving Lord Jesus,
Send light and clarity to us,
Send vision and purpose to us,
Walk with us through these days,
And every day to come,
As we communicate our faith in action,
And our belief in hope,
For all to see and hear and feel and wonder.
Good news for today, and good news for tomorrow.
In the Name of Jesus Christ we pray.
Amen.

The Church of Scotland's 'little star'

Thomas Baldwin takes a brief look at the history of Life and Work.

"WE shall doubtless have to learn and to unlearn much, as experience shall teach us, but we hope to keep before us the one aim, to promote pure and undefiled religion in our beloved land. And we expect the success which we shall do our best to deserve; looking to Him who, we believe, is sending us."

So wrote the Rev Professor Archibald Charteris, founder and first editor of Life and Work, on the first page of Life and Work Number One in January 1879. He reported that 'for several years' many ministers had

been asking his Committee on Christian Life and Work for a magazine to circulate in their parish on behalf of the Church of Scotland, and that the May 1878 General Assembly had given the go-ahead for such a magazine, with the slightly grudging caveat: 'if they should find it practicable'.

Professor Charteris was one of the great visionaries of the Church, who had an active role in the birthing of the Guild, the Diaconate and what is now CrossReach. Even so, it's hard to believe that he had any inkling that the modest magazine he

founded would last for 146 years and eight months, reaching 1758 issues (if you are good at maths you might notice that that doesn't quite add up. The magazine missed a couple of issues in 1959 due to printers' strikes).

To follow Life and Work through its history is to follow the history of the Church of Scotland in that time – the tortuous but ultimately triumphant progress to the Union of 1929, the peaks of the post-war years and subsequent decline, the ructions over female ministers and human sexuality





(the latter debate being older than many might think: an article headed 'Time for homosexuals to come in from the cold' appeared in July 1968) and the shifting responses to moral dilemmas such as nuclear weapons and assisted dying.

But it is also to experience the history of the nation itself, from the Victorian height of the British Empire through the traumas of the world wars, the founding of the welfare state and the shift from slums to new towns, the decline of industry, the coming of devolution and the referendum on independence and Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Not for nothing was the 1979 history of the magazine, written by then editor Robert Deans Kernohan to mark its centenary, entitled 'Scotland's Life and Work'.

Back in 1879, of course, none of that could be foreseen, and the new magazine

was not universally welcomed – particularly not by Charteris's detractors. Decades later, the Rev Archibald Fleming (who edited the magazine from 1898-1902 and went on to be a pioneering religious broadcaster), wrote that some grandees had regarded it as 'a trifle namby-pamby and invertebrate', and thought 'this Charterisian foundling... might be smothered in ridicule'.

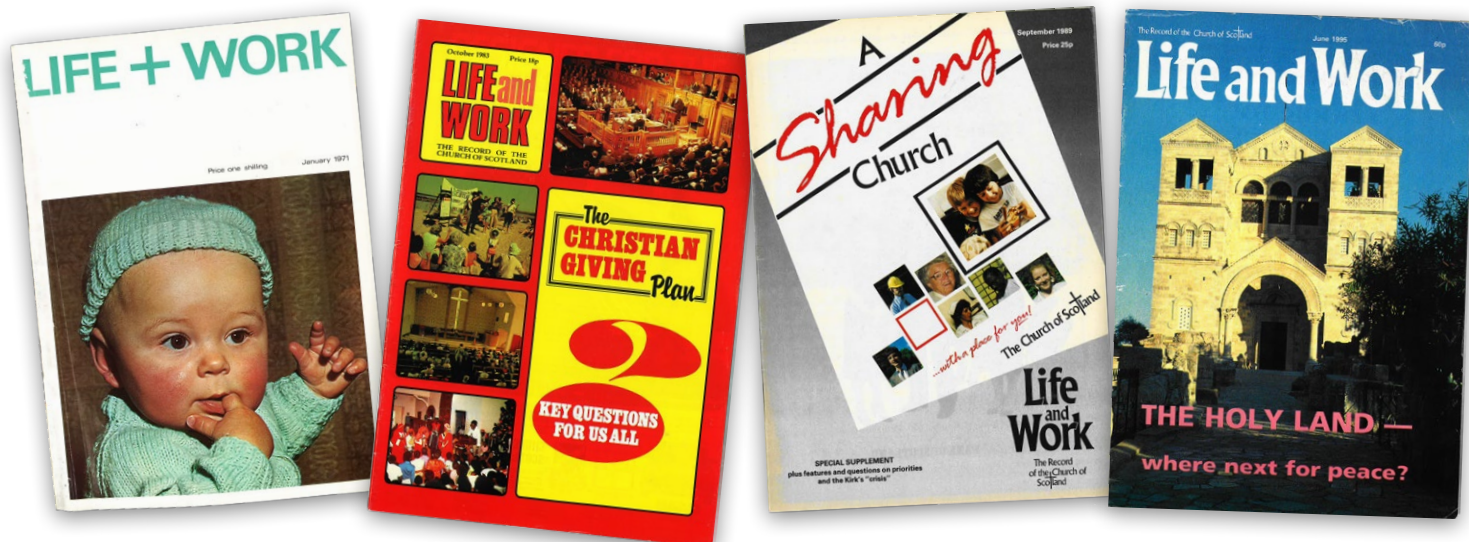
Fleming recalled one incident at a General Assembly when the Rev Dr John Cunningham of Crieff (like Charteris, a future Moderator), 'picked up the little pink offender, looked at it comically and curiously, and then quoted with obvious relish the lines "Twinkle, twinkle, little star; How I wonder what you are"'.

He recorded that 'much laughter' greeted the remark (maybe you had to be there), but added with satisfaction: "The 'little star' survived the laughter of the Assembly and

the arrows of the wits; from twinkling it took to shining with a steady light."

Indeed, despite scepticism in the upper echelons, the Church membership seems to have embraced the magazine enthusiastically. The first issue achieved sales of 50,000, and by 1885 the readership had reached six figures – by which time Charteris had long since moved on, passing the editorial reins to his friend, John McMurtrie, who was to hold the role for 18 years.

Kernohan would later write that to read the magazine in the early days was 'to enter another world', but in many ways the template that would sustain the magazine for 146 years was set in that period. The mix of accessible theological reflection, news of the church's work at home and abroad, commentary on the political issues of the time, book reviews and records of



ministerial comings and goings isn't a million miles away from any volume of the 20th and 21st centuries.

In 1902, it incorporated the Mission Record of the Church of Scotland, a more factual report of the doings of the various mission committees of the Church, and at the 1929 union, it merged with the United Free Church's equivalent magazine, The Record. The editor of the latter, William Pringle Livingstone, took over the running of the united publication, now branded Life and Work: The Record of the Church of Scotland. Livingstone was the first layperson to hold the role, and his appointment foreshadowed the later trend for editors to be journalists rather than (or as well as) ministers.

Of course, in any long-running publication, there will be moments to make the modern reader wince. If some of the assumptions, language and attitudes through the early years can be excused as 'of their time', there have been rare times when Life and Work was indisputably on the wrong side of history. One approving piece about Hitler's Germany, in 1934, was later described by Kernohan as 'the most outrageous article ever to appear in Life and Work', although he did note that it received a quick reply, and that stories condemning the Nazis were far more typical.

