

Guild History Timeline

1835	Archibald Hamilton Charteris, Guild founder, born, in Wamphray, by Moffat
1843	Disruption of 1843 : a schism within the established Church of Scotland, in which 450 ministers of the Church broke away, over the issue of the Church's relationship with the State, to form the Free Church of Scotland.
1856	Florence Nightingale returns from Crimea and starts campaign for improved nursing
1858	Archibald Charteris licensed as a minister
1863	Charteris marries Catherine Anderson
1880	Young Men's Guild founded by Charteris
1884	Dr Charteris makes appeal to women of the Church through 'Life and Work' magazine to find out more about women's work – such as that with the fisher women of Scotland
1885	Charteris appeals to the Assembly for permission to investigate and report back on, the work being done by women and the possibility of organising and official working
1886	Woman allowed to train and practise as doctors in Scotland
1887	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charteris and his Christian Life and Work Committee reported back to the General Assembly in May, and the following deliverance was passed: "The General Assembly approve of the suggestions for the better organisation of women's work in the Church, direct the committee to proceed in carrying them into effect, and commend the object of training women workers for service in the home and foreign fields to the liberality of the members and friends of the Church" And so, the Church of Scotland Woman's Guild was formed Deaconess House opened; a home and school for women to be trained as deaconesses. Run by Alice Maxwell.
	Shortly after Guild starts, members agree to build girl's school in Kalimpong

1889	Miss Davidson, deaconess, appointed first lady deputy to the work among the fisher folk. She had previously been a 'roving ambassador' for the Guild, inspiring women to membership. Women allowed to graduate from Scottish Universities (although had been allowed to study certain subjects for
1891	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Guild conference, first deaconess, Lady Grisell Baillie, allowed to preside over the morning session. • Lady Grisell Baillie died, aged 68, from influenza • Guild launches a 'mothers' union' movement
1892	Dr Archibald Charteris , elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
1893	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild agreed to build hospital adjacent to the school in Kalimpong • First Guild badge launched: price 10d, or 9d as a pendant • Guild launches scheme to bring country produce to poor of the city, at reasonable cost (Country Produce Stores, Dalrymple Street, Edinburgh • 2nd(biennial) Guild conference • First Guild hymn – written by Charteris, text & tune no
1894	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deaconess Hospital opened – named (formally) after Lady Grisell Baillie, first deaconess and first president of the Guild • Kalimpong hospital opens (both funded and provided with equipment by Guild members) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild Temperance Council was formed to ascertain number of abstainers in Guild • Mrs Charteris started Guild 'marriages' – to link rural braches with city ones to support and help each other (an early Guildlink) • Auxilary membership started (for those who didn't have a guild in their parish – forerunner of Individual Membership)
End century	Second Guild hymn written;'Oh Christ who died for me' – popular for short time (text only in Out of Silence)
1898	Robinson Orphanage – responsibility for this taken over by Life and Work Committee – run by deaconesses, with Guild support Charteris retires

1904	Guild Cottage opened, in Lasswade, Midlothian– for women who ‘had fallen victim to intemperance’
1905	Emmeline Pankhurst founds Suffragette movement
1907	Kirk Sessions empowered to bestow Guild Leader’s Diploma on woman of ‘particular zeal and ability’
April 1908	Dr Charteris dies - buried in Wamphray
1912	Arthur Gordon’s biography of Charteris published with help from Mrs Charteris. She sent copies of it to every Guild (765) Guild raised money to buy pulpit and falls for Charteris Memorial Church (now Kirk o’ Field Church, Edinburgh)
1913	Kalimpong school expansion continues and teacher training begins
1918	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls’ Guild started • 18 November 1918, Mrs Charteris dies, buried beside husband • Guild Cottage closed (drinking amongst women had decreased, possibly due to gaining control of homes and lives while husbands at war)
1919	Guild funded the opening of two hostels for women and girls – St Margaret’s in Park Terrace, Glasgow, and Lister House, The Mound, Edinburgh
Early 1920s	Merging of Presbyterial Guild Council and Women’s Association Foreign Missions Auxiliary to form one united council - the recognised presbyterial unit for women’s work in the church
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperance work handed over to new organisation – Women’s Temperance Association • Presbyterial Councils, with reps going to Central Committee started.
1926	General Strike and start of Depression
1928	Guild formed Sub-Committee on Service to train Guild members in public speaking

