



Welcome from the Convener

This is a **very good time** to become convener of The Friends: as I take up the position I am honoured and excited. It is a very good time because of a new spirit of confidence and adventure and hopefulness. Much of this springs from the appointment of our two new ministers. In the months since Muriel arrived in Tiberias the suggestions and ideas and dreams and visions have been streaming from her study overlooking The Sea of Galilee at a terrific rate.

Stewart is having a **difficult time** waiting for permission from the government in Israel to take up his post. Fortunately he was able to spend some time earlier this year seeing the churches and the school and finding somewhere to live and meeting some of the people. So although he is, frustratingly, still in Glasgow he is able to keep in touch with the work which is going on and to begin the vital process of listening and learning which is a key part of any ministry.

It is also a **good time** for The Friends because we have been able to welcome some new members to our Committee. Already they have been taking up new responsibilities among us: and I am confidently looking forward to very fruitful work together in the days ahead.

On the other hand, this is a **difficult time** for The Friends. Difficult because of politics: the seemingly unstoppable growth of settlements and the seemingly endless blockade of Gaza make life so much more difficult for Palestinians and for churches: the number of Christians in Israel and the West Bank continues to decline. And **difficult** because so much church life in Scotland is dealing with issues of congregations coming together: leaving less time and energy for the world church.

In these difficult times the work of The Friends is even more needed.

So please [join The Friends now](#). Then we can face the difficulties and share the excitement together. (Very Rev) Andrew McLellan

St Andrew's Day 2022 30th November at 2pm St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh All warmly welcome

*Live streaming will also be available on
[St Cuthbert's website](#)*

This year's offering will be given to [Parents Circle](#), a joint Israeli-Palestinian organisation of over 600 families, all of whom have lost a family member in the ongoing conflict.



In their loss and grief, these Palestinians and Israelis have come together to work to ensure that no other parent will have to experience the same loss and pain.

As it says on their Facebook page: "We have realised in the most painful ways that **revenge, anger, hatred and murder will not bring us comfort or solution, but more loss and more pain.**"

The Friends' appeal is to support them as they support those affected, many of whom suffer from constant fear and insecurity.



If you'd like **to donate**, follow instructions on our [website](#) or send a cheque, made payable to The Friends of St Andrews to 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN

OUR MINISTERS

Rev Stewart Gillan

As Stewart continues to wait in Glasgow, we join with him as he prays that his appointment with the Israeli Consular Services, scheduled for mid-November, will produce brighter news. Meantime he shares his news and vision.



On the home front, Sarah and our children have just gone back to school following their October break. Sarah enjoyed a visit to Coleraine, to see our goddaughter Pippa singing in her first school musical, 'Oklahoma.'

Subsequently, I caught up with Pippa's Dad, the Rev Dr Jim Francis, Assistant Chaplain General, and new member of The Friend's Committee; conversation included how we might work together in the future. Jim suggested we forge a working relationship with the Committee on Chaplains to HM Forces of the CoS, with particular reference to pilgrimages, study leaves, and scholarships, and that this be a focus of Muriel's and my work as Ministers. It is a suggestion that ties in well with our desire that **the life and work of the Memorial Church be of service to all who serve others in turn, in uniform.**

A while ago Jim asked me to visit his successor in Glasgow, the Rev Alex Bennet. As often happens I found it a blessing. We found ourselves speaking of the **difficulty we have with the words justice and peace.** At times just saying these words, in prayer or sermons, talks or conversation, is difficult. On the one hand, we have domesticated them to the point they have lost meaning; on the other, we find it difficult to speak of something that is so little in evidence. Helping us was Jesus' distinction between 'peace as the world gives' and his own peace (John 14), which he embodied and taught at great cost to himself. If we think of his peaceable kingdom and what we can do to get there it can become an edgy conversation. All the more so when we think of the cost that our partners are paying on the way to such a peaceable kingdom today. Raising challenging questions regarding the cost of a discipleship of justice and peace in Jesus' name, whether the words are said or not.

