



From the Manse,

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Isn't this just the most beautiful weather we've been enjoying the sun, and glad of the rain when it comes for our gardens and crops... and how quickly the year is passing... and so many changes in this last year.

We are minus two parish ministers Roy Cordukes and Stephen Manners both demitted since last summer and Jimmy Wishart has retired from active duty and we are a Reader down with Marion Dicken also retiring from active duty.

A lack of ministers and lay leadership is a challenge facing the Church from Shetland to the Solway Firth and it is time for all of us to think how, in the future, we can best serve our communities and congregations in Christ.

I mentioned at the last Session Meeting that we are really looking for folk from within the Congregation who feel a Call to minister to families in bereavement who will train with me to lead funeral services. Although Mainland Orkney has seldom used such a ministry it is not unusual on many of the isles – Hoy, Sanday and others regularly use Readers and Elders to conduct funeral services and is something we need to look to in the future.

Cover for Pulpit supply is difficult when we have so many vacancies. We are blessed in East Mainland because when a call went out volunteers came forward to re-form our Worship Group who will sometimes lead when I'm on Interim Moderator Duties in South Ronaldsay and Burray, or on holiday. The more folk we have in the Worship Group the easier it is as not all members will be available for each date. Volunteers are not being asked to preach. Members of the Worship Group have access to a store of resources and need not write prayers which worries some newcomers. All members are asked to read a lesson, a prayer or a poem. If you feel a Call to be involved then speak with the Minister. This is a very important ministry and as a Congregation, East Mainland folk offer Worship group members our prayer, our thanks and our support.

Presbytery too is looking to the future and have instructed each Congregation to conduct a Local Church Review which they hope will show up how we can pull resources and good ideas and look to the future staffing of Orkney Presbytery. We will arrange a meeting for all members and regular worshippers in early September.

So as it has been in the past the Church has to be up to the challenge of ministering to folk in our culture and society and perhaps more than ever *reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.*

I don't want this to sound gloomy and it is different but where there is passion and conviction among Christ's people and when we can make the body of Christ open welcoming and vibrant we can reach out and do Christ's bidding and do our best in our moment in time when we trust all to God.

With every blessing
Wilma

Fundraising

Savoury Buffet Teas: £1,100

Small Change/ Big Change : (so far) £1,559.60

Floral & Art Exhibition £755.30

Christian Aid: £2,796.61

Blue Door: £3,985.46

Out of the Life

Also Remembered

Eion James Garrioch 12/06/18



LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW Your Thoughts Please!

The Presbytery are looking to the future of the Church in Orkney and want East Mainland Congregation to share their views about what they want from Church life over the next 5 – 10 years.

An opportunity will be made for us to get together and talk but I was hoping that first you might all be kind enough to consider the questions and provide your answers...

We'll set up Boards where you can pin your answers as you come and go from the Church and we'll gather the information to present to you for discussion before our final response is made to Presbytery.

To the Congregations of Orkney

Introduction

Orkney Presbytery is asking for your help and participation to plan a way forward across the County, anticipating future challenges. The first stage of this process is to find out what needs there are and therefore we would like to encourage you to tell us about where you are in your ministry, your thoughts, concerns and dreams. It's a team exercise and we are asking every congregation in the Presbytery to engage in this process. The purpose of it is to find a way forward for all of us and we therefore need your help with it.

Every parish is unique; every story is different; you know your own story better than anyone else. That is why you are asked to write your story, tell us about congregational life in your parish, tell us of your worship, service, and so much more. Your story is vital in understanding the life of your congregation.

We would like you to read the questions in the attached form and, as a congregation, write down the answer that best sums up your current situation. This may be best done by breaking the questions up in to groups and having different groups of people answering different questions – do what you think is best for your congregation. We are happy to help facilitate this process.

Your Congregation's Story

Please tell us something of your Parish history. Think back over the last ten years. Share the recent story of your congregation – the celebrations, the struggles, the dreams.

Where have you seen God at work?

How did you get where you are in your congregational life?

Where do you think you are?

