



The Church of Scotland

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FREE

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL - CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

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ACT JUSTLY

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World Mission Partners.

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 Israel and Palestine: Kate McDonald,
 John McCulloch.
 Italy: Fiona Kendall.
 Malawi: Linus Malu, Gary Brough.
 Nepal: Joel Hafvenstein.
 Zambia: Jenny Featherstone, Ida
 and Keith Waddell.

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The Church of Scotland
 World Mission Council

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Welcome to the February/March edition of WM

- 2: The Ethics of Aid**
Conscientious giving.
- 4: One World Shop**
Learn more about supporting
Fairtrade initiatives.
- 6: Climate Justice: the time to
choose is now**
Understanding our role in climate change.
- 8: Prayer Focus**
What a Wonderful World.
- 10: Mission Partner Farewells**
Colin and David reflect on the blessings and challenges
from their experiences.
- 12: My Faithshare Family**
Learn more about the scholarship programme and meet
some of our students.
- 14: Volunteer Opportunity**



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Editorial

How are those New Year resolutions going? Have they lasted past January? Or maybe, like me you didn't decide on something and now you've decided that you'll make a change for Lent and hope that it sticks? In this issue of WM there are lots of things to think about in terms of our lifestyle and the impact we can make. Whether it's through where we chose to shop, who we financially support or how we think about our individual contribution to climate change, this issue explores how our choices have the power to make a difference. Why not think about what changes you could make in your life that could have a positive effect?

One of the ways you've already been part of making a positive difference is by supporting the Church of Scotland HIV

Programme, more recently through the new All Tied Up fundraising initiative – thank-you! If you haven't already you can access the resources by visiting the World Mission Council website or emailing hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk. Once you've ordered your laces why not organise a sponsored walk with your Church walking group? In this issue of WM, we hear from a couple of our previous Mission Partners as they reflect on their experiences and from a scholarship student sharing about her Faithshare family; all reminding us of the benefit of learning from others and connecting with different cultures.

Why not think about what changes you could make in your life that could have a positive effect?

Answers to the 'All Tied Up' photo quiz which appeared in the December/January issue.

- A – Christian Aid Power Walk at Whitelee Windfarm
- B – Calton Hill, Edinburgh
- C – Old Course, St Andrews
- D – Tobermory, Mull
- E – Skara Brae, Orkney
- F – Lincoln statue, Edinburgh
- G – Iona Abbey, Iona
- H – Donald Dewars statue in front of the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow
- I – Skye Bridge
- J – Desperate Dan statue, Dundee
- K – SSE, Glasgow
- L – Andy Murray's postbox, Dunblane
- M – Memorial Court and Cowdray Hall, Aberdeen
- N – Jedburgh Abbey, Jedburgh
- O – Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
- P – Glenfinnan Viaduct
- Q – John Knox statue, Edinburgh
- R – Eilean Donan Castle



THE ETHICS OF AID



During the Just Festival, **Carol Finlay** took part in a panel discussing the ethics of aid. Here she shares some key points.

Recently I watched a short video request on a specific donation site. The person making the request and the place being highlighted was well known to me. The short 60 second plea for people to gift money for what I know is a very good cause made me feel very uneasy. The vocabulary and tone of voice gave the impression that the situation was grave and if listeners did not empty their purses then it would lead to many deaths, and particularly those of children.

Was the film made with the intention of tugging at heartstrings and making people give because they either would feel guilty if they did not give, or indeed feel good if they

Having the power to improve the lives of others is, for us all, a privilege, and one that comes with its own sense of obligation

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did? Either way is this the correct motive for giving? It is very easy to give...we have all done it, a pound in a collecting can or envelope or more than likely a click of a button these days can allow us to feel we have done our bit. Do we sometimes even ask where the money is going; will it be used for its intended purposes?

So what do we mean when we talk about aid? The dictionary tells us that aid is a voluntary transfer of resources from one to another; but so often it is hung on the hook of achieving something for oneself in the process. Governments often give what is required to gain something else in return... 'we will build you a road if we can have access to mine your gold'. In the same vein, as individuals, aid in one form or another often needs some sort of return... 'we will sponsor a child's education if we can have a photo each year to put on our fridge so visitors can see we are good people'. How can aid given for humanitarian reasons become a way to forward global justice? Perhaps we need to see aid as not the one off gift of money or goods but as part of a longer term plan to enable sustainable development; to reduce the effects of poverty, to combat climate justice and to allow people dignity and opportunity to improve their own lives, families and communities. As we think about the ethics of aid, we need to see what we give as truly a gift, but one where the benefit is to the recipient, not to ourselves.

