

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD

May 2016

PROPOSED DELIVERANCE

The General Assembly:

1. Receive the report.
2. Welcome the progress made on delivering the Guild's Action Plan 2015-17. *(Section 3)*
3. Note the change of name from "National Executive" to "National Council". *(Section 3.6)*
4. Commend those Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions that have shared the Action Plan with their membership. *(Section 3.8)*
5. Welcome the work of the Project Partnership scheme as it touches the lives of vulnerable people. *(Section 5)*
6. Note the continuing and extensive involvement of the Guild with the work of Councils of the Church and external organisations. *(Section 6)*
7. Encourage all church members to register to receive the Guild's electronic newsletter, "Gui(l)d News". *(Section 8.3)*
8. Notes the innovative work that has taken place in resource development, marketing and communications. *(Section 8.4)*
9. Welcome the interim report from the Guild and the National Youth Assembly on Inter-generational work and ministry. *(Appendix 1)*
10. Instruct the Guild and the National Youth Assembly to bring a final report to the General Assembly of 2017. *(Appendix 1)*

REPORT

"Be Bold, Be Strong!"

1. Introduction

1.1 Another year has gone by in the long and distinguished life of the Church of Scotland Guild. Another year of worship, prayer and action for the thousands of members of the Guild, in their hundreds of local groups and scores of Presbyterial Councils.

1.2 Being one hundred and twenty nine years old, it would be easy for us to think that we have done our work and it is time to rest, but the Guild isn't like that!

1.3 Over the period 2015-2018, the strategy underpinning our work and our planning is "Be Bold, Be Strong!"

These words say so much about the character of the Guild, so, rather than sit back and reflect on the past, we have spent the year looking forward and taking big, bold, strong steps to ensure the continued vitality and creativity of the movement.

"Be Bold, Be Strong!"

A remarkable **20,000+** people are members of the Guild, meeting regularly, working together and serving their God!

1.4 This last year has been one in which the Guild has been rolling out the Action Plan presented to, and approved by, the 2015 General Assembly. It has been a

year of hard work, new ideas, Christian learning, worship, events, discussion and debate, friendship and generally great times...basically a typical year for us!

2. So, what has been happening?

2.1 There have been many highlights over the year and here's just a flavour of them:

- A visit to our Malawian friends in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Livingstonia, including participation in the conferences of the Women's Guild in Ekwendeni and the Men's Guild in Karonga.
- The "Big Sing" in Dunfermline Abbey, with 750 people singing their hearts out in celebration and praise. (350 others wanted to join us, but there was no more room!) Over £2,000 were raised for the furnishing of the student hostel at Loudon Teacher Training College in Embangweni, Malawi.
- The first year of our new Partnership Projects, with new colleagues becoming friends of the Guild and new issues being addressed.
- The annual celebration in the Caird Hall in Dundee, the "Annual Meeting" having bene re-named as the "Annual Gathering" to better reflect what the day is really about.
- A series of "Action Plan Roadshows" around the country, letting members hear more about the plan and have their say.
- Participation in the symposium and conference arranged by ACTS on the subject of Anti-human Trafficking.
- New merchandise items that promote the Guild and help give us a wee spring in our step.
- The development and publication of new resources to help people lead and sustain the life and purpose of the Guild.
- A new-look newsletter.
- A new e-newsletter, a growing presence on social media and changes to our website...all of which give

the lie to the technical limitations and "up-to-date-ness" of the Guild!

2.2 Throughout this report there is more about these things and other detail about the Guild, but the crucial thing is that everything in the report comes from the beating heart of the Guild...fellowship and belonging.

"Be Bold, Be Strong!"

If we assume that, on average, Guild groups meet around 15 times per session, there have been over **13,000 Guild meetings in the last year...**and that is just the local groups!

3. The Action Plan in Action

3.1 In 2014, the General Assembly instructed the Guild to produce an Action Plan on its future and to report to the Assembly of 2015. This we did and we were delighted to do so.