Postwar, the editor for 20 years was the Rev John Wright Stevenson, under whose leadership it began to evolve into something visually closer to a familiar 20th

century magazine. Splashes of colour and illustrations appeared on the cover, while the blocks of text on the inside pages were increasingly broken up. The masthead, which had changed very rarely in the preceding 70-plus years, went through a dizzying array of styles, culminating in the infamous 'Life + Work' period of the late 60s (contributing to the surprising amount of ink spent over the decades arguing about how to render the 'and!').

Among much else, Stevenson was also responsible for introducing a little-known theologian called Dr William Barclay to the readership in 1948, beginning a relationship that would last well into the 1970s, including a long-running monthly column in which Barclay would answer readers' theological and spiritual questions.

The next chapter was an unfortunate one as Stevenson's successor, the Rev Leonard Bell, fell out with the Publicity and Publication Committee, which tried to dismiss him. He appealed to the General Assembly and won, but died before he could resume his post. In the fall-out, the principles that the editor of Life and Work was a General Assembly appointment, and independent of any body of the church administration, were firmly established: principles that would underlie the magazine to the present day, hence the subtitle of the early years of the millennium, 'The editorially independent magazine of the Church of Scotland'.

The latter third of the magazine's

life is dominated by two long-running editorships: Kernohan, who held the role for 19 years to 1991, and Lynne McNeil, who took over in 2002 and would equal the 23 years of the Rev Robert Howie Fisher (1902-25). (Rosemary Goring was the first permanent female editor, from 2000-2002, while Muriel Armstrong had two stints as acting editor, in 1999 and 2008).

It has been a long period of decline for the Church, and while the membership has supported Life and Work as faithfully as they ever have, the diminishing size of that membership has been mirrored in sales of the magazine. Additionally, the loss of advertising spending to the internet has had an inevitable impact, as it has on all print and broadcast media.

There have been attempts to move with the times, going onto social media in 2009 (before the Church of Scotland!) and introducing a web presence in 2013 and digital version in 2017. And despite the falling sales, Life and Work continued to return a surplus until Covid-19 – well over £1 million contributed to Church coffers between 2006 and 2020, and who knows how much in the 127 years before 2006?

Ultimately, falling readership and rising costs proved too much for a cash-strapped church to sustain, and the 'little star' will blink out with this issue, its replacement still to be decided. But surely Archibald Charteris, his supporters and critics, would all be astonished to know that it burned so bright for so long. ■





1879: Rev Prof Archibald
Hamilton Charteris



1880-1898:
Rev John McMurtrie



1898-1902:
Rev Archibald Fleming



1902-1925:
Rev Robert Howie Fisher



1925-1930:
Rev Harry Smith



1929-1934:
William Pringle Livingstone



1935-1945:
Rev George Carstairs



1945-1965:
Rev John Wright Stevenson



1965-1972:
Rev Leonard John Armstrong Bell



1972-1991:
Robert Deans Kernohan



1991-1994:
Peter B. Macdonald



1994-1999:
Robin Hill



1999 and 2008-9:
Muriel Armstrong, acting editor



2000-2002:
Rosemary Goring



2002:
Harry Reid, acting editor



2002-2025:
Lynne McNeil

'Our' magazine

Ministers, a former editor and readers from Scotland and across the world reflect on what Life and Work has meant to them

The Very Rev Colin Sinclair (Moderator of the General Assembly 2019-20)

All through my ministry my go-to magazine each month was Life and Work. It was 'our' magazine and focused on the Church I was pleased to serve. Its mixture of factual information, briefings on key events, stories about people and projects all could be enjoyed. I remember a memorable series on Scottish Church History by the late Prof Alex Cheyne which I devoured back in the 1980s. It often highlighted the different sides on contentious matters, allowing you to make up your own mind. Each editor and team have put their distinctive stamp on it, and there were always writers you turned to before others. I will miss it, and wonder how, in this time of rapid change, I will maintain a sense of belonging to the Church of Scotland. Many thanks to all who served the church in this way – staff, board members, writers and volunteers not to mention local distributors.

The Rev Dr Christine Goldie

Life and Work has been part of the fabric of our church and of my own ministry. I welcomed it every month, and find it challenging, informative, and invaluable as a lifeline connecting me to our church. Because of it, I know so very much which otherwise I would not know.

Mary Bromilow

I always looked forward to the writing of Ron Ferguson and James Simpson.

Humanity, humility and humour. Life and Work lived up to its name and will be greatly missed.

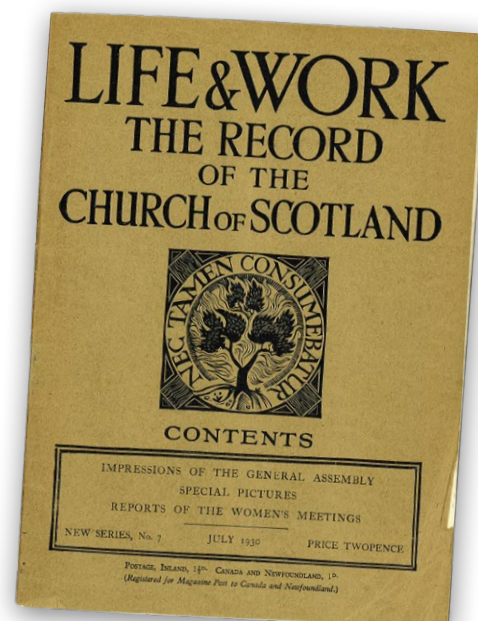
The Rev Dr Robin Hill (editor, 1994-99)

I loved my time as editor of Life and Work, though it brought a great many 'interesting' moments.

Once in the 121 George Street toilets (ground floor, right) I was told by a member of the Church of Scotland's Board of Communication that if he had his way I would be dismissed. My gross misconduct: having taken a firm and public stand against a sizeable cover price increase. On another occasion, the question of sacking was aired in, of all places, 121's soup-and-pudding queue by a colleague who had taken exception to one of our more striking cover photographs, kindly supplied by Strathclyde Police. And then there were those who disliked my stance on issues of Church and State. (Off with his head.)

In the end there would be no dramatic firing. Instead, this Glasgow boy strolled across the centre of Edinburgh to arrive at New College, a youngish editor instantly transformed into an oldish ministry candidate.

The exposed and often isolated positioning of the editor's chair points to a strength which has been right at the heart of the publication: a valid expectation that this magazine – the final issue of which you currently have before you – should be bold. The Church of Scotland is closing Life



and Work with our denomination's current movers and shakers undertaking to place proposals for some (presumably online) alternative before the General Assembly of 2026. Will this be a virtual magazine equipped with editorial independence? Or will it simply be a dull mouthpiece of some anonymous 'Programme' or 'Forum'? The Church of Scotland needs the former, so its supreme court must resist the latter.

The Rev Jim Stewart (final convener of the Life and Work Advisory Committee)

I recently spoke to Primary Seven children about moving from primary to secondary school. It is arguably the biggest move in their young lives, where once large fish in a small pond they are now going to be small



fish in a loch. We thought about the past, the present and the future and how they shape us into the people we are and are becoming.

These thoughts do resonate with me as we look at the changes taking place within the Church. It's easy to look over our shoulder and remember better days, as opposed to grappling with the big issues surrounding our future. As a Church we are searching for the balance that allows us to honour the past, live in the present but also plan for the future. These are not things we can achieve without the Spirit's leading because ultimately our structures must reflect a mission-based vision. Changing the structures alone will not fulfil our role in God's plan, but structural changes that reflect God's plan will. It's also important to remember that we should implement change in a Christlike manner.

