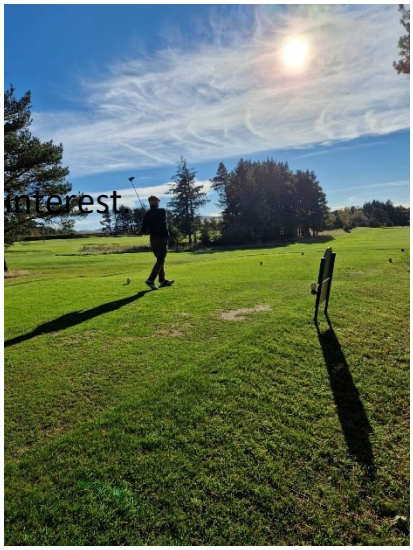

Last Presbytery Golf outing for 2024 – There will be more in 2025 – Contact Adam Hood for interest.

Eleven of us had a fantastic day recently at Gifford Golf Club. Arranging the Presbytery Golf outing for mid-October might have seemed somewhat foolhardy; not a bit of it! The weather was warm and sunny with hardly a breath of wind, the company was good, the course was in excellent shape and the golf … didn't quite live up to the setting! We ended the day with good natured banter over excellent, homely food, whilst the prizes were given out for best score, longest drive (a certain N Smith), and nearest to the hole at a par three. Thanks to Finlay for organising. Already looking forward to the next instalment in the spring.

Revd Adam Hood, Minister, St Andrew's Wallace Green & Lowick Church Berwick-Upon-Tweed, 01289 332787

MESSAGE FOR PRESBYTERIES

Please see below an email from Mirella Yandoli and Rowan Moodie with information on how your Presbytery can support Scottish Interfaith Week.

Dear Friends,

This year Scottish Interfaith Week is being celebrated on 11 - 18 Nov 2024, and we would like to encourage you to consider ways your presbytery could participate. Interfaith Week is a time for faith groups come together to celebrate diversity and gather around the values we have in common. This year is the 20th Anniversary, and the theme is **Discovery**, inviting us to share and learn from one another with curiosity and openness.

The need for interfaith solidarity is as great than ever. This summer we witnessed a shocking explosion of far-right violence across England and Northern Ireland targeting people of colour, asylum seekers, and Muslim places of worship. While thankfully the rioting did not spread to Scotland, there has been an uptick in racist incidents and hostilities that have left people feeling increasingly isolated and afraid.

In times of hate it is important to remind our friends in other faiths that we support them and stand alongside time. Some in the far-right have tried claim that they are 'defending Christendom' against perceived enemies. As Christians we must be clear that this co-opting of the message of Jesus for hate is, in the words of Archbishop of Canterbury, 'fundamentally antichristian'.

It is with this in mind that we encourage you to consider what you would like to do to mark this Interfaith Week and show that our bonds of community and friendship are stronger than hatred or division.

Advice and ideas can be found in the Interfaith Week Website, but in addition here are some suggestions on events that you could consider running yourself or partnering with others to run:

Event using the Jewish-Christian Glossary

Last year saw the launch of the Jewish-Christian Glossary, a landmark piece of work created by the Church of Scotland and the Jewish Community. The Glossary takes words used in both faiths, such as 'covenant' or 'Jerusalem' and reflects on the similarities and difference in how we use these terms.

Congregations are invited to use the Glossary in their own context. An event could focus on a particular word from the Glossary, exploring what assumptions we bring to these terms and what we can learn from a Jewish perspective.

We have created a worksheet to help groups in using the Glossary, that can be accessed on the Church of Scotland Website. For further assistance in using the glossary or developing event ideas around it, please contact Mirella Yandoli myandoli@churchofscotland.org,uk

Refugees Welcome events

Interfaith week can be a fantastic time to express our hospitality to refugees and people seeking sanctuary in Scotland. Refugees come from a wide range of faith backgrounds, but wherever someone has come from there is always need for a faithful welcome. Ideas for events could include:

- A social event bringing faith groups and refugees together. Interfaith Aberdeen have run a You Me and a Cup of Tea events celebrating themes of hope and community over a hot drink and a cake. Simple but very effective.
- Opportunities to amplify the voices of refugees. Forthview Parish Church hosted a Photographic Exhibition of images from Ukraine, curated by Ukrainian refugees living in Fife. These allow people to find their voices and share their unique and valuable perspectives.
- Hosting an awareness raising event. Invite a speaker to share about the role of faith in supporting refugees and welcoming the stranger in our midst. To request Rowan, co-ordinator of Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees to speak, please fill in our new Speaking Request Form

For advice and support in welcoming refugees people visit Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees or contact Rowan Moodie at rmoodie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Other helpful info

- There are local interfaith groups up and running in every local authority in Scotland. A list of these groups can be found here https://interfaithscotland.org/local-interfaith-groups. If you haven't already we would encourage you to reach out the them and offer to promote or even co-run an event
- Any events planned during IFW can be placed on the Scottish Interfaith Week website. Please find the link for that here: https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/submit-an-event

- New posters for the week are available at the link below. You can also download logos and graphics for Facebook, twitter (X) and Instagram https://scottishinterfaithweek.org/resources
- Like and follow Scottish Interfaith Week on social media and tag in your social media posts:
    - Facebook – @FollowSIFW
    - Twitter – @SIFWEvents (also use hashtags #ScottishInterfaithWeek #SIFW2024)
    - Instagram – @scottishinterfaithweek

Best wishes

Mirella Yandoli & Rowan Moodie

Mirella Yandoli | She/Her *why is this here?* | Executive Officer in Equalities | Faith Action: Public Life and Social Justice | The Church of Scotland

121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN | Switchboard Tel: 0131 225 5722 | Mob 07817917090 | Email: myandoli@churchofscotland.org.uk

Working Pattern Mon-Fri / 35 hours, working a combination of in the office and remotely. I work flexibly and may occasionally send emails outside normal working hours. Please do not feel under any obligation to respond outside your own working hours.

Dear Grace, John and Norman,

I'm writing to presbyteries in and near Edinburgh to highlight the Festival of Book and Belief.

We have an excellent line-up of guests and topics this year - including David Clark Maxwell's biographer and a discussion on Scottish religious poetry. Please find information about the speakers and links to book on our website here. https://divinity.ed.ac.uk/new-college-festival. We hope there's something for everyone.

We have a reduced-price pass for anyone who wants to come to all or most the events. Please would you circulate the date and website information around your presbytery.

I'm directing the Festival this year while Alison Jack is on study leave and I very much look forward to welcoming you to New College next month.

All good wishes,

Emma

Prof. Emma Wild-Wood
Professor of African Religions and World Christianity.
Co-director Centre for the Study of World Christianity,
Co-editor of *Studies in World Christianity*,
Series editor 'Religion in Transforming Africa'.

Latest books: *The Mission of Apolo Kivebulaya: Religious Encounter & Social Change in the Great Lakes c.1865-1935* (2020). *The Archive of a Ugandan Missionary: Writings by and about Revd Apolo Kivebulaya (1800s-1950s)* (2022).

School of Divinity \ University of Edinburgh \ New College \ Mound Place \ Edinburgh \ EH1 2LX \ UK

Dear Mr Smith

I am a Director and Trustee of Whitchester Christian Centre near Hawick. My wife Ros and I are both Episcopal Lay Readers, and we will be leading a weekend at Whitchester in November on the Gospel of Luke, which is the Lectionary Gospel for 2024-25. We are trying to publicise this event in the Edinburgh area and in the Borders. Would you be able to circulate the attached details to members of your Presbytery, and especially to worship leaders and others who might be interested?

With many thanks for your help,

Chris

Dr Chris Brett
Warden of Lay Readers for the Episcopal Diocese of Argyll and The Isles.
07711 944807

Hi Everyone!

September gives way to October, and with it comes "Glimpses of Glory", the worship and mission resources which Katie Hill and I have been working on over the summer.

Very shortly both my words and Katie's illustrations will be available for download via www.longniddrychurch.org.uk . Meanwhile, Fiona and Leslie might like to circulate the links below to their committee members and either Peter or Norman might do likewise for our Presbytery's ministers, deacons and worship leaders.

Glimpses of Glory document:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/lcbnhlh9wcuowd1lyt3mm/Glimpses-of-Glory-2024.pdf?rlkey=tr7lpc383lude8y7cjfuis0yn&dl=0

Accompanying PowerPoint slides:

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/gb7nryvypyljz6awfk6hi/Glimpses-of-Glory-Slides-2024.pptx?rlkey=efu7ug4i67x6ug441zv31bccv&dl=0

Many thanks to Martin for his Foreword, which kicks the whole thing off on a very nice note.

Cheers again, and see you soon,

Robin (and Katie)

Dear Norman,

I hope all's well with you. Hope the Presbytery Clerk role is going well. It's great that you and Peter Wood are able to work together there - a dynamic duo! I'm not sure if you saw the article in the *Life and* Work this month, but a new Christian retreat centre has been established at Kilmalieu on the west coast, about 20 miles from Fort William. In one sense it is 'new', but in another we are restoring what was an important place of prayer in the early days of Christianity in Scotland.

The seeds of the vision for developing this place of prayer and hospitality were sown during my 15 years as a Mission Development Worker for the Church of Scotland, when I realised the value and importance of opportunities for people, especially those in church leadership, to slow down, pray and reflect – sometimes gathering with others, sometimes in solitude.

During the coming months we plan to offer some free-of-charge opportunities for church leaders (and their spouses if appropriate) to come and experience an overnight retreat here. If that might be of interest to you, please get in touch.

Kilmalieu is a 3000-acre estate, a place of rugged beauty, hills, coastline and woodlands. The main accommodation is a renovated eighteenth-century hunting lodge, with a variety of comfortable rooms. Guests have access to a small library, chapel, art room, games room and gym. A fire pit and are also BBQ available.

In addition to the main house, a separate lodge in the grounds overlooks Loch Linnhe and provides a comfortable base for a self-catered retreat for an individual, couple or group of 3 or 4 people.

As well as offering scheduled retreats (which you can see on the website by **clicking here**), the centre also offers an ideal base for small groups (up to 24, depending on the configuration of singles, couples etc.) and we would love to host groups from churches around Scotland. No group is too small. We can offer input or guidance from our team here – or just provide the hospitality for visitors to do their own thing.

If you would like to explore the possibility of coming for a visit, bringing a group to Kilmalieu, or joining one of the retreats already on offer - please email kilmalieu@abernethy.org.uk or call 01967 411222. If you would like to follow developments here, please follow 'Abernethy-Kilmalieu' on **Facebook** or **Instagram**.

Every blessing,

Steve Aisthorpe
Centre Director, Kilmalieu

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Tel: 01967 411222
Email: kilmalieu@abernethy.org.uk

www.abernethy.org.uk

Abernethy Kilmalieu, PH33 7AD

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