



KBC Ministry Reports 2021



Introduction by Rev Tim Proudlove:

We've said a few times, that the direction we are seeking to move in as a church is this:

By God's grace we aim to be:

- 1 Rooted - deeply rooted in Jesus Christ, in his word, in the Spirit, in prayer.
- 2 Missional - turning outwards to point toward Jesus in both word and deed, seeking to introduce others to him.
- 3 Relational - strong not merely in our services or programs or leadership, but in

our connections and relationships with one another.

Much of the above happens behind the scenes - in our personal lives and our family lives, in our workplaces and our neighbourhoods. But some of it happens through the ministries of various groups - groups that, in many cases, don't 'belong' to Kirkwall Baptist, but in which people from our church work and serve and minister.

This document, then, is a celebration of those groups that have been active and at work this past year. It is a call to prayer - a call to remember before God the work of these ministries. And it is a reminder to all of us, in our own lives and circumstances, to "always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

**Crèche / Pre-School Sunday School
report by Jane Scott and Helen O'Neil:**



This term of Sunday School we have loved seeing so many of the children in person again! There were some initial and ongoing challenges keeping our rota fully staffed with volunteers, but thanks to God's provision of many new volunteers, and a bit of re-jigging of classes some weeks, we have managed to work it out.

This year we've combined creche and pre-school which seems to be working well due to reduced numbers in that age group, plus 3 primary school age classes, and bible class for S1-3.

Prayer and praise points:

Praise God for all the new volunteers and that we've managed to keep groups running each week.

Pray for the children who have been struggling to return to Sunday school classes after so long doing home education/online services over lockdown.
Pray for ongoing staffing needs.

Youth Work Report by Fraser Scott:



Being involved in Youth Work this past year has been such a wonderful blessing. At the end of 2020, we were back meeting in the church building. However, Orkney going into Tier 3 at Christmas meant we had to return to meeting exclusively on Zoom from January to May 2021. While not ideal, it did mean we were able to be joined by guest speakers from south such as Dez Johnstone and Steven Jones and take part in online events like Powerpoint. We returned to meeting in the church building in May with certain restrictions such as mask wearing and social distancing but tried to take advantage of the more relaxed guidelines when meeting outdoors to do walks to Scapa Beach, outdoor games and a bonfire at Cleat Beach.

Our biggest event was Summer Youth Camp in Westray in July. During which we camped outside Westray Baptist Church and activities included a trip to the beach, a scavenger hunt, wide games as well as bible study, worship and praying for one another.

After Summer, we were still meeting in the church. Over the last year we have studied themes such as worship, discipleship and prayer as well as doing fun activities together like a cinema trip or getting a takeaway.

I'd like to thank all those who have helped over the last year such as Daniel Sandison, Steven Rendall and Bev Larkin. But also to those who came and spoke with the kids and for Elizabeth and Matt Maerz who helped out while here in Orkney.

Looking ahead, we hope to continue with our regular meetings as well as planning a Spring Camp during the Easter Holidays and a trip south to "Magnitude", a Christian festival which is hopefully going ahead, in-person, in July 2022.

Asha Report by Michael & Rosey

Whittles:



The last year in Bangladesh has been a challenging time. The pandemic has affected everything, just as it has in almost every country of the world. Government lock-downs have imprisoned people in tiny tin houses and taken away their opportunities for work with only very ragged food handout schemes for some of the very poorest. Schools have been closed since March 2020 and are only just now opening their doors to students on a part-time basis.

Although the overall death rate in the country does seem to have been low in comparison to western nations- even through the recent Delta variant outbreak- the social chaos and deprivation that have ensued have been severe, particularly for the poorer families and for girls!

We are not at all surprised that a few of our older students have dropped out, found work or got married. The true picture is yet to become clear, but I suspect that across the nation there will have been a huge reduction of older girl students returning now to complete their education. When survival is difficult it is very hard for girls to struggle against the tide and defy parental demands to find a job or to marry and reduce economic pressure on the family.

