CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

“Whose we are and Whom we serve”

Session 2012-2013

Notes on the Theme for Ministers, Worship Leaders and Guest Speakers

Worship suggestions

You will have your own ideas about Bible passages which might be used to illustrate the theme Whose we are and Whom we serve.

The motto itself comes from Acts 27, v 23 in which Paul speaks to his fellow travellers about faith and courage in the face of adversity.

Clearly, the idea of serving God and belonging to Him is absolutely central to the Christian faith and so Bible passages relevant to the strategy abound.

- Joshua 24:15
- Colossians 3:17
- Acts 2:42
- John 15:16

These are just a few, but there are many, many others that can be used to support this strategy.

Suggested Hymns

Again there will be many options, but some suggestions might be:

- Those who wait on the Lord, Songs of God’s People, 106
- The Church is wherever God’s people are praising, CH4, 522
- Lord, you have come to the seashore, CH4, 532
- Will you come and follow me?, CH4, 533

In addition you might like to note the availability of an Order of Service for a Guild Dedication Service (free of charge!)

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(a component element of the Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity No SC011353)
Alongside the strategy and the annual themes, the Guild supports six Partnership Projects, running in the same cycle as the strategies. Therefore, as 2012 sees a new strategy, it also sees a new set of Partnership Projects coming on-stream.

These are:

- **A Heart for Art**, in partnership with Crossreach and looking at the use of art therapy in the care of those with dementia.
- **A Passage from India**, in partnership with the Priority Areas Committee and dealing with micro-financing of enterprise within Urban Priority Areas in Scotland.
- **Mary’s Meals**, working in Liberia, one of the poorest countries in the world, to provide food and resources for school children.
- **Out of Africa into Malta**, run by the World Mission Council in co-operation with the Presbytery of Europe and addressing issues faced by refugees escaping from a range of tragic circumstances and coming to Malta to seek hope.
- **Comfort Rwanda**, whose work is to extend a project in which those who were responsible for the terrors of genocide in that country are building new homes for their victims.
- **The Julius Project**, an initiative of Scottish Churches’ Housing Action recognising the problems faced and support required by people entering social housing tenancies following a period of homelessness.

For more information on these projects, go to the websites of the organisations or the Guild’s own one at www.cos-guild.org.uk. You can also call the Guild office for additional printed material.

**Discussion Topic**

In addition to the theme pack, material has been provided to help Guilds discuss a particular topic related to the theme in greater depth. For the 2012-13 session, the discussion topic is “**Let’s talk about....Being Christian in Today’s World**”. The topic guide includes discussion starter questions, worship ideas and practical suggestions to help members reflect on the challenges and opportunities that being Christian in today’s world presents.

**The Guild’s Aim**

“The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action”

One way in which we seek to fulfil this aim is by focussing on particular themes and providing resource materials to help local groups in their exploration of the faith. You may have been invited to speak to a congregational Guild or to a Presbyterial Council on the year’s theme. This leaflet has been produced to help you understand the thinking behind the current theme and to let you know some of the related activities being undertaken.

**Strategies and Themes**

Since 1997, the Guild has followed a pattern of adopting a three year strategy to guide its worship, study and project work, focussing on a different aspect of that strategy each year. The strategy, therefore, is divided into three annual themes.
The strategy for 2012-2015 is “Whose we are and Whom we serve”. This is also the Guild’s motto and has been chosen to underpin and acknowledge the Guild’s celebration of 125 years of existence in 2012.

The first theme within this strategy will be “A Faith to Proclaim”. During the year, Guilds will be considering the different ways in which faith can be proclaimed and what we mean by the words of the theme.

**Resources**

A theme pack supporting the theme has been distributed to all Guilds and contains Bible background notes, worship suggestions and programme ideas. Guilds are also encouraged to make use of other resources, including websites, books and speakers to supplement and complement the resources made available by the Guild itself.