Having the power to improve the lives of others is, for us all, a privilege, and one that comes with its own sense of obligation. Acting on these powerful feelings of responsibility is one way to feel like we're living in a way that is true to our own ethical beliefs. So think before you click the donation button, do not send the half pencils, the old clothes or other things which you would not use for yourself to your partner overseas. Talk with them, seek out what will be of greatest benefit and will enable change and act on that.



SUPPORTING FAIR TRADE INITIATIVES



Rachel Farey is the Business Manager of the One World Shop at St John's Church on Princes Street, Edinburgh. Here she speaks about the recent changes at Traidcraft, the UK's main fair trade supplier and how this has affected the shop.

The One World Shop has been buying crafts and food from Traidcraft since the shop started back in 1983 and they continue to be one of our main and most important suppliers. When they announced that they would cease trading on 31st December 2018 it sent shockwaves not just through us and our customers but throughout the fair trade community across the world. We received messages from fair trade friends in India, Bangladesh and US expressing their sadness at such a tragedy. Traidcraft has been a vital lifeline for producers for almost 40 years and their loss would be devastating. Fortunately, after a heartfelt appeal and a

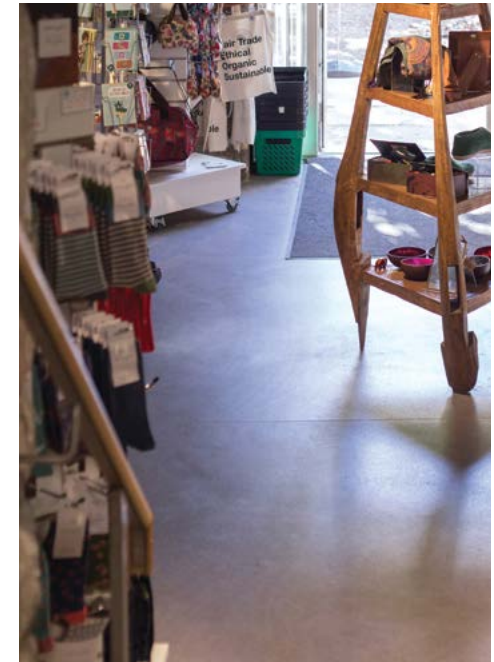
surge of support, Traidcraft will now keep trading but with a new business model. Their scaled down operation and slimmed down company will focus mainly on selling food and a small selection of crafts that have been imported by others in the UK. For the shop, although we purchase from many other wholesalers who import fairly traded crafts for shops, none have the range and scope of Traidcraft, or put in the amount of support and product development. We will certainly miss the familiar jute bags and coir baskets from Bangladesh, the Bolivian recycled wine glasses, the block printed textiles from Jaipur and many other of their

DON'T FORGET!
Fairtrade Fortnight: 25 Feb - 10 March 2019



signature pieces.

It is welcome news that Traidcraft are continuing to supply their core food and drink products, it is particularly these products that church groups request for their stalls and coffee mornings. The support that the church communities have given to Traidcraft and to the aims and values of fair trade have been at the heart of its success. Thousands of churches across the UK run stalls selling teas, coffees, biscuits and chocolate in order to support farming and craft communities in the poorest corners of the world and to help combat poverty. Becoming a Fairtrade Church helps keep the profile of fair trade up, ensuring the products are visible and there is active support for the many campaigns that Traidcraft Exchange run, the charity organisation of Traidcraft. The One World Shop and other similar shops exist to show the vibrant mix of fairly traded crafts, toys, homeware, fashion, food and textiles all in one place. Many of the products are handmade from small communities that are unlikely to be found anywhere else. The shops are dedicated to supporting both people's livelihoods and the planet; our climate friendly policies promote a plastic-free lifestyle and aim to have a lighter footprint than other high street shops. In the current political climate of division, nationalism and separation, it's important to keep supporting your local independent fair trade shop more than ever. We provide an online shop for easy purchasing, stalls for schools, churches and community events and a friendly place to pop into and have a chat.



