

A word from Betty...



Betty Dunn, National Convener (left)
in Castle Douglas

Dear friends, I am writing this in mid January and today I am able to look out, from our lounge window, over the Golf Course with a green world instead of the white one we had, when we saw eight deer quietly looking for food amongst the trees. This was a magnificent sight against a white world in the sunshine. God's world is indeed a wonderful world. This winter has been severe for so many people and I do hope that wherever you were you did not experience too many difficulties.

In the last Newsletter, I said that the Leadership Team were preparing for our first Regional Meeting

planned for the 31st October at Castle Douglas Town Hall. It was a great day and you can read more about it later in this newsletter.

As National Convener, I have been given many opportunities to take up new challenges, by attending many Meetings at "121", the National Executive, the Conveners' Group, and the Annual Meeting Group. These are the Committees that the whole Leadership Team attends and then we have the other Committees like Finance and General Purposes, Projects and Topics, Programmes and Resources, Marketing and Publicity and also Education Reps Support Group. The National Convener, the National Vice-Convener, the General Secretary and the Information Officer attend all these meetings. As you know, Fiona Punton is acting as General Secretary during Alison's absence through her illness and I would like, at this time, to say a big "thank you", from the current Leadership Team, to Fiona. She has stepped in and looked after the duties of General Secretary as well as her own job as Information Officer and has managed to keep everything going with all schedules and deadlines being met. I am happy to say that Alison is continuing to make good progress and hopes to return to us in the not too distant future.

The experience I have had over the past two years has been an extension of my journey of faith as I have visited Guilds and Presbyterial Councils in many parts of the country. I have met so many lovely people and also look forward to meeting many more Guild people in the coming months. I have always experienced warmth and love in abundance and I am so grateful for the support and encouragement of the other members of the Leadership Team. I think they would all agree that we are "a team", and the support of the staff at Guild Office, Fiona, Ann, Maureen and Lesley, with their dedication and commitment to the Guild, has been much appreciated.

Our Theme this year, "Called to act justly", has been quite challenging for us all, but I like these appropriate verses, taken from the "Electric Bible", from Micah 6: 6 - 8, which I leave with you: "For those of you who do justice, those of you who love kindness and those of you who have learned to walk humbly with God, they are the chosen ones, they are God's people who look for the promised land sworn by the Lord."

This will be my last "Newsletter" to you as I will be handing over to my successor in May and I leave her with every good wish and God's many blessings.

May the love of God be with each of you.

Love, Betty Dunn

...and from the Editor...

Isn't it amazing to think it is already March by the time you read this, and many of you will be attending nationally or locally run Theme and Topic Days. If you haven't been to one before, then do consider coming along to one; they're a good chance to learn more about the background to the Guild's work, not to mention joining in fellowship with Guild friends!

Many of you sent in the correct answer to the competition in the last edition of this newsletter – it was that Guild folk took part in the Gude Cause march, commemorating the centenary of the suffrage procession in Edinburgh in 1909. The two correct entries drawn from the hat (well, it's really a box) are: *Jean Edwards from Baltasound Guild, Shetland, and Maureen Eunson from Pilrig St Paul's Guild, Edinburgh*. Congrats to both, and prizes, donated by our friends in St Andrew Press, are on their way to them both!

The competition this time is, tell me who spoke about Alternativity at our Regional Meeting in Castle Douglas (answer is elsewhere in this edition!). Get your entry in to me by 2nd July 2010.

Fiona Punton,

Information Officer and Acting General Secretary



issue 60 | March 2010

GUILD newsletter

Copy date for September edition: Friday 2nd July 2010

Copy date for December edition: Friday 8th October 2010

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(a component element of The Church of Scotland,
Scottish Charity number SC011353)

Councils and Committees

World Mission

STAMP APPEAL FOR 2010

The World Mission Stamp Appeal for 2010 runs from March 2010 – February 2011, and this year is raising money for the Girls' Hostel at St Columba's Religious Training Centre in Sialkot, Pakistan. The Hostel provides safe accommodation for up to 400 girls while they study.