3.2 The instruction gave us the chance to stop and think about where we were, where we could go and how we might get there.

3.3 It's easy to get caught up in the day to day and lose sight of the bigger picture. The Action Plan, though it read as a fairly formal and business-like publication, was actually a document that set out a vision and a route map for the future of the Guild...recognising the strengths and facing up to weaknesses.

3.4 This last year, we have taken it beyond the words and begun to put it into action. Of course, by its very nature, an Action Plan is about change. It is also, though, about growth and development; about motivation and confidence.

3.5 On the first page of the Plan are these words:

"Change is about the acknowledgement of the present and anticipation of the future...it is not about criticism of the past".

3.6 It is in that spirit that we have taken the plan forward.

3.7 In the national context, we have decided to re-arrange our committees, to reflect both the spirit of the Action Plan and the consequent changes in what we do and how we do it. As a result, we have replaced the present ones with four new “Groups” called:

- Communications and Marketing
- Events
- Outreach
- Resources

Additionally, we have changed the name of the National Executive Committee to “National Council”, with an accompanying decision that this should be a body that deals with broad policy issues and the overall vision of the movement.

3.8 “Roadshows” were organised across the country and these allowed dialogue to take place and ideas to be explored. Excitingly, the programme of “Roadshows” took place alongside much of the working out of the plan, especially in terms of communications and events.

3.9 We have been delighted by the positive response from the Guild, but are particularly pleased to note that a number of Presbyteries have commended it to their membership. The Action Plan is in some ways about a journey, but the journey has no end. Perhaps it is more about an adventure...about explorers rather than travellers; about a state of mind rather than a set of rules.

3.10 Hopefully, it is more than coincidence that the first year of the Action Plan has coincided with new “things” and, more importantly, a sense of energy and confidence and innovation across the Guild that can lead us on to new work and new membership and a new sense of purpose.

Watch this space!

“Be Bold, Be Strong!”

Since 1997, the Guild has welcomed men into its ranks and we now have almost **450** who have joined.

4. Our Big Days Out!

4.1 Most of the time, the Guild meets in local groups and that is, rightly, where the vast majority of our work takes place.

4.2 But we are not just a federation of groups that share a name...we are a *family*, a *movement* that forms a really important network within and on behalf of the Church of Scotland. So, to celebrate that, we meet together.

4.3 On 5 September 2015, we met in the Caird Hall in Dundee for our “**Annual Gathering**”. It was a great day of friendship, singing, worship, listening, sharing and learning. Above all, it was a day of celebration! The Moderator, Rt Rev Angus Morrison, spoke warmly and insightfully about the place of the Guild in the Church. Rev John McMahon talked about his work in Broadmoor and set that in the context of our understanding of mental health issues. We welcomed our new project partners to the fellowship of our movement. Much singing was done and the “buzz” that began in the morning continued long after the end of the event as people made their way out of the hall and back to their own places.

4.4 On 20 November 2015, during **Guild Week**, we met again. This time the venue was the beautiful and historic Abbey Church of Dunfermline and the occasion was the “**Big Sing**”. The numbers have been noted earlier in the report. The spirit and energy can’t be written down. Suffice to say that if the volume of the singing, the atmosphere of community and the (*almost exclusively!*) positive feedback tell us anything, it is that this is a movement in good spirits.

4.5 We also meet in smaller groups on a national basis and the 2015-16 session has seen get-togethers for:

- Project Co-ordinators
- Resource Co-ordinators

- Presbyterian Council Conveners
- Past Guild National Leaders
- Training on the use of Guild published resources

“Be Bold, Be Strong!”

There are around **2,700 volunteer office-bearers** who work tirelessly to make the Guild “happen”.

5. The Project Partnership Scheme

5.1 The Project Partnership Scheme is one of the best-known aspects of the work of the Guild. Over a three year period, we raise awareness and funds for our partners across a wide range of causes, some of which are close to the heart of the church and the Guild and some of which are really challenging at every level.

