



# NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS



# NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS



## Exploring the theme

And no one pours new wine into old wineskins, otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins. (Mark 2:22)

We have reached the third and final year of our strategy, “Look Forward in Faith” and it has been a joy for me to have been so involved with the three themes in our strategy. During what has not been an easy time for the Guild we have shone our lights and used our talents in year 1, with the theme of “Lights and bushels”, when as a movement we used our talents and skills to keep in touch with Guild members when Guilds, like churches were closed. Against the odds we have grown the Guild in year 2, with the theme of “Wee seeds, big trees”. We have lost some Guilds and some members, but we have gained new members and new Guild branches have started. Guilds and Guilds Together groups have united and found new ways of working to survive and grow.

As we begin year 3, with the theme, “New Wine, New Wineskins”, we have perhaps come to the most difficult part, where we really need our faith to move forward into new ways of doing the Guild. Not new ways for the sake of new ways but new ways because the Guild like the church is in a period of necessary change. Change if we want to survive. It is hard for us to accept the changes in our churches. However, here is the good news. In the Guild we can play our part in the changes, in the way which is right for each branch and each Guilds Together group.

Let’s think about what Jesus said about pouring new wine into new wineskins. Jesus is telling us that the new cannot exist in the old. Can the ancient process of pouring wine into skins help us to be practical in our thinking about the way ahead for the Guild in a changing church? We accept, maybe reluctantly, the need for change but we don’t want to get rid of the old ways. Change is not easy, and change will cause upset to some of us, but new ideas will not work in the existing format.

In ancient times wine was fermented. It was aged by pouring the new wine into a new wineskin made from the skin of a goat or a lamb. The wine was left in the skins to age and the gasses produced during this process caused the wine to expand. New wineskins were able to cope with this process, but old wineskins would burst as the wine expanded and the new wine as well as the old wineskin would be lost.

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A new way of looking at the future of the Guild and changing how we do things is our “new wine” and our hearts are “the new wineskins”. Do we listen and talk to God? Are our plans his plans? Do we choose to ignore his plan, if it is a way which does not suit us? We make our changes in faith. We listen and talk to one another but more importantly we listen and talk to God. We continue to look forward in faith and follow his plan.

***Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.***

(Proverbs 16:3)

**Helen Eckford**  
National Convener

# BIBLE READINGS



***David is chosen by God to be anointed by Samuel.  
Giving of our time and talents to others and to God.  
Fresh ideas and looking at new ways of doing things,  
remembering not to throw the baby out with the  
bathwater.***

## In the Old Testament

Exodus 19: 3 – 8

God reveals Himself to Moses at Sinai

1 Samuel 16: 1 – 13

David is chosen by God to be anointed by Samuel

Genesis and Proverbs (mentioning wine)

Giving of our time and talents to others and most of all to God

Isaiah and Ecclesiastes (letting go)

Fresh ideas and looking at new ways of doing things, remembering not to throw the baby out with the bathwater

## In the New Testament

Matthew 9: 14-17

Mark 2: 18-22

Luke 5: 33-39

## Readings from different translations

New American Standard Joshua 9: 11-15

The Message Joshua 9: 12-15

NIV Bible Job 32:19

Living Bible Job 32: 18,19

Why not try [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) for different translations?



# SUGGESTED HYMNS



	CH4	CH3	MP	SOGP
God's will for creation is Jesus' to do	136			
Oh, the life of the world is a joy and a treasure	141			
Sing to the Lord a joyful song	184	366	929	
New every morning is the love	214	47	480	
Look forward in faith	237			
As a fire is meant for burning	252			
Lord, the light of your love is shining	448		445	
Angel voices	498		34	
Take this moment	501			
Take my life and let it be	502	462	624	
Hands to work	523	465		
Holy wisdom, lamp of learning	604			
Lord you sometimes speak in wonders	606			
The bright wind is blowing	607			
Holy Spirit, ever living	615	334		
Spirit of the living God	619/620			
Here in this place new light is streaming	623			
For me to live is Christ	643			
Hallelujah! We sing your praises	674			
God is working his purpose out		303		
Let us talents and tongues employ				65
In the stillness of the night				88

Why not try [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org) for hymn ideas?

# PRAYERS



## Calls to worship

As we gather, dear Lord, calm whirring minds, troubled hearts, restless hands, and bring us to stillness before you.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him (Exodus 15: 2)

I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Be exalted, O God above the heavens and let your glory be over all the earth. (Psalm 108: 3-5)

God of new life, God of risen hope, as we gather today, may we know your resurrection power in our lives. May our spirits be renewed. May our bodies be restored.

As a family of faith, we gather together, new creations in Christ, united in praise and worship of our Lord and Saviour, who blesses us and does not let our feet slip.

God calls us here to this place, in this moment. God meets us here in this place, in this moment. Put down the burdens of the day and wonder at the miracle of God with us.

God of the lonely desert sands, be near us as we pray. God whose springs of living water quench our thirst, enter our thoughts. God who gives us daily bread, enter our minds. God who supplies our deepest need for relationship, enter our hearts.

As the gardener prepares and clears the ground for the vine, so that it may grow and produce good fruit, help us, O God, to prepare ourselves to meet with you in worship, that we too may grow and be fruitful.

## Opening prayers

Lord, we thank you for our Guild and the opportunity to meet here today in friendship and fellowship. We pray for your presence with us here, guiding us forward in our discipleship with you. We thank you for all the ways you encourage, challenge, strengthen and renew us. May we have the strength of faith to trust you with our lives, reassuring us and directing us to follow your plan and your purpose into the future. Inspire us to leave our comfort-zones and go out into our community and the wider world to be the channels through which your work is done. Let this be with fresh eyes, emboldened hearts and a burst of renewed enthusiasm. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Dear Lord, we are so grateful to be here with you in our midst, sharing our faith and fellowship with other members of our Guild – a Guild which adapts and listens to what is needed in society. We pray for new Presbyteries, new members, the sadness of those Guilds who felt that they could not carry on.... we share all those things together. God will provide opportunities for us to receive new wine in our lives – leading us in the way he wants us to go. Lord guide us, lead us daily in your ways, so that we may do our best for you. Amen



Loving Father, help us to hear your voice, as we gather together as a Guild. We know you are with us to take the burdens of everyday life, so that we may feel your presence.

We pray for those who cannot be with us through illness or other commitments, keep them safe in your hands. We bless our speaker.... and all the work they do. We ask this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen

## Intercessory prayers

Loving, caring God we pray for all your creation. We pray that people will not go hungry or be thirsty; that places of safety and refuge will be available to all; that the scars and wounds that bring pain may be healed and that nations will be open to negotiations and that peace will flow. Let us not be deceptive to ourselves or others but true and honourable, for you know what is in our hearts and minds. We pray for courage and honesty to make a fresh start where Church and Guild are facing boundary changes. Help us not to be discouraged if progress is slow but remain strong as we seek new ways to worship you. Give us wisdom and patience to re-shape how we work together, always knowing that we are one in your sight. Please guide us to the voice of Jesus who despite the weakness of our faith gives us a second chance and encourages us to try again when we fail. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen

O God, our heavenly Father, you are our rock, our comforter, our resting place, we praise you and give thanks for your constant presence. You are our hope, our rainbow, our inspiration and we praise you and give thanks for the life, and colour you create within us.

We remember before you the needs of others: those who feel rejected, unloved, unwanted....; those who are terminally ill....; those who are angry and feel that life is passing them by....; those who struggle to make ends meet....; those whose hearts are broken.

