

# The Chronicles of St John's Kirk of Perth

July  
2024



## Session Clerk

We have been fortunate that our Services have continued to rely on Rev'd Philip Patterson as our regular Pulpit supply, and he has agreed to continue to support us in that way for as long as we need him. However, he has also explained to Session that he won't be able to take on the bigger commitment of becoming our Locum as his commitment to his role supporting Military Veterans has been growing. We will therefore begin a wider search for a Locum and will advertise the position over the summer.



As mentioned previously, our conversations with the General Trustees (who own the Kirk) and with Perth Presbytery have placed particular emphasis on the importance of St John's playing a key part in the Christian Mission of the City Centre churches if it is to have a future as a place of worship. As Kay explains, our hopes have been achieved of seeing a big increase in the number of visitors to the Kirk after the Museum opened at the end of March. This has added impetus to our conversation with St Matthews and the North Church, which continues, and we are working together to explore the needs of the City Centre and the gaps in provision.

We have been successfully streaming our services for four years now, having started during Covid. The low-cost system we installed to make it possible has done well, but Session has agreed that if we are to continue, we need a better quality and more reliable system. The remainder of the government Adapt & Thrive grant to support digital improvement will therefore be used to do this (with a small top up), and the new system will be in place by October.

If you would like to see the high quality pictures the new HD cameras can produce, have a look at the impressive Black Watch Memorial Service for their Iraq and Afghanistan fallen held on 22nd June, here is the link [https://www.youtube.com/live/\\_Bq9mGmWkI](https://www.youtube.com/live/_Bq9mGmWkI).

The service was streamed for them using HD and additional microphones, by the company that will provide our improved system. This was a magnificent service, when the new memorial plaque beside the Black Watch window was unveiled. The singing of the Fijian veterans (in Fijian) during the Service was really stirring and made the whole event even more memorable. The Last Post and Reveille by the Bugler and the Regimental lament "Lochaber No More" by Perth's City Piper, Alistair Duthie, all showed the Kirk doing what it was designed to do, and emphasised why it is so important for Perth that St John's continues to be available for such big occasions.

It was a day that made us all proud to show St John's at its very best.

Bill Wilson (Session Clerk)

## Recent Events

### Perth Festival of the Arts Service

The annual Festival Service took place in St John's Kirk and is one of the great traditions of Perth Festival of the Arts. Music was provided by Howard Duthie on the organ, Perth Youth Orchestra conducted by Alan Young MBE and the choir of St John's Kirk raising the roof of our historic building. (This is Alan's last year with the Perth Youth Orchestra). It is always an inspirational and uplifting event, and also a great civic occasion.

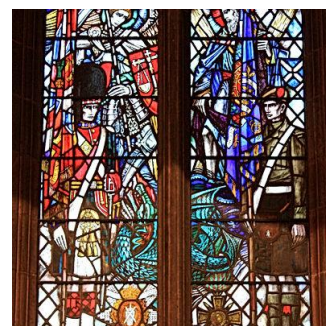


You can watch this service at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkzLyH5VnRk>

### Black Watch Commemorative Service

A special service took place on Saturday 22 June 2024 commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the final operational deployments of 1st Battalion The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) in Iraq 2003 and 2004

After the service the Iraq Veterans took part in the Freedom of Perth march from St John's Street through to the heart of Perth city centre, concluding at St Ninian's Cathedral for a civic reception.



You can watch this special service at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bq9rnGmWkI>

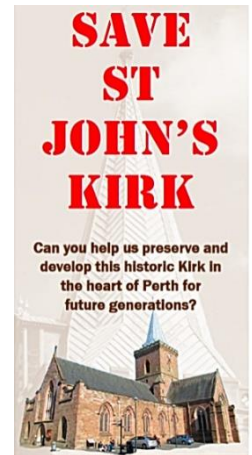


## Fund Raising

### Save St John's Kirk – Update

Both HES and NLHF will be crucial to our success, with HES being a gateway funder to virtually all the others. There is a 2-stage process which requires that we initially make an Expression of Interest to first HES, then NLHF, and if HES agrees then a Full Application can be submitted to them.