One of those changes is the end of Life and Work – our cherished, independently edited, Church magazine. It has fallen foul of changing times and rising costs. We do not know what will replace Life and Work but I hope it will be reflective of the wider Church. Sadly, it's now part of our past but it will forever be part of our story.

Lorna Morrison

The Prayer page each month is always appreciated. I have often used it in my Guild worship.

Sheena Lamond

I remember helping my mother write the names on Life and Work after the bundle was delivered. I always enjoyed the writings of the Rev Bill McCartney. Happy memories.

Gabor Megyeri

My name is Gabor and I am a member of the Reformed Church in Hungary, one of the sister churches of Church of Scotland. I really enjoy following Life and Work online and I hope that I'll be able to read about the Kirk's services and events in the future, too. It's a visit card, or even more a love letter from the church to its members as well as to people interested in connecting to it. I thank you for your service and wish God's blessings to your future.

Sheena J Clark

I remember as a child my dad and my granny doing the crosswords and I was keen to get involved as I got older. When my granny passed away I did them with my dad

and in the last few years have continued to do them now he's no longer with us. It was a triumph if we had completed both puzzles by the Tuesday after receiving that issue.

Thom M Shuman

A Presbyterian pastor in the States, I was introduced to Life and Work some 30 years ago by a church member who passed on copies mailed to her by family back home, until I began a subscription about 20 years ago. I don't recall a single issue which disappointed me. Each month, there was a rich variety of articles from an incredible team of writers, columnists, local church news, interviews, monthly columns by the moderators, Bible studies, prayers, and so much more. I have a file of pages pulled from various issues of some of my favorites and treasure them. As a parent of an adult with mental and developmental disabilities, perhaps the pieces by Thomas Baldwin about his son, Luke, and the family's journey with him – told with such compassion as well as deep honesty – have stuck with me through the years. I will miss receiving my copy by post each month. Thank you to everyone for this gift in my life. ■

Endings and beginnings



The Rt Rev Rosie Frew

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland bids a fond farewell to the magazine of our Church.

AS I write, it's the end of term, school's out for summer! Whether you are a pupil or a teacher or a school chaplain, a parent or grandparent or family friend, the end of the school year means the Leavers' Assembly.

Such Assemblies are full of excitement and anticipation, laughter and tears, special memories and embarrassing stories, and the almost obligatory singing of *One More Step Along the World I Go!*

*And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.*

When I speak at Leavers' Assemblies I often talk about endings and new beginnings, quoting T S Eliot: "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."

The P7 class of 2025 are maybe leaving primary school, resplendent in their also almost obligatory leavers' hoodies, but as one door closes another opens, they're about to embark on a new adventure in S1, with all the changes and challenges of secondary school.

As you read this we are approaching the beginning of that new school year with the host of new things that accompany it for all pupils – new teachers, new uniform, perhaps a new school, again met with both excitement and anticipation and first day nerves.

Take some time to pray for your local

“ Take some time to thank God for all those who have edited and contributed to the magazine over the years.

schools, staff and pupils at this time of new beginnings.

For Life and Work this is a difficult time of endings and new beginnings. The end of the print magazine as we know it and a moving on, in time, to something new.

We'll all have our memories. For me they start in my early childhood, delivering the magazine each month with my Mum, walking round her district, catching up with people who always took such an interest in a young family. Then later, being asked to contribute in different ways as a minister and a convener. I remember the excitement of my congregation anytime they were featured. And most recently as Moderator-Designate, being interviewed by Lynne McNeil before the General Assembly – though we did go off subject rather a lot as we talked about our families and Taylor Swift concerts and all sorts!

What are your memories? Particular articles or news items? Favourite contributors? Having a letter published or

a picture included? Winning the crossword competition? Heading straight to the Registers page to see who's moving, who's retiring, who's got a long service certificate?

Take some time to thank God for all those who have edited and contributed to the magazine over the years. Those who've promoted it. Those who have delivered it faithfully month by month.

Pray for the current staff team at this unsettling time – Lynne, Thomas and Dianne.

Pray for wisdom and guidance as new beginnings are considered by the Assembly Trustees and the Faith Action Plan Leadership Team.

"What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from."

Thank you, Life and Work. ■

The Rt Rev Rosie Frew is Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2025/26 and parish minister at Bowden and Melrose.

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Planting transformational seeds



The Rev Ruth Kennedy

The Rev Ruth Kennedy explains how Life and Work has sown seeds of faith over the last 146 years.

IN a time that might feel uncertain, we often find encouraging stories all around us, and two young women are inspiring us with what courage, unity and hope look like.

Two friends recently undertook a remarkable fundraising journey for Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, they are now known as West Highland Way (WHW) Legends!

But why are they legends?

Many take on the long-distance, rural and hilly trail route that runs from Glasgow to Fort William (or the other way) on foot or bike. There might be as many as 30 – 40,000 a year who complete it. But these two? They did it three-legged! Yes, really! Bound together, stride for stride, over hills, in the mud, across rocks, and through the swarms of midges!

When one slipped, the other steadied. If they both fell, well, they laughed, got muddy, and shared tips on how to deal with the mucky mess. When neither of them slipped, they soared, faster, stronger, more than they would on their own. And, after seven days, when they completed the arduous 96 miles, it wasn't just as individuals but a living picture of perseverance and friendship. The celebrations weren't just double – it was exponential, abundant joy.

Where, might you ask, came the inspiration for such a fundraising adventure? Their mums. The two friends grew up watching them walk the hills, hearing the stories of when they walked the WHW. And it seems that seeds were planted in those moments – seeds which took root and have now blossomed into life, love, strength, and purpose.

There are so many wonderful faith-building scriptures and lessons in the WHW Legends, of unity, perseverance, holding one another up in love.

And that brings us to our present – this final edition of Life and Work. As we reflect on its incredible journey, we find that it, too, has been planting transformational seeds all along the way. Seeds of faith, hope, and encouragement. Seeds of peace, justice, and discipleship. Seeds of inclusion, openness to God's new beginnings, all of which have taken root in hearts and churches around the world.

This column on Digital Church is an example of how the Life and Work team perceived what God was doing and wanted to sow the goodness into us all by publishing the articles. We have explored AI, social media, podcasts, art installations, digital church, and engaging with our communities in languages and ways that are contextually

and culturally relevant. We are seeing a growth in the number of churches and Presbyteries embedding digital ministry into how they serve and offering a variety of ways creatives can be involved in ministry too! People are discovering their God-given creativity. It is wonderful!

It seems the heart of Life and Work has been full of faith trusting God to fulfil His word, as in Galatians 6:9:

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

What seeds has God sown in you through Life and Work? What stories, ideas, or dreams have taken root?

Can you share them on your church's social media? Letting others hear your encouragement, being held up by you?

I have a funny feeling that just like the memory of completing the WHW three-legged has created memories for a lifetime, there will also be new memories and adventures cropping up as the years go on for the two friends – the seeds of faith sown through Life and Work will continue to reap a harvest for Jesus in the lives of you and I.

God has a whole lot of life in His connected body still to come! Thank you Life and Work for the seeds of courageous faith so faithfully sown. ■

Shifting ground

The Rev Roddy Hamilton explains why new hymns could reflect the shifting sands of faith.

If ever there was a time for new hymns to be written, it is now.

If ever there was a time for the traditional hymn to be sung, it is now.

These are not mutually exclusive statements, as our worship is founded on both these principles at the same time. We can sing the new with the old and sing into the future encouraged by the past, sing God's song as our ancestors knew it as well as reimagine it for our own times. These two statements, then, become not invitations, but necessities.

