

PROJECT GIFT CARDS



Ever wondered what to buy that special friend for Christmas or what to give to a couple on their wedding anniversary??
Well look no further!

This year we are offering you a new and exciting way to celebrate special events by giving people Guild Project Gift Cards. You might even want to offer them for sale to other members of your congregation or family.

The cards have been specifically designed for each project and are available in £5, £10, £25 and £50 values. Each card details what that amount has been able to do in the project.

Email guild@churchofscotland.org.uk to place your order

 The Church of Scotland

GUILD

NEWS
Newsletter | Winter 2019



WELCOME from the GENERAL SECRETARY

For many of you, September marks the beginning of a new session in the Guild. For others it marks the end of term for a Summer Guild.

In either case, it is a milestone on our “one journey”, no matter which of the “many roads” we are on.

As Guild sessions come and go and as the seasons change from summer to autumn to winter, we have the choice to look backwards and to long for times past or to look forward, encouraged by that past but not tethered to it.

Milestones are always marked by the distance we have to travel to reach a destination. They are about looking forward and are places where we can stop, reflect, refresh, before taking the next step.

At this time of the year, let’s take a breather and rather than seeing the journey ahead as daunting, see it as a chance to get to know our companions better and to celebrate the travelling just as much as anticipation of our arrival.

Iain Whyte, General Secretary



From the NATIONAL CONVENER

Well, Guild Week in September?

We had visions of picnics, fellowship walks, BBQ’s, bouncy castles and garden parties! Sadly the weather wasn’t with most of us in our planning this year... maybe next year!

Whatever you did during Guild Week to highlight the work of the Guild, and to reach others, I hope it was successful, and a blessing to you all.

I spent August in Africa – my first visit to that continent. For me it has been a life-changing experience and it has opened my eyes to a very different world. Four African countries in four weeks, and all so different! But it was Malawi which stole my heart. Thanks to induction from people who had been there, I thought I was prepared - but I wasn’t. Yes, I saw real poverty for the first time, but that wasn’t what captivated me – it was the sheer vibrancy and tenacity of the people, not just in worship, but in their daily lives. Folks who, in our terms, don’t have very much....yet their hospitality was boundless. The blessing of having your hands washed for you in a basin of warm water before eating, by folks who have no running water or electricity – that put it into perspective for me. What Malawian Christians have – and I admit to feeling envious of this – is the absolute joy and certainty in their faith, worship and prayer-life, something which I believe we in Scotland need to recapture.

Wishing you God’s blessing on your new sessions.

Marian MacIntyre, National Convener

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GUILD NEWS



THE BIG FOOTPRINT

Skene Big Footprint

Skene Parish Church hosted a Big Footprint Walk recently with folks walking from Skene Kirk to Trinity Church, Westhill. A great mixture of folks from the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, Anchor Boys, members of the Guild and the Church. A beautiful morning for a walk with tea, coffee, juice and lovely "fine pieces". More than £500 was raised for Guild projects too, all in all a great big footprint made!

Ever wondered how to use the skills of your Guild members better? Well look no further than St Ninians-Craigmailen Church Guild who had a great night led by Helen Aitken, who has a God-given gift with flowers and Convener, Rosina. Rosina read each Bible passage alongside a short reflection and Helen lovingly portrayed each in her expert flower-arranging way.

A simple concept but amazingly poignant and really quite moving too.

At the end of the evening they took the beautiful arrangements to three ladies who have got home from hospital recently to encourage them.

What a great way to use the skills from within to enhance a Guild meeting!



Meet your MSP

Members of Crail Guild recently met up with their local MSP Willie Rennie at the Scottish Parliament. They had a very interesting visit including viewing First Minister's Question and were able to tell Willie more about the Guild both nationally and locally.



Rev Scott Burton was clearly showing his Guild 'colours' at the Wee Big Sing in Argyll! Great to see such a visual display of support from a local minister.



Family fun night

The Duncansburgh Macintosh BB and Guild joined forces to have a joint family fun evening in place of the usual Awards Night. It was a great success with keen competition in the family games with the yellow team emerging victorious! It is hoped it will be the first of many. Maybe something others can try?



Messy Guild Harvest

Kettins Ardler and Meigle Guild held a Messy Guild Harvest morning to celebrate Guild Week along with the Boys' Brigade from Scone. They had wonky vegetables craft, biscuits to decorate, tomato relish to make, a blank canvas for budding artists, and a quiet, beautiful corner for reflection. A very fun morning was enjoyed by the boys and young families. A great idea maybe you could try?



Working alongside our project partners is always encouraging. Members of Kirkton Guild in Carluke certainly found that when they visited their local BB company as part of the 'Faith in young people' project. Maybe your Guild could work together with your local BB company and share knowledge and experiences intergenerationally.

MALAWI TWINNING

In August a group of intrepid Guild members travelled to Malawi to begin developing stronger links with our Guild partners. From Shetland folks travelled to Dwangwa, a long thin presbytery stretching from the lakeside to the rich sugar farming areas, sharing in the challenges of fishing and subsistence farming. Just up the lakeside in Bandawe, links with Scotland stretch back to the 1800's and the early missionaries but now are being developed through church and now Guild links in Ayr and District.

