

Church of Scotland

East Mainland Church News

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June 2022

Issue 54



Manse Letter June 2022

Greetings from the Manse at Holm and thank you for the warm welcome you have already given me to the parish. Thank you to all involved in the catering, cleaning of the Manse and helping me settle.

My induction was on a very windy wild night in April, but the weather to follow has seen some lovely warm and calm days - a *few* – I have a spectacular view from the Manse irrespective of the weather, and that in itself has helped me settle in.

We managed to get the multimedia set up for my first Sunday, and if you are unable to come along on a Sunday, the message/service is streamed at 11 a.m. and available Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m. following this link – <https://eastmainland.online.church>

I look forward to getting to know you as I start my visits around the parish. It feels very much like I am the new bungling explorer, more often lost than found! But with your help, I will get around in the end.

Legend has it that the great explorer, Sir Francis Drake, was trying to recruit a crew for an upcoming exploration. (Cont. P2)

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He gathered together a group of young men. He told them that they would see some of the most marvellous things their eyes would ever behold if they came with him: Sandy white beaches, juicy fruits, foreign peoples, priceless treasures, and breath-taking landscapes.

This wild adventure would be theirs if they came with him.

Not one of them enlisted for the journey.

The next day a different group came out.

Drake told them that if they came with him, they would encounter “storms that would terrify them to tears, and winds would hammer them and blow them off course for months. Water would be scarce. At times they would be so thirsty that their very souls would cry out for simply one drop of water. Danger would be their constant companion. But if they could handle these things, the joys of exploration would exceed their wildest dreams.”

Every single one of them in the group joined Sir Francis Drake that day; some did not even go home to say goodbye to their families, keen, excited, and motivated for adventure!

What made the difference between these two groups? Why did the first group turn down the mission and the second jump at the chance?

There was no difference *in the men*. The difference was *in the message*.

The first spoke of rewards.

The second spoke of *challenges*.

The first offered comfort.

The second promised *suffering*.

The first tempted them with things;

The second seduced them with an experience unlike any other.

There was something about the message of Jesus that captivated the early disciples. If you would like to know what it was, look at Luke’s Gospel – Ch 5:1-11.

As I start a new shared ministry among you, I hope that together we will share an experience for the good of our communities unlike any other,

for after all, *together*, we serve a great God!

Blessing to you, Chris Wallace

Contact Details: If you would like to contact the minister, please ‘phone either the Church office on 01856 781437 or Mobile on 07935 862561. If there is no answer on either number, please leave a message, and he will get back to you.

Rev.Christopher Wallace, East Mainland Manse, Holm, Orkney KW17 2SB

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Induction

On the evening of 6th April Rev. Christopher Wallace was inducted as our new minister. Members of the Presbytery were present and the service was led by Rev. James Wishart, Moderator of Presbytery. Val kitchen gave a welcome from the congregation. After the service tea or coffee was served along with a paper bag containing homemade goodies. The choir also gave a lovely rendition of “All in an April Evening”.

Prior to this special evening, a Nominating Committee of eight members, guided by Rev. Linda Broadley, had been set up in June 2021. Their task was to provide a Parish Profile as an advert for ministers interested in a new charge. When an interest was shown and a visit organised the committee then had to plan how to show off the parish to its best advantage. This visit took a whole day with activities shared by committee members. After that, it was up to the visiting minister to decide if he/she wished to answer the call. Thankfully Chris responded positively and is now settling in to the East Mainland charge.



Rev. Christopher Wallace

St Andrews School News: Mr Taylor

School Build

The photo shown is of the new nursery building under construction. The main entrance to the school will also be here.



Enterprise Topic – Ukraine Fundraising

Pupils have been busy fundraising for Ukraine as part of their enterprise topic. Primary 4 held a 'Raffle for Ukraine' showcasing local businesses in the East Mainland of Orkney. They were completely overwhelmed by the amazing prizes that had been donated and raised a fantastic sum of £1500!

Other classes have had a busy production line making items such as pom pom keyrings, wildflower seed bombs, a grow your own sunflower contest, sun catchers and 'Ukaracelets' - woven woollen friendship bracelets. All of these items are being sold by the classes to raise money for Ukraine. Primary 3 pupils also held a Fairtrade tuckshop selling bananas, cookies and choccy delights which were generously donated by the Co-op and Tesco.



Bag The Bruck

Our P1 and P6 pupils carried out our yearly beach clean at Dingieshowe at the end of April. Thank you to all the helpers who came along. The children had a great morning at the beach and collected several bags of rubbish. They even found a small ladder and a clothes pole!

5.



GUILD AGM

The first full meeting since lockdown in 2020 was held on 2nd March 2022 with Rev Liz Kay and 8 members present.