The report that follows asks many questions and the answers given will tell much. Therefore, your story below need not be more than a very few paragraphs. **Please tell us what the important moments in the last 10 years have been.**

Life of the congregation

Tell us about congregational life and its worship, fellowship, service, discipleship and evangelism.

Worship – The shared experience of meeting God; we gather to express our need for God and to express our gratitude for all that God has done for us.

Style(s) of worship – describe a typical service format;

Congregational member involvement in leading worship (Worship groups – how do they work? do they need support?)

How do you work with children and young people in your congregation?

Do you have any devotional meetings outside of a Sunday morning (Bible study, prayer group, ecumenical gatherings)?

Anything else you would like to tell us?

Service - The living out of our faith in practical ways. Jesus called us to be servants of all and this is shown to others as we care for our neighbours.

How do you provide Pastoral Care for people in your parish?

are you involved with school or other chaplaincies (Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides, other uniformed organisations)?



In what ways do you work in partnership with community groups or agencies?
Anything else you would like to say?

Congregation and Wider Church

This is about the Congregation and the Wider church - our relationships and involvement with Presbytery, central church structures and other denominations.

Tell us about any ecumenical relationships.

Tell us about any partnerships you have with the World Church

Tell us about your involvement with organisations, for example, Christian Aid.

Anything else you would like to say?

Communication

Communications – Tell us about your communication strategy/plan including website use:

How do you keep in touch with members, people living in your parish and your linkage partners where appropriate?

Anything else you would like to tell say?

Into the future

Tell us about your challenges and opportunities for the future. Tell us about your vision and plans for the next 5 years.

What are you good at?

What are you finding difficult/need help with?

What would you like to see happen in your congregation/parish in the next 5 years?

What steps have you taken or intend to take to make it a reality?

What could you potentially offer to others across the Presbytery?

Do you envisage changes in your buildings (improvements, sale etc.)?

Anything else you would like to say?

Please give consideration to these questions and either deliver your answers and suggestions to our suggestion box with or without your name attached or pin to our message boards on Sunday 26th August and 2nd September.

Thank you.

Wilma

Sunday School

The Sunday School Prizegiving was held on 1st July. It was a lovely sunny day so we took the bouncy castle outside at the back of the Kirk.





A colouring in challenge!



GUILD NEWS

ROADSHOW 2018 - 10 May

A good representation of Guilds in Orkney met in the East Mainland Church to hear news and encouragement from visitors from the Guild Office, Edinburgh. Jane Dargie opened the Roadshow with prayer, followed by the National convenor, Marge Paterson, with Conversations in Worship. They discussed Doing the Guild differently, the Year of Young People, and using the Theme Guide. This along with three short workshops made for a challenging morning. Hymns included "Great is Thy faithfulness" and "How Deep the Father's love for us." With further information on Resources and Communications the meeting was completed with a prayer and blessing led by Marion Macintyre.

Everyone moved through to have lunch together in the meeting rooms with tea served by East Mainland Guild.

SPRING RALLY

The gathering of Orkney Guilds, for the Spring Rally, took place in the East Mainland Church. A welcome was extended to all on behalf of the East Mainland Guild and Church by Joyce Johnston. She also welcomed our friends from the Guild Office and the representative from Christian Aid, Val Brown. Kenny Meason, brought greetings from Orkney Presbytery.

After a Reflection, Joyce Johnston announced the first hymn, "For the beauty of the earth." The Bible reading from Matthew 14:13-21 and the prayer were read by East Mainland Guild members.

Val Brown, from Christian Aid, gave a talk on the Solar Oven Project supported by the Guild. This has reached over 200 families in remote communities in the Amazon. The positive impact of the oven on each family is wide-ranging. Women have time to take on other roles within the community, the need for firewood is reduced and the people no longer need to breathe in smoke.

There followed the dedication of the offering and a vote of thanks by Liz McVicar. After the blessing Morag Sinclair led us in the hymn "To God be the Glory."

A time together was then spent over a welcome cup of tea.

