



**Kirkwall Baptist Church**  
youth events - children's activities - small groups - enquirer's groups

### **KBC Ministry Reports 2023**



#### **Introduction by Rev Tim Proudlove:**

Just over the water in John O'Groats there is a famous signpost. People come from all over the world to get their picture taken with the signs pointing to places such as Land's End, London, New York, and of course, Orkney. The signpost is picturesque and good for tourists to take snapshots of, but the signs all point in different directions and aren't really very helpful for navigation.

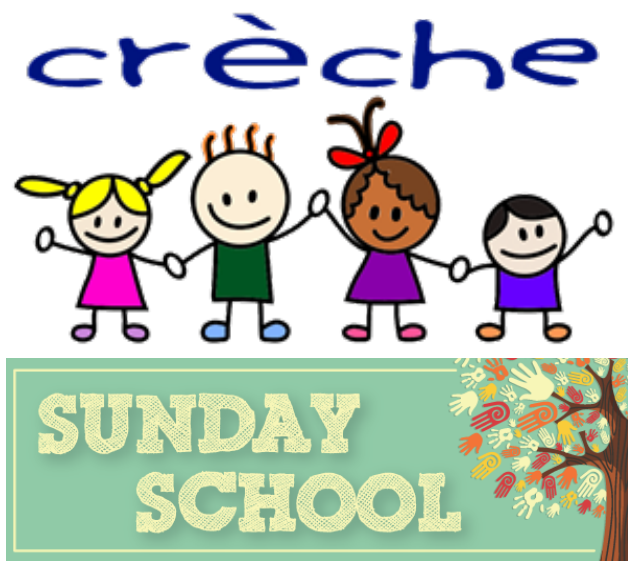
The ministries in this report are a series of signposts. These signposts, however, all point in a particular direction; and the purpose of these is not that tourists gawp at them, but that people move step by step

in that direction. Each of these ministries — in one way or another; by word or by deed; inside the church building or outside the church building; under the banner of Kirkwall Baptist or not under the banner of Kirkwall Baptist; in Orkney or further field — each of these ministries is like a signpost pointing people towards the coming full and final kingdom of God. Each of these ministries points people towards Jesus.

So I hope you enjoy looking at the snapshots of these signposts in this report. I hope it moves you to prayer. And I hope you can find your place pointing to Jesus and his coming kingdom in our church family and in our community.



**Crèche / Pre-School Sunday School**  
**report by Jane Scott:**



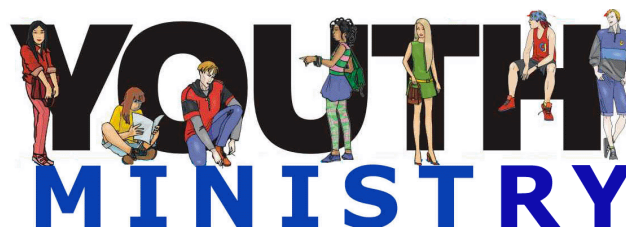
There have been a few changes in the past year for Sunday School. Firstly Helen O'Neil and her family moving abroad for a while has meant I (Jane) have been looking for some help with the planning and administration. Emma Nicolson and Amy Berry have kindly agreed to join the team.

We have had some new additions to our teacher and helper rota to fill vacancies as they have arisen and are very grateful to God for providing sufficient help to cover our current classes as we have needed it.

We have been working through the Jesus Storybook Bible Curriculum with the two Primary aged classes, and the Bible class are going through the Bible Course at present. With the JSB Curriculum only lasting a year, I will be on the lookout for some new resources to replace this after the summer so please pray that we find a good replacement.

Although our ministry is all about planting seeds each week, so to speak, I have been encouraged to see signs of God at work in the lives of our Sunday School kids, and look forward to seeing the good plans God has for them. Please continue to pray with us that God would be clearly at work in each child's life, bringing Jesus's love, hope and faith.

**Youth Work And Spring Camp**  
**Report by Fraser Scott:**



It's been another exciting year for youth ministry at Kirkwall Baptist Church. We've been holding our weekly meetings "Upper Room" which has enjoyed a spike of new people coming with the start of the year and new S1s. Last term we looked at The Prayer Course 2 which looks primarily at the subject of dealing with Unanswered Prayer. We then did The Bible Course which took a large portion of the beginning of this year and we spent several weeks before summer on the topic of LGBTQ+.

This year we have completed another Prayer course which was produced by 24/7 Prayer called "Origins" and we're now looking at the subject of Baptism. We also enjoyed visits from 24/7 Prayer Scotland in May and other church leaders in Orkney.

We've also started a library at Upper Room where kids can borrow books on a range of subjects such as prayer, the bible, discipleship and devotionals. We also continue to do worship each week, sometimes with a live band and other times using videos. The option for videos gives some of the kids an opportunity to pick the songs we're doing for worship even though they may not feel comfortable leading at the front.

In April 2023 we had our annual Spring Camp. Over 40 youth and leaders from Kirkwall, Stromness and Westray Baptist Churches joined in, with the majority camping out the whole weekend at Birsay Hall. It was exciting to have a team from Magnitude and International Justice Mission join us for the event. There was plenty of great teaching, worship, prayer and games.

Then in July, 26 of us travelled to Lendrick Muir in Fife for Magnitude. A 5-day Christian Youth Festival. It was an exciting and powerful time with many of the youth

encountering God in a personal way for the first time.

Plans are underway for next year's camps, teaching at Upper Room and I am also planning a trip to Aviemore with some of the other volunteers to the youth leaders retreat held by Christ In Youth.

### **Asha Report by Michael & Rosey Whittles:**



2023 has been a difficult year for us personally, but we have been grateful, as ever, for the consistent kindness and goodness of God through it all.



Shohagi, Rohima & Tinni send us greetings.

Our Asha girls and students have stepped up to work even better together during this time. We are presently concentrating especially on the sponsorship programme and over the last year our oldest students have been assisting us by taking on pastoral roles to check on and encourage younger students. Six of our college/

university girls have taken on a number of pupils to visit in their homes and at school and at least once a month we receive their reports of progress and 3 sponsored students- problems. We have never felt to be in better contact with our sponsored students and yet we are needing to do less ourselves. send us greetings

The system suits the older girls well. We can pay them over and above their sponsorship support- and this is very much needed to cope with the extra expenses incurred in tertiary studies. The older girls then meet together with our staff each month to talk about individual students and any specific problems, and also to be encouraged in their own studies.

Its all a part of 'Girls helping Girls', our somewhat unofficial -but intentional- development to increase the independence of those we help in Asha.



Murium, one of our older sponsored helpers, with her family

We have continued our handwork groups for young women, but to a more limited extent this year, producing work just for the coming Christmas market. All our workers have other full or part-time jobs now but Asha handwork provides them with a bit of extra income and an opportunity to meet together. Also, we have had the help of capable friends in upcycling older Asha embroideries into interesting new items. These can be seen at our upcoming sale later this month. Our Asha Christmas Bazaar will be on the 25th November.

What has increased over the last year is the help that we give to individual families and to needy individuals. Jesus said, in

Matthew 5:42, that we should, "Give to the one who begs from you, and do not turn away from the one who would borrow from you." This rather alarming order is one that we could easily persuade ourselves to ignore- especially in a poor country like Bangladesh! Can we really say, "Yes" to every one who asks anything of us?

The answer is, of course we can- because Jesus is in charge of it all!

I believe I can honestly say that over the last year we have never refused to give help to those who have asked- and there has been a lot of requests! Not all of these requests have been for money- often it is prayer and time and love that are required. We know so many girls and families and we are so often the only ones they can turn to in times of distress.

Urgent financial pressures can come at any time, be it because of illness or medical fees or family break-ups, or lost jobs or new education expenses or having babies and more unexpected emergencies - especially in these uncertain times.



Jesmin, badly burned by fire as a child, manages to safely have her first baby!

The wonderful thing is that, even though we have often felt doubtful of our resources, or concerned by the practical difficulties of regularly sending money safely to a third world country like Bangladesh, we have always managed to help and been blessed by sufficient funds to do whatever is needed. We have never spent as little time on fund raising as we have this year, and yet there has been sufficient for all.

At this point may I give a big thank you, particularly to those of you in our church who have supported us regularly, with so little fuss and no need of huge appreciation. We have been greatly blessed by your love and faithfulness and so have our students, our Asha girls and their families in Bangladesh.

One other scripture that has often been in my mind this year is from Matthew 24:45-46 where Jesus says, "Who then is the faithful and sensible servant whom his master put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master finds so doing when he returns."

Until our master says otherwise we are continuing to try to be such servants in Asha- faithful and sensible in what we do to 'help the poor and the weak and the woman' in this country that the Lord chose for us to work in. We do so in love, despite all the disappointments and stresses that caring for others can at times bring. It is still our calling and our work for the Lord and we rejoice in it.



Maksuda caring for Abu Bokor

Thank you to everyone who has been at our side in this work over the last year.

Michael and Rosey

*And a note for prayer:*

*Just now, Dhaka is in the throes of election fever, which involves some street fighting and the opposition BNP party throwing home-made bombs onto buses! People have been hurt, and it's not an easy time to travel around for work- or in Maksuda's case to*

*take Abu Bokor, our child with cerebral palsy, to CRP (Centre for Rehabilitation of Paralysed) for regular Physio. Some of our girls must risk these dangers each day.*

*We are preparing to go out to Bangladesh ourselves in the New Year- hopefully after the political upheaval has settled!*

## **Gogo Olive Ministry Report by Julie Johnstone**



During the past year at Gogo Olive we have focused our efforts at restoring our product sales and fundraising to pre-pandemic levels.

Our primary fundraising activities in this year have included taking our mobile coffee van to the County and Dounby Shows, Westray Connections, and Sarah Finn's monthly marathon fundraiser. These events, in conjunction with the loyal support of our regular donors, as well as the collections and donations from various churches and individuals, have enabled us to sustain our commitment to the women in Zimbabwe throughout the year.



In addition to covering our routine monthly expenses, the funds we raised this year have been allocated to various purposes, including medical expenses, providing glasses for the ladies who need them, funeral costs, buying solar lights for all the women, and an exciting new addition to our resources: an upgraded vehicle.



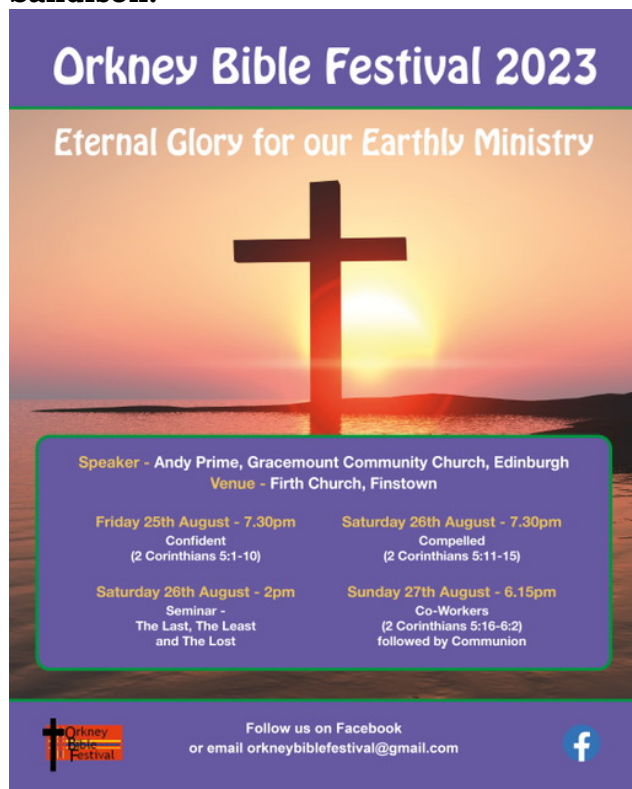
We've also had the privilege of sharing the stories of the women we work with at several church events throughout the year. We always welcome the opportunity to spread the word about the transformative impact of our work and the work that God is doing in and through Gogo Olive.

In November 2023 we celebrate our 15 year anniversary, and we are reflecting on God's provision and unwavering faithfulness towards us. We are hugely grateful for the consistent and generous support we receive that has enabled us to continue over all these years.

We want to give our heartfelt thanks to Kirkwall Baptist Church for their partnership, financial support, and prayers, which play a very valuable role in our ongoing mission.



## Orkney Bible Festival Report by Mervyn Sandison:



Orkney Bible Festival held its 13th Conference during the weekend of 25-27 August 2023. It was good to be back at Firth Church which is an ideal venue for the event.

From the beginning attendance was good and this continued through the four meetings.

The speaker this year was Andy Prime from Edinburgh. Andy is a grandson of well known preacher Derek Prime. Andy serves at Gracemount Community Church, Edinburgh with the Church Planting ministry 20 Schemes. Sung Praise over the weekend was led by local musicians from supporting Churches.

Grateful thanks again to KBC for financial support towards the Festival, once more all our needs were met and we give thanks to the Lord for all his provision during 2023.

Looking to the future we have booked a speaker called Peter Wright from "Growing Young Disciple" to lead a training day on issues facing families/young people in our confused times. This event will take place DV at The Life Centre on Sat 27th April as part of the reunion weekend.

One week before that on 19th April we hope to host Ian White for an evening concert.

Some of you will remember Mez McConnell who was with us at OBF a few years ago. Mez and family hope to spend January and February in Orkney as part of a writing Sabbatical and will be staying in Stromness.

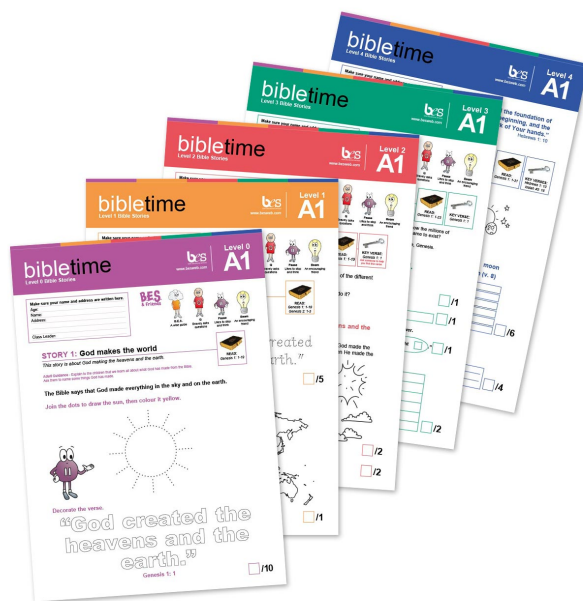
Mervyn Sandison

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



We send out 10 sets of lessons each month to folks in Orkney and beyond. The lessons range from pre-school to adult. They are an excellent resource and we would encourage folks to use them in personal Bible study or with family.

We are grateful to KBC for financing OPBS, and for your prayers that those using the lessons will be strengthened and built up in their faith.



## CREATIVenergie Report by Joel Chaney

### Introduction

In April this year (2023) thanks to the support we received from Kirkwall Baptist we were able to work in partnership with the Kerusso Trust (<https://www.thekerussotrust.org>) and J-Life Ministries <https://www.facebook.com/jlife.malawi/>, a church planting and disciple making organisation in Southern Malawi.

There are two main areas of partnership between these two organisations:

- 1) providing basic Bible and ministry training for rural church leaders through a programme called 'Learn2Serve'. Alongside this, youth discipleship, leadership training, and children's Bible clubs are also run.
- 2) Supporting community development initiatives in the very poor rural areas near where their partners are based, including the Imbwa Clean Water Project, and a programme to train local village chiefs in Bible-based leadership.

### Charging Hub

CREATIVenergie has been working with worked with J-Life and the Kerruso Trust to set up a solar charging hub at Imbwa, a remote rural community in Southern Malawi in which these two organisations are working. This builds on the clean water work the organisations are already doing in this region.

The hub was set up and rentable batteries and torches were put in place. These can be rented for a very low fee and used in homes and then be returned for recharging. People can also charge their phones at the hub. The charging hub is the closest place to get any access to power - it is a 7-10 km walk to the nearest other place (Chimembe) where people can access power. The route is poor, involves crossing the Likhubula River, and so the walking time depends on the weather conditions and time of year - it is a lot more difficult in the wet season.

People pay a small fee to use the Kiosk (100 Kwacha - approx 5p per charge/use). In the first 5 months of the trial, the Kiosk

raised 50,000 Kwacha approx (£25) raised in rental fees for charging equipment - meaning around 500 rentals have taken place, or approx 100 per month. Although small, this demonstrates that people find the service valuable and are willing to contribute. People are using it for mobile phones, personal torches etc. We have had very good feedback from the community and they report it makes their life much easier - as they do not have to travel distances to charge devices and get access to light.



*Showing the Jesus film in Imbwa using the larger portable batteries (see green boxes on photo)*

*At the hub has been used used for:*  
Light in the evenings for households  
Phone charging

The larger batteries provided have been used at the Schools for lighting and charging phones etc.

For a PA systems for events and outreach activities - for example, after we left they carried out a 3 week 'sports outreach' across schools in the region and used the battery system to power the PA.

To show the Jesus film - while we were in Malawi, they were able to show the film in Imbwa for the first time.

Going forward will also be used for a homework club and a Radio club - a place to listen together to the radio. In particular J-Life broadcast ministry radio once per week and this will now be available in the community now they have power.

There is capacity and desire to expand the number of appliances at the hub that can be rented out - with a specific desire to increase the number of portable torches to

be used for students at the local primary schools to be able to practice reading and writing at home. We hope to do this in the coming months.



*The smaller torches can be used for light for homes and for children to study by. They also have a port in them to charge phones.*



The batteries can be used to bring other services to the community. Here J-Life demonstrate its use to run a radio to broadcast a weekly ministry program. Access to a radio allows the community to get access to information news and educational and ministry resources.

#### Clean Cooking

We worked with J-Life to introduce a more efficient stoves with a chimney for the Schools. We built a demo and spent time with J-Life to train them in this technology. They are currently in the process of completing this work at the School and testing the stove out. If successful, we hope to roll this out at a number of School in Southern Malawi.

We introduced a simple but effective technology known as a 'heat retention cooker'. It saves a considerable amount of cooking fuel. The way it works is that you heat up the food on the stove/fire in the

normal way, but when it is boiling, you put it in the heat retention cooker. The cooker is highly insulating the the heat continues to cook the food. The technology was welcomed and is being trialed by the J-Life community. They have had a very positive response and we hope to expand this technology into the communities there. One approach we are exploring is making them and selling them also in the UK, in order to raise funds for this initiative - they are very effective even in a developed world setting and prove a good way to save energy and effort in cooking a number of meals (such as stews/slow cooked food).

#### Creation Care Teaching



We worked with the Kerusso Trust to provide some teaching on creation care for pastors. We did this through giving some teaching on an overview of the theology of creation and running workshops that helped local pastors to understand what creation care looked like in their context. This was very well received and Kerusso Trust are integrating this teaching into their theology training for pastors and chiefs in their learn to serve program, so they will continue to teach about creation care going forward.



*Running a workshop with Church leaders on Creation Care. We developed resources that will now be taken up by J-life and Kerusso Trust.*

#### Videos

We have created two video resources for UK churches to better understand the context we are working in and to encourage them to engage in creation care ministry. These are available for Kirkwall Baptist to use.

#### Reflection

A holistic approach to community ministry is essential for the gospel to be seen to have power to change lives. When people lack the most essential of things for life, Jesus needs to be seen to bring change for many people to see the message of repentance, forgiveness and grace as real and relevant. Food, education, roads, light and power for mobile phones and emergency disaster relief are not only the building blocks for community development, but platforms for receiving Christ and transforming attitudes and behaviours to those compatible with gospel living. This is something the early missionaries took to heart, and we must do likewise in this new era.

[www.creativenergie.co.uk](http://www.creativenergie.co.uk)

#### **Starter Packs Orkney report by Noreen Wright:**



As you may know Starter Packs is a 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. We try to link in with other services such as the Foodbank and Restart as they are more likely to have contact with the people we serve. We have in the past responded to other emergencies such as house fires, floods etc. so are open to help anyone in need. We offer both new and donated items. Most electrical items such as kettles, toasters etc are new but curtains, crockery etc will be donated goods.

Last year when I did the report we had helped 28 families. This year from 1st Jan we have already helped 57 families and are busy. We have enough donated goods although towels are always needed. This year its funds we need. We have been hit with a bill for water for our premises at Dunkirk. We are not a registered charity so do not get a dispensation although I am in contact with the foodbank as I believe they successfully challenged the bill and don't have to pay it. I am looking to meet with Rhoda Walker to find out how they did it.

Due to ongoing concerns we have not managed to do any fundraising such as soup, coffee mornings etc and think we need to plan these in for next year. Our treasurer Wendy Gunn from East Kirk is retiring and Steven Hagan will be taking over so that means I am not alone in representing the Baptist Church.