5.2 In every case, we deal with issues that go to the heart of human experience and touch lives at the darkest of times as well as at the most significant ones. Often, the Guild has led the Church’s response to issues and this set of projects continues that tradition.

Just now, we have these partners:

Three of the projects are working here in Scotland:

5.2.1 Ascension Trust Scotland and the work of the Street Pastors.

Street Pastors offer support to people who are out and about in places of enjoyment, but who maybe have issues they need and want to share. Working late into the night in all weathers and with no way of knowing what they may be faced with, the Street Pastors provide a caring and sensitive support to vulnerable people in a country where, as we know, being open about problems is not always easy. This work is done by volunteers and is invaluable to the people it helps.

5.2.2 Care for the Family and their programme “Let’s Stick Together.”

So many couples find the arrival of a child a mixed experience...one of great joy and fulfilment, but also one

that can place huge strain on a relationship. “Let’s Stick Together” helps people recognise the issues and work on strategies to deal with them. The thinking behind the programme that Care for the Family uses can easily be transferred and adjusted to help us think about other areas where conflict can so easily occur if conversation and reflection are absent.

5.2.3 “All Friends Together”, the work of Prospects.

The church wants to offer a welcome to everyone, but that can present some challenges when we need to understand better the folk who come into our circle of fellowship. “All Friends Together” aims to help congregations share that fellowship with people who have additional support needs.

The other three projects are operating overseas:

5.2.4 “Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia”, with Christian Aid.

Global warming brings many problems to the fore and this project addresses the needs of people, especially women, in areas where cooking is done on open fires and the collection of dry wood has become more and more difficult due to climate change and de-forestation. Consequent issues of girls’ education, gender roles and so on are alongside the basic practicality of providing solar ovens to the poor of Bolivia.

5.2.5 Mission International’s “Haiti Project”.

It is easy to forget a crisis when it disappears from our TV screens and that has been the case for the people of Haiti, whose lives were shattered, literally and metaphorically, by the earthquake in 2010. This project aims to build a combined school community centre and church in the city of Ouanaminthe, The facilities being provided are those that the community asked for and that is a crucially important element of the programme.

5.2.6 Feed the Minds, “Breaking the Cycle of FGM”.

Whilst all of the projects raise big questions, this one perhaps typifies the Guild’s projects as much as any...taking a really difficult issue and facing it rather than

avoiding it. The practice of female genital mutilation is horrific, but its effects go beyond the physical to the whole life experience of girls and the expectations placed on them. The church can now learn more about the causes, the effects and the solutions. The project itself deals with educating girls and their communities to see how much everyone benefits if girls not only avoid the physical trauma of FGM, but stay in school, avoid early marriage and youthful pregnancy to the benefit of the whole society. It is, we believe, really important that people see the work that the Guild is involved in and connected to through its projects. These projects touch the lives of many thousands of people in the dark times of their lives and when they are most vulnerable...that is what the motto of the Guild, "Whose we are and whom we serve," inspires us to do.

"Be Bold, Be Strong!"

The Guild raised £6,014,158 for its project partners from 1969 until 2015!

6. What else do we do?

6.1 The work of the Guild is huge and varied. It ranges from the quiet pastoral support of Guild members for each other to the international work of the projects and the active voice of the Guild on church-wide and nation-wide matters.

6.2 Some of the things we are involved with at national level are:

- The ACTS, Scottish Churches' Anti-Human Trafficking Group.
- World Day of Prayer.
- Jubilee Scotland.
- Scottish Churches Disability Group.
- Inter-faith Group on Domestic Abuse.

6.3 The Guild is also at the centre, along with the charity Faith in Older People, of a new initiative funded and supported by ACTS to look at the place of older people in the church.

We are represented on Church of Scotland groups as well:

6.4 With full membership on:

- Church and Society Council, including the Violence Against Women Group.
- Mission and Discipleship Council, including a very close connection with the National Youth Assembly, with whom we are working on a report on Intergenerational Learning. Indeed, this report includes an interim report from our joint working group. (**Appendix 1**) The Guild also plays a part in the Mission Forum.

