

WELCOME

This is a free resource to help people keep in touch with events in the Church of Scotland and related organisations during the Coronavirus Covid-19 lockdown. Please feel free to download and distribute as widely as possible. If you find this resource helpful, please consider supporting our work by subscribing, from £12 for six months, at www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe. The magazine is being printed and distributed as normal (although subject to postal delays) or you can choose the digital version, from £1.99 for a single issue.

47th Assembly for Dialysis Patient John



Being a kidney dialysis patient who is shielding during the coronavirus epidemic didn't stop John Williams taking on his accustomed role as technical director of the General Assembly. John, director of Oscus Media, carried out the role dressed in full personal protective equipment, with the agreement of his consultant. It was his 47th General Assembly. He said: "We were delighted with how it went. It was a weird experience but it was very moving, and the comments [since] have been absolutely incredible."

'The Call to Serve Is As It Was'

The new Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has reminded the Church that its call to serve is unchanging, even in the extraordinary circumstances of the moment.

The Rt Rev Martin Fair was installed in a socially distanced ceremony at the Assembly Hall on Saturday.

Thousands watched the ceremony online, and many more tuned in to a virtual Heart and Soul on Sunday.

Churches Face £30m Virus Loss

Church of Scotland congregations are expected to lose around a third of their income in 2020, totalling about £30m, due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The estimated loss is contained in a report issued by the Assembly Trustees last week, which warns 'palpable savings will have to be made' in the Church's finances.

Read the report at <https://bit.ly/2y193qu>

Immigration Bill Criticised

The Convener of the Church of Scotland's Faith Impact Forum has criticised the UK government's immigration bill, to which MPs gave initial approval this week.

The Very Rev Dr Susan Brown said that the legislation would favour the better-off rather than valuing all people equally, and praised the contribution of migrants to the Church

and the country.

New Iona Community Leader

The Rev Ruth Harvey has been announced as the new leader of the Iona Community. Ruth is a Church of Scotland minister and most recently director of the Church-founded mediation charity, Place for Hope. She will take up her new role from June 1.

Thy Kingdom Come

The new Moderator of the General Assembly is encouraging Church members to join him in taking part in the Thy Kingdom Come global prayer movement.

The ecumenical event runs from Ascension Day, May 21, to Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Visit www.thykingdomcome.global

Charities in Homelessness Call

Nineteen Scottish charity sector organisations have presented a joint plan to the Scottish Government aimed at permanently ending rough sleeping and

destitution in Scotland. The Everyone Home collective, which includes Bethany Christian Trust, Glasgow City Mission and the Cyrenians, is calling for a 'triple-lock' of measures, consisting of prioritising homelessness prevention, permanently preventing a return to previous levels of rough sleeping, and ending evictions into homelessness.

Overseas Church Donations

Two overseas churches have donated more than £29,000 to CrossReach's Covid-19 Emergency Appeal.

The Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany donated £17,596 (€20,000) and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan pledged £12,065 (\$15,000).

Viv Dickenson, the chief officer of the Church of Scotland's social care provider, said: "The generosity shown by our overseas partners will help to make a real difference to care home residents."