



## Reaching Out To Future Generations

### Bible Alive & Easter Code Schools Outreach

We are delighted that Carla, our Children and Family Worker, has now been able to resume our schools outreach work - which before covid had been going so well. Some of that is taking place with children coming to the church and other parts of it involve Carla going to the schools or resourcing teachers to deliver programmes.

So for example, the Easter Code is going to be delivered to 497 p5-6 children. Isn't that amazing!!? A good number of these children will be coming to the church - no doubt many of them for the first time.

And alongside The Easter Code, Carla has been running Bible Alive and by the end of the session she'll have taken that programme to almost every primary school in the area. Again, amazing!

Please pray for Carla in this work and give thanks for those volunteers who work alongside her to make it possible.

### Easter Holiday Club

We're also delighted to be running a Holiday Club for children this Easter!

It will be called **Backpackers** and will be a run-through of the events of Easter week. Because this will be our first such post-covid event, we're proceeding somewhat cautiously and putting a limit on numbers, and running for less days - and so there will be forty places, open to p1-p5 children, and the club will run from

**Monday 11-13th April, from 10am - 12noon.**

Please pray for the success of the club:

- That we'd be able to run it safely
- That all of the places would be taken
- That the children who come would have a wonderful few days of fun and games and, within that, hearing about Jesus.

## Gender-based Violence

The Church of Scotland has adopted the **Five Marks of Mission** as a way of giving some definition to the question, 'What exactly is mission?'

Of the five marks, no:4 is this:

*'To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation'*

It's one thing to sign up to the Five Marks but what would it look like to put them into practice - not least mark no:4 and in particular the part 'to challenge violence of every kind...'



It was with that in mind, that Martin, our minister, reached out to some partner organisations and put together a special community event for men from across the Arbroath area. The event was held in the hospitality suite at Gayfield on Sunday evening 20th March and featured various videos and presentations and open discussion. But principally, it was about raising profile regarding a seriously problematic issue and giving men an opportunity to acknowledge that we ALL have a part to play in addressing it.

The Church of today is called to be fully involved in all of life and to work for the transformation of society - in this case, violence against women and girls.

**CHURCH OFFICE: 431135****ADMINISTRATOR**

Linda Hunter: 431135

Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri : 9 -12noon

**MINISTER**Rev Dr W Martin Fair, BA, BD  
07889 982 216**PASTORAL ASSISTANT**

Ian Gray: 01674 677126

**SESSION CLERK**

Joan Hainsworth: 875409

**TREASURER**

Pending

**CHURCH OFFICER**

Janis Clark: 878594

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
WORKER**

Carla Ingram: 07931 420 905

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
LEADER**

Tracey McLeod: 434088

**HAVILAH SUPPORT  
WORKER**

Karen Reaney: 01307 818277

**HAVILAH PROJECT  
WORKER**

Tammy Stuart: 434088

**FABRIC CONVENOR**

Pending

**SUNDAY CLUB**

Elaine Fair: 873238

**FREEWILL ENVELOPES**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**SAFEGUARDING**Kim Marr  
07986 447365**FLOWER CONVENOR**

Margaret McIntosh: 553160

**PRAYER COORDINATORS**Scott and Elaine Anderson  
890291**SUPPLIES CO-ORDINATOR**

Janis Clark: 878594

**BOOKINGS / ROLLKEEPER**

Linda Hunter: 431135

**MAGAZINE EDITOR**

Ken Miller: 875235

Quest@arbroathstandrews.org.uk

**ST. ANDREW'S ARBROATH****Member Records****February/March 2022****Baptisms** - None**Weddings** - None**Funerals** - Joan Archer, Jean Morrison, Ken Slater

Martin and Ian, our pastoral assistant, conducted other funerals though none were of members of our congregation. Nonetheless, we remember the bereaved families in our prayers.

**IMPORTANT DATE****APRIL EDITION**

Word Processed files,  
as attachments,  
should be sent directly  
to the Editor by

**Thursday 24th March****Editor Note -**

We apologise for the delay of the March edition of Quest. There were several important meetings that were held recently and the delay was requested so that up to date information could be included.

