



1 June

General Assembly

It can be quite difficult offering a report about the General Assembly because your experience of it is tinged with the anxieties you arrive with, the people you meet, and the sense of whether you feel more or less connected with the institution.

For me it arrived with many anxieties about the future of the church, mixed up with the Presbytery Mission Planning. The Assembly felt heavy with everyone unsure of things and the future. However, I came away feeling more upbeat than I had expected. That was perhaps the side conversations everyone has that make connections, share ideas, and find a way through some of the tangle the church is in at the moment, even if it is one step at a time.

The planning dominated most things. Ministers, elders, congregations are all feeling down about these things, but that isn't the church. I think that is what came through for me; that is just the structure with which we need to be church. The real church is still the words we give the world, the priorities we set through the relationships we have with government and local organisations, supporting and caring for parishes, and for the story we can tell of faith and hope and promise.

This year's worship, for me, was the best it has ever been. The Moderator (who is visiting us in February next year for our 375th anniversary) was just fabulous, holding the space, shaping it with words that set the tone, hopefully, engagingly, and honestly. I think when we feel knocked and bruised as a church, what the leadership offers is vital and the Moderator set an invitational tone with everything, pointing out the light coming through the cracks.

There were debates about

- assisted dying, to be looked at more thoroughly next time round.
- different ways of doing planning in the future.
- delaying a decision about the head offices in George Street.

- agreeing to bring up to the same level as the Westminster Confession of Faith other statements of faith such as the Apostles Creed so there is a breadth of opinion on belief.
- a promise to look at the Third Article Declaratory, which promises the services of religion to everyone in the country, to see if it is now possible or necessary.

There was also a fabulous speech from the Chief Rabbi who, together with a special group in the church, has created a glossary of words that both Christians and Jews use but understand in different ways. It is a project to bring these two families together over their diversity and different views.

What is always interesting are the debates that are all about the church and those that reach beyond us. This year there was a lot about the church itself, which is perhaps testimony to how the church feels, shrinking its vision a little to gather itself. Yet still there is a broader view, a concept of being a church beyond our own walls.

So not necessarily a hugely upbeat Assembly. Perhaps a more honest one that sits between what we have been and what we still yet shall be.

Pottery Challenge

Pottery workshop and pit firing in the manse garden.

Channel 4 Pottery Throwdown has nothing on us. We have the equally famous potter **Anne Hudson** who is going to lead 8 people with a pottery workshop which will involve pot making (not on a wheel) and pit firing in the manse garden. Ann is well known for her raku firing and has created some stunning pieces which are on display in many parts of the world. She is also just one of us and is willing to share that knowledge and experience over two weekends and share the fun and the story of clay, raku, and fire.

This event will take place over 3 days on 2 weekends, 17th & 24,25th June and, as there will only be 8 places available, please make sure you can attend all 3 sessions. It will come on a first come first served basis and you can call the church office (942 8827) to put your name down. It will involve a total cost of £10 for the clay and equipment needed for the three workshops and pit firing.

...../

Saturday 17th June 1.30 - 3.30pm - 2-hour clay making workshop.
Pot making demonstration then make your own pots. No previous experience with clay is needed. The pots will be fired ready for a pit firing the following weekend.

Saturday 24th June 1.30 - 4pm - prepare pots and firing.
Wrap your pots with seaweed, salt, combustible waste, and wire. Packing of pots in the pit with sawdust and wood and lighting of the kiln. This will be left to burn down slowly overnight.

Sunday 25th June 2 - 3.30pm
Unpack kiln and clean pots. Admire everyone's efforts and take lots of photos hopefully!

Pulpit Camera

There isn't one! Well, not really.

A few folk have noticed the wee camera that sits in the pulpit. It is a baby monitor - honestly.

We were trying to find a way so that Chris, the organist, could see what is happening in worship and know how long to play and when to stop, especially for funerals and weddings as well as when the children go out for Sunday School etc.

The choir used to be the ones to tell him but because there is now more choir than choir stalls they sit in a different place, and we have had to find a way to help Chris know what is going on.

We thought about a wee baby monitor, and it works perfectly. Nothing is recorded; the camera is linked to a wee screen at the organ and is completely self-contained, so no one is being live streamed to the outside world. Only Chris can see the smiles and fashions of everyone on a Sunday morning and no Oscars will be presented.

"The Chosen"

A weekly series each Tuesday night until 20 June.

Each Tuesday, we start at 7pm, where we show the Series 2 episode for the week (with some light refreshments). Then at 8pm we have a group discussion until approximately 8.30pm. All episodes are available on the internet.

Friendship Group

The Friendship Group is a chance for those who have been bereaved to drop in for coffee/tea and a friendly chat with others in similar circumstances. The next meeting is on Monday, 5 June, 10.30 am in the hall.

The Monday Club

The next Monday Club meeting is an outing: Monday 5 June.

Contact: Rona Armstrong 0141 956 4318, rona_ah38@outlook.com)

NK Gardening Group Plant Sale

The Gardening Group would like to thank everyone who bought plants at our recent online sale - we are now sold out and have raised just over £200.

We hope to have a few other plants for sale in the Walkround of the Church Hall on some Friday mornings over the summer, so have a look in if you are passing or if you are visiting the Coffee Pot.

Many thanks again from all the gardeners.
Contact Tom McCubbin for more information.

St Gregory's Food Bank

As summer approaches, the necessity for food donations is as vital as ever.

Indeed 239 adults were given bags of food last week and the stocks at St. Gregory's have been greatly reduced. The continuing generosity of our congregation is remarkable and is hugely appreciated.

Please keep filling our trug with the usual non-perishable foods and baby essentials. Monetary donations are also very welcome.

The Halls are open Mon. to Fri. (9 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.) and Sunday mornings.

Videos and Podcasts

The videos and podcasts of worship will continue over the summer.

Just go to the website (www.nkchurch.org.uk) for the latest videos on the home page. There is also a link to the podcasts on the website and the phonenumber is 0141 465 5774 to listen to the podcasts if you are not on the internet.

Those we have lost

We record their names here and celebrate what they have been to us.

Jean Stenhouse	St Germain's	(12.05.23)
Barbara Marriott	Edinbarnet	(21.05.23)
Lorna Morris	Moor Road, Strathblane	(25.05.23)
John Fulton	Heather Avenue	(28.05.23)
Marion Brewster	Antonine House	(28.05.23)
Elsbeth Neilson	Antonine House	(29.05.23)

Diary

Thursday 1 June

Daybreak 1.30pm in the hall

Friday, 2 June

Coffee Pot 10am in the hall.

Sunday, 4 June

Morning Worship led by Alex MacCallum,
10.30am, in church.

Monday 5 June

Friendship Group for the Bereaved

10am in the hall.

Monday Club outing

Tuesday 6 June

SingSong! 2pm in the hall

Bible Study: "The Chosen" 7pm in the hall

Wednesday 7 June

Midweek Service 11am in the hall,
followed by coffee and cake.

Thursday 8 June

Daybreak 1.30pm in the hall

Friday 9 June

Coffee Pot 10am in the hall

Sunday 11 June

Morning Worship led by Carole Hough
10.30am in church

Tuesday 13 June

Bible Study: "The Chosen" 7pm in the hall

Wednesday 14 June

Midweek Service 11am in the hall, followed
by coffee and cake.

Kirk Session meeting 7.30pm in the hall

Thursday 15 June

Daybreak 1.30pm in the hall