

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
27th May
2021



www.meadowbank.church

Dear friends

Russell—2 weeks on holiday

On Sunday afternoon I head off on another walking expedition as part of my 2 week break. Plans are to walk round the Island of **Arran** over 6-7 days—this island is sometimes called ‘Scotland in miniature’ and the Arran Coastal Way offers walkers a challenging and rewarding 65-mile / 105 kilometre circular route with amazing wildlife and fabulous scenery. I will be walking and camping with daughter, Margaret, and we will make a few diversions including climbing Goat Fell



Fiona(s) leading services

On Sunday 6th June **Fiona Beveridge**, one of our elders, will lead our Sunday Service. For those who don't know Fiona, you will appreciate that she plays piano for us before services. Fiona was Head Teacher in Macmerry Primary School before retiring in 2010 and is highly involved in Scripture Union.

On Sunday 13th June **Fiona Tweedie** will be coming to Meadowbank to help lead our worship. Fiona is an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) and a professional statistician with her own company— **Brendan Research** - and working for churches advising on facts and figures as they look to effective mission.



Please support both as they help lead our worship.

With love to all!

We have 24 places for the 11am service
To reserve a seat please text/phone/email Russell

11am Sunday 30th May

We have 24 places for these 11am services
to reserve a seat please text/phone/email Jackie
07956 451716—Jwilson-tagoe@churchofscotland.org.uk

**11am Sundays
6th June & 13th June**



Arran viewed from the Ayrshire coast

Brendan the Voyager

While Saint Columba gets headlines in the history of faith in Scotland in coming to Iona and founding churches all over our land, **Brendan** was active 20 years before Columba.

Born in Kerry in 484 he is known as **'The Voyager'** undertaking many sea voyages around Ireland, Wales and western Scotland before he undertook his famous journey to the New World—an all in a wee boat

He was one of the 12 'Apostles of Ireland' and it is claimed that he founded the monastery at Kilpatrick on Arran

Fiona Tweedie took the name of 'Brendan' for her company as a Christian hero with adventures to unknown lands. His spirit of exploration, understanding, and vivid descriptions are at the heart of Fiona's work with **Brendan Research** today.



Jackie Wilson-Tagoe

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Mission is the priority in the church's Radical Plan

5 Marks of Mission

The Church of Scotland in its Radical Plan works with these 5 priorities held together in balance. We can see how personal faith is important but so are compassion, justice and care for creation.

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

What a challenge—to hold these 5 together in our congregation's life. What is very clear is that the church doesn't so much exist for its members but we are there for other people!



Jim Wallace—Moderator

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland this year is an elder from Kirkwall, Orkney — [Jim Wallace](#).

He is only the second elder in modern times to be elected to the Church of Scotland's highest office.

But with a shrinking number of ministers, he suggested the church was having to rely more and more on elders. In a BBC radio interview, Lord Wallace said: *"Increasingly many responsibilities are falling on the shoulders of the elders. Kirk Sessions are full of people who have had such a wide range of experience. I think the church should be tapping more into that reservoir of expertise, of experiences."*

Impressions of General Assembly 2021—Isobel Gray

It has been said many, many times that this year's Assembly is very different from previous years. Over [600 Commissioners](#) are attending the gathering on Zoom, with a handful of people physically present in the Assembly Hall – the Moderator, his chaplains, the Principal Clerk, the Procurator (lawyer ensuring the legality of the proceedings) and the Convenors of the Forums and Committees which are presenting reports, along with some staff. Not visible to Commissioners sitting at home in front of their screens, but arguably the most important people of all, are the technical support staff who have to ensure that the Zoom connection and the Hub software are working well. The Hub lets Commissioners amend or add to the motions being brought to the Assembly, register their wish to speak and vote. I have not (so far) had the courage to speak but I have voted on every matter put to a vote. It seems important to me to exercise my right to do that as a Commissioner.

We know that [Covid 19](#) is going to have a lasting impact on the Church, bringing about change more rapidly that might otherwise have been the case. Some reports debated this week have spelled out the extent of the change thought necessary by the committees who look after our organization and they raise very big challenges that will have to be discussed and implemented by Presbyteries and congregations.

I once attended an Assembly as a visitor so I have a sense of what the atmosphere of a "normal" Assembly is like – a very sociable occasion with old friends catching up with each other and a lot of noisy chat between the formal debates. That is clearly missing and it is a big loss so I hope that next year it will be possible for a more "normal" gathering to take place again.



pray for our church — for wisdom, vision and faith