**The Seventh Commandment***You shall not commit adultery**Exodus 20:14*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one.*

*Matthew 19:5*

**The Seventh Commandment is expounded to us by our Lord (Matt. 5:27f.), who would have us understand it not just in terms of the outward act of obedience but also in terms of the inward thought and motive. Paul speaks of bringing every thought captive into the obedience of Christ.**

Father God, you have given the privilege of marriage to many, though not to all. As your loving gift, the union of soul and mind and body is exquisitely beautiful.

We thank you Lord for the romantic love of that young man and woman, for  
their delight in each other,

for their excitement as they prepare for their wedding day;

we thank you for the loving devotion of so many happily married couples

for his tender love for her,

for her fulfilment in loving him in return;

we thank you for that elderly pair who have just celebrated their golden wedding,

for the memory of fifty years together,

for all the loving help given in times of need;

help us to rejoice, as you do, Lord, with those who rejoice!

Father, hear our prayers for some whose marriages have lost the sparkle and joy of love. You only know the real cause -

if it has been selfishness, so that love has been withheld,

if it has been a false reliance on material things so that love has been misdirected,

if it has been the turning of affection to another so that love has been stolen;

by your own great love, turn such hearts back to yourself, that in loving you, they may love each other, and so rediscover the grace of life.

We remember one who has been left alone, whose life is bruised and broken by the pain of separation. Only those who have experienced such rejection can understand the anguish endured each day. Lord Jesus Christ, you were rejected, and you can come near and enfold in your arms the desolate life, binding up the wounds and healing the broken heart.

Hear our prayer, and let our cry come to you.

**David Searle**

# Martin Fair

March 2022

Dear friends,

On the very day that I was acknowledging the thirtieth anniversary of my ordination and induction, I launched the first episode of my brand new podcast, *To Be Fair*.

Some of you will no have idea what a podcast is while others of you are probably frequent listeners to various podcasts. So for those who aren't sure, here's an explanation:

*'A podcast is a collection or series of digital audio files that are made available for downloading or listening via the Internet. Each individual audio recording is known as a podcast episode. Podcasts are typically hosted by an individual or individuals who lead a conversation, share stories, or report the news.'*

So there you go! In this case, I'm that 'individual' and all the episodes of my podcast are on faith and spirituality themes, each approached through the lens of popular culture - movies and music in particular.

Thus far, it's been a case of so far so good. Until now, my total audience has been 1,500 individuals and while the majority of these listeners are UK based, folks from 34 countries have listened to at least one episode - countries as diverse as New Zealand and Australia, Brazil and Argentina, China and Japan and a whole host of European nations. That, my friends, is the power of the internet!

My intention is to connect with as many people as possible who would be unlikely to engage with regular church and yet who might well be interested in spiritual matters. And I'm pleased to say that some of that's been happening. I've had online conversations with individuals in both Canada and America but perhaps more importantly, with people from our community.

Thirty years ago when I started out, the minister had to think of little else than preparing a sermon, ascending the pulpit steps and delivering a message to a congregation that had gathered more or less of its own accord. Nowadays, we've got to be considerably more creative and imaginative and have to be ready to use the communication tools that are now available to us. The message may remain the same - and must remain the same - but 'keeping up with the times' is essential if we're to have any hope of remaining connected to the 95% of Scottish people who have little or nothing to do with our congregations.

You can subscribe and listen to the *To Be Fair* podcast by searching for it on podcast providers such as Spotify, Apple, Podbean or Google - most of which have free versions. These are all accessible through smart phones, tablets etc. or you can go directly to this link:

<https://anchor.fm/martin-fair>

So why don't you have a listen and why not think about sharing the podcast with friends?

It's the 21st Century and like it or lump it, we're called to engage and to find every available means of pointing to Jesus.

With love,

Martin & Elaine

[mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mfair@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## Guild News

We are now into February and have survived "Corrie; Dudley; Eunice and Franklyn" The spring flowers are slowly appearing through the devastated countryside reminding us that Easter is coming, a time of renewal with great joy following deep sorrow.

We can rejoice in our gatherings once more. On the 14th February following a delicious Fish and chip tea the guild ladies exercised their brains with a quiz. Questions were set by Ian Ramsay who also did an excellent job of hosting ensuring we had a light-hearted extremely enjoyable even-

ing.

At our next meeting on the 28th February Ken Slater regaled us with "Tales from the Riverbank". It was a really interesting evening, encouraging the sharing of countryside experiences and memories.

A note for the diaries: - on the 14th of March the guild will be joined by the ever popular music maestros "The Gallus Boys" this promises to be a lively evening.