May they find comfort in your arms. Renew and refresh us, enliven us and change us prompt us and improve us, in our worship, and in our service to our community. These things we ask in the name of God, our Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Dear Lord, we thank you that we are now allowed to meet again after the restrictions of the past two sessions. With your help and guidance, we hope to make our Guilds stronger and continue to go forward in faith and love. Give us open and considerate hearts to appreciate the other point of view when Guilds see the way forward differently from us. We pray for leaders locally and nationally. Guide them in the decisions they make. Bless our representatives at Guilds Together and National Council. They have a responsibility to us. Guide them as they fulfil this important job. Amen

# PRAYERS



## Offering prayers

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your bounteous care and love towards us. Accept this offering brought today. Thank you that our Projects show us the situations and challenges in the lives of others. So, make us generous, and help us use our time and the talents you bless us with in the work of your kingdom. Amen

Gracious Father, we would ask that you accept these gifts and that they will be shared generously in your name to transform lives less fortunate than that of ourselves. We ask this in the powerful name of Jesus. Amen

Heavenly Father we ask you to accept our offering which is a small token of our gratitude and love for you. Lord bless them and use them for the furtherance of your work throughout the world. We all know great oaks from little acorns grow. Amen







## Closing prayers

Dear Lord, we always grapple and wrestle with change. We struggle to recognize when traditions devolve into traditionalism. We clash with those who see the world differently to us. Help us to rely on your guidance as we seek to be good wine, whether old or new. Help us to be open to the work you want to do in and through us today and in the days ahead. May we know the presence of the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day experiences as we have done in our meeting today. Amen

Heavenly Father, as our meeting draws to a close, we thank you for our time together, our fellowship and friendship. Be with us as we go our separate ways to whatever situation awaits us outside this place. Bless our homes and families and help us to follow where Jesus leads, trusting him. This we ask in his great name. Amen

Gracious Father, thank you for making our meeting a successful, friendly one. We thank you for the laughter and the wonderful time we have shared today/tonight. Guide us as we make our way home safely. This we ask in your holy name. Amen

Father, help us to serve your people faithfully and with the love of Christ. Many of us have had difficult challenges to face, but being here at our meeting gives us time to ourselves and also time to share friendship and fellowship with friends. As we leave this place, we know that you are always with us and looking over us. Whose we are and whom we serve. Amen

## Benedictions

Let the birds of the vineyards charm you, may the scents of the flowers calm your soul, may the Spirit of the Lord engulf you. As you walk through this week, may the Lord be beside you and hold you in his warm embrace. Amen

As you walk in his way through the vineyards of life, as you step out anew as new wine that is promised, feel the wineskin of His protection as His spirit engulfs you. Go in peace, go in love throughout the days ahead. Amen

As we go on our journey, may God go with us, take us to new places, into new experiences and give us people to travel with. Thank you, God, that you journey with us. Amen.

Send us out, Lord, into the places that we know, bearing the good news of your risen life. Send us out, Lord, into the less familiar places: the unknown and less trodden paths. Give us strength there to speak your word, to live your truth and to make known the story of a people and a world made new. Amen

# PRAYERS



## Prayers for the local community

Heavenly Father, Lord of Light, help us to be an instrument of peace in our community. Help us to come together to resolve issues that affect us all. Thank you for teaching us to love others regardless of our differences and may your community be known for working out solutions together and for the gift of listening. May your blessings rain down on our community and pray that you will bring those who don't yet know you into your fold. Amen

## Prayer for Projects

Loving God, we give thanks for the ongoing work of our chosen Projects both at home and abroad. May your love be shown to all who receive help and those giving generously to the Projects. We also give thanks for our Project Partners in our Guilds as they keep members informed. We ask for your blessing on the speakers from the various Projects as they continue visits to Guilds throughout Scotland in the final year. Give them the strength to complete the year. Hear our prayers for our Project partners and hope our part in their journey has made a difference. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen

## Prayer for the Church of Scotland

Dear Lord, at this time of uncertainty within our churches and communities, we pray for ourselves: that we will remain open to the stranger; welcoming to the neighbour; and committed to those who struggle. Lord we pray for your Church of which we are part: that we might be a place of honest reflection; open friendship, humility and reconciliation. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ who sought to welcome the stranger, and to pave the way for peace making. Whose we are and whom we serve. Amen

## Prayer for the wider world

Our world needs the help of God to save us. Near and far there is unrest all over the world. And so, we pray for peace for our trouble world. Faithful God, keep everyone safe in times of pandemic, war, disaster, famine. Protect everyone with your love. In the name of Jesus, we plead for mercy by the power of your name. Lord. You have the power to deliver the world from all trouble, strife and evil. You alone can speak to nations, give people strength through your love and glory. Lighten their darkness, give them peace, repair broken lives. Let there be peace in your name. Amen



## Prayer for the sick

Loving Heavenly Father, we remember how Jesus healed the sick and granted his mercy to those around him who were suffering. Today we ask for your blessings to be with those who are sick in our church and community. Remind them of your assurance that you are with them always and may they feel your love surrounding them even in the darkest days. We ask that those who are suffering terminal illness are loved and cared for by their church families and their friends. We pray for sufferers of mental illness, especially the growing numbers of young people who have eating disorders, lack confidence or feel suicidal. Watch over them always Lord and enable them to receive the support they need. We know you take us by the hand and hold us in your love. We ask your blessing on all, in the name of your precious Son Jesus. Amen

## Prayer for young people

Father, we bring before you our prayers for young people: the very young who suffer a sense of inadequacy or bullying from their peers; those who are abused or ill-treated by a family member or friend; those who find it hard to make friends and feel left out. Protect them all, Lord.

We bring our teenagers before you, Lord: those trying to see their way in life, looking to the future and what it holds for them; those having to make choices, some with little hope in what the future holds. Help us to guide and direct them as far as we can. Direct them all, Lord.

We pray for our young adults, Lord. We pray for those who are homeless and unloved. Encourage us to support the organisations who support them. We pray for those who are looking for meaning in life. May we direct them to you. We pray that all our young folk, children, teens and young adults may find their way to you Lord. Forgive us when we do or say anything which prevents our young people seeing the love of Jesus for them, we ask in Jesus' precious name. Amen

## Prayer for creation

Dear Lord, we have so much to be grateful for. On the first day, you made light and darkness at the beginning of creation – what an amazing start for our world. On the second day, you made the sky with glorious colours and cloud formations. On day three, you created the land and plants, with magnificent mountains and valleys, what a wonderful world we have. On the fourth day, you made the sun, moon and stars – what a universe you have created for us! On day five, you made the birds and all the creatures in the sea. On the sixth day, you made animals and humans. You have entrusted us with all your creation, and we strive to look after everything you have given us. Help us, we pray, to be more thoughtful and responsible for our actions. On the seventh day, you rested. Help us to rest and to appreciate all we have. Thank you, Lord. Amen

## Prayers for the Guild

God of the past, we pray for understanding of past attitudes, decisions, disagreements and fears. God of the present, we pray for strength, power, hope and wisdom through difficult times. God of



the future, we pray for joy, refreshment, peace and grace. God of the national, we pray for wisdom. God of the regional, we pray for fellowship and support. God of the local, we pray for energy and mission. God of the older, we pray for health, happiness, renewal and energy. God of the middle aged, we pray for strength, patience, answers and vision. God of the young, we pray acceptance, a voice and a church to call their own. Amen

Heavenly Father, we are in awe of your greatness, your kindness and compassion, your generosity and unconditional love for us. We thank you for the Guild - we are incredibly grateful for the ability to be part of the Guild and carry out mission in your name Lord. As we think about our theme "New Wine, New Wineskins" we ask you to help us make things new. We ask this within ourselves as individuals Lord, that you can renew us and make things new within ourselves. And we ask this for the work of the Guild too. We ask that you can help us to continue to find new and better ways of doing the work we do, and that we are guided to do your will. Just as old wine cannot be poured into new wine skins, we ask that you help us to adapt, refresh and renew our ways as and when we need to. And for the wider work of the Church Lord, we ask for your guidance and ask for you to help us make things new within your Church on a wider scale.