1929	<p>Union of Church of Scotland and United Free Church (Guild had been liaising with UF church for some time to coordinate women's Groups in the churches. Groupings based on local groups and councils. Committees: Foreign Mission, Jewish Mission, Home Mission and Temperance. Mary Lamond only woman to speak at the official Act of Union event.</p>
1932	<p>First mass annual meeting in Usher Hall during General Assembly– to commemorate retiral of Miss Lamond. Held yearly thereafter. Request for Guild representative to be corresponding member at General Assembly turned down.</p>
1935	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part of annual meeting broadcast by BBC • Lizzie Meredith first president to chair Central
1937	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jubilee year – additional funds sent to Kalimpong for expansion and remodelling of school and hospital • Annual Meeting held at Waverley Market (instead of Usher Hall) to accommodate numbers wishing to attend - 7000 • Guild president allowed to chair Guild central committee – previously it had to be a man who chaired the meeting! • Long Service Certificates, with badge and bar launched
1939	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting held in McEwan Hall (instead of Usher Hall) (Last meeting till 1943) • Guild given responsibility for own finances – first fee was per group dependant on size, later becoming a capitation fee • Four year limit put on period of service for presidents – Lizzie Meredith last one to served for more than 4 years • Guild secretary now permitted to attend and be part of committees • Government Board of Trade authorised Guild members to receive special vouchers so they didn't have to use own clothing coupons to obtain wool to knit for the
1943	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Mother's Groups started • Ernest Bevin , Minister of Labour, invited 90 members of Guild to his conference of women in London to discuss implications of new welfare state

1947	60 th anniversary celebrations included, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first Broadcast service • 3000 layettes sent out to German mothers as reconciliation
1953	President, Lois Jarvis invited to Westminster Abbey for Coronation
1954	Kalimpong hospital jubilee – funds sent for maternity department
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guild church at Barlanark dedicated • Guild exhibition at St Cuthbert's • First Theme launched
1957	70 th anniversary of Guild, and 25 th anniversary of first annual meeting in the Usher Hall. Joint celebrations at the annual meeting on Tuesday 21 st May.
1959	Ruling made by Central Committee that women to leave Young Mother's Groups for the 'main' Guild when youngest child reaches 8 (this was dropped 1972) 'Bulletin' – Guild's first magazine, started and edited by Grace Hay, President
1962	Young Mothers Fellowships given own constitution, making them part of Guild. First rep from Fellowship to serve on central committee was May Smith, later Guild President
1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Original committees disappearing and evolving into work of church boards. Guild members served on these boards and took news back to delegates at annual meetings • President Isobel Douglas set up policy committee and organised questionnaire. Members agreed to keep name as Woman's Guild, president's tenure limited to 3 years; 3 women serving as Board vice conveners invited to serve as Guild national vice presidents, along with 3 vps nominated by Central Committee • Isobel Douglas formed 6 VPs plus President into President's Group
1965	Young Mothers became the Young Wives and Mothers – therefore including childless women

1966	First women elders ordained President Kathleen Grieve started Work Groups to organise annual meeting, theme booklet, schedules, conferences and start new magazine, 'Spotlight'
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects : Annual projects started following Elizabeth Anderson's trip to the World Council of Churches conference in Sweden; she was moved by the testimony of the third world delegates • First women ministers ordained • Guild (Elizabeth Anderson) invited to join and attend first conference of Women's National Commission
1971	Guild set up Communications Group to ascertain views of members on matters of social concern
1972	Young Wives and Mothers became Young Woman's Group, therefore including all women, not just married ones. President Madie Hart at forefront of fight for equality of women in church life, low numbers, despite previous legislation. She also fought for inclusive language. She encouraged the timing of the annual meeting to be changed (April) as women were able to become commissioners to the GA (couldn't attend both) – Could therefore start to use Assembly Hall for AMs
1973	First April Annual meeting in Assembly Hall
1974	Guild Representative invited to be Corresponding member, annually, at General Assembly
1977	Lizzie Meredith died; fund instituted in her memory to finance Guild training sessions at Carberry during 70s and 80s Former President, Madie Hart founded Scottish Convention of Women Queen attended Guild's 90 th anniversary AM
1980	Guild took training courses 'on the road' for those who couldn't get to Carberry
1982	Anne Hepburn, national president, opens annual meeting with 'God, our Mother' prayer sparking controversy and debate at General Assembly Guild campaign to boycott South African oranges as a protest against Apartheid

