

June 2023

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Gorbals Church Chat

Dear Friend,
Flaming June looks like it might be true to its reputation this year. We started early when we celebrated Pentecost on 28 May and remembered how the Holy Spirit appeared like tongues of fire on the day that the church was born. The service took the shape of a birthday party with flame-coloured bunting sharing our hopes for the church, flame-coloured birthday cakes and twizzle sticks to complete the celebrations. Stella sang in Yoruba to remind us that on the Day of Pentecost everybody heard the gospel preached in their own language.

The wooden bench which we purchased last year has now been placed under the noticeboard at the front door. We hope there will be many happy coffee breaks there over the summer. We also hope that people will use it to rest their legs as they make their way to and from the shops or health centre. Anne and Lily have been tending the planters, and we have an abundance of coriander and mint. Please come and snip whatever you need for your summer meals.

May was busy with Christian Aid Week and several of our congregation attending the General Assembly in Edinburgh as Commissioners or in other roles. June will include Refugee Sunday, a shared event for the Refugee Festival with Citizens Theatre, and Gorbals Fair. Come and join us for any of these events, and of course our regular Sunday worship and week-day events.

Until next time...

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Our friends Peter and Heidi Gardner designed button badges which were given to each commissioner to the General Assembly at the beginning of the week. They are words to encourage all of us.

EVERY WEEK

Sunday
11-12 Morning Worship

Monday
11-1 Men's Group
1-3.30 Zest for Life relaxation with gentle movement.

Tuesday
10-3 Make, Do and Mend
Drop-in and crafts.

Wednesday
10-2 Cooking and baking.
Community lunch served c. 12.30
2-3 Bible study

Thursday
12-1 All for 1 Yoga Lunch
afterwards.



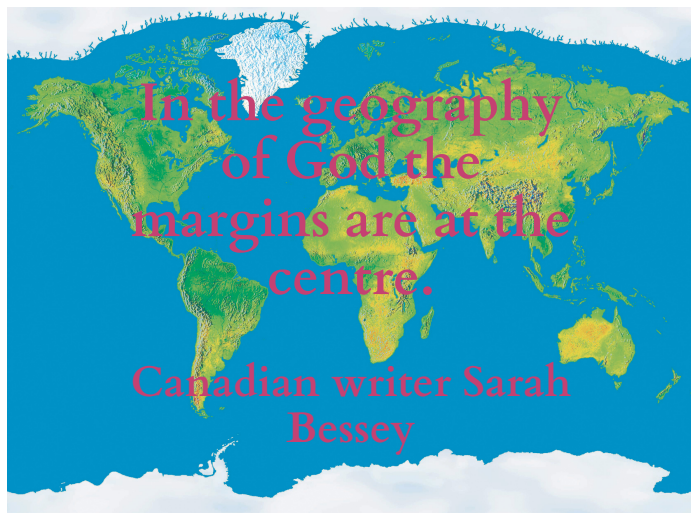


Thank you to everyone who gave so generously and/or baked for our coffee morning during Christian Aid Week. We raised **£608** to support communities across the world most affected by the Climate and Nature Emergency. The Co-op donated a prize hamper of Fair Trade goodies for our flower-themed quiz which was won by Pat McLaughlin from Zest for Life



Congratulations and Celebrations!

We had our first wedding for several years on 1 June when Margaret and Mary honoured their life-long commitment to one another in a beautiful, simple ceremony. Never ones to miss a chance, we honoured the happy couple with cake, after the Sunday service on 4 June.



First impressions of the General Assembly

Our Treasurer Judith was one of our Commissioners at this year's General Assembly in Edinburgh. She writes:

'I would like to thank the Kirk Session for allowing me to attend the General Assembly as commissioner this year. I really appreciated the opportunity and enjoyed my experience. The weekday worship was particularly powerful and our Moderator's reflections inspiring. The Assembly was addressed by various visitors during the week including Rev Lydia Neshangwe Moderator elect from South Africa, Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis and First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Ben Key. There was input to the debates from Christians from different denominations from the UK and abroad.

The breadth of the report by the Faith Impact Forum was incredible. In one day we listened to reports about the newly produced Jewish Christian Glossary, the legacy of slavery, net zero, the earthquake in Syria, Pakistan, Violence against women, cost of living, assisted dying and addictions. The most contentious issue was the church's position on assisted dying. The current position is that the church is against assisted dying in any circumstances. After a really heartfelt debate - which I contributed to - it was agreed that the issue would be looked into again and a new report produced for next year's assembly.

The debates were of a very high standard and the youth representatives were very impressive challenging the status quo.'

Thank you Judith for representing us and bringing back news of all that is done in our name.