As we look forward in faith, we are excited to see where we are led by you and we ask that you continue to guide us and be with us every step of the way as we move forward into the future. Lord we love you so much, in Jesus Name, Amen.





## Prayer for the Guild

Loving and caring God, we ask your blessing on all our Guilds, both here in Scotland and further afield. Hear our prayers for all Guild office bearers at local and national level. Give them your support in all their endeavours to keep our movement alive and relevant in these testing times. Give comfort to those Guild members unable to attend meetings in person, through illness or infirmity. Bring strength to all the workers and volunteers working within our Projects. We pray that our fundraising efforts will enable them to fulfil their plans. Bless all the people in Scotland who are involved in the care and support of the elderly, disadvantaged and families. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, whose we are and whom we serve. Amen

God of all goodness and grace we thank you for the calling we have in the Guild to worship and serve you right where you have ordained us to be. Give us confidence to proclaim your Gospel both in word and in deed, witnessing within our congregations and communities. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we pray for our National Guild in Scotland. May our plans be built on Christ our sure foundation, bringing calm to anxious hearts at this time of transition and change. Give us your strength of purpose, raising us to glorify your name and to be thankful for the ways in which you guide us. Amen.

Eternal God, look on our brothers and sisters in Guilds across the world. We thank you that the voice of prayer is never silent nor dies the strain of praise away. Unite us as one in your service, so that our common bond may be found in Christ Jesus whose Throne shall never pass away and whose Kingdom stands and grows for ever. Amen



# SAMPLE WORSHIP 1



## Hymn

CH4 530 One more step along the world I go

## Reading

Luke 5: 33 – 39

## Prayer

God, our heavenly Father, we thank you for all your goodness to us. We thank you that you have put into our hearts the desire to pray. We thank you that you have made us such that, in any time of trouble, we instinctively turn to you. Help us always to remember that you gave us life and that it is not ours to do with as we like.

Make us the kind of people who are really useful and helpful. Help us, when we are asked to do something to be more prepared to say yes than to say no. Help us to use whatever talents you gave us in the service of others. May we Look Forward in Faith.

Grant that, remembering your love, we may come into your presence with the trust and confidence of children who know they are coming to a Father, who no matter what they have done, will not turn them away. Amen

## Reflection

During Jesus' time clean water was very scarce and they drank a lot of wine which was kept in wineskins. If new wine, still fermenting, was put in an old wineskin it would burst and all the wine would be lost. Also, at that time all pious Jews fasted twice a week, although it was not Biblically required, and Jesus and his disciples were rebuked for not doing so.

The old wineskin is rigid and the new wineskin is more flexible and can be compared to people being more willing to receive the teaching about what God is doing now. We do not need to ignore earlier teaching but, even if we still prefer the old wine, we have to be more acceptable to listening to new ideas. Just because something has been done in a certain way for years and years it does not mean that we cannot consider new ways of doing things.

## Prayer

God our Father, we thank you that you continue to want to do a new thing in us and through us. You haven't given up on us. Help us to trust you more fully, so that we might be open to and eager for your new wine in our lives. Help us to be mindful of and to include those who are less keen on change, so that their years of experience and commitment are not just simply discarded.

We pray for Guilds throughout the country and for all our project partners. We pray for our congregation and our local community. Be especially close to those who are going through difficult times. We ask this in Jesus' name. Whose we are and whom we serve. Amen

## Hymn

CH4 595 (Tune St Clements, CH4 526) O Breath of life, come sweeping through us



## Hymn

CH4 173 Sing to God new songs of worship

## Reading

Mark 2: 21 & 22

## Reflection

The Church of Scotland has had to change over the last few years for many reasons. We in the Guild have adapted as the changes happened and we must continue to move forward and not look back. The passage from Mark 2 tells us that Jesus told the followers there is no value in putting new wine in old wine skins. Instead new wine must be poured into new wineskins.

We must take this on board and grab new opportunities, welcome new ideas, new ways of worshipping, conducting meetings, encouraging new members, but at the same time looking after our existing members.

## Prayer

Loving God, we are like new wine and must enter new wineskins and look forward to the future. We give thanks for the Guild and all who have gone before us showing your love as they carried out your work over many years especially through our Projects. We have been guided by many wise and capable ladies in the past and now embrace gentlemen in our organisation with many now taking office. Show us the way in the years ahead. 'Whose we are and Whom we Serve'. Amen

## Hymn

CH4 237 Look Forward in Faith

# SAMPLE WORSHIP BEAT



## Hymn

MP 192 'God of Grace and God of Glory'

## Prayer for those affected by eating disorders

Lord, As I wake up each morning, I wonder what the day will bring. Support me in having the strength to see through the pain and grief. Allow me to hear the supportive words of caregivers and clinicians. Let me overcome controlling thoughts and provide me with new ways of thinking so that long lasting recovery is real and present.

I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen

## Reading

Mark 2:21-22 "No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

## Reflection

The theme 'New Wine in New Wineskins' has had many perplexed over time. Indeed, to understand the parable we must first understand the process of fermenting wine in the skins of goats. After the flesh and bones were removed from the inside of the goat the skin was tanned over fires of acacia wood. Then the openings were sewn shut, the neck of the goat was used for the spout, and unfermented grape juice was poured in. Afterwards the neck was sewn shut and the fermentation process began. Only a new wineskin would have the capacity to stretch during the process of fermentation and not break until the process was finished. If new wine was put in an old wineskin, because the leather skin was dry and cracked, it would probably split, and both the wine and the skin would be lost. Therefore, the making of the wine required new wine in new skins for successful change to take place.

The Lord Jesus said that old wineskins will burst when new wine is poured on them. Meaning old mindsets, even if based on Godly principles, still won't be able to handle new and creative ideas fresh out of a revelation from God's word. This is what happened to the Pharisees.

The Pharisees read Scripture, studied God's law, and taught it to people. However, they were the ones who found Jesus' teachings absurd, offensive, and even unbelievable.

The disciples, however, were able to receive His teachings. They were new wineskins. The Pharisees had a set of rules that were so rigid they couldn't understand Jesus' view. The disciples simply took Jesus at His word.

If we want to be able to receive Jesus' teachings, we've got to become new wineskins. If we want to be able to receive and embrace new revelation from God's word, we've got to become new wineskins. New wineskins are a readiness for the new things of God.

To make an analogy to today, we can't put new ideas into old mindsets. We can't get new results with old behaviours. So how does this relate to BEAT?



## Relationship to BEAT's work

The idea of not being able to move forward when we are stuck in old routines has symbolism to the work of the charity. Caregivers are often perplexed when their loved ones first become unwell with an eating disorder. Thoughts such as, 'Why will they not just eat!' or 'This is all my fault,' are common. However, in order to support loved ones moving forward it is important to accept where the issues have arisen from. Watching a loved one spiral out of control is terrifying so taking these old thoughts, based in uncertainty, and replacing them with an understanding of the condition is vital. Knowing that eating disorders have nothing to do with food but are simply a means of control. Learning that there may be one or a complex layer of issues that have caused someone to become ill, that it is a serious mental illness. In order to be supportive, changing mindset is paramount. Those old mindsets must change. Beat's services enable carers to learn about eating disorders. Understanding that it is not their fault and finding strategies to communicate effectively to their loved ones will create meaningful change.

Many of us come to God through our own desires, wants and needs. That isn't wrong. Jesus invites us to come. He invites us to seek, to knock and to ask. He tells us that a good father will not give his child a stone when his child asks for a fish. God expects us to come to him for our needs, but we can't remain in the position of asking God only for our own wants and needs. We need to transition and mature into the new wine skin God desires us to be.