6.5 With observer members on:

- World Mission Council, with whom we have been working closely to develop our partnership with the church in Malawi.
- Social Care Council, with whom we are developing an exciting new initiative for local involvement.
- Ministries Council
- Priority Areas Forum

6.6 We also enjoy invaluable support from the HR, IT, Law, Finance, General Assembly and Facilities Management Departments in "121" and we thank them sincerely for their help.

Be Bold, Be Strong!"

The Guild has worked alongside every department in the church and with many partners across Scotland and the throughout the world.

7. What about our own operations?

7.1 The Guild is co-ordinated from the Guild Office, through the elected committees and the five staff members (the equivalent of around 3.9 full-time staff). Thanks are due to the staff for all that they do to support the membership on myriad issues. This has happened against a backdrop of sadness at the loss of our Associate Secretary, Fiona Punton, in April of 2015, two staff vacancies and other changes to the staff group.

7.2 Iain Whyte (General Secretary), Alice Finlayson (Finance Assistant) and Lesley Blyth (Administrator) have continued to serve the Guild expertly and enthusiastically through the work that they do, all of which is vital to the support of the membership, the elected representatives and the wider work of the Guild.

7.3 We have welcomed Eilidh Marks as Associate Secretary, someone who has brought great energy and imagination to her work. Bonnie Downie has joined us as Support Assistant and brings another range of talents and experience.

7.4 Huge thanks must also be recorded for the local, Presbyterial Council and National Office-bearers who lead the Guild.

In particular in this report, we thank:

- Linda Young (Kirkcaldy) for her leadership as National Convener.
- Rosemary Johnston (Perth), who has served so well as National Vice-Convener.
- Marge Paterson (Ayr), who has convened the Marketing and Publicity Committee in a year of innovation and change.
- Patricia Robertson (Greenock), for convening the Programmes and Resources Committee and overseeing the publication of the Theme Guide.
- Marian McIntyre (Shetland), who has convened the Projects and Topics Committee and steered the publication of the Discussion Topic Guide.
- Jane Dargie (Aberdeen), Convener of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, who has taken on the role this session and quickly made her mark on the Leadership Team.

7.5 We also congratulate Rosemary Johnston and Marge Paterson on their election as National Convener and Vice-Convener respectively for the 2016-17 session.

“Be Bold, Be Strong!”

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

8. What else could we do?

8.1 So much of what Guild folk do is unsung and expectations of reward or credit don't play any part in the motivation to do that work. Rather, it is done in Christian service for “Whose we are and whom we serve”. Nonetheless, if we want people to join us in our work, then we have to share what we do with them. A membership organisation needs people to join it, to provide fresh thoughts, new leaders, new energy and so on.

8.2 We also need to look at how Guilds work. The challenge of finding leaders is familiar to many organisations, but we can't let that problem result in the closure of Guilds with healthy numbers of members. What we need to do is find ways of working that are flexible and creative. The structure supports the work...not the other way around.

8.3 It is with this in mind that we are working on a series of new ideas and opportunities, including:

- The publication of **“The Big Book of Gui(l)d Ideas”**, a new resource to help people lead and run their Guilds.
- The combining of our two annual publications, the **Theme Guide and the Discussion Topic**, into one volume.
- **“Gui(l)d News”**, our new-look newsletter that brings more information about the Guild and connected groups to the membership twice per session.
- **“Gui(l)d E-news”**, offering a more frequent and up to date source of news.
- The Guild **Facebook** page, which keeps Guild folk in touch across the country and now has over 1000 “likes”.

- The Guild's **Twitter** account, encouraging quick and informative exchanges of news and views.
- Seeking new ways of offering **members benefits** arising from being a Guild member.
- More large-scale meetings, be that the **Annual Gathering, "Big Sings"** at Guild week and Assembly time, a presence at "**Heart and Soul**".
- Finding new ways of **running our national committee meetings** to make them less formal and more informative.
- Developing the new role of **Resource Co-ordinator** to help promote resources and ease the burden on leaders
- **New ways of organising**, to go beyond keeping Guilds afloat and to re-invigorate the membership, including groups that operate across different congregations, summer meetings, different locations for meetings, new patterns of leadership.
- A national **recruitment campaign** to tell new folk about the experience of being a Guild member.

