

ST MUNGO'S PARISH CHURCH GUILD

# GUILD NEWSLETTER

May/June 2021



Dear Friends,

I hope you are all well.

In May we would normally be looking forward to our "Summer Outing" before breaking up for the Summer. Covid19 has put paid to our 2021 trip so let's do a virtual one "Down Memory Lane".

Over the years we have been on many bus runs, a canal trip from Linlithgow, visited many historic grand country houses, castles (Inveraray and Glamis) and wandered around their stunning gardens. Each year we choose to travel to the opposite point of the compass from the previous year.

In 2000 to mark the new century we rose early and travelled across the gorgeous Scottish countryside and on to a ferry to Iona and on another memorable occasion we travelled over the Border to Alnwick Castle in Northumberland where some scenes of a Harry Potter film were shot. We saw the revamped gardens and the cascade waterfall that May Murray's son worked on.

As with every outing we always stop for a High Tea at a hotel before heading home, tired but happy.

Bob Hope's song "Thanks for the Memories" comes to mind.

I hope these places have jogged special memories of places and people we journeyed with and that many more outings have now been remembered.

The Guild office has sent the information on the new projects and theme so, with fingers crossed, let's hope we can resume meetings in October. We might require to change our way of meeting or think seriously about afternoon meetings..... but that's some way off.

Last year wasn't great in many respects so let's look forward to a good Summer, lots of Sunflowers, and get set to try again.

It would be great to see you at Church, the Church Cafe or simply in town.

God Bless you all,

Christine x

Bette Carmichael

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of one of our long-time members – Bette Carmichael. She was a stalwart of the Guild and the Craft Group for many years and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her. Bette was never one to sit back and do nothing but was often found washing the dishes or manning the cake and candy stall at coffee mornings. She will be remembered for her sense of humour and the funny stories she told. Our sympathies go to her family at this sad time.

## GUILD PROJECTS 2018-21

Despite the difficulties of the last year, Guild members nationally have continued to support the projects and the total amount raised over the 3 year period was £551,434.70. The amount given to each project is as follows:

CrossReach: £103,123.34  
Boys' Brigade: £93,853.57  
Malawi Fruits: £86,837.29

Sailors' Society: £84,555.46  
World Mission: £84,874.10  
Free to Live Trust: £98,190.94

## GUILD PROJECT PARTNERS 2021-24

### **The Vine Trust – Kazunzu Village of Hope in Tanzania**

This project supports the development of a sustainable village with homes, a school, a health centre, a community hub and 40 individual homes. The large family homes will enable young families to serve as foster parents to four or five orphan children. Self-sustainability will come through agriculture, gardening, fish-farming and the development of a transport business.

### **Beat – 'Blether with Beat', Scotland**

Eating disorders have a huge impact on young people and on their families. This project will help develop a network of young ambassadors who will work to raise awareness of the impact of eating disorders and to encourage people to seek help. In addition, the charity hopes that by engaging with the Guild its members will be better informed and able to share resources and key messages about eating disorders.

### **Home for Good, Scotland**

Home for Good is a Christian charity dedicated to finding a home for every child who needs one. The charity works to inspire people to think about fostering and adoption. It also equips churches to welcome these families and help support people on their journeys. Home for Good wants all children to find a loving home and this project will help them to do that.

### **Pioneers – Chocolate heaven, South East Asia**

This project will help build and develop a factory to support the production of sustainable chocolate production in South East Asia. The project's success will be measured by:- more farmers receiving fair prices; more workers experiencing regular employment - many for the first time and more parents able to provide a bright future for their children.

### **UNIDA – 'Hear our voice!', Brazil**

'Faith in the Future' is a project at Faculdade Unida de Vitória (UNIDA), a higher education institution in Brazil, designed to empower young women through theological education. UNIDA believes in an education that can transform lives in a violently unjust Brazilian society.

### **Starchild, Uganda**

Starchild are hoping that, together with the support of the Guild, they will be able to build a centre where children with a range of learning disabilities - but particularly autism - can come to learn alongside their peers. In Uganda, children with learning disabilities are often hidden away and do not receive the education they should.

The Guild National newsletter

Every week the Guild nationally produces a newsletter which is available to read on the computer. It contains a variety of items about the Guild and a few weeks ago our own Guild featured in it. For those who do not have access you can read the article about us below.