## Importance of Prayer

Relaxing with prayer is a valuable tool. In the deep silence, you may tap into that vast, inexhaustible source of universal energy and become fully empowered to change your thinking and to begin replacing old, limited patterns of living with new, vital ones. You can change your thinking now from the old to the new.

In closing, take some time today to think about the following: how do you...

- Release old, unproductive thoughts and feelings
- Take time to welcome new ideas
- Think of ways to calm your mind and relax in order to live in the moment

## Prayer for carers

Lord, remind me that caring for my loved one is a privilege. It is an honour, not a burden.

I pray for strength to make it through this day. Help me to listen and choose powerful words of encouragement to share when needed.

Don't spend time worrying over tomorrow. Lord, help me remember when I feel alone, I'm not. You are always there, going before me and preparing the way. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

## Hymn

Hymnal.net (1151313543532121) 'The new way brings forth the new man'

# SAMPLE WORSHIP PIONEERS



## Hymn

Mission Praise 765 Who can cheer the heart like Jesus?

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the opportunity to gather together once again at our Guild meeting. We praise you for your faithfulness to each of us since we last met and ask you to be with us today as we share fellowship together. As we read from your Word and meditate on your Good News together, we ask that our hearts may be touched afresh by your love and that you will speak to each one of us. Help us to hear your voice and to respond in worship and wonder. We ask this in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

## Reading

John 2: 1 – 11

## Meditation

Wineskins are a bit of an alien concept to us nowadays – we're more familiar with bottles. And the idea of enormous stone jars from which to serve a wedding toast is just crazy! But back in first century Palestine, it was wineskins and water jars. And Jesus to the rescue in a truly embarrassing situation for the wedding party. But what I think is most important to note from this passage we've just read is in verse 10. "You have saved the best till now."

That's what Jesus is all about – giving us the best that there is. Not the best wine, or the best house, or the best job or the best grandchildren, but the best life. In John chapter 10 verse 10, He described it as 'life in all its fulness'. In John chapter 3 verse 16, the most famous verse in the whole Bible, He went even further than that. He promised eternal life to anyone who believes in Him – to anyone who puts their trust and faith in Him. This is the best news that there is anywhere in the world, anywhere in history.

But just as the stewards had to draw the water out of the jars and serve it to the master of the feast before it became the best wine, we too need to do something to gain this 'best life'. And what is that? Simply to put our trust and our hope in Him, confess Jesus as Lord of our lives and live for Him day by day. When we do that, Jesus promises – guarantees – that we 'will not perish' and that we 'will have eternal life'. He is the best that life has to offer. Have you put your trust in Him yet? If not, what is keeping you from doing it today?

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you so much for making it possible for us all to live life in all its fulness, no matter whether we are in our prime or travelling through the final stretch of our days on this earth. Please help us to have the courage to accept your offer of salvation and eternal life, to live for you day by day and to share your most excellent news with our friends and family whenever we can. We ask this for your glory, Amen.

## Closing Hymn

Mission Praise 748 What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought





## Ice breaker

Tell us about something new you have done or achieved since we last met. A few volunteers will hopefully be encouraged to share their experience.

## Opening praise

CH4 522 The Church is wherever Gods people are praising

## Reflect on these two questions

- Can new ideas develop in old mindsets?
- Can you get new results from old behaviours?

## Read

Matthew 9: 9-17

## Leader's reflection

New Wine, new wineskins.

When wine is new, it is in a state of fermentation. It bubbles and expands as the fermentation gases are released. A fresh, pliable wineskin can absorb such expansion and slowly age-with the wine until the fermentation process is complete.

To put fresh wine into an old wineskin, however, is asking for trouble. The old wineskin has assumed a definite shape and is no longer pliable. It is fixed and somewhat brittle. The activity of new wine will stress it beyond its ability to yield. And so both the wine and the skin are lost.

## Reflect together

- On what the Bible passage is saying to us as a Guild.
- On what Jesus was trying to tell us.
- On what has to change to meet the aims of the Guild in the 21st century.

Jesus brought in the new covenant, the new message, the new wine.

Some of the past religious customs and traditions were not as relevant. Christ represented the new way, the new wine and made the ultimate sacrifice. The new wine did not sit well with the old practices and needed new wine skins to fulfil God's will.

During 2023/24 we may need to reflect on how we 'do the Guild'.

- We need to tell others our story; our projects, funds raised, our fellowship and friendship.
- We need to promote the Guild within the Church, Kirk Session, Presbytery and community.
- Consider changing some of our customs/ traditions.
- Consider changing the branch structure in some small way.
- Step out in faith and take the new wine to others in new wine skins.
- Join with other Guilds/Guilds Together to share resources and work together.
- Connect with our communities.

# REFLECTIVE WORSHIP 1



## Prayer

Lord as we take the new wine to the people within our Guild and community, we pray that you will guide us in the way that we should go. Help us to consider shedding some of our past practices. May we look forward in faith, sharing the new wine through new wineskins. May we bubble and expand like new wine and have the capacity to change and behave much like a new wine skin. Give us the faith to step out in faith, to try new things. May your message be relevant to all those we connect with.

Take us Lord, use us for your glory and may we never forget whose we are and whom we serve. We pray all this in the name above all names, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Closing praise

CH4 97 O God you search me and you know me





## Resources you will need

The words of “Jesus take me as I am” and copies of the Graham Kendrick hymn “One shall tell another” and either the availability of a musician to play, or the equipment to play both hymns.

## Leader

Our reflective worship today aims to help us to explore the theme of NEW WINE IN NEW WINE-SKINS – to be able to stop, take time, focus, and think carefully about what God wants us to learn from this spiritual exercise. We need to look at the identified Bible text and, most importantly, seek to identify what differences these reflections make to our Christian life in today’s world.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather here we pray that you will be with us as we reflect, work, and worship together. Help us to leave any distractions to one side, and to focus on the messages you have for us, though your word, and from there into our hearts. We ask this in the Name of Jesus and we welcome your presence as we sing to add to our prayer. Amen

## Praise

MP 382 Jesus take me as I am

## Readings

Matthew 9: 14 to 17; Mark 2: 18 –22; Luke 5: 33 - 39

## Reflect together

We see the same content in each, with the same description of a developing situation instigated by a question about ritual fasting.

Can we together identify who is involved in this story, and what are the main learning points Jesus wants to get across?

What do we think the discussion about fasting represents in our church life today?

## Leader

As we look at these situations described by Jesus, can we see the need to become aware of the relationship between Jesus’ teaching and traditional Judaism? What might this mean for us today?

The two examples of the “misfit” between old and new bring out similar points:

- the strength of the new - new material, recently woven, and new wine, stretching the pliable and strong new skin
- and the weakness of the old - a garment many times worn, then washed, scrubbed, weakening at the seams, and a wineskin thin and with no ability to stretch any more. In both cases, neither old or new would be saved.

## Prayer

Father, we seek to reach a deeper understanding of your message for us. We also seek to find ways in which we can use this understanding and convert it to action, behaviours and thoughts which will enable us to tell the truth for others to hear and believe.

# REFLECTIVE WORSHIP 2



## Leader

- Distribute copies of One Shall Tell Another (MP 541)
- Listen to the words of this hymn by Graham Kendrick – follow the words and join in if you know it.
- Does this give us an idea of what God wants us to do to aid in the process of making the new wine?

## Time to reflect

Now take a moment to think individually about the following questions. Then, in groups of two or three, share your thoughts....

- Within your church practices, where can you perhaps identify old wineskins?
- Within ourselves, we need to ensure that the newness of the wine within us is tended and allowed to ferment, strengthening to its very best. How might we do this?

## Leader

If you feel it is appropriate, feedback can be sought and could be taken and translated into possible actions people could take (e.g. targeted prayer; sharing concerns with others; identifying ways to change from “old wine”; developing conversations about the meaning of “new wine”; looking for ways to change ourselves....)

## Closing worship

Encourage all to join in with the full hymn.

Share the Grace together.



# REFLECTIVE WORSHIP YOUNG ADULTS GUILD



## Introduction

As with all things, times change. This is sometimes most noticeable in our attitudes to music. Studies show that our taste in music is defined and rarely changes by the time we are 14 years old. It is natural then, that some of our most well loved and respected hymns have also changed as time has passed. New versions of old classics come out frequently and now have become part of the churches praise ritual. In this time of reflection, we are going to use an old classic and its updated version as an opportunity to reflect on our own faith journeys and where we have seen new things grow and develop within our faith, the Church and beyond.

## Hymn

CH4 555 Amazing Grace or you could use The Lord's my shepherd  
(Play through and play in the background quietly during reflective activities)

## Reading

Psalm 149: 1-6a

## Activity

Think of a time when you first experienced or encountered God/Faith/ Church. What did God make new in you through this experience.

## Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you that you came to us, inspired us, called us to your service. Regardless of age and stage of life, through the actions of your Son we were reborn into a life of faith and fellowship. In you, we were made new and welcomed and loved. For this we give praise and thanksgiving. Amen

## Activity

Take the time now to reflect on a time more recently where God was present for you. Does he still make things new for you and for the Church?

## Prayer

Present God, we thank you for journeying with us through life, through our faith and with our church. We know you have a plan; help us to see that, encourage us in its actions and remind us that you are with us always even in our darkest and most lonely moments. Be with our families as they explore faith in the modern world and be with our young people as they ask the questions of life. We pray that those answers can be found in you, as they are for us. Amen

## Activity

Having reflected on your own past and present faith experience, what challenges do you see for the future, what advice would you give yourself or to new Christians or those outside the Church, in what you hope that God will make new for the Church to come?





## Prayer

God of the future, we pray for peace, for hope, for strength and for renewal but, above all, for those that will remember you, your works and the message of your Son in a world where it may not be appreciated as it once was. We pray for joy - let the day-to-day miracles be remembered and celebrated for the miracles they are. Your will be done, O Lord, the one to who newness is attributed. Amen

## Hymn

Use Chris Tomlin version of Amazing Grace or Stuart Townend version of The Lord's my shepherd





## *Hear Our Voice!... Training Women for Ministry and Service in Brazil*

### Hymn

CH4 656 I come with joy, a child of God

### Opening prayer

- Leader:** The earth belongs to God  
**Response:** The earth and all its peoples  
**Leader:** How good it is, how wonderful  
**Response:** To live together in harmony  
**Leader:** Creating god of the universe  
**Response:** Be with us this day  
**Leader:** Jesus, servant of the poor  
**Response:** Be with us this day  
**Leader:** Holy Spirit, breath of life  
**Response:** Be with us this day. Amen.

### Bible reading

Matthew 9: 16-17

### Reflection

At UNIDA, we don't have much need for coats, old or new. It is too warm in Brazil for coats! We don't have much need for wine or wineskins either. The majority of churches, and certainly the majority of our students, are tea total. At Communion, churches serve grape juice, and deliver sermons on the evils of alcohol.

Many of our students tell stories of their conversion from a life lost to drugs and alcohol. The Church, for them, is a healing community. Women, in particular, tell testimonies of family life destroyed by alcohol. Husbands and partners spending the small weekly wage on cheap rum at the end of a shift, arriving home penniless and legless. The conversion stories and testimonies speak of encounters with Jesus Christ that transform lives.

Our students read the text from Matthew in two ways. Contextually, Jesus' context is different from Brazil, therefore new wine and new wineskins is appropriate to the context of first century Palestine. Allegorically (or figuratively), lives transformed by Jesus Christ are new wine in new wineskins. The old life has been cast off. The allegorical readings allow students to appropriate contradictory images, and give meaning to the story in their own lives. For our students, little knowledge is needed of wine, wine production and wine storage. Instead, the gospel text speaks overwhelmingly of newness in Jesus Christ.



## Closing prayer/meditation

We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that transforms our being;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that quickens each heart;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that renews all creation;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that softens us to solidarity;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that comforts all the marginalized;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that eliminates prejudice and slavery;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that overcomes every form of injustice and oppression;  
We believe in the warmth of the Spirit that preserves the hope of the Kingdom of God in our hearts.

## Hymn

CH4 600 Spirit of God, unseen as the wind





## Old Testament Bible Study

Isaiah 5: 1 -7

John 15: 1-17

Questions to consider linking these verses

- What type of Vine and Branches are we as Guild members?
- Do we regularly let God prune and reshape us? If not, how can we start to?
- In what ways can we bear new fruit for the Kingdom?
- How can we best show of his love in His service?

## New Testament Bible Study

Mark 2 v 22

***“And no-one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, he pours new wine into new wineskins”.***

Mark is writing at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry and already people are noticing that His teaching is different, that things are changing. Jesus was a ‘people person’. Jesus is showing His disciples a new way, a fulfilment of Isaiah 43 v 19a “See I am doing a new thing”.

Are you happy/comfortable when ‘a new thing’ is introduced?

The Pharisees and teachers of the law followed the Law outwardly. They were the religious people, who in their opinion were always right and who tried to find fault with Jesus. They were interested in keeping rules; Jesus was interested in building relationships. They were picking fault with Jesus in the whole of chapter 2.

## Discuss one of the following incidents: verses 1-12; verses 13-17; verses 23-28

The Pharisees and teachers of the law had become rigid and inflexible in their faith and did not accept the teaching of Jesus. Keeping such attitudes is represented by the old wineskins; they were too rigid in their thinking to accept anything new.

Jesus invites us into a new relationship with Him, so why do we often worry about religious practices rather than simply being in a relationship with Him? See Titus 3 v 4-7

Jesus is the ‘new wine’. In 2 Corinthians 5 v 15 we read “if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has gone the new has come”. Jesus is the “new wine” and the “new creation” - our new lives in Jesus - is the “new wineskin”.

Are you willing to share something that has changed in your life since you became ‘a new creation’?

Jesus was saying new wine needs a new wineskin because as the new wine expands during fermentation, it stretches the wineskin. A new wineskin has room to grow. An old wineskin is no longer flexible and will burst under pressure, wasting the wine before it has time to mature. God wants to pour His love into our hearts – hearts that are soft and flexible with room to grow.

(John 4: 8) How can we share God’s love with others?

# REFLECTIVE BIBLE STUDY

## HOME FOR GOOD



### What are you hoping for at the moment?

Perhaps, as a Guild, you're hoping to be able to return to a normal Guild year after the pandemic, with community gatherings and fundraising activities returning to how they were. Perhaps you're hoping for a new friend to join your Guild this year. Or maybe you're hoping to master that new cake recipe that you can't quite get right.

It's so easy to let our wishes and our worries blur into something we call a 'hope.' But that's not the picture of hope we're given in the Bible. Biblical hope is a certainty, a confident expectation, not based on or influenced by what we encounter day-today, but rather, entirely on who God is. So, how do we hold onto this hope, when worry finds us?

Well, at first glance at Matthew chapter 6, it feels like Jesus gives a pretty blunt answer as he addresses his friends and followers. "Do not worry about your life," he says in verse 25. I don't know about you, but that doesn't feel to me like a particularly helpful or realistic command, when worry feels spontaneous and overwhelming, or when it feels like the situation or circumstance I find myself in means worry and concern are pretty justifiable. Thankfully, those words are just an introduction.

### Read together: Matthew 6: 26-30

Jesus gives us some verbs, action words. Look. See. He draws our attention to the natural world around us, and he says "Hey, I know you're worrying – but remember who God is." Creation reveals to us the nature of the Creator. We get a glimpse of His glory in the magnificence of a sunset or a sky full of stars. We know He cares about the tiny details when we squint and see the tiny petals on a daisy. His competence and deep care are demonstrated in the fact that in all seasons, we see life, growth and flourishing in the world around us; trees grow tall and strong, animals find the food and shelter they need.

**Jesus invites us to pause, to look around us and to see that God is still there. He is still powerful, caring, attentive to every detail. We face challenges, but He is still able, and He is still so caring. Jesus says, "I know you have reason to worry – but look how much reason you have to hold onto hope."**

Perhaps true hope isn't the absence of worry, but the recognition – whether we feel it deep in our hearts, or are having to consciously remind ourselves again and again – that in the midst of our difficulties, stresses, concerns and fears, our loving God is present with us, and He is who He says He is.

### Points for prayer

As we pray together for children and young people who are in or have been in care and for the families who care for them, let's pray prayers of hope, remembering and trusting in who God is.

- Pray for children and young people as they experience the changing schedules and routines as they start a new academic year. Pray for them as they navigate unsettling change and unpredictability. Pray for God's peace, which we read in Philippians 4 transcends all understanding.



- Pray for foster carers, adoptive parents and supported lodgings hosts – and for children and young people too – who, despite the Summer break, have entered into their new academic year feeling wrung out and exhausted. Pray that they will experience deep rest in the God who makes us lie down in green pastures, who leads us beside still waters, and who restores our souls (Psalm 23: 2-3).
- Pray for the work of Home for Good. Give thanks for our new Northern Scotland Regional Lead, Rosie Campbell, who joined the Home for Good team in August 2022. Pray that as we continue to strive to find a home for every child who needs one in Scotland and across the UK. God will go before us and that His will be done. Pray that we plant and water the seeds, God will make them grow (1 Corinthians 3: 6-9).

## Reflective prayer idea

Find a piece of nature to spend some time focussing on. If you can, get outside and surround yourself in nature! But if you can't, find something in your home, look out of your window, pull up a photograph on your phone or computer or conjure a memory in your mind. You can do this alone or draw in others in your home or community.

**Think about the conditions that allow this piece of nature to grow.** Notice its resilience, and its ability to flourish in different environments.

**Notice what is beautiful.** Not just there to look nice, plants are beautiful so that they can attract pollinators like bees; beauty is often part of their survival.

**Think about what the natural world can offer us.** Can this plant or flower be eaten, by humans or animals? Has it medicinal qualities? What difference does it make by existing?

**Think about all the things that had to happen for this life to be here right now.** The balance of oxygen in the atmosphere, the level of sunlight, the soil beneath it. Acknowledge that you have your hands-on evidence of a beautiful variety of things coming together so that this life could exist.

**Continue to focus on the item or the space in front of or around you.** What more do you notice? What moves you? What does it teach you about nature? What does it teach you about yourself? What does it teach you about God?

**Allow the natural world to remind you today of the hope we have in the One who gives life, who sustains and who cares for us.**



# NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY STARCHILD



## Readings

Matthew 9:17, Mark 2:22 and Luke 5:35-37

NRVS and Message: Early Teachings and Signs

The synoptic gospels all have this reference to wine in new/old wine skins.

This is from the early ministry of Christ, marked by healings, socialising with the outcast and rejected, and being challenged by those in authority.

It has a massive impact very quickly and makes dangerous waves for Jesus and his followers.

## Questions

With any of these questions, please bear in mind, that it is not a case of looking for right or wrong answers, but all about us allowing ourselves some time to think creatively, and to see what might come out of that. As Montessori might suggest, begin with: "I wonder..." or: "What if...?"

- Compare in detail how each one puts it into words, and into what context the illustration is fitted – what goes before; what comes after?  
Are there any minor or major differences, and why might that be?
- The image of wine in wine skins is very much an image of its time and culture; something to which anyone listening could immediately relate, and which was instantly clear to the hearer.  
Can we think of an equivalent that would have the same effect in our time and culture for everyone hearing or seeing it?
- Very quickly, it becomes clear that what Jesus is teaching almost always involves a radical departure from establishment tradition, regulations and rules.  
New rules and regulations will result from this in due course, as we know.  
But, how do we feel about old and new traditions, regulations and rules in our day?
- If faith and establishment are to go together, how do we, in 2023 or 2024, put our old faith into new organisations and places without bursting everything we hold dear?
- (following on from Q4) What happens, if we place our old faith into old organisations and places?

Are we still capable of adapting in our fast changing, global world?

# NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STUDY

## THE VINE TRUST



### Readings

Matthew 9: 16 – 17, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Revelation 21: 1 - 5

### Explanation

The parable of Jesus speaks of new wine being poured into new wineskins, so that both are preserved. In Jesus's day, people used animal skins, such as goatskin, for storing liquids. Fermented drinks like wine expanded, and since an old wineskin would already be stretched to its limit, the new wine would tear the seams. New wine needed to be preserved in new wineskins. As the wine expanded, the new skins would stretch to accommodate it.

### Question 1

Jesus was saying that he was here to do something completely new. If people tried to make sense of Jesus through a lens of old expectations and regulations, they would miss the amazing thing that was happening. Through Jesus, God was redeeming the world to Himself. And if people expected this to look familiar to what God had done before, they wouldn't understand. Modern Christians have the benefit of hindsight. We see the whole picture in a way that makes sense.

Why did Jesus behave so differently from other rabbis? Why was the religious establishment so angry with Him?

### Question 2

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" Sometimes, the need for reform is so great that the work of God cannot be contained in the old or expected ways.

What sort of expectations may we in the Church or in the Guild have to adjust today to try to contain the new?

Are your "wineskins" supple enough to contain the "new wine"?

### Question 3

Jesus says, "Behold I make all things new".

Imagine being rescued out of a situation of homelessness and fear, and finding a home in the Village of Hope at Kazunzu with other children. Fresh opportunities for an education and a bright future in a loving environment. When the new comes, we must be ready and willing to embrace it. What sort of difficulties may children in such a situation face in order to leave behind the old and embrace the new?

### Question 4

Is God wanting to do a new thing in your life? Are you open to God's newness in your life? Are there any attitudes you may need to change in order to embrace a new situation or a new way perspective on life?

### Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you that you want to do a new thing in us and through us. Help us to be open to the new wineskins that will be able to contain the new wine. You know how much we become attached to what is familiar, and how scary newness can be to us. Help us to trust you more fully, so that we might be open to and eager for your new wine in our lives. Amen.

# DRAMA



## DRAMA 1

**Setting:** A general conversation between two ladies having a rest  
**Location:** a room anywhere, where 3 or 4 people are meeting

Margaret

(laboured sigh) Well what's with your life today Agnes?

Agnes

... Been reminiscing about the farm and the denim dungarees full of patches. Patched and re-patched until they fell to pieces. No waste. "Make do and mend was the motto"

Margaret

When our son started at University his denim jacket was beginning to show signs of wear and tear— by the time he had finished 4 years later there was more denim patches than original jacket.

Agnes

Thankfully I had plenty well washed denim in store for continued patching.

Margaret

(scratching her head) I'm sure there's something in the Bible about patching with unshrunk cloth on an old garment and also the same applied with old wine skins. In biblical times wine wasn't stored in bottles. It was stored in wine skins sewn to make a watertight bag. How ingenious is that.

Agnes

Use what you've got and you'll never want was my upbringing!!