8.4 It is worth saying a little about the use of electronic communications and social media.

8.4.1 Increasing numbers of people in the Guild are using Facebook, Twitter, Skype, Facetime and the like in their private lives and it is really important that the Guild is aware of the possibilities these things present and that we're ready to make as much use of them as we can, be that through sending out and receiving information or finding ways that they can be used in pastoral and supportive ways for folk who maybe can't attend their Guild so easily.

8.4.2 We realise that some, maybe quite a lot, of our membership are still unsure about these approaches, but that can't be a reason to avoid developing them. We need to see these options as additional tools that we can use to make communication more frequent, more current, more interesting and more interactive.

8.4.3 It is with that in mind that we included some training and awareness raising elements in our Resource Days and in National Executive meetings.

8.4.4 At the same time, we continue to cater for all of the membership through "traditional" methods being allied to the new ones. Interestingly, we have many people telling us that they have embraced social media **because** the Guild has begun to use them.

8.5 Alongside these resources listed above, we have taken a serious look at the merchandise items that we sell to promote the Guild. As a result, a bright and positive selection of red products was added. Umbrellas, tee-shirts, pens, notebooks and aprons all arrived and were hugely popular. To make a really positive statement about the energy and sense of fun that the Guild has we added Guild nail polish this year and that has sold out twice!. Overall, the turnover in this area of our work increased by 300% in 2015. These things may seem trivial, even frivolous, but they reflect a Guild that we don't always recognise in people's assumptions about us.

8.6 This year, we have run a Christmas card competition amongst the membership to involve as many people as possible and to offer another way of the membership coming together.

"Be Bold, Be Strong!"

The Guild has thrived for **129 years**, not by staying the same, but **by evolving to be the best it can be** in its time and place.

9. How can the wider church help?

9.1 The Guild is only one part of the life of the Kirk, but it is a significant part locally, regionally, nationally and historically. In many, many places, the support the Guild receives is great. In others, less so.

9.2 We believe that the Guild has a lot to offer the church and that there are many people whose involvement in it could be really exciting for them and for the movement.

9.3 Of course it is not for everyone, but it would be wonderful if the Church as a whole, including those places where there is no current Guild group, could reflect on the value that the Guild adds to the Church.

9.4 In short, we are asking that the Church of Scotland should “own” its Guild and celebrate its existence. There are many reasons for that and many ways of doing that, for example:

- Supporting members of the church who are in the Guild.
- Recognising the Guild as a source of great reflection and insight on a wide range of issues.
- Involving the Guild in processes of review and reform or fresh expressions of church.
- Where there is no Guild, or there is no longer one, thinking about the possibilities it might offer.
- Encouraging ministers in training and in service to see the Guild as an asset to the church in Congregational, Presbyterian and National contexts.
- Considering the use of Guild resources in bible study, worship, service and learning.
- Offering expertise where the Guild may need it, for example in accounting, where a non-Guild member might act as treasurer or in helping with meetings by speaking on their interests or leading discussions.

9.5 The Guild is in fine fettle. We have our challenges, as does virtually every membership organisation. There’s really nothing new in that. Nor is there any need to doubt that the Guild of today can, given a fair wind by the church and a helping hand where we need it, look forward with confidence to a bright future.

**“Be Bold, Be Strong!”
for the Lord, your God, is with you!**

In the name of the Church of Scotland Guild

LINDA YOUNG, *National Convener*
IAIN WHYTE, *General Secretary*

ADDENDUM

Linda Young, National Convener

A Guild member for over 40 years, Linda has served at group level, currently in East Wemyss, and on Kirkcaldy Presbyterian Council, of which she was Convener and National Representative for four years before becoming National Vice-Convener in 2014.