So as we pause to reflect in this final edition of *Life and Work*, it illustrates the shifting ground we are constantly on in our faith. The steady bulwarks are less steady and beginning to be inundated by the changing tide. So, yes, we need the songs of faith that encourage us when everything else is changing.

Our hymns offer that, at least those written to encourage us forward, with the story and inspiration of our ancestors who found a way through crises and dangers.

Let us leave behind the ones that want us to wallow there, with all the golden age nostalgia that never existed. The world has too many strong men at the moment who are simply wanting us to go back to such imagined idyllic times.

Let us choose the hymns that encourage a faith that remind God's People that we have been here before through Sinai wildernesses and Babylonian exiles. No one wanted to be there but it was an experience that reimaged the faith and renewed our

“ Our hymns offer that, at least those written to encourage us forward, with the story and inspiration of our ancestors who found a way through crises and dangers.



image and relationship with God. These hymns, from these days, might be our repertoire today.

Yet also the ones written now by the people who are in this moment, hymns that come from a response to the experience of a church feeling uncertain and unpredictable, unsure of what God is calling us into, fearful to let go, yet unable to hold on to the certainties of being a national church.

Hymns written within that context today are essential to our collective theology to discern who we are yet to be. Given we say more about our faith in hymns than through any other means, let us find the new writers who write from the pain and emotion and questions and hope we feel in the church.

Those hymns written to be popular hits and better performed than communally sung are not needed. It is the real, experiential words and music, that grow out

of an encounter with God in the places we struggle to be the church, that are vital for our worship now to express a new reforming of the church today.

This is a time to discern far more the hymns we sing for this age of the kingdom. Of course we have always done that. The Church of Scotland has been, and still is, a vital source for the worship of God's People across the world. It has been honest and vital. It has been radical and challenging. Vivid and eclectic characters have moved us onto new ground.

It is such ground we stand on today. Let us sing of the call of faith that has always strengthened us in every age past, and sing too the new songs that encourage us for the new reformation just begun. ■

The Rev Roddy Hamilton is minister at Bearsden: New Kilpatrick

The Big Picture



Oban pier view to town, Bill Kean



The Solway Firth, Douglas Moore

Thank you to all the readers who have sent in their photos for the Big Picture.





Coire Fee, Angus, Peter Robinson

My church

We had several outstanding entries in the series in which church members explain what their church means to them. Rather than leave them unpublished, we present as many as we can fit here, in edited form.

Moira Park, Mansfield Trinity Church, Kilwinning.

I WAS lucky enough to be born into a very religious family and after being christened in a church in Saltcoats, at the age of six I moved to Stevenson to live with my grandparents, as my mother was very ill and unable to look after me. I then went to Livingston Church.

Every night I said the Child's prayer – "This night as I lay down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep" but at the age of seven I prayed with real sincerity as my mother died and I prayed that Jesus was looking after her in heaven. I suspect that was when my true faith in God began.

When I married and moved to Irvine, I joined Fullarton Parish Church. Our children were born and christened in that church. Another house move saw us living in Kilwinning and attending Abbey Church.

My son and daughter grew up, with my daughter a regular church attender. My

faith was again a comfort to me when my prayers included keeping my son safe as he saw action in Bosnia, Afghanistan and two Gulf wars. My prayers were answered and he returned safely.

Over the years that I have been a member of the Church I have seen many changes. In our church we have gone from an average attendance of over 100 pre-Covid to an average of 30. The upside is that the act of worship now feels less formal and more intimate, with all members of the congregation 'kent' faces.

There are now only three children in attendance at our church and recently my friend and I started a Sunday school class. We take the children out of the service to tell them a bible story connected to the theme of the sermon, discuss points of faith, and follow-up with an activity before returning to the congregation for the last hymn.



For me, the church is a place of comfort, I feel near to God, and when I walk into the sanctuary, I feel that I have come home. ■

Ruud Witte, Consistory Clerk, Scots International Church, Rotterdam

Just over 20 years ago, my old church in Gouda closed under somewhat annoying circumstances. Shortly afterwards, I received the book *The Tartan Pimpernel* by Donald Caskie, in which a reference was made to the Scots Kirk in Rotterdam. That aroused my curiosity, because I already knew the Church of Scotland from

my annual holidays in Scotland since 1982.

After attending Scots International Church Rotterdam (SICR) for a few Sundays, I became a member of the choir (I knew quite a few songs from BBC's Songs of Praise), subsequently a member of the council, convenor and then elder, consistory clerk and delegate to

the International Presbytery. And I love to tell visitors about the history of our church and show them around during the yearly Open Monument Day.

But the church is not just the work in the consistory and presbytery. The most important thing is still being part of the congregation. Being church together. SICR is a fantastic church for that. More than 30 different nationalities, with different church backgrounds, young, old.

A living church, where new members are still coming. Foreign students looking for a church with English-language services. And there are still baptisms. This year even four adults. Isn't that great in this time when you hear a lot about churches that attract fewer and fewer believers?

Our current church is not only open on Sundays, but also offers activities during the week, organised by ourselves or by other users of our building. An example of the latter is the Neighbourhood Meal, intended for the elderly who live in the area.

New, large residential buildings are being built around the church. We hope that our presence can make the residents curious and that they will attend our services.

So my church has a future and I think it is nice, good and no more than natural to be able to contribute to it. ■



Marian Weir, Ochiltree Parish Church

Ochiltree Church has been an important part of my life since I was an inquisitive five-year-old. Church at that age was exciting. It meant an outing with Granny dressed in our 'Sunday best', sitting on a hard pew, seeing the minister in his robes, the well-dressed people, attending Sunday School, learning about Jesus and memorising the Bible verses on wee cards that we were given each week.

John Knox preached here in the 16th century, in a church of which all traces are long gone. The foundation stone of the current parish church was laid by James Boswell in 1789. Two tall, arched, stained glass windows grace the front of the building, one on either side of the pulpit. They were removed from the United Free Church before its demolition and installed in our church in the mid-1940s.

Ochiltree was linked to Stair Parish Church in 1979 and we share a minister. Discussions are ongoing to form a four way

union with Stair, Coyllon, and Drongan.

I pray for a positive outcome to this plan.

I was 15 when I joined the church. It was something I wanted to do and felt I was ready for a more meaningful relationship with God. I have always tried to respect the vows. Prayer has helped, all along the many twists and turns of the way.

Boys' Brigade training courses at Carberry Tower and leading the Junior Section for a few years were much enjoyed before work led me away from the area for a while. On my return, I soon became a Sunday School teacher and an active member of the Guild. Becoming Convener of the Guild was a great privilege. Another task which came my way and was to prove more challenging, for different reasons, is that of Church Magazine and Newsletter editor.

Church buildings, structures and processes evolve, so does my church life as I continue to serve in the way I believe that God is leading me. ■



ANNIVERSARY

The congregation of Palmerston Place Church in Edinburgh celebrated its 150th anniversary in May.

The weekend of celebrations started with an organ recital from the church's former director of music, Andrew Caskie.

Then for Sunday worship the congregation welcomed back former minister, the Very Rev Colin Sinclair, as guest preacher, along with former pastoral assistant the Rev Willie-John Macdonald and Fiona Edwards. The service was led by interim moderator the Rev Sam Torrens, and church member the Rev Bill Taylor led the prayers of intercession.

The celebrations concluded with a praise service on Sunday evening, with members of the congregation sharing their favourite hymns.