Margaret

JESUS did not come to patch up the old religious system of Judaism with its rules and traditions. His purpose was to bring in something new. The new message, the gospel, said that Jesus Christ, God's son, came to offer a new beginning, Forgiveness of Sins and Reconciliation.

Agnes

All very well for you. Some people don't think they are sinners and cannot discard the old traditions and rely totally on Jesus provision.

Margaret

(laughing) Yes, even for new denim trousers purchased with holes and looking totally ragged.

## DRAMA 2

**Setting:** Three Guild Members chatting before their meeting begins.  
**The Convener joins them**

1st Member

Well here we are at the start of a new Guild year. I hope they have a good syllabus planned this year.

2nd Member

I hope they haven't changed the format.

3rd Member

Well I think we should have change, as the Church and Guild have had to change drastically this past year and we must move forward.

1st Member

But we have always done things the same way!

Convener

I couldn't help overhearing your comments ladies but we are moving on. All the changes have given us a wonderful opportunity to welcome new ideas and adapt accordingly. Jesus tells us in Mark's Gospel that we shouldn't put new wine into old wineskins, but into new wineskins, so we are asking you for ideas so we all move on together

# ALTERNATIVE MEETING IDEAS



## Ideas for 'No Speaker' Guild Meetings: Involving everyone!

**Most of these activities are best done round a table.**

- Playlist – members nominate their favourite piece of music or song and say why they've chosen it. (Music may be played if members bring CD or flash drive).
- Memory Object – members asked to bring an object which has a special memory of significance. This can be used extensively with a variety of themes e.g. Memory of a special person, a precious gift, Christmas, Easter, working life, holiday, special time in life.... The list is endless! You'd be surprised how well this works!
- My Job and my Faith – Members can talk about their working life and how their faith was a support or an impact.
- Prayer Circle – A world map and mapping pins – members can share their connection with a country/place on the world map and who or what they pray for.
- Gifted Guild – Members recognise the gifts, abilities, attributes of other members. This can be made more interesting by putting all names in a hat and passing it round. When a name of a person is picked out – that person has to speak about that person's gifts and talents etc.
- Name that Tune – First notes of a hymn or song are played from a play list or by pianist and members answering correctly either individually or in a team win the point.
- Wine Tasting - Gather and host a wine tasting evening. This can be opened to anyone and may attract some new faces of all ages to the event. Choose a few different wines for people to taste, you could even vote on your favourite wine as a group.
- Wine Cork Craft - Have people bring an old wine cork. You can use the corks as a stamp with paint and can paint with them. For example, you could paint a cross using the wine cork as a stamp, or a vineyard, or anything!! All this will require is a wine cork, some paint, paper and creativity!
- Wine Bottle Craft - We all know the importance of upcycling and minimising our waste. So, why not upcycle and reuse empty wine bottles and turn them into decorations or gifts! There are endless craft ideas for empty wine bottles. For example, you could paint them, you could insert fairy lights into them and turn them into beautiful light decorations, or you could even wrap some brown rope around them and attach some knitted or woven flowers onto them. This way, we can make things new with old empty bottles, and we would be reducing our waste.
- Clay Pottery - Create a wine goblet/glass out of clay pottery. This one could be a tad messy!! Mould your wine goblet/glass into any shape you fancy. You could go traditional or controversial, however you feel inclined. You could even try to engrave them with your name, a vine picture, the Guild logo, or anything at all!! As a possible extension to this activity, you could paint them once they are set and dried.



## Craft suggestions

### Baked potato bag

This bag is designed for use in the microwave only and is said to give the fluffiest and most tender baked potatoes. It should hold up to 4 potatoes if required.

To Use - Wash and dry potatoes. Wrap potato/s in paper towel. DO NOT PIERCE SKIN! Place Potatoes in bag and microwave as per your manufacturer's instructions until done.

To serve - Remove from pouch, pierce the skin with fork.

Let the pouch air dry for next use. Washing at regular intervals

Also try - Sweet potatoes, Corn, Apples and squash in same manner

### Instructions for making bag

Cut 1 piece of 55cm by 29cm outer fabric cotton suggested and 1 same size for lining again cotton

Cut 1 piece of quality fibre insert (Quilters Wadding)

Top stitch outer fabric to wadding using regular pattern at regular intervals

Place right sides together and sew round the outside edge 1cm in leaving a 4 cm gap to enable the bag to be turned right side out.

Press with a cloth and then overstretch folding the open seam down before top stitching round the whole edge.

Fold up following pattern if there is one by 22cm and stitch down both side seams. Fold down shorter end while in use

Bag is ready!

### Ladies Crossover Scarf

Using D.K Cast on 3 stitches, knit one row, increase K1 – wool forward for increase of 1st on every row until 30 stitches. Then knit 15 rows.

Divide stitch for pull through loop by taking every alternate stitch on the stitch holder.

K1, P1 rib for 15 rows, do same from stitch holder, next row alternate stitches back on one needle 30 stitches, then quarter stitch every row until required length.

Knit row of 2 together each stitch 15 stitches, rib 15 rows on these 15 stitches increase on each stitch back to 30 stitches, knit 15 rows. Decrease K1, K2 together, K2 together. Repeat on every row until 3 stitches remain. Cast off.



## Men's Crossover Scarf

Using D.K cast on 44 Stitches, K2 P2 for 29 inches cast of in pattern.

To make cross over at front of knitting take 5 inches to overlap giving a V shape.

Stitch all stitches of all 4 sides of overlap and scarf complete.

## Other meeting ideas

### Ice-breaker

(Needed - a pen and sheet of paper for each small group.)

- Most of us have heard the old adage 'you can't put new wine in old wine skins' (taken from the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.)
- Note down as many old sayings as you can think of (remember what your mother / grandmother may have said to you!)
- Some to start you off -
  - You cannot put an old head on young shoulders
  - We mustn't rest on our laurels
  - You can lead a horse to water but you can't make it drink
- At the end of the discussion ask a group to read out what they have come up with and then everyone pitch in with additional sayings.

### Inter-generational activities

- Soup and pudding lunch
- Soup and sandwiches day - both served with tea/coffee and soft drinks
- Guild assisting with any younger group. E.g. Toddlers, crèche on Sundays.
- Providing a speaker to reminisce about their youth.
- Ask youth group what they need
- Teach Bible reading (a kind of speech making training) to give young people confidence.
- Play dominoes, chess, draughts, beetle, board game or similar at club nights.
- Just be a helping hand— do tuck shop.
- Gardening -maybe plant bulbs in pots, baking or cooking lessons.
- Provide baking or donations when young people holding a social or fund-raising event.



# OTHER RESOURCES



## Other resources

### Books

- Unlocking the growth - Michael Harvey
- Christianity rediscovered - Vincent Donovan
- From the heart - Rob Parsons
- Walk a little slower - Tanner Olson
- Keeping Hope - Michel Quoist
- Study of Matthew (Enduring Word) - David Guzik
- Beginning again on the Christian Journey - John Pritchard
- New Beginning, understanding the Basic Principles of Christian Faith – Sharon Dutra
- My utmost for his highest – Oswald Chambers
- New Believers, effective Christian living - Greg Laurie

### Poems

New Wine in New Wineskins <https://hellopoetry.com/words/wineskins>

New Wine – Edward Potts [www.christart.com/poetry/poem2854](http://www.christart.com/poetry/poem2854)

The Power of Faith – [www.wishafriend.com](http://www.wishafriend.com)

#### Poem

I think of trees when I walk through a forest,  
and wonder why they vary so much in height.  
The skyscrapers of the forest are undeniably  
majestic that they must turn many heads.  
But what on earth makes them grow so tall?  
Is it some special seedlings that are planted with such care and thought?  
Or is it all in the lap of our God.

I often think that whatever that initial process at the start of their life  
there is some genius at work for the benefit of all.

*Agnes L. W. Berry, Kirkcaldy St Bryce Kirk*

### Music

Vivaldi: The Four Seasons. Spring 3. Allegro

Tchaikovsky: Waltz of the Flowers

Johann Strauss 11. Voices of Spring – Waltz

Haydn – String Quartet in D major. Op. 64 No.5 “The Lark”

Peer Gynt Suite no. 1 op.46. Morning Mood

Hillsong worship: New wine

Hillsong Worship: The song of Repentance

Stuart Townsend and Keith Getty: See what a morning

Graham Kendrick: Happy day

Nina Simone: Feeling Good (new dawn, new day, new life)

Johnny Nash: I can see clearly now (bright days, blue skies, seeing clearly)

The Beatles: Here comes the sun



## Looking after God's world

**The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.** (Genesis 2:15)

### Introduction

The material in this section is designed to help you towards discussion. It is not meant to be a Bible study. As we come to the end of our current three-year strategy, Look forward in Faith, we consider what we can do to leave a world for future generations.

We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. (Native American proverb)

In November 2021 the UK Government hosted the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow. Better known as COP26, the plan was to unite the world to tackle climate change. How much has happened two years later? We will all have our own opinions but since our discussion topic is not a political one, let's think about how we as Guild members can help with climate change.

The Guild has never been afraid to tackle difficult issues and has often taken the lead. Let's not wait for others. What can we do?

From the beginning of time God instructed people to take care of his creation. God has given us responsibilities.

### Opening prayer

All powerful God, Creator and upholder of the universe, You are present with us from dawn's exciting first burst of light till the serene setting of the sun at night. We bow before You with grateful hearts ever ready to hear Your voice, whether it be in the song of the lark or the soft lapping of waves by the shore.

Sovereign Lord, weaver of all the intricate patterns within heaven and earth, Your council determines the movement through each season, providing Your creatures with heat, light and food. Give us, we pray, hearts which are responsive to Your call to care for the earth. Inspire us to respect its resources. Help us to be sensitive in the husbandry of both plant and animal life that we might avoid avarice or greed, remembering that our actions have consequences.

Living God, fill us with wonder at Your constant love for all of Your creation and help us see Your mighty Hand transforming the ordinary into the extraordinary. Cause us to worship each time we view Your fingerprint on a leaf, a butterfly-wing or snowflake. Deepen our gratitude that Your loving, personal care for us includes the fact that You know and count each hair on our head. We pray in the Almighty name of Jesus. Amen

# DISCUSSION TOPIC



## Hymns

All people that on earth do dwell	CH4 62
All things bright and beautify	CH4 137
All creature of our God and King	CH4 147
Now the green blade riseth	CH4 417
Think of a world	CH4 155
Have you heard the raindrops	CH4 525
In our lives plant seeds of hope	CH4 349
In the bulb there is a flower	CH4 727
Thanks to God	CH4 605
Wide wide as the ocean	JP 292
Lord make me a mountain	MP 436
The day you gave us Lord	MP 218 CH4 220

## Bible readings

### OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1: 28-31 English Standard Version

1 Chronicles 29: 10-13 Good News Bible.

Psalms 33: 4-7 The Message translation.

### NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 6: 26-29 The Living Bible.

Colossians 1: 15-17 The Good News Bible.

Revelation 21: 1-5 The Message translation



## Caring for the world

### Ice breaker

Give yourself 5 points for things you do.

1. Recycle household rubbish.
2. Buy Fairtrade goods.
3. Take care not to drop litter.
4. Take unwanted items to the charity shop.
5. Grow your own food.
6. Buy locally grown produce.
7. Buy food without plastic wrapping or containers.
8. Have and use a smart meter.
9. Walk, cycle or use public transport when possible.
10. Switch off electrical equipment when not in use.
11. Use your vote.
12. Only buy food you are going to eat.
13. Never leave taps running.
14. Support environmental organisations e.g. RSPB, Friends of the Earth, WWF.
15. Share your faith in God's goodness and faithfulness with others and in prayer.

### Check your score

- 60 – 75** You are caring for the environment. Continue to care for God's world and conserve it for future generations
- 35 – 55** Nearly there. You are on the right track. Make a bit more effort to be aware of how you can help conserve God's creation.
- 15 – 30** Perhaps you could think more about the environment e.g. recycling and conserving energy and water every day. Walk don't drive. Small changes can benefit our planet.
- Below 15** Oops! You need to work at caring for the planet. Get advice from Eco-Congregations on the Church of Scotland website. Don't give up. Have faith we can all make a difference.

COP26 aimed to achieve net-zero by 2050.

Where will we be in 2050? Many of us will not be here any longer. Do we shrug our shoulders, or start now to make a difference while we can?

What do we think about the quotes below from politics, religion, literature and science?

Do our views match those of young people? Perhaps we could invite some young people from the church or community to share their thoughts, youth organisation leaders or members of the Young Adult Guild.



## Quotes

The earth is a fine place and worth fighting for - Ernest Hemingway

25 years ago, people could have been excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse - Desmond Tutu, former Archbishop of Cape Town

We are the first generation to feel the effect of climate change and the last generation who can do something about it - Barak Obama

What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make - Dr Jane Goodall, primatologist and anthropologist

## Are we rulers or stewards?

Genesis 1: 26 – 31 tells us that God wants us to be caretakers of his creation not destroyers, and Genesis 2: 1 – 15 says, “humans were placed in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. God has given us the responsibility to care for the earth which belongs to him and which he created.

In July 2022, when temperatures broke records, and out of control fires were raging across Europe, the Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields encouraged everyone to think about climate change. He said climate change should top the political agenda. We face challenges but for every challenge there is a Biblical reason to act.

The challenge? The wealthiest – the millionaires and billionaires - ought to be encouraged to dispense with the greatest part of their wealth on projects that positively impact on climate change. The theological basis for this? As Jesus said, “What will it be of profit to anyone if they gain the whole world and lose their soul?”

The Moderator is challenging us to see Creation as a gift to be enjoyed and treasured, not exploited and for the Church in particular to be a leader in this respect. He encourages us to set the bar as high as possible, by example and practice. (Rt Rev I Greenshields 19. 7. 2022)

## In groups talk about and give feedback

- What can we do as an individual to care for God’s creation?
- What do we need to stop doing to protect the environment?
- What can our church community do?
- How can the Guild lead the way in our church and in the community?



### **Suggestions: (pts 1 and 2)**

Reusable bottle or mug  
Use energy efficient light bulbs  
Switch off lights  
Walk or cycle  
Vote  
Plant something  
Go outside. Enjoy nature but don't abuse it  
Eat less meat and dairy

### **Suggestions: (pts 3 and 4)**

Energy audit  
Turn down / off heating  
Switch off lights  
Good management of church buildings and grounds  
Renewable energy / solar panels  
Create a church garden  
Walk or share transport  
Only fly if necessary

How can we lead the way? How can we raise awareness in the congregation?

How can we get involved in the environmental mission of the church? Could we become an Eco-Guild?

Eco-Congregation is an ecumenical programme helping churches make the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith and respond in practical action in the church, in the lives of individuals and the local and global community.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a Christian environmental charity addressing climate change and conservation. See Church of Scotland website for more information.

### **Closing prayer**

Creator God, we thank You that you made the heavens and the earth and all living things. You gave us the task of being stewards of Your world and to look after all You created. We are sorry if we have failed You.

We thank you for those people who are dedicated to saving our planet; those who encourage us to be less wasteful of our precious resources and to be aware of the harm we are doing to the world by not taking action.

Loving Father, Redeemer and Creator of the world, as Your disciples it is set in our hearts to be mindful of the world You have given us.

This we pray in Your name, whose we are and whom we serve. Amen