1987	<p>Guild Centenary – celebratory annual meeting Assembly Hall, Edinburgh</p> <p>Discussion Topics launched</p> <p>Guild Hymn written by Betty Ewart (Worship we our Lord and Father)</p> <p>Sunday 26 April designated ‘Guild Sunday’ for centenary year only</p>
1996	<p>First Information officer appointed to take forward elements of new structure ie Project Partnership Scheme</p>
1997	<p>Church of Scotland Woman’s Guild becomes Church of Scotland Guild</p> <p>New constitution</p> <p>Project Partnership Scheme started</p> <p>Three-year strategies launches – ‘Riches in Poverty 1997-2000</p> <p>Special celebratory Annual Meeting in Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow</p>
2000	<p>Millennium banner exhibition tour - Jan 2000 to Jan 2001, ending in London</p> <p>New strategy (and projects) launched: ‘Strength for Living 2000-2003’</p>
2001	<p>Banner exhibition commemorative book and video launched</p>
2002	<p>‘Thanks a Million’ campaign to mark Project Partnership Scheme raising £1m since 1997</p>
2003	<p>New strategy (and projects) launched: ‘Dare to Care 2003-2006’</p> <p>Revision of Constitution finalised– more inclusive language</p>
2004	<p>First annual Guild Week - last week in November – to encourage Guilds to raise awareness of Guild work in their congregations and communities</p>
2006	<p>New strategy (and projects) launched: ‘Let’s Live: body, mind and soul’</p>
2007	<p>The Extra Mile - as part of Guild Week, members were encouraged to walk two miles in support of, and in solidarity with, those who have been trafficked. This initiative led to the Guild staging an exhibition at the Scottish Parliament and addressing MSPs on the issue at a specially hosted meeting.</p>

2008	<p>Guild Week marked by Chain of Peace - members encouraged to pass candles and a prayer of peace to other members, Guilds, councils and congregations.</p>
2009	<p>Launch of new strategy and projects for 2009 to 2012; What does the Lord require of you?</p> <p>First Regional Annual Meeting, held in Castle Douglas in October</p>
2010	<p>Second Regional Annual Meeting held in Fort William in October</p>
2012	<p>Maxi rally held in Dornoch</p> <p>Start of new strategy and projects , 'Whose we are and Whom we serve' for 2012 to 2015</p> <p>Songs of Praise evening during General Assembly to mark start of 125th anniversary session.</p>
2014	<p>Maxi rally held in Tarbert</p> <p>"Big Sing" held in Perth North Church to celebrate Guildweek</p> <p>Launch of "Golden Age" project</p>
2015	<p>Launch of new strategy and projects for 2015-18: Be Bold, Be Strong!</p> <p>Action Plan is launched</p>
2016	<p>"Big Sing" held in Westburn Parish Church, Greenock to celebrate Guild Week</p> <p>"Big Sing at the General Assembly" is attended by over 1000 Guild members, commissioners and overseas visitors</p>
2017	<p>Guild roadshows held in Fort William, Lochcarron & Skye and Stornoway in October.</p> <p>"Big Sing" held in Crown Church, Inverness to celebrate Guild Week</p> <p>"Big Sing at the General Assembly" continues to grow in popularity</p> <p>Delegation visit Malawi and attend conferences of CCAP's Women's and Men's Guild Conferences. Initial talks about establishing local twinning initiatives are held.</p> <p>First "Christmas Big Sing" held in St George's Tron Church, Glasgow</p>