GOLD ECO AWARD

Dalmeny and Queensferry Parish Church has been named a recipient of the Eco-Congregation Scotland Gold Award, making it only the 12th congregation in Scotland to achieve this recognition. The award celebrates the church's commitment to environmental stewardship and its active role in fostering community sustainability.

Assessors praised the congregation for its outstanding collaborative spirit and energetic involvement in environmental initiatives. Highlights of the commendation include:

The award recognises outstanding practice in caring for creation through spiritual life, practical action, and global awareness. This achievement highlights the church's continued commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability.



MOVE IN MAY

A number of members of Macduff Parish Church and the local community took part in the Christian Aid 'Move in May Challenge' with each person committing themselves to walk, run, swim or cycle. On Monday May 12, a group took part in a local walk and were joined by Charlie from Christian Aid Scotland and Temwa, a global adviser for Christian Aid from Malawi.



RARE PRIVILEGE

The Rev Jade Ableitner of Eaglesham Parish Church had the rare privilege of ordaining her husband, Eric, as an elder during the morning service. At the same service, long service certificates were presented to elders Mary Robertson and Craig Wishart who both have 34 years' service.



CENTENARY

St Andrew's Church, Brussels celebrated the 100th anniversary of the laying of its foundation stone in May. Then Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Patterson, joined the Rev Eric Foggitt, minister of St Andrews, in leading worship. Dr Shaw later unveiled a date stone, fashioned from the old lintel stone of the vestry fireplace.

Other special guests were the UK Ambassador to Belgium Anne Sherriff, Martin Johnson, EU Director at Scotland House, Pater Steven Fuite, President of the United Protestant Church of Belgium (EPUB), Eric Sibnomana of Holy Trinity Pro Cathedral and William White of the International Protestant Church (IPC). The church was decorated by the Sunday School and there were performances from senior and junior choirs.

Pictured from left: Martin Johnson, Anne Sherriff, the Rev Eric Foggitt, the Rt Rev Dr Shaw Patterson, Pastor Steven Fuite.



NEW MEMBERS



Colston Wellpark Parish Church in Glasgow welcomed eight new members and two adult baptisms on Easter Sunday.



Six new communicants joined the congregation of Kirk of Calder in Mid Calder, West Lothian, on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. Five of the new members are pictured with minister, the Rev William Watt, after the service.

150 YEARS

Airdrie Cairnlea Parish Church welcomed the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, to lead worship in the celebration of 150 years of the existing church buildings on the former Flowerhill Church site. The building has undergone substantial redevelopment in recent years with the installation of air source heat pumps, new hardwood flooring, open seating in the sanctuary, a welcoming foyer, new toilets and a platform lift.

Minister, the Rev Dr Peter Donald welcomed the Moderator, together with over 200 members and guests, including the deputy Lord Lieutenant, members of Presbytery, local representatives of other churches and emergency services. A commemorative booklet was produced and issued.



LONG SERVICE



Hugh Wark OBE, an elder from Perth Kinnoull Parish Church, is pictured receiving a 30-year long service certificate from the Rev Graham Crawford.



Pentecost was the perfect service to recognise the long service of Border Kirk Carlisle elders. Certificates were presented by former Session Clerk, Christine Mountain, to Aileen McCutcheon, Graham Fisher, Kate Fisher and Laura Irving, ordained as elders in 1985. Christine Batey and Ian Robertson for over thirty of dedicated service to the Border Kirk. Minister the Rev Wes Brandon thanked all.



Three elders of Tarbolton Parish Church, Margaret Kerr, Hannah McNae and Jim Jamieson have been presented with Long Service Awards for 30 years, while Maureen McNae was recognised for 30 years as Session Clerk. Pictured left to right: Margaret Kerr, Hannah McNae, the Rev Mandy Ralph, Jim Jamieson and Maureen McNae.



On Sunday May 11 at Elgin Parish Church, the Rev Deon Oelofse presented long service certificates to George Duthie (who has served for 40 years), Hilda Robertson, William (Bill) Robertson, Kathleen Dale, Mary Dawson and June Edmonstone (all 30 years). Gill Mason was unavailable on the day but was presented with her 30 years' certificate separately.



The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, returned to her first charge as the Guest Preacher at Largo Parish Church on Pentecost. During the service she presented Long Service certificates to (left to right) John Ross (54 years), James Robertson (47 years), Dorothy Armstrong (36 years), Arnott Wilson (38 years), Margaret Webster (31 years), Irene Kay (31 years), Patrica Smith (32 years), Ian Campbell (32 years) and Lesley Henderson (53 years).



Long service certificates were presented to elders of Dalkeith: St Nicholas Buccleuch Church all having exceeded forty years' service. Pictured are John Thomson, Pat Robertson, Barbara Fairbairn, Margaret Hood and Jimmy Lindsay.



At Stranraer Parish Church, the Rev Andy Muir presented long service certificates to two elders: June Ferguson received a certificate for 40 years' service and Christine Downie for 30 years.



Two elders of Larbert West Parish Church, Gail Paton and Carol Sergeant, are pictured receiving 25-year long service certificates from the Rev Mhairi Gilchrist. Sadly, another lady due to receive a certificate, Maureen Jordan, died before the presentation could be held.



Kathleen Patrick received a certificate after reaching the milestone of having served as an elder at Greenbank Church, Edinburgh for 45 years.

For more news follow us at
www.lifeandwork.org

The Moderator's Gift

Charlie Meiklejohn, Community Relations and Fundraising Manager for Christian Aid Scotland, introduces an appeal from the Rt Rev Rosie Frew

MY role at Christian Aid encompasses lots of interesting tasks, but making a stole for the new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has to be one of the most unusual!

We're delighted that the Rt Rev Rosie Frew has chosen to support Christian Aid throughout her year as Moderator. Under the overarching theme of Extravagant Love, she'll be speaking in churches across Scotland about our work to eradicate poverty. To mark the Moderator's Gift appeal and our wider partnership with the Church of Scotland, we gifted Rosie a stole with our values – Love, Justice, Equality and Dignity – embroidered in bold red lettering.

Love and Justice sit at the top, as markers of the world we seek to build together. They remind us that this work requires bravery and empathy, to treat others with respect but not to shy away from difficult issues as we act to dismantle the systems that keep people poor. Dignity and Equality remind us that all people, regardless of circumstance, identity or belief, are created in the image of God and are worthy of full, empowered and dignified lives. The Christian Aid logo can be found on the stole too, representing the well-known Christian Aid Week envelope. A tool by which we're all invited to connect with our global neighbours, and to stand in solidarity with them through practical support.

2025 marks 80 years since Christian Aid was founded in response to the refugee crisis in Europe following the Second World War. One of our founders, Church of Scotland minister the Rev Douglas Lister,



Credit: Andrew O'Brien/Church of Scotland

would later write that he was 'overwhelmed by Scotland's generosity... deeds, rather than words are their currency and strength'. Over the last eight decades, Christian Aid has enjoyed a close working partnership with the Church of Scotland, exemplified now in the Moderator's Gift appeal. Eighty years on, I can still testify to that generosity and strength of commitment to justice that Reverend Lister noted in the response to that first church appeal.

Our most recent Christian Aid Week appeal is further testament to this generosity: churches across Scotland turned out to raise awareness and vital funds through all manner of creative events. It was a bumper year for book sales, from Kinnoull to Cupar, Edinburgh to Inverurie, and many more. Our own Val Brown was a winner at a quiz night in

Bishopbriggs, and I found myself in Banff to join a sponsored walk led by Macduff Parish Church. We rounded out the week with a service of thanksgiving for our 80th anniversary at St Giles' Cathedral, where the Rt Honourable John Swinney, Scotland's First Minister, gave the keynote address.