I am confident that in Asha we have managed to minimise this trend for the girls we support. Because of generous

donations through this period we have been able to give regular food parcels to all our schoolgirls and workers and staff. We have also, with the exception of a few weeks of hard lock-down, been able to keep our Asha Coaching Centre open and functioning for older students, giving them not only a place to study and access to on-line teaching schemes, but also a refuge from the intensity of family pressures and a place to share and encourage each other. Our staff have continued to work hard during this time in distributing food and medical help to children and families and pregnant mothers, in teaching and in maintaining contacts. Our oldest Asha girls, Selina and Salma and Shimoly and Maksuda, have never failed to be there and available when needed. Shimoly has been particularly fearless in visiting homes and hospitals, often at night, to help with child-birth or illnesses.

The result is that now, as the country is opening up again to normal activities, we are ready and able to continue our work. Over the next months we shall be reaching out into the community to see what problems our older students in particular are facing in getting back into education. A number will need extra financial help to get enrolled again. Some will need staff visits to chat with parents and encourage a return to complete their interrupted education. There will certainly be many who have slipped back and may find it difficult to recover lost ground and confidence.

One good thing to come out of this time has been that we have employed our oldest students, now in their College years, to teach small groups of younger students in the Coaching centre under the supervision of Salma our main teacher. This has worked really well during the pandemic and is something we would like to continue.

Our handwork group of young women workers is already meeting together again, although we are reducing numbers employed as already planned. Ultimately we want to concentrate on education and health and relief work and have been encouraging workers to find other employment. As a result our handwork group is only part-time now. We hope to hold our first sale of the year in November- although this may be a somewhat smaller

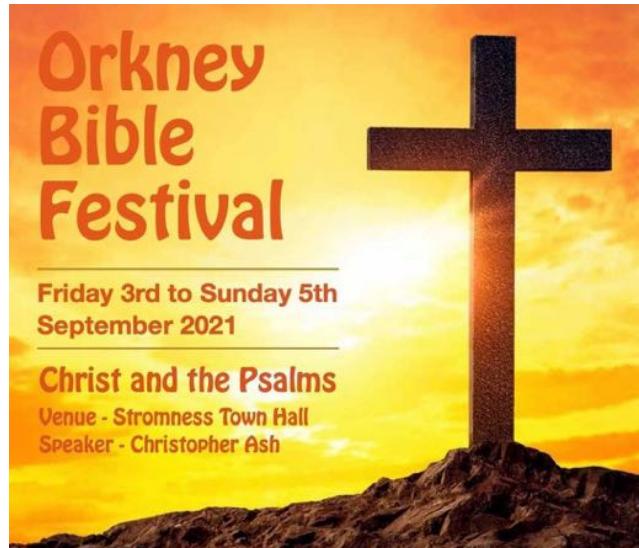
event than we are used to, as parcels are taking a very long time to reach us just yet because of transport difficulties!

We would like to give our grateful thanks to Kirkwall Baptist Church for the very substantial help you have given to Asha over the last year. Your giving has been a principal reason why we have been able to meet the many demands and needs of this difficult time. Whatever we do it requires finance and we have been so blessed by the constant faithfulness of our God, and by those he has prompted to support and encourage this work.

With every blessing,
Michael and Rosey Whittles



Orkney Bible Festival Report by Mervyn Sandison:



It was good to be able to meet this year again for Orkney Bible Festival. We are very grateful to God that the extra COVID cases did not spoil our plans or the attendance at the meetings. Christopher Ash was greatly appreciated and his warm faithful preaching from the Psalms brought encouragement and challenge to us all. Music this year was shared between different supporting Churches.

I want to pass on grateful thanks to KBC and other Churches once again for their practical and financial support meaning that all our bills have been paid.

Looking forward God Willing, we hope to have a visit from 'Care for the family' in Spring 2022 and Malcolm Duncan from Dundonald in Northern Ireland is booked for our main OBF event 26-28th August 2022.

**Postal Bible School Report by Mervyn
and Eileen Sandison:**



Orkney Postal Bible School continues to send out around 20 lessons each month, kindly funded by KBC, to young folks and adults across Orkney. Various members of KBC are involved in marking the lessons, for which we are very grateful. We would like to encourage parents/guardians, grandparents to use these resources to equip our young folks in these increasingly Godless times.