**"Whose we are and whom we serve"**



## Presbytery Mission Planning

Almost inevitably, you'll have heard of the Presbytery Mission Planning process which is currently happening across the whole of Scotland. Every Presbytery is facing the challenge of deciding how best to deploy such resources as are available to it and how that can be done to best further the mission that the church is called to.

The task is enormous and challenging in every sense. The number of ordained ministers is being reduced to 480 for the whole country (with another 120 Deacons and Mission Workers on top of that.) So for Angus Presbytery the reality is that we'll be going from the 24 ministers that we were previously allowed - and then which was reduced to 21 - down to a grand total of 15.5.

And the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland have

called for a reduction in the number of church buildings in the order of 40%.

The reality is that we have far too many buildings and that many of these buildings are in the wrong places and are not suitable for 21st century ministry and mission. Almost everyone agrees with that in principle but almost no one wants to see 'their building' closed.

This whole process needs to be completed by the end of this year. Please pray for Martin - who has considerable responsibilities within it both nationally and at Presbytery level - and for the delegations from our Kirk Session who will be part of the discussions and planning process.

Our hope and prayer should be that at the end of the process, the church is better prepared for joint working across our town and that mission will be absolutely central to everything we do.

## Ukraine Appeal

All of us have watched in horror at the unfolding tragedy in Ukraine, as the Russian invasion has gathered place and as upwards of two million Ukrainians have been forced to flee for safety to Poland and other neighbouring countries.

Such scenes can leave us feeling helpless and yet we're not entirely stuck. As Christians, we're called to pray and to act and we've been doing that - praying every week, wearing blue and yellow ribbons and planting sunflowers (the national flower of Ukraine.)

And we've been giving. At very short notice, given the immediacy of the need, we intimated a special offering and the wonderful sum of £4,500 was given in just one week. Over and above that, many gave directly and so were able to maximise their gift with the addition of reclaimed tax. All of this money is going to support the work of the Red Cross who are at the forefront of meeting the humanitarian need.

We hope and pray for an end to this horrendous conflict.

May God bring peace.

## Church at the Table

Most of us - at least older generations - will remember school classrooms which were arranged in neat rows and where each pupil sat at their own desk and got on with their work. Of course, things have changed and group settings and working in groups is standard nowadays.

But while most settings have changed as the years have gone on, churches have generally stuck with the 'sitting in rows' model - fixed pews making that the only viable option. And the worst of it is that that kind of set-up makes it very possible for individuals to be quite isolated - especially when numbers are low. Put yourself in the place of a visitor and try to imagine how it must feel to come into a church and to wonder 'where will I sit?'

St. Andrew's Church completed a refurbishment programme and in November 2009 we moved back into our sanctuary, the pews now replaced by moveable chairs. Through the years since, that flexibility has allowed us to do some wonderfully creative things and to use the space for events and activities which would have been out of the question in former days.

The Minister and Kirk Session are now resolved that it's time for us to take the next step on that journey - and to further ensure that the experience of 'coming to church' is as engaging as possible. The days of sitting passively - almost as a spectator at a concert or lecture - are long gone. Rather, the Session is sure that the principles of belonging and being part of a community, of engaging and participating, are key to our forward movement.

Of course for those of us who have never known anything different, embracing new ways doesn't always come easily - especially when we're being invited to step out of our comfort zones. We've always sat on pews or at least in rows! Are other ways even possible?

Yes they are. And on Sunday 12th December we 'experimented' with another way and it was met with almost universal approval - in fact warm endorsement, not just grudging assent. That 'way' involved us sitting together at circular tables, with coffee and croissants no less! And while there were still readings, prayers, sung praise and messages shared, all of it was done together, with the emphasis being on the shared experience. So the fellowship part of being together was much heightened but the sense of spiritual engagement and meaningful worship was not diminished at all.

But beyond our own experiences and preferences, we're moving in this direction because we're sure that it will make for a better experience for those who come to us as visitors, guests and interested enquirers. And right now, every church in the land needs to be considering how to grow our congregations.

Will it prove to be successful? Who can say. But we'll never know if we don't try and there's nothing worse than not trying because we're not sure or because we'd just like to keep things the way they've 'aye been.'

These are challenging days for churches but looked at properly, they're exciting days filled with possibility. Let us go forward in faith, prayerfully believing that God will be right at the heart of it.