Throughout her time in office, she has brought grace and a deep commitment to the Guild and a steady leadership as we work our way through the challenges of the Action Plan. She has played a particular role in the promotion of the idea of Prayer Shawls, something which reflects her own faith and the comfort that it can bring in times of difficulty.

During her year as National Vice-Convener, Linda became a grandmother and we hope that she will now find more time to fulfil that role as well as continuing to support her parents, her husband and her three daughters.

ROSEMARY JOHNSTON, *National Vice-Convener*
IAIN WHYTE, *General Secretary*

APPENDIX 1

1. Instruction

Commend the Guild on welcoming the National Youth Assembly as its first Honorary Group and instruct the Guild, in partnership with the National Youth Assembly, to prepare a report in relation to intergenerational work and ministry, reporting to the General Assembly of 2016.

2. Background

2.1 The National Youth Assembly (NYA) became an honorary Guild group in Aug 2013. Since then both groups have been seeking further ways to get to know one another better and work together. The issue of intergenerational work and ministry was raised through this process, recognising that the Guild and NYA are two groups within the Kirk who are broadly defined by age. With a stereotyped and often incorrect image, both groups are keen to raise awareness of each other’s work

and highlight the benefits of working collaboratively. Intergenerational work and ministry was a topic for discussion at NYA 2014, enabling the delegates to explore the issue widely and share their experience of intergenerational work in practise.

2.2 Following the instruction of the General Assembly in 2014, a joint working group was established. At its inaugural meeting this working group recognised that the issue of intergenerational working and ministry is far broader than just the Guild and NYA working together; it is an issue for the whole church and is somewhat complex. The group therefore considered it necessary to delay the full report to 2017, with an interim report being produced for 2016.

2.3 Through meeting together, both groups realised how little they knew about each other and recognised that others in the church might also be lacking in this background information. Therefore we begin here with a summary of each group before introducing our thoughts thus far on intergenerational work and ministry and then outlining our plans for the coming year.

3. The Guild

3.1 The Church of Scotland Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland which invites and encourages both women and men to commit their lives to Jesus Christ and enables them to express their faith in worship, prayer and action. With around 23,000 members, the Guild is one of Scotland's largest voluntary organisations. Although women make up the bulk of the Guild's membership, increasingly, men are becoming members and taking active roles at local and national levels. The Guild's motto which is taken from Acts 27, verse 23 is: 'Whose we are and Whom we serve.'

3.2 Never afraid to speak up about difficult subjects, the Guild is known for bringing important and potentially taboo issues to the attention of the wider church, such as human-trafficking or Female Genital Mutilation. Every three years, six projects are selected by the Guild to

support with prayer, awareness-raising and fundraising. Since 1969, the Guild has raised over £6,000,000 for such projects.

3.3 At a local level, the Guild plays an active part in congregations across the country, recently described by the Moderator as *'the backbone of the church'*.

4. National Youth Assembly

4.1 For 17-25 year olds with a connection to the Church of Scotland, the NYA in its simplest form is an annual residential event; a platform for young adults to voice their opinions and actively participate in decision-making within the Church of Scotland. The event is a chance for young adults to get together, worship together, learn together, discuss together and party together. However it is also much more than that – it is a family.

4.2 *'NYA introduced me into a community which has allowed me to grow as a person, supported me through dark personal times, and ultimately aided and journeyed along with me in my understanding of faith.'*

4.3 Through being involved in NYA, young adults have many opportunities throughout the rest of the year, from taking up a leadership role (moderator, clerk, youth rep, MSYP) to taking part in an international trip, from writing resources and speaking at events to spearheading campaigns, from being on Church councils/committees to helping plan the annual event itself, so the NYA is about far more than a weekend in August.

'Through being involved in NYA I've had so many opportunities to learn, travel and grow and to develop as a leader in a really safe environment.'

