



The Church of Scotland

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FREE

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL - CONNECTING WITH THE WORLD CHURCH

WIM



ALL TIED UP

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The Church of Scotland
 World Mission Council

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**Editorial**

How many steps do you think you've walked this year? How far do you think you've travelled walking alongside others? If you think back on 2018 as if it were a journey what would stand out? Why not take steps together with us as part of All Tied Up? This is our new fundraising initiative, for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme which supports 18 amazing projects in 13 different countries. Each of these projects aim to encourage and assist people living with HIV. All Tied Up is a way to stand in solidarity. Richard Baxter's article on the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam highlights why this is so important. Take a look at page 10 to learn how you can get involved in supporting the HIV Programme.

This is also a time of year for reflecting Val Brown from ALTERnativity encourages us to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas and a new at the Christmas story. In keeping with the Christmas theme we also hear from South Sudan about the ongoing peace and reconciliation training happening there.

As we enter this season of Advent let's walk together to try and build a world where peace and encouragement find balance and harmony for all.

The 1st of December is World AIDS Day which is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show solidarity for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

ACT NOW...

Visit the website to see how you could be involved:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve



Facebook - Church of Scotland World Mission Council

DETERMINATION TO CHANGE



Rev Richard Baxter, minister at Fort William: Duncansburgh MacIntosh and Kilmonivaig churches, recently attended the AIDS 2018 conference in Amsterdam.

Spending a week at the International AIDS Conference in Amsterdam was far removed from everyday parish ministry in Lochaber. It was bewildering, inspiring, challenging and uplifting. It was good to meet people working in frontline projects supported by the Church of Scotland HIV Programme, and to be surrounded by such a diverse group of people. The 20,000 delegates included politicians, scientists and drug company representatives; staff from UN agencies, charities and NGOs; campaigners, activists and faith group leaders. Noticeably, many who spoke about their own positive status clearly lived busy, active, healthy lives, thanks to treatment developments. They provided a visible



sign of how far science and medicine have progressed. Eliane's story stays with me. She fled from Burundi with her husband and small daughter (presumably because of violence

The fight against HIV and Aids is winnable but not yet won. The infection is controllable but not yet controlled. For those infected it is survivable, yet too many still do not survive.

there.) While exiled in Angola, Eliane discovered she was HIV positive. She asked the doctor what she should do. He replied, "Go home, buy yourself a coffin and prepare to die." His brutal answer reflected the experience of many in those early years of the epidemic. Dreams of caring for her daughter and raising a large family lay in tatters.

Eliane was devastated, but refused to give up. Her husband heard about new treatments in South Africa and somehow she got onto a programme. The drugs she received kept her alive, but weren't yet legal in Angola. Every few months she had to smuggle her life-saving medicine into the country hidden underneath a noisy toy strategically placed on top of her baby's change bag.

As treatments improved, she discovered to her joy that she could have another child without passing on her infection, if the child was born by Caesarian section. She proudly showed me the photograph of her healthy twelve-year-old son. Treatments improved again and she had another son, this time without Caesarian. He too is well

and thriving. Slowly, her life was changing. Eliane is now settled in the Netherlands. She lives with HIV, but her virus is controlled. She has a happy, healthy family, teaches African dancing and singing, and helps others learning to live with HIV. All of that seemed impossible when her journey started. She says, "I thank God for the life I now have."

People like Eliane, living with HIV but determined that their infection is never passed on, were inspiring. However, I felt challenged that a preventable infection still hits a million new people each year. I was shocked at the extent to which gender-based violence accelerates the infection's spread, and heartened at the widespread determination to change that reality.

The fight against HIV and Aids is winnable but not yet won. The infection is controllable but not yet controlled. For those infected it is survivable, yet too many still do not survive. The projects we support as a church may seem small compared to the scale of the problem. However, faith groups set the tone by tackling discrimination, offering the best available care and support to even the most marginalised, and insisting that all of us have a role to create a world free of HIV and Aids.

Act Now:

For more information contact:
wmoutreach@churchofscotland.org.uk
 or visit:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

SOUTH SUDAN



Christmas and the theme of peace go hand in hand. As we look to the New Year there is also a sense of reconciling the old as we look forward to the new. South Sudan is a country that is desperate for peace and reconciliation so as we approach the festive season we wanted to share an update from our partners.