## Dalitso Project Update

Christmas was celebrated again in Malawi with the arrival of the container. It finally made an appearance in Blantyre on the 7th February, much to the delight of the team here in Scotland and our friends in Malawi. All boxes, sacks and equipment have been delivered and the Christmas presents opened at both centres with chicken, rice and fizz served to finish off the celebration. Thank you on behalf of all the children for their parcels.

As we await the next harvest, it is the time of year where Malawians struggle for food, so our Maize Relief programme has again been helping those in need. At both centres, maize was given out to guardians that required it. This will keep them going until they are able to harvest the next year's crop. Please continue to pray for the crops, that they will grow big and strong and that the damage caused from

poor weather - both too much and too little rain- will not be as bad as expected across Malawi.

Here in Scotland we normally host our feedback and AGM evening in March. We are instead this year, delaying this until June where we are planning a face to face event. June 2022 will mark 15 years since St. Andrews Church sent the first team to Malawi back in 2007. 15 years later we have 2 daycares and residences, a skills centre, shops, houses, graduated university and college students, a medical clinic and much, much more. The provisional date for the event is June 17th. We hope to confirm this soon but please do keep this date free as we would love to welcome you for an exciting evening of stories, reflections and plans, as well as Mandazi snacks (I have already put in a request for these!) as we look back at this 15 year partnership. Thanks be to God!

Charis

## Digital Ministry

As we all know, the possibilities of being 'online' are huge and the potential to connect with people who would never ordinarily cross the threshold of a church building should be warmly embraced.

We were delighted, therefore, that the Church of Scotland's digital congregation, known as Sanctuary First, decided to come to our church to live stream their weekly worship on Sunday 13th March. We had some of our members attending 'in person' but the total congregation comprised people from all over the UK and beyond.

There are possibilities in this kind of approach that have never been open to us before. Some folks who connect online may never move beyond that but others might start there and ultimately end up looking to be part of an 'in person' Christian community to belong to.

A huge thanks to our band and tech team who did a tremendous job in working alongside the Sanctuary First team.

You can watch that service back by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/events/sunday-live/sunday-live-130322>

## Church Life Pandemic Restrictions

At the time of writing, the Scottish Government has announced the planned ending of almost all of the pandemic restrictions, due to happen from the 21st of March onwards (now postponed for at least two weeks). At the same time we remain painfully aware that the virus is still present and, indeed, that the numbers of daily cases are very high.

Now we await the outcome of a meeting between faith community leaders and government officials, at which is to be discussed the protocols surrounding churches. However,

unless the government does something of a u-turn (in the light of high case numbers) then we'd expect that various, if not all, of the present restrictions will no longer be legally requirements.

St. Andrew's Church will respond appropriately as these things become clear. However, and this must be stressed, we will continue to proceed with reasonable degrees of caution and common sense. Of course, we all want to live our lives more normally but making sure that our community is as safe as possible will remain a priority.

Watch for updates here and on our Facebook pages.

## Thy Kingdom Come

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Lord Jim Wallace, has written a letter of support encouraging congregations to join in with this year's **Thy Kingdom Come** global prayer initiative, which takes place from Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday (Thursday 26 May – Sunday 5 June).

Thy Kingdom Come, which has been running since 2016, invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

Over the course of the 11 days, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will: deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ; pray for five friends or family members to come to

faith; and pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness.

This year, Thy Kingdom Come launches with brand new resources for individuals, congregations and church groups to use, including a series of youth video reflections, a new edition of the Prayer Journal, a Novena, as well as the return of the popular Cheeky Pandas animations for younger children.

Lord Wallace said "In November 2018, the Church of Scotland committed 'to encouraging all its parishes and people to join in Thy Kingdom Come' and we have done so in the years since then and I gladly do so once more. May I encourage you to consider participating in this global prayer initiative at a time when our world stands in the need of prayer."

## From The Church Of Scotland Website

Rev Dr Robert Calvert, a locum minister at Orwell and Portmoak Parish Church, has a personal connection with Ukraine and its people after spending time in the country training student pastors in urban ministry. Here, he shares his reflections on watching the invasion of a country he knows and loves.

The awful apocalyptic portrayals of war with Russia on the media are hard to watch. This is a massive ramping up of war since the Russian-backed separatists made their insurgence in the east of Ukraine.