If you've ever heard me speak at an event or in your church, there's a good chance you've heard me describe Christian Aid as a global movement of people and churches standing together. We could not do this important work without your support, and we are grateful for the spirit of solidarity and generosity which sits at the heart of our partnership with the Church of Scotland.

Donate to the Moderator's Gift appeal at <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/the-moderator-s-gift-2025-26>. ■

Using God's gifts

The Rev Richard Baxter reflects of the messages of Matthew 25: 14-30

SOME people are blessed with more than their fair share of good ideas.

Archibald Charteris was just such a man. A minister, theologian and sometime Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, his initiatives included founding the Deaconess Hospital in Edinburgh, creating the Church of Scotland Woman's Guild (now the Church of Scotland Guild) and starting Life and Work as a print magazine in 1879. The Deaconess lasted until 1990, the Guild continues to serve and thrive to this day, and this copy marks the final print edition of Life and Work.

People with good ideas and inspiring vision are always to be valued. In the parable of the talents, a master going on a journey entrusts varying sums to three servants. They receive five talents, two talents and one talent respectively. We don't know why the division is as it is. Since one talent was a huge sum – a labourer's wages for about twenty years – each is offered a major responsibility and a wonderful opportunity. Their responses differ greatly.

One servant invests, and doubles the sum he was given. His five talents become ten. Another utilises his two talents so over time they become four. The third servant is the most risk averse. Attempting nothing with his resource, he buries it for safekeeping. When the master returns and takes account, the servant who takes no risk and ventures nothing is condemned, while the other two are both praised, with the words "Well done, good and faithful servant!" It is not the level

“All who have helped to turn his vision into reality should hear the message from the wider church, “Well done, good and faithful servants.”

of success but the willingness to use what is entrusted that the master appreciates.

Perhaps a single brilliant initiative lay behind the success of the servants who prospered. Perhaps they tried a series of plans, some of which failed while others succeeded. By whatever means, their master's trust was repaid by their enterprise and its results. However, most great ideas have their own natural lifespan. Fire and the wheel continue to be useful while Betamax videos and the telegram have had their day. In a church which is reformed and always reforming, the need to reinvent ourselves over time should not be a surprise, even if the process is painful.

Charteris's initiative in founding a print magazine to inform and inspire Church of Scotland members around the country has been a creative and occasionally controversial way of meeting the need he identified. All who have helped to turn his vision into reality should hear the message from the wider church, “Well done, good

and faithful servants.”

The master in the story needed servants with the skill, imagination and vision to use creatively and well what he entrusted to them. After all, he left no instruction on how to deploy his resources. Across the church we need people with the sort of vision and imagination Archibald Charteris offered in so many areas over 140 years ago.

New circumstances require new ways of communicating. The creative thinking and re-imagining for a digital age are works in progress, and the next Charteris is still to reveal him or herself. However, the need for informative, clear and challenging content remains, whatever technological platform we use to share it. In the wider church, congregations may be large or small, well-resourced or struggling, but the challenge remains for all of us to make good use of whatever God has entrusted to our care. ■

The Rev Richard Baxter is Interim Minister at Glasgow: Kelvin West.

Confusion and letting go



The Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Dr Richard Frazer explains why the Spirit may be inviting us to learn to love in different ways.

THERE are so many endings just now, not the least of which is this magazine that has been at the heart of celebrating the good work of the Church of Scotland since the 19th century.

Keeping in touch with what is going on and being inspired by the great work of others is so important, especially in a time when many of us are confused and unsettled by change, so I hope we continue to find ways of sharing our Life and Work. We cannot underestimate the wisdom that lies behind the choice of that title for this magazine.

Admitting confusion sounds like a negative thing. But I want to suggest to you that staying confused for a while can be practically helpful. Through the years we have witnessed moments when the Church has undergone some form of strategic review, hoping for renewal. The result has often been a new mission initiative and the closure or union of numerous congregations. We are amid such a period now and when we get through this, it will be time for another review, and so it goes on. And then what?

Why is admitting to being confused worthwhile?

I think of the disciples in the aftermath of Good Friday. They were confused and bewildered for a while until they began to

discover that Jesus was with them and they could continue his ministry in the world. Loving in a different way by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The advantage that comes to those who admit that they are confused is that they recognise that a different approach might be required. Rather than doing the same thing again and again, knowing in our hearts that the ship is not turning around, those who are confused recognise something new must happen alongside our traditional models of Church.

Many communities are prepared to let go, experiment and open their hearts to where the Spirit might be leading, that is one of the values of Life and Work magazine, it regularly shares these stories. Whatever God's mission is, it is not so much the strategy of the Church, but the work of the Holy Spirit.

It can be hard to admit our confusion. The Church of Scotland has had a positive influence around the world over many years. Our mission has been focussed on recruiting people to our congregations and sharing our knowledge of the Gospel. Mission has historically been about doing things for others, and there may be times when our self-confidence has got the better of us. Have we overlooked the idea that the

Spirit has designs on us, helping us find the Church's place of resurrection and newness, which is more important than overseeing its recovery? Perhaps the Spirit is inviting us to learn to love in different ways.

In admitting our confusion, the Spirit enables us to adapt and embrace the new. It is hard to let go of settled habits and understandable that people lament what is being lost just now from cherished places of worship to dealing with overwhelming change. In our confusion, however, there is a space of promise and hope.

At the very heart of our faith is not just an institution, much though we love the Church for she has nurtured many of us throughout our lives. Faith, however, is a mysterious connection with the Divine that runs far deeper than organisational structures and strategies.

Of course, we need to act responsibly to oversee our organisation, and we should be grateful to and pray for those who take on roles of governance and administration through difficult times.

Confusion may not sound like a clever approach but accompanied by prayer and an open heart to the prompting of the Spirit, it can open the door to the radical renewal that the Spirit of the risen Christ promises. ■

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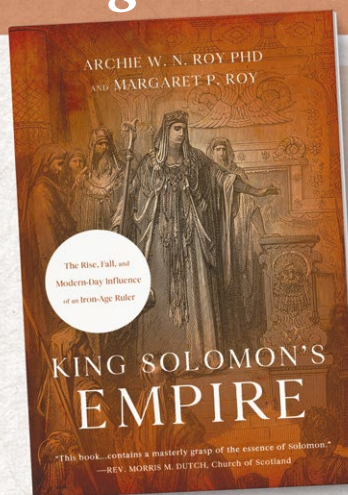


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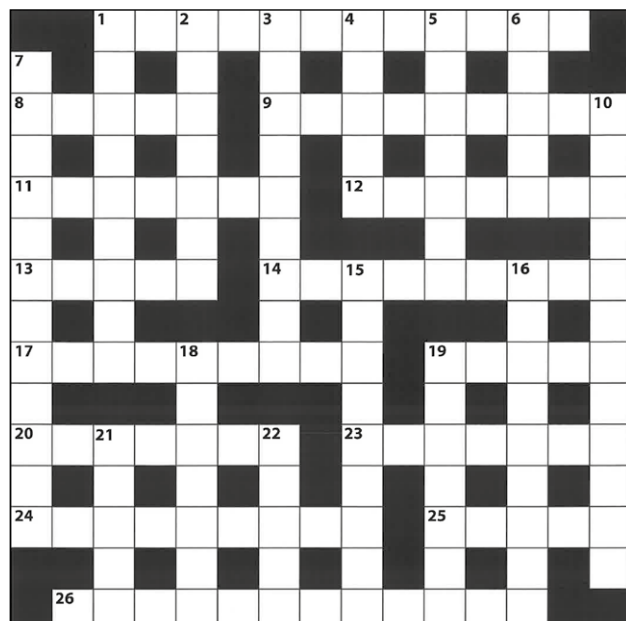