Rev Ozuru Daky, of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (PCOSS) was one of eleven participants who have been part of the World Mission Council's Peace and Reconciliation Programme. Orozu has received training in both Kenya and Scotland, where he has been trained in mediation and also been through some trauma healing. Orozu is the peace coordinator for Jongeli Presbytery and is also the Director of

SALT, a NGO based in Pibor, South Sudan. For many years he has been working for peace. When he attended the training run by the World Mission Council and Place for Hope, he explained that although he had been practicing peace for many years he had never had any formal training. This training has allowed him to return home and put into practice the learning that he received whilst in Nairobi and Scotland.



encouraged to share the love of God including peace and reconciliation to the young people in the cattle camps with the aim of reducing cattle raiding.

WHAT'S BEEN INCLUDED IN THE TRAINING?

The training looks at mediation and negotiation skills along with trauma healing and counselling. There's a focus on learning how to resolve conflicts and uniting and reconciling communities. At a peace-building and reconciliation training for MPs the causes and cost of conflict were discussed.

WHAT HAS IMPROVED SO FAR?

"Rev Orozu has led an effort that is in its fourth year of seeking to bring local peace. The training that you (World Mission Council) provided has enabled him to improve his ability and expand his reach. However, through his efforts and the more recent support of Governor David YauYau, there is relative peace among the Murle (local tribe). Their internal fights and raids on surrounding ethnic neighbours have greatly diminished. A significant number of kidnapped children have been returned to their homes. And Orozu already is planning ahead for at least two more sessions among groups that he has not reached. The feedback from recipients of his training consistently is positive and they want more! Lastly he is preparing pastors, elders, deacons and tribal leaders to go into the bush with the cattle keepers to take the message of forgiveness and peace to them in January." Bill Andress - Trinity South Sudan Ministry

WHY IS PEACE TRAINING NEEDED?

At a recent training event that Rev Orozu ran, participants identified that 'weapons' in the hands of youth are sources of conflict in the state, these include; poverty, ignorance and the absence of rule of law in the country. Some suggestions put forward as solutions included; the disarmament of all civilians, everyone to be treated equal under the law when found guilty of a crime and child abduction should be a criminal offence.

WHO HAS THE TRAINING BEEN AIMED AT?

Church members, traditional leaders, youth, women and government ministers have attended the training. MPs at the training promised to enact laws that will prevent cattle raiding and child abduction. There has also been training aimed specifically at youth as they are often looking after the cattle. Youth are

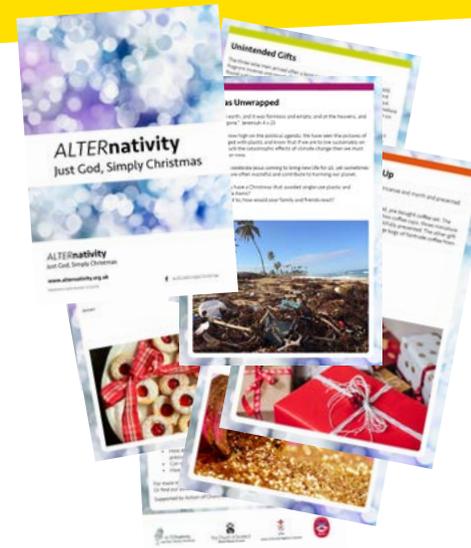
ALTERNATIVITY: JUST GOD, SIMPLY CHRISTMAS



Val Brown is Christian Aid Scotland's Church and Community Manager, leading their work with churches and volunteers across Scotland. Val is also the Chair of ALTERNativity, a charity that works with churches and communities to understand and simplify Christmas.