Mzuzu is the main city of the north, developing all the time but that development brings challenges for communities on its edge; their Guilds will work with Dunbartonshire Guilds Together, an area on the edge of Glasgow. Our final partnership, and that is what these genuinely are, partnerships where both learn from the other and share with each other, is between North Ayrshire and Milala. Again, a link that began with congregations and is continuing with Guilds.

We were welcomed as 'family', as brothers and sisters in Christ sharing in fellowship, in worship and of course in hospitality. We even shared in a bit of Scottish country dancing! We saw first-hand how in every community, Guilds are the 'social services' providing care and support for orphans, widows, those in prison, the elderly. They do it through sacrificial giving of goods, cash and time but also through generating income by building and renting our homes, by rearing chickens, by upskilling local people to be tailors providing locally made school and Guild



uniforms and by installing maize mills that are used by the local community.

We were challenged, changed and inspired in equal measure.

Guilds in Malawi are living out their faith in practical ways in their communities as God shows us in Deuteronomy 15, 'If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.'

As Guilds here in Scotland our prayer is that we can do the same in our situation, through worship, prayer and action, opening our groups and our hearts to those who are on the edge, and reaching out, 'living' the Gospel where we are.



USING YOUR INITIATIVE

Ever wondered if there was something you could do that would bring people together and raise money at the same time? Well, in 2016, Sandyhill Guild were doing just that. They wanted to do something that would help

- to raise the profile of the Guild.
- to raise money for the Guild projects.
- to encourage the various strands within the church to come closer together.
- to replace the traditional coffee evening.

Guild members and their spouses got together, looked at what their community needed and from that 'Growing Together' emerged. They wanted to plant bulbs with all the organisations that used the church premises, and also to buy plants sell on to church members and their friends. They approached the other Guilds in their parish grouping and they also wanted to be part of the community initiative.

They needed an initial injection of cash to get them started, to buy bulbs and plants and so they applied to the Guild Initiative Fund and were given £1000.

With the help of Dougie, a very knowledgeable contact, and 10 volunteers they worked with organisations to plant the bulbs which were ready to coincide with Mothers' Day, a bonus for the children involved.

Dougie then helped them source and buy plants for their first sale, even taking orders in advance to maximise sales. The plant sale was a huge success and they linked it to a coffee morning with the Brownies helping with the serving.



It was a huge success making a whopping £1400 profit. They all got together and agreed to keep going with the project. Over the past 4 years profit has continued and now a remarkable £7600 has been 'grown' from the seed of the Initiative Fund.

But far more than that, it has been a truly intergenerational project with folk of all ages to working together, learning from each other and sharing with each other. This year they worked with the Boys' Brigade and the profits have gone to the Faith in young people project.

The group are happy to speak to any Guild who think they might want to try it! Or if you have another project that would benefit from a small injection of cash why not contact the Guild office for information on the initiative fund.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF GUILD LINK

THE GUILD SHOP



Guild Christmas Cards
£3.50 for 10



Tartan Coin Purse
£8
(Made by the Grassmarket Project)

Tartan Guild Badge
£6



2020 Guild Diary £3



Lens Cloth £2



Guilds Together Convener Badge
£3.50



Guild Convener Badge
£3.50

Carnock & Oakley Parish Church with Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton. 25 years of Guild Link was celebrated by Carnock & Oakley Parish Church & Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton. They marked the special occasion with a visit to the new Carnegie Museum Dunfermline and finished with a meal & celebration cake in the City Hotel. They have met every year for 25 years by going on outings and visits. It has been a lovely experience making friends with each other over the years.



Ruthrieston West with Kinloss and Findhorn

Back in 1994, Ruthrieston West linked with Kinloss and Findhorn. A long lasting friendship was formed. Who would have thought 25 years ago they would still be corresponding at Christmas and meeting annually? They recently met up in Aberdeen. The members have got older, both groups have got smaller but the

friendship remains. After an enjoyable lunch, they watched a short slide presentation of their meetings throughout the years. This brought back many happy memories as they picked out friends from the past as well as younger versions of themselves! Kenny Laing one of the Kinloss members, provided entertainment on his fiddle culminating in a sing a long! Till we meet again next year!

Glenkens Churches with Carntyne

In the early 1990's, the Guilds that make up Glenkens Churches Guild and Carntyne Guild began their linkage. The names may have changed since, as churches have merged, but the spirit of friendship and cooperation has meant that the Guilds have kept closely in touch over the years. Since 1995 the two Guilds have been meeting up either for the day or for a weekend, sharing in morning worship in each other's church. It has been a great friendship and they are now looking at how they can develop their link by involving another couple of Guilds and broadening out the link. They would recommend linking in this friendly informal way.