Meeting 6th June 2018

Maureen Tait welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced the opening Hymn 694 "Brother, Sister" which was accompanied by Isobel Clouston.

The Bible reading from Matthew 5 v1-12 was read by Mabel Eunson and prayer followed by Nancy Omand.

Maureen then welcomed the guest speaker, Lindsay Drever from VAO Befriending. We soon realised the dedication and caring of the volunteers who are matched to people according to their interests. The group works with people who are at risk of becoming socially isolated and give support through shared activities, interests and hobbies. As well as people using the service, volunteers get ongoing support and training and have meetings with their Co-ordinator.

Appreciation for the talk as well as power point presentation and quizzes was voiced by Isobel Clouston.

Tea followed, served by Morag and Nancy.

The meeting closed with Hymn 465 "Be Thou my Vision" and prayer.

Maureen Tait

Art and Floral Exhibition - East Mainland Church

What a wonderful long week-end! The weather was fine and the East Mainland Church was decked out in the utmost finery, showing the talents of the people in the East Mainland, opened to the public from Saturday 30th June until Wednesday 4th July.

On entering the Church Foyer, visitors and friends were immediately struck by the fantastic artistry of the flower arrangements, depicting "The Artist's Palette." The first floral exhibit showed exactly that, primary colours cascading down to show such a variety of tone and colour in floral form, whetting the appetite of the beholder to experience more. That is just what happened! As you proceeded through to the worship area of the Church, all



your senses were immediately struck by the sight and smell of the beautiful array of floral artwork. All around you were pieces of floral extravaganza, exhibited in such a way as to introduce all kinds of creativity, poetry, prose and colour. A true “Artist’s Palette” indeed.

On leaving the worship area, you proceeded to the Session Hoose, where you were once more delighted by the work of artists from the East Mainland. This time with art and craft exhibits showing a great variety of art pieces from very talented artists. Works ranged from water colours, oils, acrylic works, pencil portraits, prints of animals, glass pieces, lamps made from upcycled materials, jewellery from two local ladies, art pieces from early works by Sheila Fleet, fantastic quilts from a local lady, quirky hats from a talented milliner, clocks, mirrors and many more. A truly majestic exhibition of works from the talented folk in the East Mainland.

And to cap it all, you were then further entertained to a cream tea served in the Sunday School Room, when you were served scones with strawberry jam and cream, along with tea or coffee of your choice. A truly memorable and enjoyable experience!

All this could not have happened without the help and encouragement of the willing band of people who stepped up to the mark to help the week-end go with a swing. Our grateful thanks go to all the exhibitors who shared their talents with us, both floral and art pieces, making it a great week-end. Thanks also to all the great bakers and helpers in the kitchen. What a feast!





Session 2017





Month	Date	Time	Event
September	2 nd	11:00am	Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	5 th	7:30pm	Guild with guest Mrs Val Kitchen in the Session Room
	9 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	16 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	19 th	1:30pm	Autumn Guild Rally in the Milestone Church with guest Muriel Drever (Mission Aviation Fellowship)
	23 rd	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	30 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
October	3 rd	7:30pm	Guild with visit from East Church Guild in the Session Room
	7 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	14 th	11:00am	Worship with Harvest Thanksgiving and Shoebox Appeal in the East Mainland Church
	21 st	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
	28 th	11:00am	Worship in the East Mainland Church
November	4 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School + Tea in the East Mainland Church
	7 th	7:30pm	Guild Matter of Opinion in the Session Room
	11 th	10:55am 11:15am 12:30am	Wreath Laying Services at Deerness & Holm War Memorials Remembrance Service & Sunday School in the Church Wreath Laying Service at the St Andrews War Memorial
	18 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
	25 th	11:00am	Worship & Sunday School in the East Mainland Church
December	2 nd	7:00pm	Guild Carol service in the Holm Community Centre

Editorial Team:

Sheila Eunson, Joy Tait, Laurence Tait and layout compiled by Russell Manson

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

eastmainlandchurch@gmail.com by 8th November

Church of Scotland

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