<p>2018</p>	<p>Launch of new strategy and projects for 2018-21: One journey, many roads. Guild roadshows held in Shetland, Orkney and Caithness in May and in October the roadshows visit Angus East, Angus West, Buchan East & West and Kincardine and Deeside. “Big Sing at the General Assembly” shares stories from our project partners “Big Sing” held in New Wellwynd Church, Airdrie to celebrate Guild Week “Christmas Big Sing” held in St Cuthert’s Church, Edinburgh. Presbyterial Councils renamed as Guilds Together Groups</p>
<p>2019</p>	<p>Guild Week moves to September to enable greater participation from summer Guilds as well as provide a launch to the new Guild year for many Guilds. “Big Guild Quiz” is a success in bringing together Guilds with community and church groups. Guild roadshows held in Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy, St Andrews and Dundee in May and in October the roadshows visit Perth, Dunkeld & Meigle, Ross/Tain and Inverness. Mini Gathering held in Dumfries in April. “Big Sing at the General Assembly” supports the installation of a roof in Matope, Malawi. Delegation visit Malawi and attend conferences of CCAP’s Women’s and Men’s Guild Conferences. Local twinning initiatives are established with Ayr & District with Bandawe, North Ayrshire with Milala, Dumbartonshire with Mzuzu City and Shetland with Dwangwa to help enable and support mutual learning and spiritual growth. “Christmas Big Sing” held in St George’s Tron Church, Glasgow</p>
<p>2020</p>	<p>Guild delegation visit Journeying Together Project in Zambia Guild in person meetings suspended due to COVID pandemic from March 2020 Guild activities move to online meetings Annual Gathering 2020 is held in an online format Online Guild virtual soup lunch raises funds for CrossReach</p>

2021	<p>Launch of new strategy and projects for 2021-24: Look forward in faith</p> <p>Guilds are enabled to return to in person meetings with COVID 19 protections in place</p> <p>Annual Gathering is held on Assembly Hall complying with COVID19 restrictions</p> <p>“Christmas Big Sing” held in St George’s Tron Church, Glasgow</p>
2022	<p>Removal of COVID 19 restrictions allows Guild events to be normalised.</p> <p>Green Canopy for Malawi is launched at “Big Sing at the General Assembly” and raises over £14,000 to support climate change alleviation work in Malawi and celebrates the work undertaken by Guilds during the 2020-21 lockdown</p> <p>Guild Annual Gathering postponed due to death of Queen Elizabeth II</p> <p>Mini Gatherings held in Dundee, Edinburgh, Castle Douglas, Inverurie and Kilmarnock</p> <p>“Christmas Big Sing” held in St George’s Tron Church, Glasgow</p> <p>Guild National Conference considers the rebuilding of the Guild after the COVID 19 pandemic</p>
2023	<p>“Big Sing at the General Assembly” celebrates the impact of former Guild project partners</p> <p>Mini Gatherings held in Fort William, Lochcarron, Stornoway, Galashiels, Kirkcaldy, Dunoon, Kilmarnock, Inverurie, Forfar and Castle Douglas</p> <p>“Christmas Big Sing” held in St George’s Tron Church, Glasgow</p>
2024	<p>Launch of new strategy for 2024 - 2027: One journey, many roads.</p> <p>“Big Sing at the General Assembly” celebrates the impact of former Guild project partners</p> <p>Mini Gatherings held in Dingwall, Orkney, Shetland Galashiels, Kirkcaldy, Dunoon, Kilmarnock, Inverurie, Forfar and Castle Douglas</p> <p>“Christmas Big Sing” held in St George’s Tron Church, Glasgow</p> <p>Guild National Conference decides on future shape of Guilds Together Groups and restructuring of National Council</p> <p>LIFT (Love in Fellowship and Trust) launched to support young adults participate more fully in the work of the Guild</p>
2025	<p>Launch of projects for 2025 - 2027</p>