But it surprised me to find that so many Brits have connections in this far off corner of Europe. When my friend Charlie is not fixing slates on the church roof in Dundee, he is protected by United Nations peace-keeping forces to fix up houses and war-torn buildings in eastern Ukraine for prolonged periods.

In the last decade I've made three trips to the Ukrainian cities of Kyiv and Odessa (by the way, tourist guides were hard to obtain). I had been invited by a professor in the Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary in Kyiv to help pastors in training engage with the diversity of city life. These courses in urban ministry were built upon my experiences on a Glasgow housing estate, the centre of Rotterdam and, latterly, in Dundee city centre.

The classroom was filled with Ukrainians, mostly aged 25-45 years old, who wanted to make a difference. On one occasion I took students to visit Pam d'Andre, who had recently qualified as a parish nurse. In a poor suburb she works with people with alcohol problems and supports those so rudely displaced from their homes in the east.

Kyiv is the capital city with a pre-war population of more than three million people. The historic church in Ukraine is Eastern Orthodox but many new kinds of church are appearing with new immigrants. There is a Reformed Church in Kyiv that holds weekly services on the lower floor of a central municipal building.

Five years ago, I travelled from Kyiv by overnight train to Odessa, port city on the Black Sea, to meet young Ukrainian Christian students. They wanted to share their faith with others, especially the large numbers of international students from Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

They took me to the Law Faculty where, on the strength of my recent PhD, I was invited to address the sociology department. I chose to talk about drug abuse and faith be-

cause, for me, it was more than an academic subject but a personal one. Afterwards, students from several different faculties shared their own stories and I tried to affirm them.

Ukraine is a relatively young nation and I read this experience as Ukrainians seeking recognition in the world. I had read of many stories of corruption in society but, on one trip, I left on the day Ukraine voted for a non-politician to be their prime minister.

Their churches try to offer much needed support to their communities but are themselves wrecked as people flee and as men aged between 18 and 60 years old are drafted in for war service. Alex from his village outside Odessa is trying to network with both churches and students. Some men have chosen to fight, whether with the army or the territorial defence force, while others don't want to.

We know of many Christians active in giving spiritual support and risking their lives to care for those with physical needs. In better times, I learned how most Ukrainians love Russia and the Russian people – politicians excepted. It isn't so surprising as many Ukrainians have families and business interests there. Some of the longest serving church pastors in Russia are from Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary is the largest of its kind in Kyiv and located in the north-west of the sprawling city. It has developed with a new classroom, refectory and dormitory buildings, but, as I write, Russian forces are nearby and the area is under attack.

My friend John in Chicago with his Ukrainian family reported how the seminary had been bombed. Windows and doors were blown out of the academic building and cafeteria. Nobody was injured as the cooking staff had left earlier. Recently the kitchen produced fresh baking that was distributed to people in the area.

The seminary decided to move its staff and students to Lviv in western Ukraine for safety but ten of the staff chose to stay to look after the campus. My friend Kyril sent his family to western Ukraine to serve the people of Kyiv who are under attack. I feel palpitations as I recognise the familiar buildings and tramlines on the media.

Last Thursday, Ivan Rusyn, rector of the seminary, was interviewed on BBC's main news bulletins. He once told me the seminary would make a change to use Ukrainian in lectures and publications (it is normal to translate into Russian). The big issue for Ukraine is identity and being recognised as an autonomous nation.

## Hosting Refugees

Church of Scotland members are preparing to 'welcome the stranger' by opening up their homes to Ukrainian refugees.

Many have contacted the Faith Impact Forum to say that they want to provide a safe and secure place for shattered families who fled Ukraine following the Russian military invasion which began on the 24th of February.

Congregations across Scotland are responding to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Ukraine with an outpouring of financial donations and offers of practical support.

So far Church of Scotland congregations have collected £75,000 for the Reformed Church in Hungary Aid (RCHA) emergency response as well as donating thousands of pounds to other aid organisations including the Disasters Emergency Committee, which is coordinating relief efforts across the region. (DEC)

Hungary shares a border with Ukraine and RCHA run by a Church of Scotland partner, is providing food donations, hygiene equipment, information, spiritual assistance and accommodation.

Staff members and volunteers are receiving refugees at border stations and train stations.