A Caramel Wafer will solve the problem



Cryptic Crossword August 2025

Compiled by Peter Chamberlain



Across

- 1 Preach, cur had disrupted religious gathering (6-6)
 8 Old Cretan king rings after 30 seconds (5)
 9 Elephant in the band (9)
 11 Girl, one brought to shelter in place of miracles (7)
 12 Came in struggling after one was washed-out (7)
 13 West Country lady (5)
 14 Senior member of the clergy in the country? (5,4)
 17 Looked like breeds Mel crossed (9)
 19 Some of the material is left (5)
 20 French runner (7)
 23 Clothing, large we ordered (7)
 24 Professional cricketer takes charge for trial period (9)
 25 'Check gold' said Parisian (5)
 26 mportant occasion when final reminder arrives? (3-6,3)

Down

- 1 Something wicked perplexed Sam on February 2nd (9)
 2 Greek character excited, lions restless (7)
 3 Impressive building, see round it (9)
 4 Man takes a lady (5)
 5 Artist, help a different Italian painter (7)
 6 Mother embracing second person in Provence, that's a fact (5)
 7 One wise man to show reverence for idolatry (5-7)
 10 Not right redesigning a secret corner for it to be set apart for holy use again (12)
 15 Becoming older in Parisian style with this French fragrance (9)
 16 Teas ready cooked for end of fast (6,3)
 18 Man's late-starting chemical reacted (7)
 19 Boy included horse with Rex, a slowcoach (7)
 21 River horse, so it is said (5)
 22 Infectious trace found in strata, interestingly enough (5)

Prize Draw

This month's crossword is just for fun.
Please don't send them in!

Winner of June 2025 Cryptic Crossword

Patricia G Wilson, Creetown, Wigtownshire

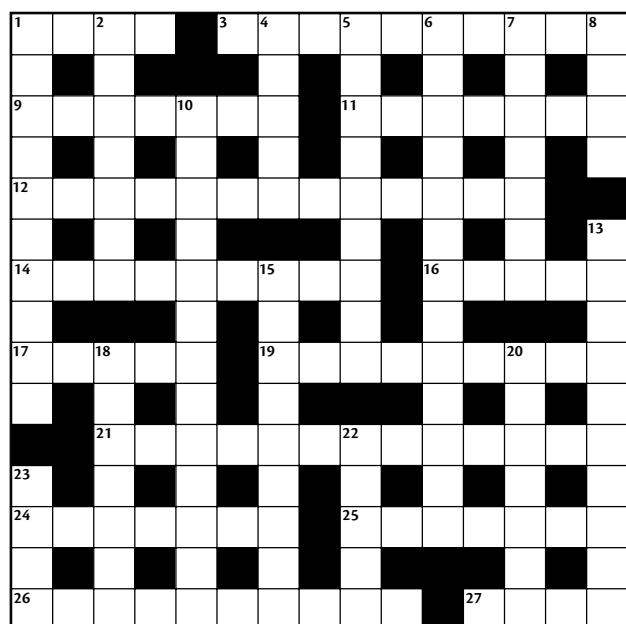
Solution to July 2025 Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Sauna, 4 Caustic, 9 Presbyterianism, 10 Rehangs, 11 Shiatsu, 12 Tim, 13 Nanette, 15 Scherzi, 16 Ioniser, 19 Judaeon, 21 Ova, 22 Extract, 23 Papilla, 25 Harvest festival, 26 Pilates, 27 Heron.

DOWN: 1 Stephen, 2 Urban, 3 Artiste, 4 Chrisms, 5 Upanishad, 6 Twister, 7 Communion table, 8 Apprenticeship, 14 Testament, 17 Natural, 18 Rotate, 19 Japheth, 20 Enliven, 24 Peter.

Quick Crossword August 2025

Compiled by Jeannie Hollands



Across

- 1 Most northerly Shetland isle (4)
 3 Monument with timepiece (5,5)
 9 Prickly pear (7)
 11 Prayer before the epistle (7)
 12 '_____ my shepherd is', (hymn) (3,4,2,4)
 14 Admitting to holy orders (9)
 16 For all (music) (5)
 17 Science (5)
 19 Money in the office (5,4)
 21 Betrayed (6-7)
 24 Brigade (anag.) (7)
 25 Have faith (7)
 26 Asian country, capital Bishkek (10)
 27 River Thames at Oxford (4)

Down

- 1 Not like the Greek church? (10)
 2 Fried lightly and quickly (7)
 4 Chinese ounce (5)
 5 Contest between birds (9)
 6 Hymn based on the Magnificat (4,3,2,4)
 7 Weather (anag.) (7)
 8 OT book following Judges (4)
 10 Week after Pentecost (7,6)
 13 Lady's attire in bed (10)
 15 Rotors for travelling motions in pumps (9)
 18 One making requests (7)
 20 Swollen area (7)
 22 Venomous snake (5)
 23 Duty (4)

Solutions to both crosswords can be found on page 33.

Solution to July 2025 Quick Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Herod, 4 Celestial, 9 'Let It Be', 10 Needful, 11 When I survey, 13 Doc, 14 Titian, 15 Beefalos, 18 Rogation, 20 Armlet, 23 Nth, 24 Old Faithful, 25 Band Aid, 26 Rabboni, 28 Black eyes, 29 Gaffe.

DOWN: 1 Holy water, 2 Retreat, 3 Dot, 4 Cherub, 5 Long view, 6 Seek ye first, 7 Infidel, 8 Lilac, 12 I want to walk, 16 Satellite, 17 Lord's Day, 19 Gehenna, 21 Lift-off, 22 Jairus, 23 Nabob, 27 Beg.

A handy reference guide to contacts within the Church of Scotland at 121 George Street, CrossReach and presbyteries.

121 George Street contact: 0131 225 5722

General Trustees:

gentrustees@churchofscotland.org.uk

Housing and Loan Fund:

HousingAndLoan@churchofscotland.org.uk

Law Department:

lawdept@churchofscotland.org.uk

Moderator's Office:

cmcintosh@churchofscotland.org.uk

Office of the General Assembly:

pcoffice@churchofscotland.org.uk

Office of the Assembly Trustees:

OATadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk

Safeguarding:

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0131 240 2256

Stewardship and Finance:

sfadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk

The Guild:

Guild@churchofscotland.org.uk

Faith Action Programme:

faithaction@churchofscotland.org.uk

CrossReach:

info@crossreach.org.uk
0131 657 2000

Church of Scotland Trust

lawdept@churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Storytelling Centre:

ssc-reception@scottishstorytellingcentre.com
0131 556 9579

Presbyteries:

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Presbytery of Clyde

Clyde@churchofscotland.org.uk

Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian

EdinburghWestLothian@churchofscotland.org.uk

Presbytery of England

England@churchofscotland.org.uk

Presbytery of Fife

Fife@churchofscotland.org.uk

Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale

FVandC@churchofscotland.org.uk

Presbytery of Glasgow

Glasgow@churchofscotland.org.uk

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International@churchofscotland.org.uk