We were delighted that after careful preparation, at the start of July HES approved our Expression of Interest for up to the maximum grant of £500,000 (much more than we requested). This is only the first step and success is not guaranteed, but a vital component will be that we are able to demonstrate the ongoing support of the Congregation and local bodies.



Since the launch of the Appeal in September last year over £4,000 has been received locally. Further donations will help to demonstrate that the Appeal is still active and make the maximum grant from HES more likely. That would open the door to an even larger grant from NLHF.

Thus, your help continues to be needed.

£2.3 million is urgently needed just to keep Perth's most historic building dry, safe, and open.

Support for this appeal is also being requested from:

The Church of Scotland  
Historic Environment Scotland  
National Lottery Heritage Fund  
Local and National charitable funders.

To make a donation, please visit the appeal website <https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/appeal>

## Foodbank News

We have finally moved into new premises in York Place & opened to clients for the first time at the beginning of June. They are definitely more user friendly for staff, volunteers & clients being all on the one level & light & airy (bit too airy at the minute as we have to keep the automatic doors open for clients until a new part arrives from Italy!) We hope this is our 'forever' home until the need for foodbanks is eradicated.

Thank you all for your continued support, all donations much appreciated. We are currently in need of the following;

**UHI milk**  
**Long life juice**  
**Instant snack/noodles**  
**Jars of cooking sauces**  
**Tinned fruit and vegetables**  
**Small cartons of cereal**  
**Instant puddings**  
**Coffee**

Any donations of these items in church or supermarket are gratefully received.

Every little helps!!!

[perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk/](http://perthkinross.foodbank.org.uk/)



Anne Chatt  
Foodbank Representative

## Life and Work

[Life and Work](#) is the magazine of the Church of Scotland. In a history spanning over 140 years, it has established itself as the voice of the Church of Scotland.

Here is a list of articles from the July edition.

### **Beyond Chariots of Fire**

100th Anniversary of Eric Liddell's Olympic gold

### **Assembly 2024**

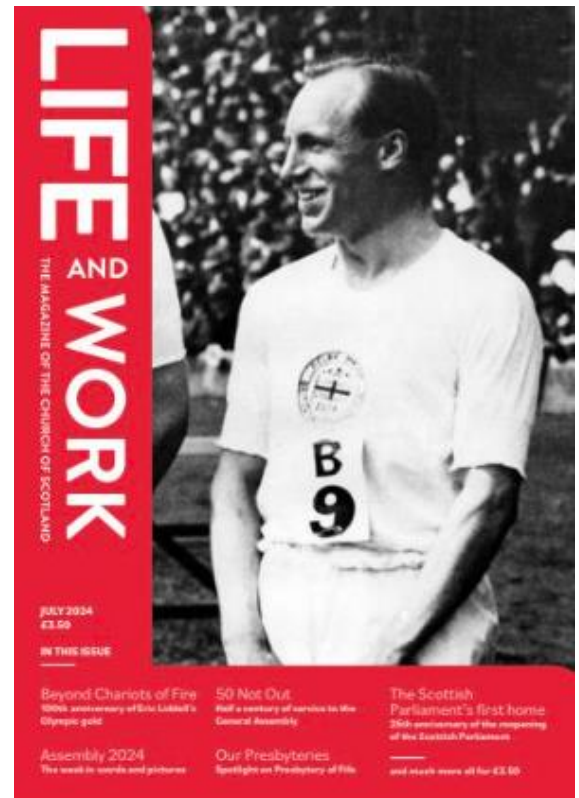
The week in words and pictures

### **50 Not Out**

Half a century of service to the General Assembly

### **The Scottish Parliament's First Home**

25th anniversary of the reopening of the Scottish Parliament



Each monthly issue includes a forum for views on current social and moral issues; a monthly meditation and regular articles on the spiritual side of life; reviews of the latest books, videos, and Christian resources; and regular features on the Church worldwide.