Maybe linking with another Guild would benefit your Guild. If you would like to explore the idea please contact guild@churchofscotland.org.uk

GUILD NEWS

Nithsdale Big Sing makes big impact
Funds from Nithsdale Guilds Together Big Sing were recently given to Mission Partner Gary Brough. The money has been used to support girls at risk of child marriage and early pregnancy by providing solar lamps for 8 girls, helping one girl with college transport and supporting their ongoing work to address violence against women and girls. In his letter of thanks Gary said "in some small way we can say of each of these girls 'She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.' (Proverbs 31:25) Strength and dignity are not ours to give, but we can help these girls to protect them in a world that would all too easily take them away."



Hats for Sailors

Knitting hats for sailors arriving in our Scottish ports has captured the imagination of many members and has been a good way of involving others in our work. Glasgow North Guilds Together joined with local community groups and knitted over 330 items and The Shore Kirk Guild, Church and Shore community, including some from Dunoon, knitted over 70 hats and balaclavas that will be given to sailors at the nearby port of Greenock.



North Ayrshire Guilds Together

North Ayrshire Guilds Together held their Annual Business meeting recently and were delighted with the response. After the business was done the worship flowed seamlessly with uplifting and meditative hymns, poems, sketches and prayers. Everyone was in great voice and afterwards adjourned to the hall for a most welcome cuppa (all that singing dries the throat).



Eating smarties and doing good

Ever wanted an excuse to eat smarties and do good at the same time? Well folks from Cults Guild and friends in the local community have been doing that! 70 tubes later and smarties have been replaced with coins. Seema's Project will be the beneficiary! One of the groups involved was the lyangar yoga group, lyangar yoga having begun in Pune!

Meeting with a difference

A change of venue for Scalloway Guild, as they visited the residents and staff of the Walter and Joan Gray Eventide Home, their near neighbours. They shared a Guild meeting in worship together and were joined by members of the young fiddle group Kirmirren, talented youngsters who soon had toes tapping. Lovely to see old and young together, and needless to say, they enjoyed tea and homebakes.



120 not out

St. David's Memorial Park Parish Church Guild in Kirkintilloch enjoyed an evening of entertainment to celebrate their 120th Anniversary. They were joined by their Minister Rev. Adam Dillon and their longest serving members Anne Hamilton. Congratulation to all, here's to the next 120!



Dedication!

Like Guilds across Scotland Fraserburgh Old Guild had their dedication service in September as part of Sunday morning worship. Dedication services are a great way of recommitting ourselves to God, the church and the Guild. They are often a chance too to tell the church more about our work locally, nationally and internationally. If your Guild doesn't have one maybe it is something you can look at for next session.



LONG SERVICE



Renfrew Trinity Guild
Renfrew Trinity Guild recently presented a number of their members with Long Service awards to recognise their dedication and commitment to the work of the Guild in the local area and further afield. Thank you ladies for all your hard work.



Carluke St John's
Well done to all the members at Carluke St John's, an incredible service to the Guild and church. Thank you so much to everyone for all that you have done.



Methilhill & Denbeath
Rev. Elisabeth Cranfield presented the certificates to members of Methilhill & Denbeath Guild recently to mark their long service. Thank you Mrs Adamson, Mrs Cowie, Mrs Thomson and Mrs Anderson. A remarkable 236 years service between you.



Bonnyrigg Guild
Congratulations to the 12 of our ladies from Bonnyrigg Guild who were recently presented with long service certificates. These ranged in length from 60 years to 24 years. Well done to you all!

Guild

20:20 VISION CONFERENCE

THE EVENT

The National Council of the Guild has agreed that, five years on from the Action Plan, we should organise a National Conference of the Guild.

The purpose of the conference will be three-fold:

- To look at where the Guild is in terms of its sense of purpose... what do we give to and get from membership?
- To gather views and thoughts on how we might address the challenges that face our future
- To see how the wider Church of Scotland's plans for its future might affect ours and vice-versa.
- How can we offer leadership and challenge to the wider Church of Scotland?

Where and when?

Where: St Matthew's Church in Perth. When: Saturday, 14 March, 2020. Time: 10.00 for 10.30, until 15.30

Who?

It is important that the conference brings together people with a range of experiences of the Guild, so the intention is to have:

Three people from each Guilds Together... ideally to include someone who is relatively new to the Guild.

Signing-up...keep the date!

The signing up process for the conference will happen nearer the time, but if you are interested in taking part, please let your local Guilds Together know, so that they can begin to think about whom might best represent your area and get a feel for the numbers of interested folk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 9 November 2019	Dunbartonshire Mini Gathering, Dumbarton Riverside
Saturday 16th November 2019	Glasgow Mini Gathering, Govan Linthouse
Friday 6th December 2019	Christmas Big Sing, St. George's Tron, Glasgow
Saturday 14th March 2020	Guild National Conference, St Matthew's Perth
Thursday 16th April 2020	Project Co-ordinators Conference, Church HQ
Saturday 18th April 2020	Lanarkshire Mini Gathering, Dalziel St Andrews, Motherwell
Saturday 25th April 2020	Lothians Mini Gathering, St Nicholas Buccleuch, Dalkeith