I wish to say that the Church of Scotland needs such conversations with partners who live and work in extremis throughout the world. They are vital to the

Church in Scotland, and have been for centuries. In Israel and Palestine not least! We might agree the work of The Friends is so very important in this, God being our helper.

Let us be of good cheer, Stewart

Rev Muriel Pearson

Muriel shares how serendipity shapes time

Early on in my time here a visitor to the church service in Jerusalem gave me some excellent advice. He said your role is all about **relationships**, so connect with as many people as possible and follow up on the relationships that 'gel'. Looking back, I can see that how serendipity has shaped my time here.

There is **Hedva, a great friend and encourager**, who works for Musalaha, one of our partners who brings together women to learn to



see the situation in Israel/Palestine through the eyes of the 'other' and to reflect on their own story. We are collaborating on an event for Christmas in Tiberias which will showcase a photo exhibition called Reconciliation and also raise the profile of St Andrews Tiberias Church locally.

There is **Cheryl** in Israel/Palestine as an EAPPI (an ecumenical accompanier) who came to Tiberias for a few days off. She shared tales of her time in Hebron; difficulties faced by Palestinian students going to school through checkpoints and facing aggressive behaviour from some illegal Israeli settlers. She now volunteers at the Street Child World Cup in Doha. She has been attached to a Palestinian team which I hope to follow up the contact through Palestine Sport 4 Life. World cup action here:



<https://issue.com/streetchildunited22>



Aidan read about me in a previous edition of The Friends' Newsletter and when visiting his daughter in Kinneret came for a coffee at the Scots Hotel. I have got involved in an exciting project he developed in lockdown which he hopes will revolutionise water delivery for farmers in areas of water shortage around the world. He is currently talking about a more extensive pilot than his current one with Daoud Nasser of Tent of Nations. I will keep The Friends up-to-date on progress.

** The Friends are delighted to support this initiative benefitting The Tent of Nations*



I was thrilled that **Hadas Lahav** of [Sindyanna](#) and **Assaf Adiv** of [WAC-MAAN](#) who works with migrant Palestinian workers in Israel on workplace justice, were able to join a visiting group from St Andrews Arbroath.

I could go on, but will finish with a couple from Essex, **Richard and Susie**, who were staying in the Scots Hotel and came to church. My brother Stephen was visiting from Scotland and they were chatting away like old friends. Richard is a chartered surveyor who does a lot of work with the Diocese of London. and was full of great ideas and suggestions for development around the church and grounds. Watch this space!



And let the serendipity roll on!

Rev Muriel Pearson

Psalm 122 Pray for Jerusalem's peace!
 Prosperity to all you Jerusalem-lovers!
 Friendly insiders, get along!
 Hostile outsiders, keep your distance!
 For the sake of my family and friends,
 I say it again: live in peace!
 For the sake of the house of our God, God,
 I'll do my very best for you.

Make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is sadness, joy; and where there is darkness, light. Amen

Scholarship Programme

We are reviewing the **online application form** to clarify what we're looking for from applicants, and also to encourage more theological students and ministers to apply.

Watch this space!

Introducing our Ecumenical Partners

In this edition we meet **Angleena Keizer**, one of the three Ecumenical partners who share in life at St Andrews.

I had a **sense of calling** to Israel/Palestine for over 20 years and eventually was sent as the mission partner to the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem where I have served for the last five years.

Engaging ecumenically with local denominations, I am the **Christian leader for interfaith** with Praying Together in Jerusalem; I attend local initiatives like Christ at the Checkpoint and the Kairos conference and am involved with Israeli human rights organisations, joining Rabbis for Human Rights supporting Palestinians specifically during the harvest season.