5. Intergenerational work and ministry

5.1 Traditional patterns of family and community life in Scotland have changed rapidly over the last 50 or 60 years and one consequence of this is that people belonging to one generation often have little regular contact with those of other generations. Attitudes of one generation to another may be more influenced by media stereotypes

than by interaction with real people, causing mistrust and a mutual lack of respect and leading to further fragmentation of our society. The Church appears to stand against this trend by being one of the few places in a community where people of all ages can come together. However, much of current church life is geared towards one age group or another, with activities, groups and worship often targeted specifically by age. The church therefore is often currently operating in a multigenerational rather than intergenerational way; there are activities for all ages but they are separate from each other and those from different generations don't interact in any way, they are more like ships that pass in the night.

5.2 In its simplest form being intergenerational is about interaction between those of different generations. It is important that this isn't thought of as simply young people meeting old people, as there can be significant generational differences between those who are just 10 years apart in age. Intergenerational work intentionally brings people together in purposeful, mutually beneficial activities, promoting greater understanding and respect between generations and thereby contributing significantly to building more cohesive communities. In churches, intergenerational work and ministry are also about learning, growing and living in faith together, through shared experiences, recognising all participants for who they are in Christ.

5.3 Well-planned intergenerational work and ministry can be hugely beneficial to congregational life and to the communities that the church seeks to serve, through helping to reduce mistrust and wariness of those of other generations, and instead encouraging understanding, respect and mutual development. As the working group moves forward in its work it will be important for all to understand that intergenerational work and ministry is not about a particular programme or add on to existing ministries but it is about an underlying philosophy.

6. Plans for the future

6.1 Through meeting together as a working group the links between the Guild and NYA will inevitably be strengthened and consolidated with ideas for new partnership working emerging. This will be encouraged but it will not be the sole focus of the group. The group currently aims to produce a full report on intergenerational work and ministry for consideration by the General Assembly 2017. This will involve exploring the issues further, learning from others and seeking examples of intergenerational work in practice. The working group would therefore encourage anyone with a story to tell or idea to share about intergenerational work and ministry to be in contact with them.

6.2 By working together on raising awareness of intergenerational work and ministry the Guild and NYA hope to demonstrate good practice, as well as encouraging congregations, presbyteries and the committees and councils of the Church of Scotland to consider how intergenerational work and ministry might help them build on their current work. The working group is encouraged by the sheer scope of what could be achieved through the Kirk thinking seriously about intergenerational work and ministry and hopes to play its part in kick-starting the conversations and encouraging others to take up the baton, creating resources for local congregations to use.

LINDA YOUNG (*National Convener,
Church of Scotland Guild*)

HANNAH-MARY GOODLAD (*Moderator,
National Youth Assembly*)

EILIDH MARKS (*Associate Secretary,
Church of Scotland Guild*)

SUZI FARRANT (*Young People and Young
Adult's Development Worker
Mission and Discipleship Council*)

APPENDIX 2 MEMBERSHIP

The membership numbers for the Guild at the time of writing were:

Members 20,340
Groups 865

APPENDIX 3 FINANCE

General Fund Income	£	General Fund Expenditure	£
Members' Contributions	214,106	Management and admin	185,665
Donations and Grants	26,130	Objects Expenditure	61,646
Sales of goods	11,666	Cost of sales	8853
Project Support	19,500		
Other	26,720		
Total	298,122	Total	256,164

APPENDIX 4 DONATIONS TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

Sums given by Guilds in 2015 were as follows:

To Ministry and Mission Funds via Congregations	81,914.38
To Congregational Funds	347,199.75
To work of the church, including projects	276,432.94
To work outwith the Church	86,060.56
Total	791,607.63

APPENDIX 5 PROJECT DONATIONS 15 FEBRUARY 2016

Ascension Trust Scotland: Street Pastors	11,838.39
Care for the Family: Let's Stick Together	10,006.67
Christian Aid: Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia	7,029.06
Feed the Minds: Breaking the Cycle of FGM	8,426.75
Mission International: Haiti Project	4,851.38
Prospects: All Friends Together	6,952.85
Total	49,105.10