
CrossReach Open Christmas Shop

Purchases will support the Church of Scotland's social care provider



It may be (just) over 100 days until Christmas but CrossReach, the social care council of the Church of Scotland, has opened its festive shop.

An array of Christmas cards, advent calendars, gift wrap, gifts and e-gifts and care share gifts are available to order from <https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/>

The selection also includes care share gifts, where gift-givers can choose

CrossReach projects to support via a gift donation.

The selection includes CrossReach and Heart for Art (CrossReach's dementia art project) calendars.

CrossReach is Scotland's largest non-statutory care provider, running services for older people, children and families, people with learning disabilities, and people living with mental health problems or addiction. ■

Welcome to the Life and Work monthly newsletter, a free resource helping Church of Scotland members stay up-to-date with everything going on in the Church and its partners.

Each month there will be exclusive features, news and updates from Church organisations.

The newsletter is free to download from www.lifeandwork.org/newsletter. Feel free to share with church members, friends and family, and get in touch if you have any comments or suggestions.

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Assisted Dying Debate

As the Scottish Parliament considers legalising assisted dying, the Church of Scotland is reviewing its own position.

WITH a Bill to potentially legalise assisted dying currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament, one of the most significant questions facing our society is whether some people should have the right to choose when and how their lives end?

This is allowed in some other countries, but many are uncomfortable with how we ensure that this legislation is not used inappropriately, and also whether this changes the way society views the elderly and those with disabilities.

How should the church respond to this debate? Do we as humans have the right to choose when life ends, or is that God's choice?

Over the next few months, there will be opportunities to explore many of the issues raised by this topic, in a series of conversations on the issue of assisted dying. For more information contact Murdo MacDonald, Policy Advisor in the Public Life and Social Justice team, on mmacdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

In a written response to the proposals, sent last month, the Church said it was 'partially opposed' to the legislation becoming law due to its historic opposition to assisted dying while recognising that this position is currently under review.

A working group formed by the Theological Forum and Faith Action Programme Leadership Team is currently exploring the diverse views



held by Church members on the subject and will report to the General Assembly next year.

Emma Jackson, who leads the Church's Public Life and Social Justice Programme Group, said: "The issue of assisted dying is sensitive and personal, yet of deep importance to us in the Church.

"We are mindful that it can be a painful and difficult idea for some of us to even think about and we acknowledge the diversity of opinion and theology on this.

"We have sought to discuss and disagree well on this hugely significant public issue, and our response seeks to

represent this approach.

"In this work we aim to offer constructive comment to the Scottish Parliament and deepen our collective understanding.

"Our submission is not the final word from the Church of Scotland on the issue of assisted dying, it is a contribution to the debate about the Bill.

"We hope that we might be invited by the Committee to give oral evidence as part of its consideration, and we also encourage church members and ministers to write to their MSPs to share feelings and ideas about the Bill over the course of the autumn and winter." ■

Challenge Poverty Week

As part of Challenge Poverty Week, people with a Christian faith are coming together on October 12 in Glasgow to hear about the Minimum Income Guarantee and explore how this innovative proposal can be a tool to combat poverty and help dignity and compassion flourish in our communities?

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland will join other Faith Leaders, people with lived experience of poverty and policy experts to help us to think about how we can use our collective voice as a force for change.

Join us for this free event at the Renfield Centre in central Glasgow from 10-3pm on the 12th October and meet fellow Christians from different faith traditions. Some travel bursaries will be available. Please contact Alyson Laird at the Poverty Alliance for more details at Alyson.laird@povertyalliance.org. For more on the Minimum Income Guarantee please see "A Radical Hope" in September's edition of Life and Work, available from www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe

Tent of Nations Urgent Appeal

The Church of Scotland has been a long time friend of the Tent of Nations, a family farm on the outskirts of Bethlehem, which has been under threat for around 33 years as the courts have not re-registered their land, despite legal documents from the Mandate period clearly showing their ownership of the land.