***A very different year in St. Mungo's Parish Church Guild, Alloa***

*When we had to cancel our Sister Guild evening with the Hillfoots Music for Youth and our 2020 AGM in March, we did not expect the proposed 11 weeks' closure and subsequent lockdown to last a year with no Guild meetings. We had to think differently about the ways in which we could keep Guild members connected.*

*Many of our members did not have access to technology so we had to look at other ways. We did have a couple of Zoom committee meetings and offered this as a chance to see one another but there was little demand for it. We produce regular newsletters every couple of months which are printed and either hand-delivered or posted out to members. Those which are hand-delivered usually involve a socially distanced and masked chat on the doorstep. The newsletters give updates on the projects and usually a look back at what we would normally be doing. We include puzzles and pictures of past events. There is often a little extra included, for example, a chocolate coin, a wooden tree decoration in a Christmas card, and a copy of the Strathcarron activity book. Members phone one another just to keep in touch. Guild Blessings cards, birthday cards and, sadly, sympathy cards have also been sent.*

*Our local church website has been used to draw attention to the Guild projects on several occasions. Hats were knitted for the Sailor's Society and a donation sent for Christmas parcels for them. The weekly national Guild newsletter is sent to those with an email address and a link put on the website. A copy of our own members' newsletter is also made available on the website.*

*We also knitted small prayer shawl squares for members. One lady told me she keeps it in her pocket and another said she puts it under her pillow. The local World Day of Prayer meeting was held by Zoom and I was told the singing was "something else!"*

*Our members paid their annual subscriptions as normal last year which enabled us to donate to our Church, the Guild, and the projects.*

*This Easter, all members received a card and an unexpected treat in the form of a box of cakes to enjoy.*

*One member of our Guild is in hospital and our thoughts are with her and her family, and one member has recovered from contracting Covid-19 last year.*

*Our members are staying safe and well and looking forward to a time when we can all meet up again.*

The article was illustrated with a picture of the Guild tree at the Festival of Lights.

## Subscription

We have had word from Guild headquarters that there is a proposal to increase the annual capitation fee by £3. This is normally done at the beginning of each new Guild theme and was last increased in 2018. The cost of being part of the Scottish Women's Institutes is £12.50 for the national element and £20-30 for local groups. To receive their newsletters costs an additional £ 31 a year. The Mothers' Union charge a joining fee of £35, followed by annual payments of the same amount. Rotary membership is around £100 per year. A different way of looking at it is to compare it to the cost of day-to-day things - Coffee and cake can cost £5-£7, Fish and chips £7 or more and a Sunday newspaper £3 or more so the Guild is value for money. The Guild is a really important part of many lives...not just its members, but the congregations it serves, its communities, its project partners and the folk they help. A final decision will be taken at the June meeting of the National Council but we can probably expect some increase in fees come October.

## Other news

- Billy Campbell is hosting a tea and scone afternoon for the Guild in St Mungo's café on Wednesday 26 May which we are sure will be much appreciated by those who are able to attend.
- Guild members enjoyed a surprise delivery of cakes at Easter. Guild members were delighted with this and also welcomed the thought behind it.
- We have had some members celebrating birthdays over recent weeks and hope that they all had an enjoyable day.

## Something to pass the time!

### Guild Projects Wordsearch

E F N N W R C X X A W Q B G B G  
A A R A V X H U I S S N S D W F  
D U G X I D O Y G D A V O R I N  
I T P V N F C Q U K S O U E I U  
N I D I E M O B A W G L F D Q T  
U S L U T A L Y K R Q U A R T E  
P M I P R Q A K O A T N I O B M  
I B H P U M T F A E W T R S E O  
O M C P S V E U D G A E P I A H  
N X R A T M W U F W O E R D T G  
E S A F O X C G I L I R I G A N  
E J T H K A Z U N Z U S C N C I  
R X S B T Y L I M A F P E I Y V  
S J K I X T R H H O N J S T A O  
V N O U C Y M L V A X E C A M L  
R N D E A N K Q T E G P M E B D

AUTISM BEAT CHOCOLATE EATINGDISORDER EDUCATION  
FAIRPRICES FAMILY HOMEFORGOOD KAZUNZU LOVINGHOME  
PIONEERS STARCHILD UNIDA VINETRUST VOLUNTEERS

Which Guild Outings were these?