ACT NOW...

For more information here are some useful websites:

- www.oneworldshop.co.uk
- www.bafts.org.uk
(British Association of Fair Trade Shops & Suppliers) - find a shop near you
- www.scottishfairtradeforum.org.uk

CLIMATE JUSTICE: THE TIME TO CHOOSE IS NOW



Photo credit: NASA

Adrian Shaw is the Climate Change Officer for the Church of Scotland. Here he encourages us to think about why and how we should care for creation.

December 2018 was the fiftieth anniversary of the Apollo 8 mission. This was the first human voyage outwith the earth's orbit and three astronauts (Frank Borman, James Lovell, and William Anders) saw, for the first time, the beauty of earth from afar. The picture now known as earthrise has rightly become a classic, showing a beautiful blue and white planet in the darkness of space rising above the horizon of the moon - "a vast, lonely, forbidding expanse of nothing" according to Borman. In a live broadcast the astronauts read from the creation story in Genesis before returning to earth.

The moment has been claimed as one of the turning points in the development of modern environmentalism showing us the earth in all its beauty, isolation and fragility. The thin layer of atmosphere is our breathing space and protects us from the sterility beyond.

Yet in the years since that photo was taken we have been changing our atmosphere

Stories from partner churches have told us with increasing concern of changing rainfall patterns and drought; of crop failure or flooding, of increasingly severe storms or the inexorable rise in high tides for coastal communities.

at an alarming rate. By burning increasing quantities of oil and gas and coal we have increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from 323 parts per million (ppm) in 1968 to 408ppm today. This change increases the heat retaining properties of the atmosphere warming the air and the oceans and leading to a climate that is slowly



Photo: Sean Hawley, WCC

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon with Pranita Biswasi

but inexorably changing. We are, in fact, changing the conditions for life on earth. WM readers will already be well aware of the implications of climate change for people around the world. Stories from partner churches have told us with increasing concern of changing rainfall patterns and drought; of crop failure or flooding, of increasingly severe storms or the inexorable rise in high tides for coastal communities. Churches have called for action and have lobbied governments to take leadership. The Church of Scotland strongly supports the work of the World Council of Churches (WCC) to promote climate justice. WCC representatives joined the UN climate conference at Katowice in Poland (CoP24) in December 2018 and pressed governments to act as a matter of urgency. Also at the conference was First Minister Nicola Sturgeon who took time to meet Pranita Biswasi from the WCC to hear about climate justice in India.

In a letter to the conference Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew wrote "we wonder when the leaders of our world will realise how late we have left our response to the climate crisis" adding "the truth is that we can no longer afford to wait, indecision and inaction are not options. Faith makes it clear that we have a choice. The time to choose is now".

In Scotland we can choose to act. Can you make 2019 the year in which you make a commitment to find out what it means to care for creation? Eco-Congregation Scotland offers the opportunity to learn more and to get involved. In prayer, in action and in advocacy you can make a difference.

ACT NOW...

Find out more at

www.ecocongregationscotland.org

LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME



Rev Jan Mathieson is Minister of Williamwood Parish Church, Glasgow. She is a member of the World Mission Council and its Asia Committee.

As my plane came through the clouds and reached its cruising altitude, I looked out of the window and there, to my left, was another bank of cloud. Rising through the cloud and towering above were mountains: the highest mountains in the world, majestic and breath-takingly beautiful, bathed in sunshine and tipped with snow and ice. I was flying back to Kathmandu in Nepal after having spent some time in the remote hill villages of the far west of that country. There the landscape was also beautiful in many and various ways. On a journey up the hillsides, which took nine hours by jeep, there was much to look at and be amazed by, not least the magnificent eagles launching themselves from the mountain-side and swooping and gliding above the valley far below. "Oh Lord my God, How great though art!" Yet not all was quite as it seemed. This is