The girls come from poor Christian communities in rural Punjab where there are

limited opportunities for education. Schooling ranges from primary through to senior level. In addition to accommodation, girls receive supervised study, Christian education, and access to a computer lab. Many of the girls who pass their exams at St Columba's have gone on to College or to Schools of Nursing. Recently food and utility costs have increased, putting additional strain on the hostel's budget.

The Stamp Appeal raises money by simply

collecting used stamps, which are then sold on by an agent for cash. If you would like to support this year's Appeal, please send your stamps to:

World Mission Stamp Project, PO Box 9191, WISHAW, Lanarkshire, ML2 0YB. For further details, telephone 0131 225 5722 or email world@cofscotland.org.uk. Posters advertising the Stamp Appeal are available for your church or group.

CrossReach – Social Care Council

Peter Bailey is the new Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach and will also be Secretary to the Social Care Council. Peter, who has worked for CrossReach for 18 years, had been acting Chief Executive since last February. Commenting on Peter's appointment CrossReach's Convener Rev. Syd Graham said: "Although Peter is a committed employee of some years standing, I would want to stress

that we are fortunate to have been able to secure someone of such high calibre and we look forward to the future under his leadership."

There's also a new person responsible for co-ordinating Guild talks since Fiona Skellett moved to 121 as Administrator for 'Life and Work' magazine. So, if you want to book a speaker for next session about either CrossReach's project 'On the Other Side' or a

general talk about the work of CrossReach, please contact Hugh Brown. You can call Hugh on: 0131 454 4340, e-mail: hugh.brown@crossreach.org.uk or write to him at: Charis House, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2SR. (Please note that speaker requests for session 2010-11 will not be able to be dealt with before the middle of March).

Useful Contacts

Soko Fund

The Soko Fund, is a small Scottish-registered charity devoted exclusively (and uniquely) to securing university education for women in an African country with a special Scottish connection – Malawi.

A group of only 10 people donating £10 a month each for just three years can fund a Soko Scholarship that will support an individual student. Could your guild or church form the basis for such a group? Would you be willing to take the initiative in setting it up?

To find out more about what the Soko Fund does, visit their website at www.sokofund.org or contact us by email admin@sokofund.org or by post – The Soko Fund, 4 Harrison Place 1F1, Edinburgh, EH11 1SF Tel. 0131 4772347

Christian Endeavour

Christian Endeavour seeks to lead children and young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, bringing them into the local Church, and training them to develop and use their gifts and talents.

Christian Endeavour's resources enable leaders to help young people develop a personal Christian faith. Leadership and other skills are encouraged such as:

- Using the Bible
- Praying personally and collectively
- Chairing and leading from the front
- Minute taking
- Group convening
- Leading praise times
- Uplifting the offering and book-keeping
- Public speaking
- Good citizenship

Christian Endeavour Alumni are senior friends who still wish to keep in touch through prayer and giving. Their support is invaluable to the work with today's children and young people. Christian Endeavour Alumni is open to all who have an interest in the movement.

For further information contact: David Brown, Christian Endeavour in Scotland, 1 Academy Park, Airdrie ML6 9BT, Tel: 01236 756 937 Mob: 07872 629 165 Email: davidbrown64@btinternet.com

Sweeney's Cruises

Thinking of organising a day out for your group?..... Why not enjoy a leisurely cruise on Loch Lomond with one of our luxury boats taking in the beauty and splendour of what this famous Loch has to offer".

Contact: Sweeney's Cruises - Loch Lomond, Tel: 01389 752376 Email: www.sweeneyscruises.com

Energy Saving Trust

For many older people winter marks the beginning of their struggle to afford to heat their homes, often suffering in cold, badly insulated and draughty homes. EST are highlighting a new initiative from the Scottish Government which can help provide real financial and environmental benefits to those struggling to heat their homes: the Energy Assistance Package has been designed to do just that and is open to everyone in Scotland.