## Working To Support Ukrainian Refugees

The Church of Scotland has watched the humanitarian crisis facing millions of Ukrainian people unfold with real concern and has quickly responded to offer both practical and spiritual support:

Through Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees, the Church of Scotland is encouraging Scots to sponsor a Ukrainian family and open their homes to them under the UK Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. Churches are already working to support refugees and stand ready to support refugees from Ukraine with some members indicating they are prepared to welcome them into their homes.

Last week the Church sent a letter to the Home Secretary urging the government to speed up its efforts to provide safe routes for refugees so they can seek sanctuary in the UK and to clarify and specify more detail as to how churches can sponsor refugees.

The Church is also working ecumenically to support partner churches in the region and to advocate for peace through personal contacts with faith leaders in Ukraine and across the region.

Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convenor of the Faith Impact Forum, have called for peace-making and repeatedly urged the UK Government to offer a generous welcome to refugees by removing all barriers for refugees seeking sanctuary in our country.

## Donate through the Church of Scotland

The Church is supporting the Reformed Church in Hungary Aid emergency response and, across Scotland, presbyteries and congregations are collecting and distributing many thousands of pounds in donations to charities working in the region, who have the personnel and logistics in place to ensure aid reaches the people who need it most.

Transfer your donation to the Royal Bank of Scotland Church of Scotland

Account Number: 00134859

Sort code: 83 06 08

Reference: RCHA donation and the donor's name.

If eligible, please also complete a Gift Aid Declaration form ensuring the Charity Name is completed as "The Church of Scotland". The completed form can be returned to the Church of Scotland by email to [sfadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:sfadmin@churchofscotland.org.uk).

Alternatively, a cheque can be sent payable to The Church of Scotland with an accompanying letter and completed gift aid form.

## Donate to the Disasters Emergency Committee

We are also encouraging people to make a financial donation to the Disasters Emergency Committee.

Online: Visit [dec.org.uk](http://dec.org.uk)

Phone: 0370 60 60 900

Gift Aid can be applied to your donations.

## Generous welcome

Since the conflict began, Lord Wallace, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convenor of the Faith Impact Forum, have repeatedly called for peace-making in addition to urging the UK Government to offer a generous welcome to refugees by removing all barriers to those seeking sanctuary in the country.

Last week, Lord Wallace wrote to Home Secretary Priti Patel MP to directly urge her to develop a humanitarian response that matches the scale of the crisis unfolding in Ukraine which has seen millions of people flee for their lives.

Lord Wallace wrote:

"The outpouring of kindness and generosity of British public who raised £100 million in just four days has been admirable.

"As churches here in Scotland and the UK we are united in our desire to play an active role in welcoming the stranger and supporting those most in need.

"Now, more than ever, it is time to strengthen, not weaken, our commitment to the UN Convention on Refugees and ensure that all who need it, and have lost everything, are provided protection.

"We want our country to respond generously, to reflect the kind of society we aspire to be."

## Standing In Solidarity

The UK Government has confirmed that there will be no limit to the number of people who can live with host families under the new Homes for Ukraine refugee scheme. Individuals and organisations can now register interest on the Homes for Ukraine webpage

Hosts will receive £350 a month as a "thank you" from the UK Government.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced that the Scottish Government is prepared to act as a "super sponsor" and said this country "stands ready" to take 3,000 refugees immediately.

Earlier this month, Lord Wallace attended a Sunday service at Our Lady of Pochayiv and St Andrew Ukrainian Catholic

Church in Edinburgh.

He was invited to attend by parish priest Rev Fr Vasyl Kren and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh. Most Rev Leo Cushley, visited the church and met with Fr Vasyl and the Moderator at a separate time from the service.

Lord Wallace told the congregation: "I hope that by being with you today, I can, on behalf of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, assure you that we stand in solidarity with those who are under attack, those who suffer, those who are fearful.

"And I wish to give you the assurance of our prayers."

The Church has a long history of supporting refugees and leads the multifaith partnership, Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees which is helping to support people in Ukraine.



## More In Photos



### Fidget Blankets

In May 2021 Helen Wallace and Heather Black made an appeal for donations of bits and bobs so they could make some fidget blankets and as you can see from the photo (above) they did a terrific job!

They are now ready to make some industrial type boards with the help of the Men's Shed so are now looking for similar type bits and pieces in the photo (left) as well as old belts and buckles and ties.

Items can be dropped off on Wednesday's & Sunday's or popped through the church letterbox. Thank you.