**'Shower, O heavens from above,
and let the skies rain down righteousness;
let the earth open, that salvation may
sprout forth,
and let it cause righteousness to spring up
also;
I, the Lord, have created it'
(Isaiah 45:8)**

inhospitable land and living in the villages, clinging incredibly to the slopes is not easy. Climate change, I discovered, is taking place at more than twice the global average the higher you go and this results in unpredictable patterns of rain which, in turn, means subsistence farmers are unsure when it is right to plant their rice: too early and the plants may wither before the rain comes or be washed away by torrential showers; too late and the plants do not have a chance to take root and grow before the rainy season. Heavy rains cause landslips which make roads impassable and villagers are not able to get the food and other supplies they need. Nor are children then able to get to school or adults able to walk from village to bazaar or to the grazing places for the mountain goats. Our partner organisation, the United Mission to Nepal is working against this backdrop in some of the most remote and poorest villages and their people. And there are signs of transformation. Deforestation is no longer the problem it was for forests are now being managed by communities. Villagers are being helped to establish and care for kitchen gardens ensuring both food security and a more varied and nutritious diet. Irrigation schemes support this and other schemes such as a fish farming initiative provide both food

PRAYER FOCUS:

**Almighty God,
whose glory is beyond the clouds;
far above highest mountain top
yet surrounds us every day;
everywhere,
we praise you for the wonderful
world you have created
in which you have set us.
Teach us to care for one another
and for all creation responsibly and
lovingly.
Teach us to live in your
righteousness, that all the earth
and its peoples may flourish.
Let us be agents of your great
transformation, being and
becoming your faithful people,
as we follow Christ, our Lord.**

Amen

and work so that men do not need to leave their families for long periods as they travel far distances to find (often poorly paid) work. Isaiah's vision of a world transformed where all creation and all people flourish is one we long for yet – in Nepal and in so many other places around the world. That transformation comes when we live in right relationship with one another, with creation and with God. May we, with sisters and brothers around the world, continue to be part of God's transformation as we seek to live in and for God's righteousness.

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS



Rev Kate McDonald serves in the congregation of St Andrew's Galilee, works as chaplain to the staff at the Scots Hotel and

walks alongside the local Christian congregations and our partners in the northern areas of Israel and Palestine.

Pray for:

1. Pray for all the people of Israel and Palestine affected by the conflict, especially those living daily with fear and trauma.
2. Pray for our partner organisations, that they may be strengthened and sustained in their work towards a just peace.
3. Pray for the Church of Scotland's institutions and congregations in this land, that we may be a reflection of God's love and healing in our communities.

MISSION PARTNERS



We wanted to take this opportunity to wish our previous Mission Partners **Rev Colin Johnston** and **Dr David Morton** all the best for the future. Here they reflect on the blessings and challenges they encountered while serving with the World Mission Council.

For the last nine years the Mortons have been Mission Partners in Malawi. David worked as a doctor at the Church of Central Africa, Nkhoma Hospital with an emphasis on medicine and paediatrics. He is married to Rebecca who also helped in the hospital.

Blessings:

1. Our Lord's faithfulness to us and Nkhoma during our time. God provided for us in many ways and also for the hospital, through the faithfulness of His people including the support we received from our two Presbyteries, Gordon and Lewis.
2. Seeing the hospital develop and expand in many significant ways during our time there, including new programmes in the treatment and prevention of chronic diseases, cervical cancer, mental health, palliative care and HIV.

Challenges:

1. Struggling against the corruption and spiritual oppression which is so rampant in Malawian society.
2. Constant financial insecurity for the hospital due to serving a very poor community, unable to afford the level of care the hospital tries to provide.
3. Difficulties in getting the Malawian government to reimburse for medical services carried out on behalf of the Ministry of Health.

Colin was a former minister with the United Church of Zambia and St Andrew's Tiberias, Israel. Latterly, Colin worked for two and a half years with the Synod of the Nile and was based in the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo. He was also involved with the work of St Andrew's United Church and the StARS refugee programme.



Blessings:

1. It was wonderful to be part of the world church, worshipping in ways very different from what I was used to 5 hour services in Zambia; choirs dancing and singing; baptising groups of 30 or 40 adults; sharing communion by the Sea of Galilee every week; parading through Palestinian towns and villages in the Galilee on Palm Sunday.
2. Living in another culture – waking to the call to prayer every morning in Egypt; eating with fingers in Zambia; experiencing the Jewish and Muslim festivals, as well as different 'takes' on the Christian ones.
3. People – wonderful, committed people right around the world. From the movers and shakers of society to those living in shanty towns; young people in Gaza to Eritrean and Sudanese refugees. All showing hope and promise.