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<https://www.lifeandwork.org/>

There is also a free monthly newsletter available on the website

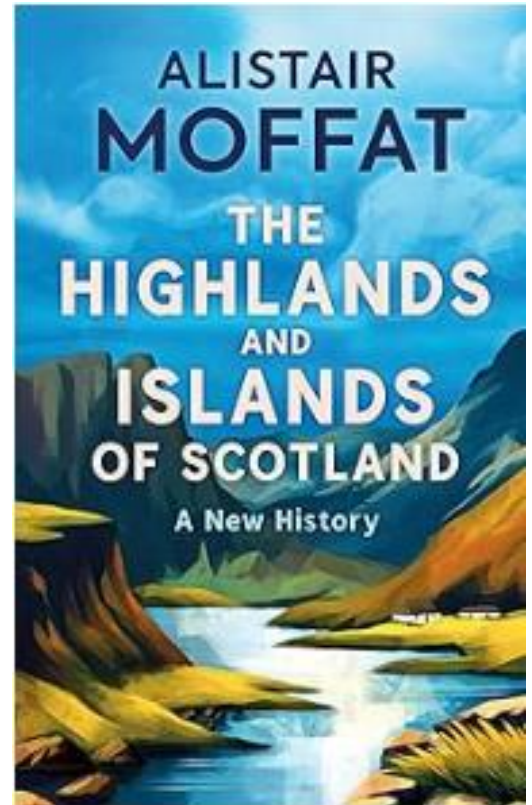
<https://www.lifeandwork.org/downloads/monthly-newsletters/life-and-work-newsletter-july-24.pdf>

**The Highlands and Islands of Scotland** - by Alistair Moffat

For anyone looking for an authentic factual summer read, look no further than the latest publication from the writer and historian Alistair Moffat, a former director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and director of programmes at Scottish Television.

This meticulously researched book traces the unique history of Highland Scotland seamlessly melding together geography, geology, sociology and culture into one complete hardback.

No authoritative history of the Highlands would be complete without reflection on the impact of all matters faith and religion and the unique spirituality of the Highlands and islands features as a key part of the cultural influence.



There is not a dedicated chapter on this, rather it is woven seamlessly through the ages as the changing face of the Highlands and islands is reflected from the dawn of time to the present day.

The author himself, a former rector of the University of St Andrews and founder of Borders Book Festival, describes the book as ‘arranged much like a mosaic, a long frieze illustrating a journey from the primeval and prehistoric to the present day.’

This will likely become one of the definitive histories of Highland Scotland and is beautifully crafted, drawing on authoritative research from the geological formation of the region, drawing on personal insights and exploration to weave together the history of the ages, drawing on the spiritual influences from Columba and tracing the religious history which has shaped this area of Scotland.

Moving along at pace, readers are seamlessly guided through the Picts, Romans, Vikings and Jacobites and the shaping of the land and its cultural influences by the Church in all its forms is a key part of this highly enjoyable account of how the Highlands and Islands of Scotland came to be distinctively different but an important part of Scotland today.

**Lynne McNeil**

This article first appeared in the (July 2024) edition of Life and Work.

### Blythswood Shoebox Appeal – Important Changes

Whilst it is still six months until we will be collecting shoeboxes, as a supporter of the appeal in the past, there are a few points you may appreciate knowing!



Most importantly, the filled shoeboxes from the central belt of Scotland are being sent to Ukraine. Blythswood are concentrating the shipment of shoeboxes to where the needs are greatest.

This does present some practicalities we need to be aware of. Shipping to Ukraine is more costly and a lot stricter than other shoebox destinations. As a result, we are not able to send cartons filled with various goods, clothes, blankets, hats etc. We can only send filled shoeboxes. So please ensure your shoebox fillers are aware, our drive this year must be for filled shoeboxes.

Also, Blythswood have met with the folks in Ukraine and they advised they do not need baby shoe boxes. Last year 5% of all Tayside shoe boxes were baby boxes and this year, any baby boxes collected would need to go elsewhere and not to Ukraine. For the last few years we have been short of boxes for teens, boys and men. Please encourage your box fillers where our needs are greatest.

