



## From the Pastor



# Viewfield News

Sept  
2019

Newsletter of  
Viewfield  
Baptist  
Church  
Dunfermline

### For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Jim Elliott and 4 other young men gave their life to reach the Auca people with the Gospel. These men were murdered by the very people they were trying to reach.

In 1948, Jim Elliott wrote in his journal, *“I seek not a long life, but a full one, like you, Lord Jesus.”*

This statement would come true. Jim Elliott and his four comrades were killed on January 8, 1956. What has happened to the Aucas since then is proof that the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church. Many Aucas are now Christians. The Church in this area grew.

Jim Elliott was a man who lived all for Jesus. The words spoken by the Apostle Paul were also true for Jim Elliott.

**Philippians 1v21: *“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.”***

Here at Viewfield, as a local community of faith, we are a people who are striving to give all of our lives to Jesus and not just a part.

The Apostle Paul had been dramatically converted on the road to Damascus by an encounter with the risen Lord Jesus Christ. From this point on, the man who was known as Saul, a great persecutor of Christian’s, became Paul the great missionary who lived all for Jesus.

He travelled far and wide preaching the Gospel, planting Churches and encouraging believers.

The letter to the Church at Philippi was written during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment, during 60-63 A.D. Paul was in chains for Christ. *Philippians 1v12-14*

- Because of Paul's chains, Christ was *known* (Phil 1v13)
- Because of Paul's critics Christ was *preached* (Phil 1v18)
- Because of Paul's crisis, Christ was *magnified* (Phil 1v20)

Despite Paul suffering, persecution and imprisonment his desire was that Christ would be magnified. The word magnify means: ***"to make or declare great, and to increase"***

Paul's attitude was ***"No matter which way things go, I want Christ to be made to look great and I want him to increase"*** He lived a life that magnified the Saviour. **How?**

- **By exercising a complete dependence on Christ v19**

Paul was in a rough situation. He was in prison for preaching the Gospel and fellow Christians were trying to make it harder on him.

Yet Paul is a man at peace, completely dependent upon his Saviour. In ***Philippians 1v19*** Paul is saying: ***"I know that everything will be alright. God is in control"***

- **By possessing a determination to stand for Christ v20**

I love Paul's determination. He has been travelling and preaching the Gospel. He wasn't ashamed of the Gospel. Now that he has been arrested for this, the temptation would be to back off a bit, to tone it down a bit. However, Paul expresses in verse 20 the determination that he would continue to boldly stand for Christ. Paul is saying: ***"No matter which way things go (life or death), I want to boldly magnify Jesus Christ."***

- **By exhibiting a consuming desire to serve Christ v21-26**

Paul expressed his commitment to Christ v21 when he said ***"For to me to live is Christ, but to die is gain."*** Paul was torn between the two. Yes, dying would be his gain, but living would mean he could help advance Christ and his cause and bring forth more spiritual fruit. What a consuming passion to serve Christ! Can you honestly say: ***"For me to live is Christ?"*** If we are to magnify Christ, there must be a consuming passion to serve Christ. He must be first and be the reason we live.

As a Church we are called to live all for Jesus. All we do is for the glory and fame of the Lord Jesus. The Lord Jesus is building his church here at Viewfield. Are you playing your part?

**Rae**

## Fellowship News

Since the last issue we have been saddened by the passing of Pat Saddler and Bill Livingstone and continue to remember their families and friends in prayer.

On a happier note we rejoice with Louise MacDonald on the birth of Ewan in late August, assuring them also of our prayers

## Amazing Grace

A grace that does not look upon the just deserts of man  
But reaches passed the failings that we share  
All that we've done,  
All that we ever hope to do  
Would not deserve the love that shines from God.

He sees our needs, our wants and our desires  
He sees the paths our lives are plodding through  
And in His wisdom  
In His perfect Father's love  
He gives us more than we could ever hope to share.

Out of that love, that goes beyond our understanding  
His grace shines, with an abundance of its own  
Gifting us so much more than we could hope for  
Far beyond our imagination's reach.

*Helen Short*

## Regular at Viewfield? – Keep Informed!

The Viewfield Directory is open to everyone who attends Viewfield or considers themselves part of the Viewfield Family. If you would like to be included, please complete a GDPR Consent Form which is available at the teabar, or speak to Joe Fisher. Access to the online Directory and copies of the paper directory will only be made available to people who have their own entry in the Directory.

On completion of a GDPR form you will be sent a welcome email with information on how to access "Your ChurchBox Account". This will enable you to access up to date contact details for other people in the Viewfield congregation. The system also allows you to update your own details. We encourage you to use this if you can, but paper copies of the Directory will still be available on request from the Church Office.

# Children's Ministries

God is answering our prayers! During the vacancy a couple of years ago, we identified the need to have younger people and families as part of our church. We have been praying for more families to come along, and God is answering those prayers. In the last year we have had 64 children attend at least one of our Saturday events (not including many more who were at Step Into Summer where we didn't register the children because they attended with their families). And our average attendance at Children's Church is around three times as many now as it was two years ago.

This is exciting, but it is also challenging. On Sunday mornings we have been working with the same four leaders as we have had for years, but with growing numbers, we also need to expand the team. So we are looking for new leaders to join us.

Children are a key part of our church. They need to know they are loved and cared for. They need leaders who will get to know them, to understand them, to build relationships with them, to be able to follow up on conversations from one week to the next. They need people who will get alongside them to share their faith and to show by their example the difference Jesus makes in their lives, so that the children will be attracted to Jesus and want to follow him and grow in faith themselves. And, therefore, they need leaders who will commit to being there for them on a regular basis.