Challenges:

1. Language skills – after 25 years, I have decided I am not really a language person! 'You will pick it up', people always assured me, and I kept hoping I would wake up one morning and be fluent in Chitonga or Hebrew or Arabic, but it didn't seem to happen!
2. Communication – letters and parcels taking months rather than weeks to arrive. Though in Egypt, they never arrived at all. Email and WhatsApp changed everything though!
3. HIV and AIDS – in Zambia it was a challenge to take so many funerals of people in their 20s and 30s, and to see so many young children orphaned. But there was a tremendous sense of solidarity, as we worked together to break the silence over HIV.

ACT NOW...

To learn more about our current mission partners and their work, visit:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

MY FAITHSHARE FAMILY



Jessie Fubara-Manuel recently completed a Master of Science degree in World Christianity from New College and is now continuing onto a PhD, researching the role of faith for women with disabilities and HIV in Nigeria.

Family takes a different meaning when one is far from home. On 26 November 2018, I graduated with a Master of Science degree in World Christianity from New College, University of Edinburgh and invited my family and friends to share the day with me. World Mission Council staff and Faithshare students made up a greater number of my guests.

I was surrounded by loving and supportive friends from near and far. They joined me at the pre-graduation lunch organised by the Secretary of the African and Caribbean Committee and at the beautiful graduation ceremony. They were with me at the New College drinks reception and the post-graduation dinner put together by PhD Faithshare students. Not even the cold

winter could stop my joy as I laughed and skipped like 'Alice in Wonderland' appreciating these amazing people with me. Whether meeting to study the Bible, pray, eat or just catch up, we, as Faithshare students, created a safe space to share our challenges and joys. We chose to become family.

My new family is richly diverse. They come from Europe, Asia, Americas and Africa. The Faithshare programme has offered me a new family here in Scotland. As I go on with the PhD studies, researching the role of faith for women with disabilities and HIV in Nigeria, I know that I have a family on this journey with me. My friends here have become part of my larger family, and for that I am thankful.

FAITHSHARE STUDENTS

Students receiving a World Mission Council Scholarship represent a number of nationalities and study a wide variety of subjects. If you would like to learn more about them or show them your part of Scotland, why not invite them to your church. Please contact wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk to be put in touch.

Name	Course	Where they're from
Mr R Hewitt	Visiting Research Fellow; Edinburgh University	United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Jamaica.
Mr S Nokwoe	PhD; studying 'Christian Muslim Relations'	Nigeria
Mr W Nyondo	MSc; 'Sexual and Reproductive Health'	Malawi
Mrs J Fubara-Manuel	PhD; studying 'Faith in women of disability and HIV'	Nigeria
Ms E Martenjin	PhD; studying 'Middle East Issues'	Netherlands
Ms M Videl	PhD; studying 'Women in the early Church'	Spain
Mr T Kodascy	Visiting fellow at New College	Hungary
Mr B Jozsa	PhD; studying 'New Testament Language, Literature and Theology'	Romania
Mr T Johensen	PhD; studying 'World Christianity'	Norway
Mr M Tadros	Masters; studying 'History of Theology'	Egypt
Mrs S Yin-Hsuan	PhD; studying 'History of Christianity'	Taiwan
Ms W-P Shih	PhD; studying 'Biblical Studies'	Taiwan
Mr T Song	PhD; studying 'Old Testament Biblical Studies'	Taiwan

YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS: A YEAR OF SERVICE FOR A LIFETIME OF CHANGE

- Seeking 3 young people for an opportunity of a lifetime.
- Would you like to go to the USA for a year?
- Why not be a YAV!

The YAV programme is a faith-based year of service for young people, ages 21-30, in 22 sites primarily in the United States but also around the world, including Scotland. YAVs accompany local agencies working to address root causes of poverty and reconciliation, while exploring the meaning and motivation of their faith in community with peers and mentors.

Together with the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), the Church of Scotland wants 3 young Scots to be part of the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Programme in 2019-2020. Programme benefits include a regular living allowance, insurance, housing and transportation throughout the duration of the service year.



ACT NOW...

For more information, please contact
wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk