

Last winter saw several thousand Shetland households cut off from electricity for some days. We give thanks for God's enduring help and encouragement as the God from whose loving power we are never cut off. We thank God for the development of the District Food for the Way project with its weekly meals and community gardening activities and for the renewal of worship at the island chapel at Whiteness and for re-engagement with families at North Roe and Walls.

## Scotland District Shetland District

### Chair

Mark Slaney

### Shetland District

### Deputy Chair

Stephen Charman

We pray for progress towards establishing a Fresh Start Centre to offer residential support for those affected by addiction; for the new Deputy Chair as he begins his ministry in Shetland and for others who will share in leading the mission of the Church through the islands and for continued growth of Messy Church and Vintage Messy in established and new settings.

What treasure can I find beneath your cross, Lord? Not silver or gold or jewels, treasure to be taken away and kept in a museum. Beneath your cross I find the treasure of hope and peace and forgiveness. From that place of death comes the treasure of life and joy and freedom. This treasure is not taken from me, and I pray that I may share this treasure gladly and effectively with others. This treasure is not simply to be viewed, but to be embraced and lived by your grace. Amen.

*Andrew Fox, former Deputy Chair, Shetland District*

We thank God for new ways of creating and resourcing ecumenical witness in Scotland. We pray for the deepening development of New Places for New People in Aberdeen, Dundee, East Glasgow and Girvan.



Hidden in plain sight this photograph contains four woodcock (small mottled brown birds) – can you see them?

*Photo: Mark Slaney*

We thank God for the partnership between City of Edinburgh Methodist Church and Westminster Central Hall. We pray for effective missional engagement with Edinburgh festivals.

We thank God for recently stationed ministers in Forth Valley Circuit and Strathclyde Circuit. We pray for Synod, circuits and churches as they envision and implement new structures to meet mission and ministry needs with diminishing resources.

We thank God for the new Woodlands International Methodist Church and its Ghanaian heritage. Praying for increasing diversity in living out Our Calling for all.

God in hiding, waiting in the dark, blowing over the formless void, speak a word of light and life, we pray, and make something out of this nothing once again.

God hidden in plain sight, divine treasure to be found in seeds and soils, yeast and dough, birds and trees, hunger and thirst, enemy and neighbour, bread and wine, open our eyes, give sight to our blindness and make us to see you once again.

God hiding in me like water, underground rising, seeping out, bursting out, pouring out, come Holy Spirit come and make me full to overflowing once again.

*Mark Slaney, District Chair, Scotland District*