Morag gave a comprehensive Treasurer's Report which showed a good base to work from. Maureen thanked Morag for this and thanked John Muir for checking the accounts.

Business followed which included final arrangements for the World Day of Prayer service. The meeting was then handed over to Rev Liz Kay who gave a fascinating talk on her path to Ministry.

She has been a P E Teacher and been involved with the Scottish Schools Basketball team, Community Education and Youth Work in Dundee and had to deal with drugs related issues as a major part of her work.

Having been involved with the kirk since her childhood she had a route to becoming an Auxiliary Minister until she retired at the age of 60.

Margaret Sparkes



Rev Liz Kay is presented with an Orkney Hamper after just over three months as our locum in the East Mainland Church.

6.

World Day of Prayer

The annual World Day of Prayer service was held in the church on 4th March at 7.30pm. This year the service was written by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland using the theme found in the book of Jeremiah, 'I know the plans I have for you.'

Locally eight readers and the organist made a good presentation using the service booklet. On behalf of the Guild, Rev. Liz Kay gave the final blessing. The Guild wish to thank all who came to assist with the service.

Maureen Tait

Morag led the meeting on 13th April opening with hymn 137 'All things bright and beautiful' followed by Evelyn reading from 2 Corinthians ch9 v6-12 and Morag reading a prayer. We were given information sheets on Guild Projects to decide which we will support.

OGT are looking for a maximum number to attend the next meeting as they are in urgent need of office bearers.

On conclusion of the business Morag welcomed Marlene Mainland who gave us a most interesting and fascinating talk on daffodils, followed by a quiz. Tea followed and Margaret gave the vote of thanks. Ruth again played for the closing hymn 153, 'Great is thy Faithfulness.'

Margaret Sparkes

The meeting on 4th May was led by Margaret who welcomed 9 members.

Isobel played for the opening hymn 'What a friend we have in Jesus.' The reading taken from John Ch1 v1-5 from the Living Bible was followed by a prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Maureen suggested supporting the Vine Trust as our Project choice for at least the next year.

Ruth suggested a Jubilee party for next months meeting and that was agreed.

The group was well entertained by members bringing along items of personal interest and telling the related stories which were amazing and fascinating.

Maureen served the tea with Morag helping and Ruth gave the vote of thanks. The meeting closed by singing hymn 528 'Make me a channel of your Peace .' *Margaret Sparkes*

On Wednesday the 1st of June on a lovely sunny day the Guild met with their guests to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Session Room had been decorated with Union Jack bunting and flags the day before and tables set up with china crockery and flowers.

Maureen led with a short prayer, a reading from Helen Steiner Rice on 'Love,' and the hymn 'All

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things bright and beautiful' which was indeed a song of praise, with Ruth on keyboard. A toast was given to her Majesty followed by a hearty rendering of 'God save the Queen.'



Out came the helpers from the kitchen to pour out the tea and put on the tables all kinds of savoury and sweet food.

It was a lovely chance to meet up with people again and to enjoy the afternoon.

Maureen then gave a vote of thanks and called on Rev Christopher to close the afternoon with prayer.

Maureen Tait

We Remember Ian Hourston 28/1/2022

Iris Walker 23/5/2022

8.

Church, Fund Raising and Social Events

Each **Sunday at 11:00am Worship** takes place in the **East Mainland Church**. All Welcome.

Sunday 19th June – Following the Morning Service, the **East Mainland Church Stated Annual Meeting** of the Congregation will take place. The Treasurer will present the Accounts and we will elect three members of the congregation to serve on the Board for a period of three years. The three members who are retiring from the board this year have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election.

Sunday 12th June – 3:00 – 5:00pm **Savoury Teas** will be served in the **Deerness** Community Centre. There will also be Sales Tables. All for Church Funds.

Sunday 26th June – 2:00 – 4:00pm There will be a **Sale of Household Items** from the manse that were donated by Wilma – currently in the church hall, and a chance to get together for a blether over a cup of **Tea and Home Baking**. Electrical goods come with no guarantee, but do seem to be working.

Small Change- Big Difference Tubs are available at the Church to gather loose change.

Sunday 28th August – A **Sponsored Walk** will take place in **Deerness**. Start time and route to be confirmed. If you are unable to take part please help by sponsoring someone who is walking.

Monday 3rd October – **East Mainland Church** will be in the **Blue Door** for the week 3rd - 9th October. Goods can be left at the Church or contact made with board/session members for uplift.

A **Big Sing** – Ruth, our organist, is going to organise a Big Sing to take place sometime between January and May 2023.

A **Church Calendar** is planned for 2024 – Any budding Photographers out there? Any one wanting to Sponser a page? More information to follow.

Editorial Team: Sheila Eunson, Joy Tait and Laurence Tait

Please email articles, using **Times New Roman size 12**, for the next newsletter to

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