



# UP FRONT 129

7 May 2024

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JOHN MARTIN, CLERK TO BOARD, 815817

JEAN HASTINGS, TREASURER, 811225

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## SERVICE

This Sunday's service will be led by Rev Gary Barclay in the Hub and on YouTube..

## THE PERSECUTED CHURCH (4) INDIA

India is the largest democracy in the world – but the 5% of the population which is Christian has suffered increasing persecution at the hands of a radical Hindu nationalist movement. They have been open and violent in opposing the church, particularly in rural areas.

In 2023, persecution against Christians hit the headlines, when in early January, riots against believers broke out in Chhattisgarh, where gangs of armed Hindu extremists went door to door and assaulted believers. In May, clashes in Manipur shook the region and the country, disproportionately impacting Christians. The violence left 400 churches in ashes and 50,000 believers displaced.

The belief among Hindu extremists is that Indians ought to be Hindu, and any other faith is not welcome. This mindset has led to violent attacks, to murder, beatings, and destruction of property. In places where the authorities are Hindu hardliners, the people who perpetrate this violence are rarely apprehended or punished. More and more states are also implementing anti-conversion laws, by which any Christians who share their faith can be accused of a crime, intimidated or assaulted.

## SUMMER GARDEN TEA PARTIES

Dates for the garden tea parties have now been fixed for Thursdays 13th June, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 1<sup>st</sup> August and 5<sup>th</sup> September. Thanks to those who have volunteered their gardens so far; if you'd like to volunteer yours, please let Jean Hastings or Ann Lomax know. Tea, coffee and cakes are provided; all you need to provide is your garden and seats.

## **PLANT SALE**

Order forms for this year's Plant sale are now available along with this Up Front. Orders should be given to Jean or Elizabeth Hastings by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We are grateful to them for organising this once again.

## **CONNECT GROUPS**

Connect Groups start up again next week on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm at Marion Jarvie's home in Greenacre Court and on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm at the home of John and Jan Cross. You are welcome to attend either group.

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Christian Aid Week this year is from 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May and envelopes will be available on Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> for those who wish to donate.



## **LADIES' DAY AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

This takes place at the Salutation Hotel in Perth on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 11.15am to 4.00pm. The theme is "Help in a Troubled World" and the major focus will be on Ukraine. Further details are on the attached sheet. PS It is open to men as well!

## **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The General Assembly itself takes place in Perth from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June and Murrayfield will again have five commissioners this year: Rev Gary Barclay, Rev Jan Cross, Prof Kenneth Scott, Mr John Cross and Miss Jean Bell.