The plans for Perth this year are to launch the Shoebox Appeal with a coffee morning on Saturday 31st August and then the drop off days for boxes will be Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd November. The shoebox sort will take place from Monday 11th - Thursday 14th November. The plan is for the shoeboxes to be loaded on an articulated lorry on the morning of Saturday 16th November to go to Ukraine. We'll update you nearer the time with more details of these and any other events.

Whilst the volume of shoeboxes we have handled has increased in recent years, the volume coming from the Perth and Kinross area has not and especially this year when the boxes are going to Ukraine we would encourage you to spread the word to any group, workplace, individual or organisation you may be involved with. If you would like someone from the local Blythswood group to speak to your organisation, we would be happy to do this, please get in touch. Similarly, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you've any questions.

Thank you again for your support in the past and we look forward to working again with you this year.

Heather Fletcher  
Perth Blythswood Care Team

## Water Aid – Lenten Appeal



This year we managed to raise the sum of £182 was raised from the ‘Jars of Grace’, many thanks go to those who contributed.

<https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>



## Fairtrade

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment.

<https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/>



## Christian Aid

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. This year the envelopes raised £294.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>



## CrossReach

<https://www.crossreach.org.uk/>



In Christ’s name we seek to support people to achieve the highest quality of life they are capable of at any given time.

CrossReach’s work is wide ranging and enhances lives, changes lives and saves lives. The services cover:

- 1 Older People’s Services-Care Homes, Dementia/Care Homes and Respite care.
- 2 Adult services-Counselling, Substance Abuse, Prisons.
- 3 Children and Family Services-Residential Care, Family Therapy, Perinatal Counselling

## Perth Action of Churches (PACT)

PACT has run 'Starter Packs' for 20 years. In this age of reusing and recycling, Starter Packs accepts donations of crockery, pots, towels and bed linen for new Tenants. Our box for donations will be beside the Foodbank box at the West Door from August.

Visit the website for more information - <https://www.pact-perth.org.uk/>



So far this year in St. John's we have considered the wider mission of the Church and ways in which individuals can make a difference.

Marj Wylie

## Church Family

### Death of Members

John Hood

March 2024



John was an active member of St John's and became an Elder in 1980 serving on the Outreach committee. He was also a lifelong member of the Boys' Brigade. He became Captain of the 7th Perth company (St John's) and was its last captain. Some of you will remember the Boys' Brigade Christmas card deliveries! Much fun was had sorting the cards and delivering them.

Lewis Wade

June 2024

Lewis was a long-standing member of St. John's. He was ordained as an Elder in 1980 and served on the Fabric Committee for many years. Lewis's funeral took place in Perth Crematorium on Friday, 14th June 2024.

Lilias Dewar

June 2024

Eileen Primrose

July 2024

### Assistant Church Officer

You may have noticed that we have a new face adorned in our splendid Church Officers robes. Ian Miller joined the Kirk Team as Assistant Church Officer on the 30th April.

Ian was married in St John's so he was no stranger to the Kirk. Ian's career has spanned from the Police to a Manager of Struan's in Dundee so he brings a wealth of knowledge into the role.

Welcome Ian, we hope you enjoy being part of the Kirk family



### Church Districts - Members

The communication roll has now been restructured in a way that makes it easier for us to communicate with our members and keep them up to date with current affairs/events. The easiest way to do this is by email, website, Facebook and other social media.

If you have changed your email address or would like to provide one, then please email the Roll Keeper at [rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com)

Throughout the year, if for any reason you require an Elder or the Minister to contact you, then please email the Roll Keeper at [rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com) or call 01738 582137 and this will be arranged for you.

If you are not able to join us each week but would like to make a contribution, you can do this on our JustGiving website [st-johns-kirk.co.uk/support-donations](https://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/support-donations) to make a one off payment or set up monthly contributions.



## Opening Times



As the majority of you will know, since the completion of the last major project in 2011 we have opened the doors of St Johns to visitors for the summer season. which extends from Holy Week to the end of September.

This year our opening coincided with the long-anticipated opening of the new Museum. This has had a considerable and welcome impact on the number of people crossing the street and coming to St Johns.