Daoud Nasser, who is one of the family and who has spoken to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on a number of occasions, has written to the Church outlining a number of developments that have happened in recent times. Most importantly, he has noted that a hearing has been scheduled for the September 11 with the Israeli Military Court Re-registration Committee (the proceedings were later delayed until September 17).

We have been asked, along with others, to highlight this to our Government officials as it is vital that this hearing takes place, having been postponed many times before. The re-registration case numbers are 3714/02 and 3715/02.

The Tent of Nations requests that we contact our MPs to ensure that everything is done to make sure that this hearing happens, and that the cycle of injustice for the Tent of Nations is ended.

Alongside that, the Tent of Nations are asking for help and support in the following ways:

- That any and all construction of roads or structures on Tent of Nations property must stop, as well as all unauthorised entry to the property
- That the family and visitors have free access to the Tent of Nations property from road 60
- That the current intimidation and harassment by the Israeli military and settlers must stop
- That Government officials visit as often as possible to see the facts on the ground.

You may well know that the motto of the Tent of Nations is that they 'refuse to be enemies.' This approach to peacemaking is sorely needed in Israel and Palestine at the current time, and the farm is a beacon of hope for many who visit.

You can find out more about the Tent of Nations at <https://tentofnations.com/> and on their [facebook page](#).

What's On

Seeds for Growth

Presbytery meetings for anyone interested in finding out more about the Church of Scotland's Seeds for Growth fund continue this autumn.

The fund provides grants of up to £100,000 a year for projects aimed at church growth, either within existing worshipping communities or developing new ones.

The scheduled meetings are:

Wednesday September 18

2-5pm and 7-9pm

Presbytery of Forth Valley and Clydesdale: Hamilton St John's Parish Church

Wednesday October 2

7-9pm

Clèir Eilean Ì, online

Thursday October 3

2-5pm and 7-9pm

Presbytery of Perth: St Matthew's Church of Scotland, Perth

Saturday October 5

10.30am-3.30pm

Presbytery of Lothian and Borders: St John's and King's Park Church, Dalkeith

Saturday November 30

Times TBC

Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands, online

For details, email Hannah Sanderson on hsanderson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Book Launch

Three launch events will take place later for a new book written by a Church minister. 'Oh All Right Then' has been written by the Rev Dr Marjory MacLean to illustrate the many and varied experiences of ministry life.

There will be launch events in Edinburgh on Sunday September 22, London on Sunday September 29, and St Margaret's Hope, Orkney, on October 1.

For more information and to register visit <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/marjory-maclean>

In October's Life and Work

'A multi-faceted and profound relationship'

Africa and the Church of Scotland

Bears and daisy chains

New Guild partner projects

Jane's story

A life transformed by God

Bewilderingly varied

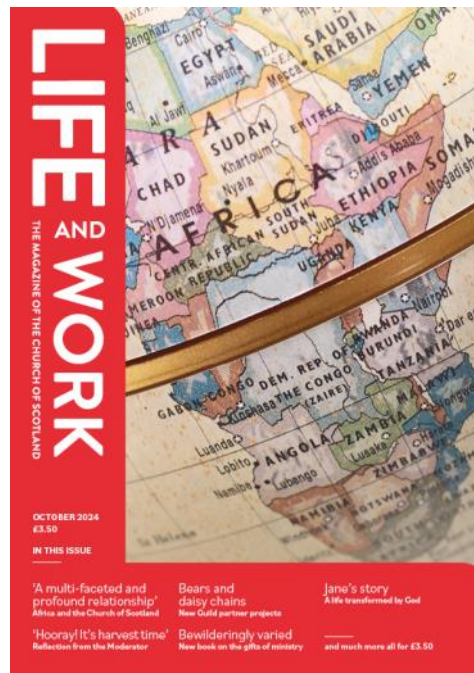
New book on the gifts of ministry

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of South West Scotland

'Hooray! It's Harvest time'