Find out more by calling 0800 512012, free from landline phones, or visit www.energyassistancepackage.com

A Box of Surprises

John Coutts has entertained a number of Guilds with his "Box of Surprises". Now he presents "Let's all go with the Galilee man!" – the story of Jesus told in rap poetry. To find out more phone 01786 470930 or email johnjcoutts@aol.com

CHICKS

Chicks are a registered children's charity offering free 6 day residential respite breaks to disadvantaged children from across Scotland and the rest of the UK. In 2010, CHICKS aim to help even more Scottish children and with no government funding, our most important goal is to spread the word. CHICKS are offering Guild groups the opportunity to invite a free speaker to any of your group meetings this year. With your help we can give thousands of children the chance to remember what it is to be a child again. For information please email Eilidh Robb on eilidh@chicks.org.uk or Tel: 0141 227 6765.

Just Guild in the South West



National Convener, Betty Dunn, who chaired the day reports on the first ever Regional Annual Meeting in Castle Douglas in October:

Our guest speakers were former Moderators, Very Rev Dr David Lacy, Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan and Mr Matt Grady from "Alternativity". It was a smaller Meeting than the one in Dundee, and we felt that this gave us a very cosy atmosphere. Jennifer Dodds, from Annan, played the introduction to the first hymn on the piano, and there was enthusiastic singing of "The Spirit lives to set us free", and this got everyone off to a good start. Three of the current National Committee Conveners next performed the

sketch which will be remembered by those of you who were at the Caird Hall and Mary Ford, Dorothy Ramsey and Margaret Broster were again portraying how the message, taken from the Theme Guide, about acting justly in our everyday lives, can even be shown in our shopping choices. Alison Angus then led us in Prayer.

Dr Lacy, acting as Moderator for the day, shared some of his personal reflections with us and our guest speaker, Dr McLellan, spoke about our theme, "Called to act justly." He, more than most, is well equipped to speak on justice as he is a former HM Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland. He gave a very informative and humorous talk and left us all

with much to think about. There was quite a lot of amusing banter between the two former Moderators as they, with three other former Moderators, had been stuck in a lift for one and a half hours at the General Assembly. After lunch, Matt Grady told us about the work of "Alternativity" and he also gave us a Powerpoint presentation. The Leadership team gave a short presentation of their work on the National Committees and Margaret Broster and Fiona Punton talked about the new Projects. The Meeting came to an end with Helen-May Bayne leading us in the closing devotions. And so ended a great day of friendship and fellowship enjoyed by all.

STOP PRESS At its meeting in February, National executive confirmed the nomination of Helen-May Bayne as National Convener, and Alison Angus as National Vice Convener for the year 2010-11. Helen-May, from Perth Presbyterian Council, and Alison from Lochcarron and Skye Presbyterian Council, take up their appointments after the Assembly in May.

News from the Guilds and Councils

Portpatrick Guild, Stranraer, members would like to thank everyone who bought their calendar again this year – it is a great fundraiser for them!

King's Park Church Guild, Glasgow, members are very proud of member, Ann Philips, who for the last 24 years has organised

a 'Knit and natter' each week, where friends meet together to knit items for causes at home and abroad. (*Donations of wool to Kings Park, always welcome! – Editor*)

Still on knitting, **Aberdeen Presbyterian Council** members made the local press in recognition of all the knitted hats they have

produced for visiting local seafarers – Aberdeen Guild hats have been spotted far and wide!

Liberton Kirk Guild, Edinburgh, members have been reading their archives: they have run 51 jumble sales over the years – the first in 1957 raised £70 and 5/-.....whereas last year's raised over £1,000!



Crown Church Guild Christmas Crackers – a sketch performed by members in Inverness



Cults Parish Church, Aberdeen, Christmas Tree Festival – the Guild sponsored one of 25 trees, and decorated it with the HIV/AIDS project badges.

Marketing and Publicity Committee

Members of this committee have commissioned a re-design of some popular Guild items and are also looking into some exciting new ones for this year. Look out for opportunities to buy, or call the Guild office for a sale or return bookstall.

Programmes and Resources Committee

The theme guide for 2010 – 2011 was sent out in the January mailing, which all Guilds receive – the committee hope every group will make the most of this useful resource in their groups, throughout next session.