Past Presidents and National Conveners

1887 – April 1906	Catherine Charteris (effectively acting as president , although title of president not officially attached to her until 1895) Became honorary president, on retirement, in 1906 until her death in 1918) Honorary President: Countess-Dowager of Aberdeen
1907 - 1920	Lady Polwarth (Mrs Scott) National President
1920 - 1932	Mary Lamond (became honorary President on retiral)
1932 - 1939	Lizzie Meredith (became hon Pres on retiral)
1939 – 1943	Allison Harvey (then youngest President: 37)
1943 - 1947	Elizabeth McKerrow
1947 - 1951	Anne Sutherland (later Jacobs)
1951 - 1954	Lois Jarvis
1954 - 1955	Ailsa Miller
1955 - 1959	Jessie Dingwall
1959 - 1963	Grace Hay
1963 - 1966	Isobel Douglas
1966 - 1969	Kathleen Grieve
1969 - 1972	Elizabeth Anderson
1972 - 1975	Maidie Hart
1975 - 1978	Mary Millican (was Girl's Association national secretary)
1978 - 1981	Daphne McNab
1981 - 1984	Anne Hepburn
1984 - 1987	May Smith
1987 - 1990	Margaret Brown
1990 - 1993	Dorothy Dalglish
1993 - 1996	Mary Sherrard
1996 - 1998	Kathleen Forsyth (last President, first National Convener)
1998 - 1999	Catherine Nelson

1999 – 2000	Helen Longmuir
2000 – 2001	Elva Carlisle
2001 – 2002	Elsbeth Kerr
2002 – 2003	Vivienne Macdonald
2003 - 2004	Moira Alexander
2004 – 2005	Elsbeth Dale
2005 – 2006	Norah Summer
2006 – 2007	Lesley McCorkindale (youngest NC: 32)
2007 - 2008	Ann Bowie
2008 – 2009	Esme Duncan
2009 – 2010	Elizabeth (Betty) Dunn
2010 - 2011	Helen-May Bayne
2011 - 2012	Alison Angus
2012 - 2013	Mary Ford
2013 - 2014	Marjorie Paton
2014 - 2015	Kay Keith
2015 – 2016	Linda Young
2016 – 2017	Rosemary Johnston
2017 – 2018	Marge Paterson
2018 – 2019	Patricia Roberston
2019 - 2020	Marian Macintyre
2020 - 2021	Mabel Wallace
2021- 2022	Margaret Muir
2022 - 2023	Helen Eckford
2023 - 2024	Rae Lind

General Secretaries

1887 - 1892	George McAlpine
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1892 - 1896	Ethel McInroy
1896 - 1906	Margaret Johnston
1906 - 1912	Mary Lamond (later President)
1912 - 1920	Jane Dods
1920 - 1925	Miss Cunningham
1925 - 1934	Miss J Bruce
1934 - 1945	Jeanette Martin
1945 - 1965	Janet Sim
1965 - 1974	'Bunty' Inglis
1974 - 1976	Joyce Town
1976 - 1985	Kathleen Beveridge
1985 - 1998	Lorna Paterson
1998 - 2011	Alison Twaddle
2011 - 2021	Iain Whyte
2022 to date	Karen Gillon

Information Officers (from Feb 2013, retitled Associate Secretary)

1996 - 1998	Alison Twaddle
1998 - 2015	Fiona Punton (formerly Lange)
2015 - 2016	Eilidh Marks
2016 - 2021	Karen Gillon

Development officer

2022 - 2023	Joanne Brown
2022 - 2024	Christine Fulcher
2025 to date	Clair Macdonald

Editors

1891 - 1901	Catherine Charteris – first editor of Woman’s Guild supplement of Life and Work
1901	Mary Lamond took over ~L&W supplement, 1926 became Woman’s Work in the Church
	Mrs Elliot Anderson (thanked in 1957 for being hon ed)
	Mrs Sawyer (thanked in 57 for being hon ed of ‘guild page’ in L&W)
1959	Grace Hay – editor of first Guild magazine – the ‘Bulletin’
1968	Mary Millican, first editor of Spotlight (later NP)
	Margaret Brown
	Anne Macdonald
1984 - 1986	Alison Twaddle (Spotlight)
1986	Ada MacLeod
1996 - 1998	Alison Twaddle (Guild Newsletter)
1998 - 2015	Fiona Punton (formerly Lange)
2015 - 2016	Eilidh Marks (Gui(l)d News)
2016 - 2024	Karen Gillon
2025 to date	Clair Macdonald

Bibliography

70th anniversary booklet

Out of Silence : Mamie Magnusson

The Life of Archibald Charteris: Arthur Gordon