Moderator's reflection



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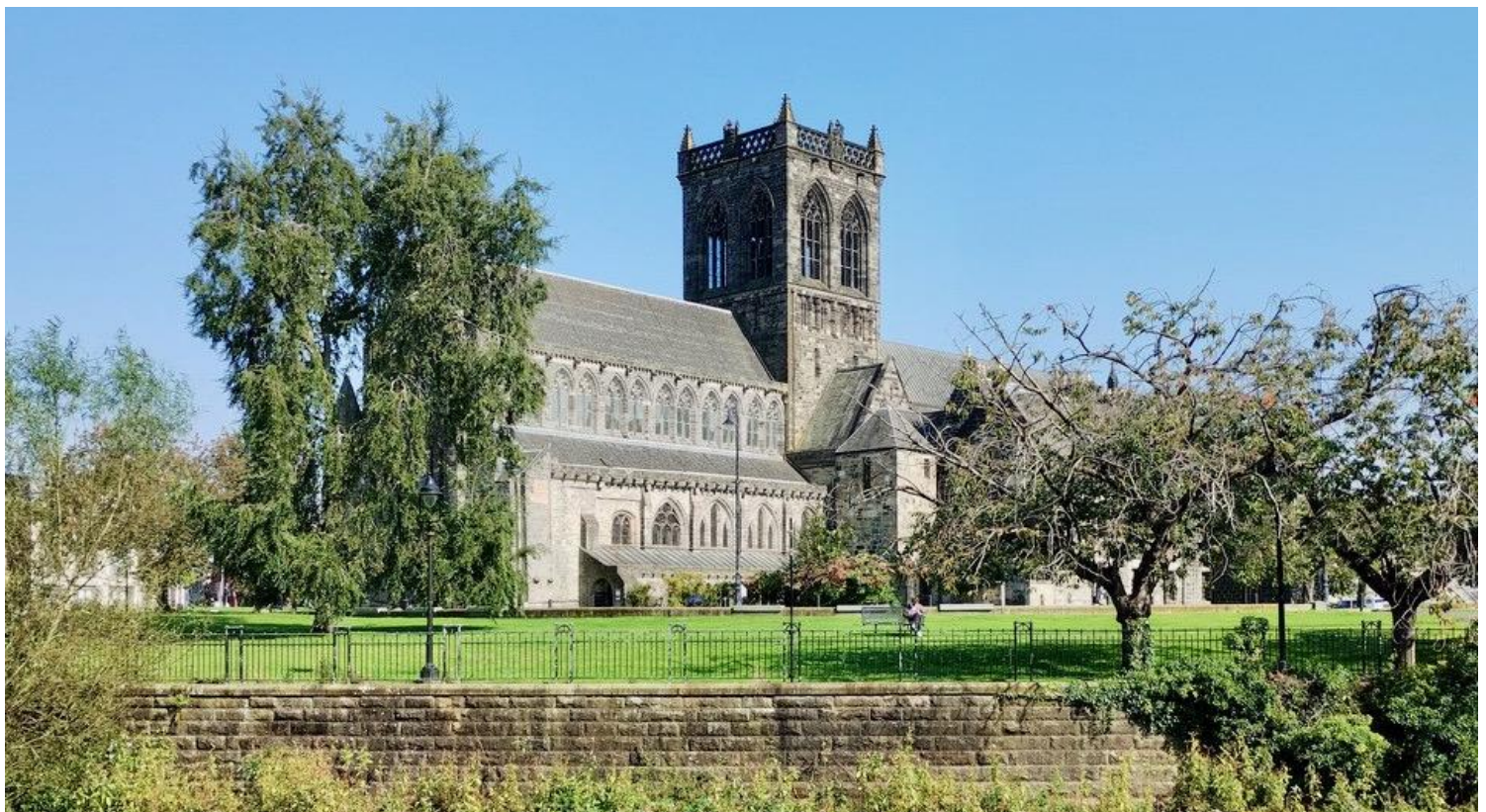
Gift subscriptions are available. New elders and communicants are eligible for three free issues.

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The Big Picture

Paisley Abbey by Ann Griffiths



Editor: Lynne McNeil. **Deputy Editor:** Thomas Baldwin. **Features Writer:** Jackie Macadam

Business Manager: Dianne Sanderson. **Administrator:** Melissa Grimley

Life and Work, Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN. Scottish charity number SC011353