The lessons are written, designed and published by Bible Educational Services, and are distributed to children and young people around the world.

Please pray with us that our young folks and adults are blessed/encouraged through these lessons.

Orkney Foodbank Report by Alan Scott:



Once again we have had an interesting year. Last December was our busiest month on record and we fulfilled over 100 vouchers in that month alone. The previous year had 400 in total. With Covid restrictions we moved to a delivery model and a number of extra people were prepared to help with these deliveries. Also during December, January and February we had one of the local taxi businesses offering to deliver for free. Amazing.

We have lost a number of volunteers partly due to Covid and changing family circumstances. Currently we have about 12 people on the team with others helping with Tesco collections. The big event of the year was moving to different premises in April. We are now based at the old ambulance station at Dunkirk. What a difference that has made. Its warm, has wifi, hot water and good kitchen and toilet facilities which makes for a much more pleasant environment for staff and clients. Huge thanks are due to many people for the transition and I won't name them all but Lyndi put in an amazing effort in measuring the room sizes and sourcing new equipment. The shelving units are really made to measure. Also McAdie and Reeve moved our stock for us and it was three to four lorry trips. When they were finished they said that they were not going to charge us. Again Amazing. We believe that God has provided well for us.

Our stock levels are good as are our finances. We have turned down offers of stock from Cfine, part of fairshare, who helped us out by delivering palettes of food from Aberdeen or Inverness last year. I know that if our stocks run low we can order from them.

However the local people are amazing in their generosity. Individuals and companies/businesses help us out with stock and cash. Its very humbling.

The past few weeks have seen a significant rise in referrals and I suspect that that will continue at least until the end of the year. I would like to pay tribute to David Swales for his faithfulness over the years in his service to the foodbank. He is there every Tuesday and Friday and its good to know that he is reliable.

Finally some prayer points:

- 1 We need one or two trustees/board members.
- 2 We could do with at least one more shift supervisor.
- 3 We will need some extra people in evenings leading up to Christmas to prepare our Christmas bags.
- 4 Pray that we will treat our clients with dignity and respect and that they will see the love of Jesus through what we are doing.

Vital Talk Report by Margaret Rendall:



Orkney Counselling Service

Vital Talk continues to provide counselling for anyone, with the option of Christian counselling if desired. Most counselling is still provided over Zoom, but in-person counselling can be provided where required. Children and young people are seen in person in our specially equipped nurture room at The Life Centre.

Our waiting list has increased markedly over the last year, so that clients may have to wait for months before they can be seen. This means that we really need more counsellors to cater for these extra clients.

We were encouraged that someone wanted to organise a bake sale this year and encouraged that so many from KBC were willing to bake and to buy cakes on the day. Thank you to all who helped.

We give thanks for:

- Those who continue to keep the service running: counsellors, trustees and those who complete admin, financial and managerial roles.
- Those who have helped with fundraising
- Those who give financially towards our service.
- The use of rooms at The Life Centre.

Please pray for:

- More people to train as counsellors or existing counsellors to move to Orkney.
- Volunteers to help us with admin, reception duties and fundraising.
- Encouragement for all involved during this difficult time.
- Funding to keep the service going.

Starter Packs Orkney report by Noreen Wright:

StarterPACkS Orkney

During Covid19 our fundraising efforts stopped. When I wrote the report for last year I never imagined we would be in the same position a year on! No coffee mornings, jumble sales etc.

Since last years report we have moved premises and now are in Dunkirk (old ambulance station). Rhoda Feathertstone was in the process of negotiating the foodbank going in there and got in touch. It was all in Gods hands and it moved quickly. The only downside is we now pay rent however the premises are warm and watertight (a godsend).

I had applied to the Tesco Bags of Help before covid and out of the blue at around the same time we received a grant of £1000 which secured our first rent payment. I have approached our church to see if we could be given something from the Harvest Collection this year.

During 2020 we provided 26 people with goods. This is less than in previous years again due to covid. House building has restarted and there are sites all over Orkney which will offer new homes to tenants in emergency housing and on the housing waiting list. No matter how many houses that are built there still seems to be a shortage. There are homeless people in Orkney, although we don't have many street sleepers there are people sofa surfing or housed in emergency accommodation.