The guisers have been and gone, the pumpkins have been thrown out, which can only mean one thing – the Christmas frenzy is upon us once again. At the Christian Aid AGM this year, one bishop from Uganda suggested that instead of focusing on making poverty history, we should instead concern ourselves with making greed history. It is greed that supports the status quo, ensuring

'Instead of focusing on making poverty history, we should instead concern ourselves with making greed history.'



that attempts to challenge and change structures which keep people poor, are enormously difficult. Christmas is a great time to talk about greed, as it is a time when even the best intentioned of us are wont to indulge, over-buy, cave to the pressure of finding the perfect gift, and generate as much waste in a week as we normally do in a couple of months. This year the Christmas build up begins as climate scientists around the world have hit the panic button – indicating that unless there is a fundamental shift in our behaviours, politics and economics, then we are on course for even more erratic and extreme weather. Weather that is already depriving people of their homes and livelihoods and driving displacement. ALTERNativity exists to support individuals and churches to take a step back from the hustle and bustle of Advent and Christmas and reflect on the Christmas story, and specifically Mary's concern for the poor. Over the years our conversations have let us hear

people share frustrations that Christmas is incredibly busy, very stressful, gifts are given and received without much thought and the pressure to overspend is enormous. In responding to this our new resource is aimed at getting people talking - sharing the joys and stresses of Christmas; reflecting on what gifts are most appreciated; and challenging people to cut back on the waste that is generated in their celebrations.

This compliments our Advent family box that enables families to take a little time each day of Advent to reflect on one aspect of the Christmas story. With a reflection for children and another for adults, this is a wonderful gift for your Sunday schools, Messy Church and youth organisations.

Thanks to the support of ACTS we are delighted to be able to offer our new resource for free, and we have now giving away the family box for free as well – only charging postage if people are unable to collect from the Church of Scotland Office in Edinburgh or the Christian Aid office in Glasgow. Don't hesitate – get yours now!

ALTERNativity
Just God, Simply Christmas

ACT NOW...

To order this resource please contact:
info@alternativity.org.uk
or find us on Facebook:
[/JustGodSimplyChristmas](https://www.facebook.com/JustGodSimplyChristmas)

REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST



Ted Song from our partner church the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, is at present a doctoral student studying in Hebrew and Old Testament at the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh.

The angel said, 'Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your saviour is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord.' (Luke 2:10-11)

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One of the things I miss about Christmas after coming here, is singing carols in the streets of Taiwan. Although we are a society that comprises merely 5% of Christians, surprisingly the celebration of Christmas has never been rejected by the majority others—Buddhism, Daoism, folk religion, or common non-believers. The day before Christmas, churches all over the country would have their congregation gathered, and head out to their local communities. We would bring along guitars and drums, singing carols and hymns while marching down streets and alleys. Many would come out of their house to enjoy the atmosphere, joining in with their clapping while wearing a smile on their faces. The smiles... the smiles of ordinary people from our communities are the thing I miss the most. Perhaps it is due to the increasingly alienated society coming with development that people, albeit living very close together, have forgotten how it feels to be connected to random strangers. Therefore, the churches singing carols in the streets serve as a reminder that we—although unfamiliar with one another—may still connect in joy and happiness with the coming of Christ. Who would have known that this tradition from the old Western traditions, has now become a norm for churches of the global South and East? The joy of Christmas—the birth of the Prince of Peace—is not rightly reserved only for the Christian community, but to all people a joy of goodness and kindness. Just like how the angels did not reserve the glory for their godly realm, they passed the good news to the realm of His creations, to the shepherds who did not know of God and who were so humble and so ordinary in their life settings. Christians need to be reminded that we are all humble shepherds of our time; we carry the weight to bring peace, glory, and joy to the world around us—a world today that sadly fuels increasing hate against one another.

PRAYER FOCUS:

Gracious God, you have sent your only son, Jesus, to become our friend and our guidance. From him, you have granted us peace and joy that we have never seen nor heard in our humble lives. Your spirit lies within Him and comes among us, as we walk on earth today. However, we are deeply saddened by what our world has become, with all the hatred and unrighteous storming like a raging bull. Lord, we seek guidance from your spirit once again: show us how to be neighbours to our neighbours, friends to our friends, and family to our family. Show us how to be loving to those who have not been loved before, and make brave our souls as we reach out with kindness to strangers. Our Lord, you are our shepherd; may we be shepherds of our time. May your kindness prevail forever, and may your peace clothe us and guide us.

Amen.

NEWSFLASH:

In 2019 there are 3 trips to Israel and Palestine designed as both study tours and pilgrimages for young and old - there's a trip for everyone.