I do network quite a bit and get many phone calls offering furniture etc. We do not accept furniture but I am happy to connect people looking to donate goods to restart of other deserving people. God is good and I have had many instances where

I hear of people in need then I get a telephone call offering me exactly what is needed!

We get financial support from OIC which pays our rent but don't get any financial support from churches other than the Baptist Church, East Kirk and the Salvation Army. I would appreciate an opportunity to connect with other churches to see if they could offer any financial help.

#### **Young at Heart Memory Café Report by Lorna Reid:**



We are very thankful that The Lord has continued to oversee and bless the café with a core of able and willing volunteer helpers. We have had a regular number of clients but over recent weeks needs have changed and we have the capacity to welcome new faces. With this in mind we have taken steps to raise our profile in the community by setting up a Facebook page, posters in prominent places, business style cards distribution and hopefully enlisting the help of a newly appointed doctor who will be dealing solely with dementia .

We had a super week in the blue door for fund raising and very much appreciate all the support from within the church and our community for supporting us. We raised a grand total of £2250 in the few days we were there. This equally was a good way to raise awareness in the community.

We would very much appreciate your prayers for our doors to remain open, welcoming new customers and providing a happy, fun and homely environment where people feel relaxed and able to share with others going through similar experiences.

#### **Street Pastors Report by Mark Berry:**



**Caring  
Listening  
Helping**

Orkney Street Pastors continues to provide support to the vulnerable people on the streets of Kirkwall on a Saturday night, between the hours of 10pm and 2.30am(ish). The team consists of 24 fully trained volunteers of which 20 are currently available for patrol.

We continue to value the prayers from all at KBC. We are confident that our initiative continues to work in God's will and therefore He will provide the necessary funding for us to carry out His work. If any KBC member feels led to join the Orkney Street pastor team, please speak to Mark Berry, Andrew & Val More, Cameron Stout, Sue Clewett or Pat Rowe.

Kirkwall Baptist Church, Life Church Orkney, East Kirk Church of Scotland and The Motor House have all supported our work with significant donations this year. Orkney Quaker Meeting have continued their regular financial support and we have received a donation from Stronsay Church of Scotland. Although we have had collection boxes in Skippers Bar and St.Ola Hotel which are emptied regularly.

In the 10 months that we were patrolling we managed to have a team out on all but 4 occasions. We managed to help at least 4200 people, handed out 150 pairs of flip-flops and over 3300 lollipops. We picked up 790 whole or broken bottles and glasses keeping the streets safe.

We called out the police to 6 incidents and called out an ambulance on 4 occasions. We had the opportunity to pray for 18 people and had over 50 spiritual conversations.

## Evangelism Report by Fraser Scott:



We ran an Alpha course from January with a group of about 12 people meeting. We also had a fantastic day away, hosted by Billy Gunn at his house. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped each week and anyone who provided a pudding. We were also very excited to have an Alpha Course start at Kirkwall Grammar School led by one of our youth, Grace MacPherson. The course has been going well and last month we had over 20 people attend the Alpha Weekend at the Life Centre on a Friday night and all day Saturday.

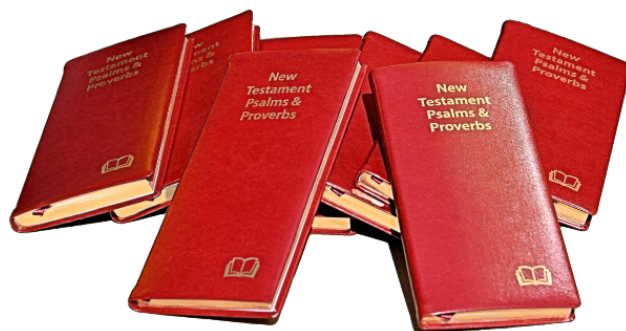
We also began the new format of Evening Service in early September with a view to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere for any potential guests. Over the summer months, I have made it a regular occurrence to have the front doors open through the week whenever I am working at the church. This has led to some great discussions with visitors and locals with many people interested in the building and our church.

We also had an excellent Christmas season in December last year. Plans are now underway for this year's events. It is the plan to once again begin an Alpha Course in January 2024.