There are no Methodist buildings in the Holy Land; and no intention of building any church but there has been a presence of mission partners for decades. There is a Methodist congregation who are Filipino migrant workers, living in the homes of Israelis as care workers, who meet in a bomb bunker below a tower block in Tel Aviv, on Shabbat, their day off.

What I find **challenging** is living in Bethlehem with the people who are under occupation listening to their stories, witnessing their human rights denied. Although I love visiting the projects in Gaza and meeting with our partners I find it challenging that they are living in the world's largest open prison and under siege. I am **inspired** by the Palestinians' resilience to occupation and the projects that we are involved in that seek to respond in nonviolent ways. I am **challenged** by the dwindling Christian community in Gaza and the West Bank. It can be challenging when witnessing so many atrocities deaths, house demolishes, lack of freedom, human rights denied, land being taken, to not become hard hearted towards any community in the Holy Land as a result. I pray that my heart will be open and welcoming to all people whilst standing against occupation.



Angleena with girls at psychosocial project in Gaza

Alongside previous mission partners from the Methodist Church we have all sought to support the Church of Scotland through preaching and pastoral support. **A partnership with the Church of Scotland is as important as any other partnerships within the land.**

What Tabeetha means to us

We are three friends from Grade 11, an Arab Muslim, Arab Christian and an Indian Israeli. We all attend Tabeetha School in Jaffa, where we have made precious friends that we wouldn't have made outside of school, and big friendship groups consisting of different people from different backgrounds.



Our school has people from different religions, cultures and walks of life always keeping the conversations flowing and humorous, and the debates interesting... (while still being respectful) because of our different points of view. Our teachers are **passionate and caring**, they keep us motivated and ready to learn even though we don't always feel like it.

Tabeetha is our **second home**. To us each student and staff member feels like family.

Sophie Adani, Nadeen Rifi, Aimee Abu Manneh

Olive Harvest in the West Bank



Two of our Committee members, Calum MacSween and Douglas Simpson, have just returned from their fourth trip to West Bank, working alongside farmers harvesting their olive crops.

The trip, organised by **Embrace the Middle East** included tours around the local area and meetings with some of the remarkable organisations working towards a just resolution to the ongoing conflict.

Calum commented, "it was a **stark reminder** of the harsh reality of day-to-day life in Occupied Palestine and their need for our prayers and practical support".

As well as meeting up with Rev Muriel Pearson to hear about her work in Tiberias, a particular highlight was an unscheduled visit to St Andrews Guesthouse.



The Foundation of St Andrew's Jerusalem

St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem was built in recognition of the sacrifices made by the many Scots'

Servicemen who fought and died in Palestine during the First World War. The

major Scottish formation was the 52nd Lowland Division, a Territorial Force, which fought from Egypt to Tel Arsuf, north of Jaffa from April 1916 until April 1918, but there were many other Scots besides. The foundation stone was laid by their commander, Field Marshal Sir Edmund Allenby in 1927.

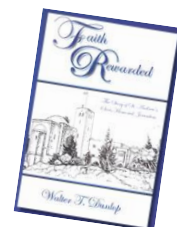


*Lord Allenby speaking at the laying of the Foundation Stone
7th May 1927*

Introducing Faith Rewarded

(The history of St Andrew's Scots Memorial Church, Jerusalem – available for £12 from friends@standrewsjerusalem.org)

The travel writer HV Morton discovered the church and Hospice (as it was then called) in Jerusalem in the 1930s: "One morning I walked down the dusty road from the Jaffa Gate to have a look at the Scots Hospice. Its site was chosen with real genius, for the white building shines from afar. There is nothing Scottish about its appearance, which is a tactful blend of Eastern and Western architecture."



Keep in Touch

- **Our new brochure.** We'll send you lots for sharing : friends@standrewsjerusalem.org
- **Our website :** standrewsjerusalem.org/friends
- **Life and Work :** the latest editions
- **Facebook :** <https://www.facebook.com/The-Friends-of-St-Andrews-Jerusalem-Tiberias>

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