As you may know Starter Packs is a referral only service for people moving into a home where they have previously been classed as homeless or in homeless accommodation waiting on a permanent property. Homelessness can happen to anyone as a result of relationship or family breakdown, loss of job, fire or other natural disasters.

Street Pastors Report by Mark Berry:



Caring Listening Helping

Orkney Street Pastors Report October 2021

Street Pastors started patrolling the streets of Kirkwall on Saturday 22nd May after the restrictions on the hospitality sector were lifted by the Scottish Government. The situation on the streets is now quite different from that experienced prior to the pandemic in that Fusion has not yet opened for business. Therefore, the majority of the late-night activity on a Saturday occurs between Helgi's bar and the north end of Bridge Street. Revellers are generally of good humour and just out to enjoy themselves.

Since the end of May we have helped at least 102 people in some way or another. This includes handing out over 50 pairs of flip-flops, 20 bottles of water and 970 lollipops. Pat Rowe seems to be able to hand a lollipop to nearly everyone that she meets!

From a safety point of view, we have picked up or swept up at least 170 bottles and glasses which could have either caused serious injury if stepped on or be a potential weapon.

Many revellers come up to us and say how much they appreciate what we are doing. We have had meaningful spiritual conversations with 8 people and have been asked to pray with 3. This all shows that we are making a difference which we could only do with the financial help of the supporting fellowships, especially KBC.

There are currently 17 fully trained pastors available for the rota of which 7 are from KBC. 6 new recruits are attending training of which 3 are from KBC.

Orkney Islands Council issued a press release in May which said "The Street Pastors give their time and experience

freely to the Orkney community and we are wholly grateful for this additional tool in keeping Orkney safe and beautiful." Chief Inspector Matthew Webb, Orkney Area Commander at the time added "They do an incredible job providing support to vulnerable people in the Kirkwall area and take a non-judgemental approach to those who may engage in anti-social behaviour. Their voluntary efforts undoubtedly help reduce demand on the police and other front-line emergency services."

Young at Heart Memory Café Report by Lorna Reid:



The Lord has continued to bless us very graciously over the past year. With a further lockdown after Christmas we continued as before supporting our customers 'distantly'. This was in the order of what we had been doing previous months:

- Telephone calls from helpful café team members.
- Gifts arranged through 'Pretty Little Things'.
- Magazine subscriptions.
- Home baking from Catherine Seator with a scrumptious bumper 'valentine afternoon tea'. It was a joy and privilege to see all the happy faces upon delivery on a very snowy February day.
- Monthly 'meals on wheels' service from The Albert hotel. The Christmas and Easter lunches were outstanding and we included appropriate gifts and table decorations along with 'Hope' Christian magazines.
- We started doing a monthly newsletter and kept folks up to date with photos and started doing personal profiles so that we could 'get to know' each other as we couldn't meet in person.

On the 3rd June we opened the café again but it was slightly different as we made The

Albert hotel our venue as the rules and guidelines were much easier rather than in The Life Centre. With us being a voluntary organisation we had more complicated rules to adhere too and would have had to restrict our customer numbers. So for now café continues running there and it will probably be until sometime next year. We have our own space and have had some lovely entertainment from enthusiastic artists.

Our ‘customers’ have increased in number over the passed year and all seem to enjoy their time with us. We pray our service provides folks with a relaxed, happy, informal atmosphere where they can be themselves and know they are cared for and valued especially when facing challenging times.

I am always overwhelmed how the café seems to ‘run’ itself but we all know that The Lord is in control. I thank him for our amazing team and lovely customers.
Praise His name.

Evangelism Report by Fraser Scott:



Living and Telling Course – In September, we started doing the “Living and Telling” course both in person on a Sunday evening and online on a Monday evening. The course sets out to help Christians with living out their faith and telling others about Jesus. We have been encouraged by the reaction to it and pray that it will bear fruit.

“Coffee With...” – Through the last year we had continued to produce “Coffee With...” videos on Facebook where I had the opportunity to hear how people in our local community became Christians. This proved very successful with some videos having over 1000 views and people reporting back how encouraged they were by hearing people’s stories. The last video was back in July but there is hope to make more videos in the new year.