## "Good News for Everyone" Report by Rob Proudlove:



Our small Orcadian contingent of GNFE (formerly Gideons ) is encouraged to be part of the Shetland and Orkney Branch and have access to online fellowship every couple of months. In addition, Shetland colleagues have visited including Deborah and Maurice Anderson speaking at a meeting at Grace Church, Edwin Moar working on school visitation, and a presence at County Show.



We are grateful that 75 Bibles have been placed at Stromness Academy, and a consignment sent to Africa. There have been useful contacts with local hotels and guest houses leading to some Bible placements, and leaving Hope Magazines (an attractive presentation based on John's gospel and the Psalms) with staff contacts.

We would love to chat with anyone interested in helping with this work, and value prayer for God's blessing on these endeavours.

Thanks,  
Mervyn, Tony and Rob

## Orkney Foodbank Report by Alan Scott:



### Summary of main points:

November 2023 marks 10 years since Orkney Foodbank opened.

- 1) We have already exceeded last year's record number of vouchers of 555 and are now passing 650 with our busiest six weeks still to come.
- 2) Our number of volunteers is now back to pre-covid times and is over 20.
- 3) The weight of food donations is vastly exceeded by the amount of food being distributed.

### Expanding on these points:

Frequently, especially on Fridays, we are fulfilling over 10 vouchers per shift and while Tuesdays are less busy generally, double figures are not unknown. This puts great demand on our stock. Tesco donations are down slightly overall, I think, varying from 90kg per week to 140kg per week. Our record regular Tesco collection was 150kg on one Friday recently but on that day we gave out between 250 and 300kg. As a result of this we have been buying more food than ever before. My estimate is between £3000- £4000 per month between the wholesalers and the supermarkets.



When our supermarket gift card scheme is giving out £20 -£40 per client then even at 20 single clients per week, that comes to a minimum of £1600 per month.

Electricity vouchers are even more expensive and are costing up to £3000 pounds per month. This comes to a total of £7600 per month which is unsustainable. As a result the operational group decided to suspend electricity vouchers for the meantime and to reduce the value of the supermarket vouchers so that we can sustain our primary function of providing emergency food packages to those in need. At present, Thaw is able to fill the electricity gap to a great extent.



We are now actively seeking funds for the first time in 10 years so that we can reinstate the electricity vouchers. If we do we might considering doing it from October to March in future. We have been given a grant by TT but cant use it for electricity. Linda Nicolson is now working as an admin assistant to cover things like day to day banking, food ordering and purchasing and this post is funded by TT grant. Its 5 -10 hours per week. We have also obtained two significant donations from local businesses. one specifically for electricity and the other for our Christmas bags..

Since then we have also had a significant amount from Orkney Islands Council to be used for food purchase and electricity. We are awaiting money from Orkney Money Matters specifically to be used for supermarket vouchers.

To cut a long story short, we have now reinstated electricity help for our clients from the beginning of November and the supermarket vouchers will be back to their original value from the start of December.

## Christmas Events Team Report by Claudia Proudlove



Last year we had our first normal Christmas celebrations again after Covid. Our vision was Bringing a gift to Jesus and we tried to incorporate this vision into our various services.

We started off with a Prayer and Fasting day on the 1st of Advent which was good, but smaller in numbers.

Both the Christmas Nativity Service and Carols by Candlelight Service were well attended and quite a few visitors came along to these services. In addition, we had a Pyjama Christmas Service for the kids as well as a Christmas Day Service and a Ceilidh on Hogmanay, which all went well.



Thanks to all who were involved in the various services, we could not do it without you all taking part! We as a family are particularly thankful to the church for allowing us to spend Christmas in Austria with Claudia's family (the first time in 16 years).

We are thankful again for our great planning team this year – Hannah Casey, Jane and Fraser Scott are the core team but we will need lots of volunteers and if you are interested to help in any way, please let us know.

We are hoping to have a Prayer and Fasting Day on the 26th of November, Carols by Candlelight on the 17th of December, the Nativity and Pyjama Christmas Services as well as a Christmas Unplugged Service on the 24th. The celebrations will be rounded off with a Ceilidh on Hogmanay. Please join us in prayer that God will work among us this Christmas and that folk would meet with Jesus Christ as they come and visit our services. Please also pray about whom you would like to invite to come along this Christmas.

**Thank you for your faithful service in all these ministries. Please continue to pray!**

*"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone."*

(Colossians. 4:2-6)