To find out more visit:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve

MISSION PARTNER PRAYER FOCUS



Gary Brough is our new Mission Partner who will be moving with

his family at the beginning of next year to work with the Church and Society Programme of the Synod of Livingstonia, based in Mzuzu, Malawi. Gary will be the Resource Mobilisation and Communications Manager, helping the programme to expand its human rights, justice and democracy projects.

PLEASE PRAY:

1. For the family as we make the move and settle into life in Malawi, into new roles and into a new school.
2. For the Church and Society Programme of the Synod of Livingstonia, that it would continue to develop to meet the needs of the people of Malawi.
3. For good relationships with those in Malawi and around the world who play a part in tackling the injustices faced by many in northern Malawi.

ALL TIED UP

37 million people live with HIV worldwide. People living with HIV throughout the world do not look for our sympathy but our solidarity and practical support. The Church of Scotland HIV Programme aims to provide that support around the world through its partnership's with churches and other faith-based organisations and so to bring hope.

We have given the HIV Programme's resources a face lift this year and have an exciting new fundraiser that we hope you'll be a part of.

HIV INFORMATION FLYER

Currently the Church of Scotland HIV Programme supports over 18 projects in 13 countries, including Scotland. This is only possible thanks to funds raised by congregations throughout Scotland and beyond. THANK-YOU!

HIV PRAYER CARD

A perfect addition to your wallet! Join in prayer with the Rt Rev Susan Brown, current Moderator, for those living with or affected by HIV.

SOUPER/SUNDAE SUNDAY

Souper/Sundae Sunday is a time when congregations might choose to hold elder-led acts of worship, followed by a simple lunch of soup and bread or sundaes. As a result of the day it is hoped that church members will become more aware of the many issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. It also offers a brilliant opportunity to raise much needed funds for a wide range of HIV initiatives at home and overseas.

ALL TIED UP

Take part in our new fundraising initiative – All Tied Up.

There are shoelaces! Order your pair by emailing hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk and send along a donation to support the work of our partners.

Take a virtual walk with us round Scotland in our 'All Tied Up Quiz' and see how many places you can identify. Complete the answer sheet and return by post or email. Why not lace up your boots, get together with friends and organise a sponsored walk.

And finally, we'd love to see where you've been and what you've done in your red laces. Do you recognise where Rt Rev Susan Brown was wearing hers?

ACT NOW...

To download the resources visit:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve
 or contact:
hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk



The Church of Scotland
World Mission Council

ALL TIED UP

Church of Scotland HIV Programme

How many places can you identify in our 'All Tied Up Quiz'?

While this quiz is free and we hope you have fun taking part, we would appreciate any donations towards the work of our HIV Programme.



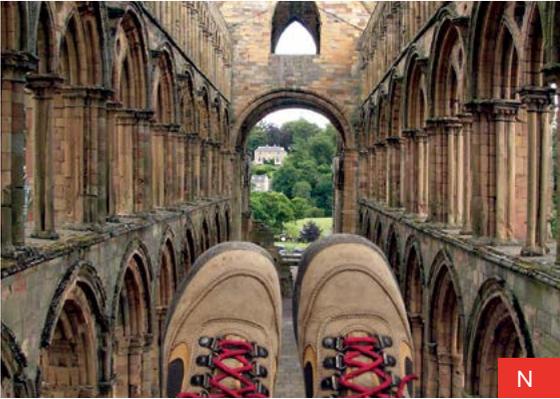
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Complete the answer sheet on the back and return by post or email.

World Mission Council,
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121 George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN
hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk



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Email:

Signature: Date:

I am happy for the Church of Scotland World Mission Council to securely store the details provided solely for the purpose of the administration of the 'All Tied Up' quiz and they understand will be confidentially shredded no more than one year after.

How to Make a Donation

Write a cheque to 'Church of Scotland'. Be sure to tell us it is for the 'All Tied Up' initiative. Send it to: World Mission Finance Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

Make a BACS transfer to 'Church of Scotland No. 1 Account'
Sort Code: 83-06-08 ands Account Number 00134859.

Be sure to include the reference 'All Tied Up' HIV Programme.

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

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