



UP FRONT 126

16 April 2024

REV GARY BARCLAY, MINISTER, 586282

JOHN MARTIN, CLERK TO BOARD, 815817

JEAN HASTINGS, TREASURER, 811225

JOHN CROSS, SESSION CLERK, 818254

SERVICE

This Sunday's service will be led by Rev Gary Barclay after his return from holiday.

TEA ON TOUR

Our fourth 'Tea on Tour' takes place this Friday 19th April at the Coffee Bothy, Blairlogie at 2.30pm. To enable us to confirm numbers with the Coffee Bothy, please let Jean Hastings or Ann Lomax know if you would like to attend this event.

KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session meets on Monday 22nd April at 2.00pm in 2A Stein Square.

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH (1)

In this "Up Front" series we look at some of the issues which the Connect Groups were considering, and praying about, at their meetings this year.

There are two main organisations which highlight the persecution of the Christian Church throughout the world – **Open Doors** and **Release International**.

According to Open Doors, in **2023** at least **360 million Christians** experienced "**high levels of persecution and discrimination**", 20 million higher than 2022. The group also estimated that the number of Christians killed for their faith rose to 5,898 in 2023, up from 4,761 in 2021.

In Scotland it can be difficult to envisage some of the threats our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ live with, often on a daily basis. However, there are some signs that life is becoming more difficult for Christians in Scotland/UK.

Open Doors and Release International strive to **raise awareness** of persecution, seek **financial donations**, encourage **prayer support**, and establish **projects** which help Christians where they are persecuted.

SUMMER GARDEN TEA PARTIES

The garden tea parties organised over the last few years have proved to be very popular - so we are planning to have some more this year. We have enjoyed afternoon tea and a blether in several gardens (even in the rain!) and would like to visit some more.

The tea parties are being planned for the first Thursday of June, July, August and September. If you would like to 'volunteer' your garden please let Jean Hastings or Ann Lomax know. Tea, coffee and cakes are provided; all you need to provide is your garden and seats.



EASTER QUIZ

Thank you to everyone who took part in our online Easter Quiz. Congratulations to 'Spiderman', 'Birdman', 'Enter text here' and 'L' who were the winners this year.



You will be pleased to know that we are likely to be using the same questions next year (as we have done for the past three years) as there is very little evidence of people remembering the questions and answers!

PLANT SALE

Details of our mail order plant sale will be coming soon.

Murrayfield U. F. Church
are hosting a



on
Friday 26 April
at 7:30pm
in

Bannockburn Enterprise Hub
(Former Royal Bank of Scotland)

Cost £5 per person
All Welcome