Dr Katie Jack, the former General Manager of the museum had great respect for our church and our history. She therefore, along with our session clerk, Bill Wilson and property convener, John Kinloch ensured that considerable information about St Johns was available in the museum itself.

So, following four years of difficulty, Covid, general restrictions, access etc, 2024 is the first time we could offer a return to our normal pattern. So far this year we have had over 8500 visitors from 35 countries. Previously visitor numbers would have been about half that in this stage of the year.

Numbers visiting the museum are obviously far greater than those coming to us but we only manage to open for 5 hours per day (30 per week excluding Sunday) and are totally dependent on the small number of volunteers who give willingly of their time ensure this is possible.

Should anyone reading this wish to join us they would be very welcome. No one needs to know lots of history. They must simply have the capacity to offer a warm welcome, be able to communicate and even more so, to listen. The roll keeper will pass on any requests to me.

It is so worthwhile and we in turn learn a lot from our visitors. The vast majority of whom really appreciate the fact that the Kirk is open at all as so many places of worship are unable to do so these days.

A church is only a church because of the people who come in. Our main object is to provide a service to all who wish it but also for those who simply want a quiet place, for whatever reason.

We can be there for absolutely everyone.

Kay Morrison

If you would be interested in becoming a Kirk Steward, then please contact the Roll Keeper at [rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com)



## Guided Tours

If there is anyone who would like to be involved in helping with guided tours of the Kirk for pre-booked groups, please get in touch with Marjory Howat on 01738 626520 or [marjoryhowat@gmail.com](mailto:marjoryhowat@gmail.com)



## Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth

**The AGM of the Friends will be held on Wednesday 31st July at 2.00pm in the Knox chapel.**

The constitution of the Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth sets out its status as separate from the St John's congregation and the Trust for St John's, although it is closely linked to them. It is registered separately with OSCR (The Office of the Scottish Charities Register), and has a different charity number (SC0 47919) from the congregation. Its aims are listed rather formally in the constitution, and they are:

1. To provide a Christian mission for the thousands of visitors to St. John's Kirk every year.
2. To ensure that the sacred environment that has existed in St John's Kirk for over 800 years is appropriately maintained.
3. To enhance the public's experience of Scotland's architectural, cultural, religious and artistic heritage that is exemplified in St. John's Kirk of Perth.
4. To advance the knowledge of the history of St. John's Kirk, and the people and communities associated with it.

Membership is open to all who subscribe to the aims, and costs £10 for an individual and £15 for a couple. A 'Friends' leaflet is available at the West door of the kirk, and contains an application form.

Dr John Hulbert,  
Chairman,  
**Friends of St John's Kirk of Perth SCIO.**  
**Registered charity. No SC 047919**

## Service Dates in St John's Kirk

<b>Sunday Services</b>	Every	Sunday	9.30am
Morning Service is held on every Sunday throughout the year <b>at 9:30am</b> with Holy Communion being celebrated on the first Sunday of each month.			
<b>Wednesday Service</b>	Every	Wednesday	1.00pm

<b>Greek Orthodox Services</b>	Saturday	20 July 2024	11.00am
	Saturday	17 August 2024	11.00am
	Saturday	21 September 2024	11.00am
	Saturday	19 October 2024	11.00am
	Saturday	16 November 2024	11.00am
	Saturday	21 December 2024	11.00am

## Readers

If any member of the Congregation would like to join the rota to read the lessons on Sunday mornings in the Kirk, please get in touch with Gordon Hynd, either in the choir or via email; [ghynd13@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ghynd13@yahoo.co.uk). Numbers on the current rota are such that you would only read once every four months or so. He looks forward to hearing from anyone interested.



In order to enable as many people as possible to share in worship, there is a ramp at the south door for wheelchair and pedestrian access; an audio induction loop system is in operation and large print hymn books are available at the door.