Projects and Topics Committee

The Topic guidelines for 2010-11, produced by this committee, also went out in the January mailing and will help us look at the sensitive issue of forgiveness. If you haven't used the topic before in your group, why not check it out and let us know how you like it; evaluation forms are always appreciated; they help us plan things for the future!

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Members of this committee spent their last meeting going over the accounts for 2009. It was noted that it was sensible of the Guild to

increase its fee next year to enable good stewardship of the Guild's funds and the continuation of its work. As reported in the last edition, every part of the Guild is receiving notification of the increase in the fee from next session – by next September, everyone should have heard about the increase many times over!

National Executive

As well as receiving the Guild accounts, and amongst other interesting reports, at its last meeting, National Executive appointed the new National Convener and National Vice Convener to take office from the General Assembly this year.

(Note - Get extra copies of the Theme & Topic are available from the Guild office).

Initiative Fund

Is your Guild leading a community initiative in your area? If so, have you thought of applying to the Guild's Initiative Fund? This Fund was set up from the interest on a small legacy and does not come from the Capitation Fee. Guilds who are leading the development of an initiative in their area, for the good of the community, are invited to apply for a small grant. Application forms and further details from the Guild Office on 0131 240 2217.

Congratulations to ...

Crown Court Guild, London, members who will be celebrating their Guild's 120th birthday in 2010, just after the centenary of the rebuild of their church in 1909! (*Hello to all our members in England, from all your fellow Guild friends in Scotland!* – Editor)

Members of **Trinity Church Guild, Hawick**, who celebrated its 50th anniversary with a dinner and entertainment for 60 members and friends.

Howe Trinity Guild, Alford, stalwart, *Alice Lawson* – members there are very proud of her for being a member for 73 years!

Moncrieff Parish Church Guild, East Kilbride on its 60th anniversary. There was a party with supper and entertainment, and 6 members with over 40 years service each received certificates. (They also created a commemorative tea towel!)

Members of **Armada Parish Church Guild, West Lothian** who celebrated its 85th anniversary with a lunch. Old film of Guild and church events was shown; a great trip down memory lane!

The Guild elder of **Townhead Parish Church Guild, Coatbridge, Bill Ewart** from all his Guild friends on the 50th anniversary of his ordination as an elder.

Five members of **Hilton Church Guild, Inverness**, who together have served the Guild for 250 years! Well done, *Norma Fraser, Doris Fowler, Helen MacKenzie, Margaret Ross and Rebecca Graham!*

Drumclog Kirk Guild, Strathaven, members who celebrated its 75th birthday with a dinner. A certificate for 40 years service was presented to *Helen Anderson*.

Members of **Jamestown Parish Church Guild, Alexandria**, who celebrated their Guild's 90th birthday with a special meal and entertainment, and a special service for Guild Week.

Old Cumnock Old Church Guild, Ayrshire on its 80th anniversary. At a special meal, members were presented with long service certificates: *Lizzie Hamilton* (60 yrs) and *Mary McLelland, Winnie Anderson* and *Betty Nolan* (all 30 yrs)

Members of **Old and Abbey Parish Church Guild, Arbroath**, who, in the past year have celebrated a range of milestone birthdays and anniversaries. In Guild Week, four members received long service certificates. (*Special mention to Jan Patterson who was 100!* – Editor)

Two members of **Innerleithen East Parish Church Guild, Peebles**, *Millie McFarlane* and *Betty Pullar*, who received long service certificates at the Guild's Christmas lunch.

Hamilton South Parish Church Guild, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in February with a party.

Edzell Lethnot Glenesk Church Guild, Angus, member *Rita Bothwell*, along with husband *Geoff* – Guild friends send their best wishes on their 65th wedding anniversary.

Southend Parish Church Guild, Argyll celebrated its 105th anniversary last November. Fourteen members received long service certificates totalling over 600 years!

St Ninian's Church Guild, Corstorphine, Edinburgh, which celebrated its 70th anniversary by planting a tree. Thirteen members received certificates totalling 529 years – the oldest member of 95 has over 62 years' service!