Alpha Course – At the beginning of 2021, we started another alpha course online as we were unable to meet in the church building. The course ran for a few weeks but unfortunately did not run to completion. There are plans to run another course in the new year. We hope to advertise this during the Christmas events.

“Good News for Everyone” Report by Rob Proudlove:



formerly known as GideonsUK

“Good News for Everyone” Report 2021

The Orkney group of what was formerly Gideons UK comprises Mervyn Sandison, Tony Bown, and myself. We have regular on line contact with a stronger group in Shetland and the two branches have amalgamated which avoids duplication of administration.

During the year several B and B owners were offered Bibles for their guests and were personally given Hope magazines - attractively presented material from John’s gospel and Psalms.

Members have given out a number of New Testaments, including some given , with food parcels ,to homeless folk by Mervyn. We pray that the Lord would use this ‘seed sown’.

If anyone would like to join us in this endeavour do get in touch,

NHS Chaplaincy Report by Rev. Gordon Jones, Chaplain & Spiritual Care Lead, NHS Orkney



The last twelve months have been full and demanding. NHS Orkney's staff have been stretched. I have sought to bolster their resilience through new staff wellbeing initiatives, proactive engagement with teams and individuals, and by being available as a listening ear. I have rejoiced with those who have had reasons to rejoice and mourned with those who have had cause to mourn. Across the archipelago NHS colleagues continue to say that knowing that chaplaincy support is available is, itself, a vital form of support. The Chaplaincy Service is regarded highly.

Inpatient visiting continues to be restricted for infection prevention and control reasons. I have ensured that ward staff are aware that clergy and other faith visitors may visit without them being counted as the patient's nominated visitors. Travel conditions or other circumstances can mean that it is not always possible for clergy or loved ones to visit. Families and church groups express their appreciation that the Chaplaincy Service will visit on their behalf, whether simply to pass on a message or, if the patient wishes, to spend time offering support or in fellowship.

My professional development over the last year has been supported by, among other things, completing a course on qualitative research methods with NHS Education for Scotland and commencing training in pastoral supervision with the Institute of Pastoral Supervision and Reflective Practice.

One of the best aspects of my role is that I get to meet interesting people and groups. For example, I was invited by Christian staff from Edinburgh Napier University to deliver a presentation on contemporary healthcare chaplaincy followed by what was a stimulating question and answer session. And in May I met the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Prince William, who expressed interest in my work during the pandemic.

The Covid context has provided many opportunities for health boards' Chaplaincy departments to demonstrate the value that they can bring in supporting patients, their families, and healthcare staff. The Scottish Government has indicated that it recognises the benefits of spiritual care for health and wellbeing, and that it wishes to support the profession to advance. I am pleased to be part of its discussions. An area which they have expressed particular interest in is my work around the development of a standardised service record for Chaplaincy departments, currently being piloted in several health boards.

Please pray that I would be blessed with grace, wisdom, and good health as I seek to continue to serve and bless others. Please pray for the health and wellbeing of my family. Please give thanks for the good reputation of NHS Orkney's healthcare chaplaincy service.

**Christmas Events Team Report by
Claudia Proudlove**



We are very thankful for last year's Christmas services and the high number of viewers we had online. We hope and pray that the seeds sown will grow on good ground.

This year we are thinking of doing a hybrid version (in-person services with an online option). We are thankful for a great planning team – Hannah Bowen, Hannah Casey, Helen O'Neil and Fraser Scott. We are also thankful for the few folks who have said that they are happy to help out with the services and advent. We are mainly focusing on three services this year – the Nativity Service (19.12.), Carols by Candlelight (19.12), and Pyjama Christmas (24.12).

One change is that we will only practise with the orchestra on the day of Carols by Candlelight (if you would like to participate, please contact Hannah Casey). But while we have simplified things, and are trying our best to keep everyone safe, our main hope and prayer is that people will have an encounter with Jesus this Christmas.

Please join us in prayer that God will work among us this Christmas and that folk would meet with Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray!

Eph. 3:16-17

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."