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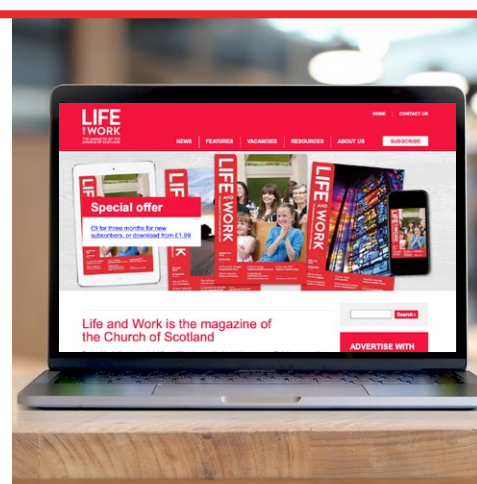
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MINISTRIES

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DEATHS

Rev Mark Wilson formerly Mission Partner, Nagpur, Church of North India on January 1

Rev John L McNab formerly North Ronaldsay with Sanday on March 31

Rev Robert J Watt formerly Dumbarton: Riverside on May 13

Rev Roderick Morrison formerly Glasgow: Gardner Street on May 16

Dr John K Knowles formerly Overseas Council: Malawi on May 24

Rev Robert J Ramsay formerly Invergowrie on May 28

Rev Andrew S Taylor formerly Greenock: The Union on June 9

Rev A Gordon McGillivray formerly Clerk, Presbytery of Edinburgh on June 10

Rev Dr Keith Burton-MacLeod formerly Noth on June 6

Rev Alan C D Cartwright formerly Fogo and Swinton with Ladykirk and Whitsome with Leitholm on June 7

RETIRED

Rev Ian D Maxwell from Uphall: South on June 30

Rev Alexander I Currie from Glasserton, Isle of Whithorn and Whithorn St Ninian's Priory on June 30

Rev G Euan D Glen from Bennachie on July 31

DEMISSION

Rev Hanneke A S Marshall from Bridge of Weir: St Machar's Ranfurly on March 2

Rev Roy J M Henderson from Glasgow: Pollokshaws on June 8

INTERIM MINISTERS – APPOINTMENT

Rev Hanneke A S Marshall to Glasgow: Knightswood Anniesland Trinity on March 3

Rev Roy J M Henderson to Edinburgh: Balerno with Edinburgh: Currie on June 9

INTERIM MINISTER – LEAVING

Rev Dr Andrew Gardner from Dunblane: St Blane's with Lecropt on June 29

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT STAFF – NEW APPOINTMENTS

Rev Gillian Munro as Pastoral Care Coordinator, Lower Earn Network, Presbytery of Perth on May 9

Jack McGinnigal as Presbytery Youth Worker, Cowal Team Leader, Cleir Eilean I on June 1

Brandon H C Lim as Outreach Worker, Dunfermline: East on June 4

Rebecca Pullar as Children and Families Worker, Perth: Riverside on June 9

Diane Waugh as Young People and Families Worker, Baillieston: Mure Memorial with Baillieston: St Andrew's on June 10

Rebecca Wilson as Congregational Support Worker, Aberdeen: North on June 11

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT STAFF – LEAVER

Dr Barbara Jenkinson from Parish Assistant, Dalmellington with Patna Waterside on June 29

INDUCTIONS

Rev Carol Anne Porter to Dornoch Firth on June 14

Rev David D Donaldson to Irvine Valley on June 19

Rev Emma McDonald to Peterculter on June 24

Rev Dr Daniel H Spencer to Kingshill on June 26

Rev Rebecca J Bartocho to Kilmuir and Stenscholl on June 28

Rev Peter G Gill to Girvan Valley on July 3

Rev Patricia E Archibald to Edinburgh: Gorgie and Palmerston Place on July 17

Rev Dr Andrew Gardner to Dundee: Broughty Ferry on July 29

APPOINTMENTS – ASSISTANT MINISTERS

Karlien G Becker as Assistant Minister at Perth: Letham St Mark's on June 1

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTRY – RETIRED

Rev Beverley Stevenson from Mission Coordinator for Stirling and the surrounding area on February 28

ELDERSHIP

Portree: ordained: Hugh Campbell, Catriona MacDonald, Mhairi MacDonald, Ronald MacDonald, Margaret Nicolson, Heather Quaye.

Bridge of Don, Oldmachar: Kat Hepburn, Maureen Geddes and Yvonne Temple

Long Service

Border Kirk: Aileen McCutcheon, Graham Fisher, Kate Fisher, Laura Irving, Christine Batey, Ian Robertson (all 30)

Dalkeith: St Nicholas Buccleuch: John Thomson, Pat Robertson, Barbara Fairbairn, Margaret Hood and Jimmy Lindsay (all 40)

Edinburgh Greenbank: Kathleen Patrick (45)

Largo: John Ross (54), James Robertson (47), Dorothy Armstrong (36), Arnott Wilson (38), Margaret Webster (31), Irene Kay (31), Patricia Smith (32), Ian Campbell (32) and Lesley Henderson (53)

Stranraer: June Ferguson (40), Christine Downie (30)

Solution to August 2025 Cryptic Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Church-parade, 8 Minos, 9 Trumpeter, 11 Galilee, 12 Anaemic, 13 Woman, 14 Rural Dean, 17 Resembled, 19 Lisle, 20 Haricot, 23 Legwear, 24 Probation, 25 Audit, 26 Red-letter day.

DOWN: 1 Candlemas, 2 Upsilon, 3 Cathedral, 4 Paula, 5 Raphael, 6 Datum, 7 Image-worship, 10 Reconsecrate, 15 Redolence, 16 Easter Day, 18 Michael, 19 Laggard, 21 Rhône, 22 Taint.

Solution to August 2025 Quick Crossword

ACROSS: 1 Unst, 3 Clock tower, 9 Opuntia, 11 Collect, 12 The King of love, 14 Ordaining, 16 Tutti, 17 Ology, 19 Petty cash, 21 Double-crossed, 24 Abridge, 25 Believe, 26 Kyrgyzstan, 27 Isis.

DOWN: 1 Unorthodox, 2 Sauteed, 4 Liang, 5 Cockfight, 6 Tell out my soul, 7 Whereat, 8 Ruth, 10 Trinity Sunday, 13 Nightdress, 15 Impellers, 18 Orderer, 20 Abscess, 22 Cobra, 23 Task.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

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Evermore
Amen

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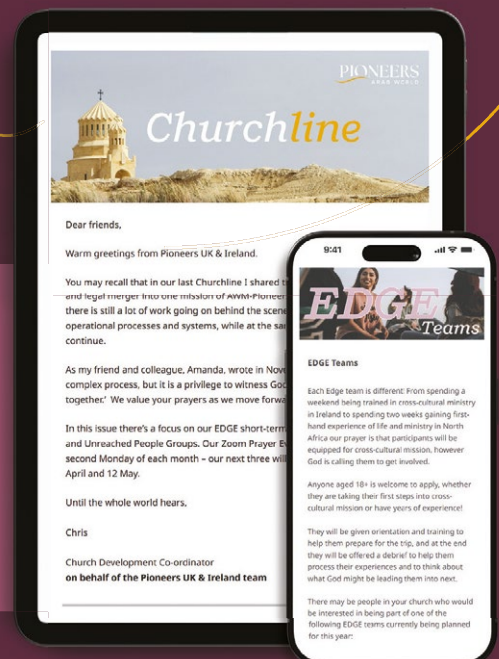
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Image: A Baobab tree in Malawi that can live for up to 5,000 years. © All We Can