## Events in St Johns Kirk

<b>Chansons</b> <b>This is a joint concert with Ars Antiqua Kammerchor and Youth Choir from Aschaffenburg</b>	Saturday	24 August 2024	7.30pm
	Tickets here <a href="http://www.chansons.co.uk/">http://www.chansons.co.uk/</a> Also available on the door		
<b>Perth Chamber Music Society - Marmen Quartet</b>	Tuesday	22 October 2024	7.30pm <b>H</b>

\* *Denotes events promoted by Perth Chamber Music but taking place at customary St John's Music times (NB: these require paid admissions)*

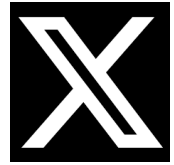
**F = Free Admission**

**T = Tickets at the Door**

**H = Horsecross**

Check out our [website](https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/events-and-calendar) for further upcoming events in the Church, some are even free!  
<https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/events-and-calendar>

St John's Kirk of Perth hosts many concerts – Choral Works, Orchestras and Chamber Ensembles. Within the St John's Kirk of Perth Music Series, Organ recitals are held monthly throughout the winter. During Perth Festival of the Arts held in May each year, local schools give lunchtime concerts. Perth Youth Orchestra play at the Annual Festival Service.



## Communication

<b>Visit the Website</b>	<a href="http://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/">st-johns-kirk.co.uk/</a>
<b>Online Services</b>	<a href="https://youtube.com/results?search_query=st+johns+kirk+perth">youtube.com/results?search_query=st+johns+kirk+perth</a>
<b>Follow us on Facebook</b>	<a href="https://facebook.com/stjohnskirkperth/">facebook.com/stjohnskirkperth/</a> <span style="float: right; color: #4267B2; font-weight: bold;">facebook</span>
<b>Music and Concerts:</b>	<a href="http://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/concerts-and-music">st-johns-kirk.co.uk/concerts-and-music</a>
<b>3D Inside St John's</b>	<a href="http://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/flythrough">st-johns-kirk.co.uk/flythrough</a>

## Contacts

<b>Minister (Pulpit Supply)</b>	Revd. Philip Patterson	
<b>Interim Moderator</b>	Revd. Craig Dobney	<a href="mailto:cdobney@churchofscotland.org.uk">cdobney@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Bill Wilson	07958 447858 <a href="mailto:clerk.stjohns@gmail.com">clerk.stjohns@gmail.com</a>
<b>Depute Session Clerk</b>	Kay Morrison	01738 447123
<b>Treasurer</b>	Lorna Ferguson	01738 632206
<b>Gift Aid Convenor</b>	Wilma Malcolm	01738 622807 <a href="http://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/support-donations">st-johns-kirk.co.uk/support-donations</a> <a href="https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/">cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/</a>
<b>Events Coordinator</b>	Wilma Malcolm	01738 622807 <a href="http://st-johns-kirk.co.uk/venue-hire">st-johns-kirk.co.uk/venue-hire</a>
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Aileen Morrice	01738 582137 <a href="mailto:rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com">rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com</a>
<b>Friends of St John's</b>	Dr John Hulbert Chairman	<a href="https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/friends/">https://www.st-johns-kirk.co.uk/friends/</a>
<b>Church of Scotland</b>	<a href="https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/">https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/</a>	<a href="#">Contact Form</a> 0131 225 5722
<b>Perth Presbytery</b>	<a href="https://www.perthpresbytery.org.uk/">https://www.perthpresbytery.org.uk/</a>	<a href="mailto:perth@churchofscotland.org.uk">perth@churchofscotland.org.uk</a> 07596 868064

## Final Thought

Dear Friends,

It is good to have something to look forward to.

Just now, I am looking forward to being back in the Kirk for worship.

Since I fell on Easter Sunday and damaged my knee, I have had to wear a brace, which has made movement difficult, so I have stayed at home.

I have not tried to follow a streamed service because, for me, the important thing is to be in the Kirk where I feel encouraged and supported by fellow worshippers and the evidence of all those who have worshipped before me. We have memorial windows and beautifully crafted items reminding us of how important the building was to past generations.

It is important to us too, and yes, I am definitely looking forward to getting back.

I hope you all have something to look forward to.

Marjory Howat  
(Kirk Elder)



If you have any articles that would be of interest to our congregation then please email them to [rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:rollkeeper.stjohns@gmail.com). The next edition of the Chronicles will be due out in November 2024.