God answered our prayer for more children, and we continue to pray for further growth. So, now we need to pray that God will provide more leaders. We also need more people to join the Sunday morning Crèche rota, and we're looking for a new leader for the Thursday Toddlers group. Please pray about these needs and, in particular, ask God to show you if he is calling you to get involved in some aspect of Children's and Youth Ministry. You don't need to be experienced in Children's Work – we will be happy to ease new team members in and show you what needs to be done. If you enjoy spending time with children who are part of your wider family, then you can enjoy spending time with the children who are part of our church family.

Obviously we are all called to serve in different ways, and God won't be asking everyone to serve in Children's Ministry, but we would love to hear from anyone who would like to help. Or, if you would just like to have a chat to find out more about what would be involved so that you can consider and pray about whether this is something God is asking you to do, then please just speak to me for more information.

*Evelyn Stewart ([children@viewfield.org.uk](mailto:children@viewfield.org.uk) / 01383 860476)*



## Georgette at Tilsley with AIM

Thanks for your continued prayer and financial support for my ministry. We had our college graduation in June which went well and was a real celebration. We had a really mixed group of students last year with lots of different nationalities which was reflected in graduation.

At the moment, we are getting ready for the new academic year. We were anticipating a small number of first years this year but in fact now have a good number. I have taken on the role of Academic Dean so I'm busy making up timetables and interviewing prospective students as well as preparing lessons.



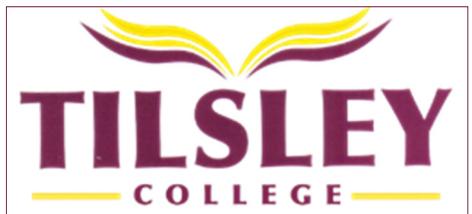
It is exciting to see what my former students from Kenya are doing. One couple are preparing to go to Senegal with AIM next year with their children and another is serving in a church in Nairobi encouraging mission.



Please pray for the students to settle in as we start the new term on September 16th and that we will prepare them well for their future ministries. Praise the Lord with me for financial provision for the next year due to a very

generous gift from one of my regular supporters and please pray for strength and wisdom for my new responsibilities.

Every blessing,  
*Georgette Short*



## Answers to prayer shared at the recent Stay and Pray

*Reproduced here with the contributors permission.*

1. In January 2017, following a routine health check, it was noted that my kidney function had dropped to a low level, giving concern. My doctor arranged for me to see a specialist at QM, who immediately transferred me to be a Nephrology outpatient at the hospital. The drop in kidney function, if it continued a downward spiral, could drop me into the need for dialysis. The consultant advised that there was no way of changing the function of the kidneys but she suggested we try to stabilise the drop in function by stopping my blood pressure medication in the hope that a higher pressure would pump more blood through the kidneys. I (we) prayed that the meds change would be effective.

Six months ago I was signed off from the hospital, as my kidney function had actually risen back to the normal (for me) function level pre January 2017, without any adverse effect to my blood pressure. Grateful for answered prayer.

2. A work colleague received a phone call whilst at work then burst into tears. She explained that her brother-in-law drove a car with a trailer as part of his job and that whilst doing this his trailer had come loose, hit a woman who had died. She was so sad on so many levels - for her brother-in-law, his family, the woman whose life had been taken and her family. I prayed, but remembered thinking how could any good come out of this for her brother-in-law, (severe lack of faith!) I kept praying on and off about this for a couple of months and eventually I got a chance to ask her how things were going. The next bit took me by surprise and woke me up at the same time. It turned out that the woman that was killed was a Christian as were her parents. And, her parents had sent a message to her brother-in-law through their minister. It was this: "We do not blame you for what happened and you are forgiven in our eyes. We hope you can have peace about it and rebuild your life."

There were tears in my eyes by the time she finished telling me this as I realised that, in answer to prayer, **my God can make the most of impossible situations.**

3. Giving thanks for the welcome I have received since first coming to Viewfield in mid-June and then regularly from the beginning of August.

I am particularly encouraged by the good number of men around and the fellowship at Men's Breakfasts and more recently the inaugural monthly Men's Social Night.

Pastor Rae MacKenzie preaches soundly from the Bible and expounds the Word with integrity and great feeling.

The management provided by an enthusiastic and Spirit-led team of Deacons, and office staff coordinating communications, is manifestly working extremely well and provides good structure (or bones of the body of Christ) on which the church is being built up. I witness this in every aspect of church life and is something I have waited a long time to see in Fife!

Prayer ministry and pastoral care is good and will involve more people as it flourishes and demonstrates the love of God. Similarly there is a momentum in the work with children and youth that shows and ensures the church fellowship has good growth across all age ranges.

### **These are all answers to prayers!!**

4. I have been praying over the last two months for a friend and a work colleague who is quite ill. She had developed sepsis after a prior illness and had almost died. She did recover from this but is still left in a lot of pain and also, has developed PTSD as a result of sepsis which killed her sister the year before. She has been off work for over 8 months now, and has shut herself off from all of her work friends and only sees her daughter. Her anxiety also means she doesn't go out much and can't cope with meeting anyone. I had been trying to give her words of comfort through messaging on social media, the only way she was communicating with me. Every time I prayed I asked for something to break this cycle she was in. Then the fire at our school happened, and our place of work for the last 12 years was burnt to the ground...so sad.

During the days after I was in contact with this friend more, updating her on what was happening and slowly, everyday those messages became longer and longer as we remembered all the fun times we had together in Woodmill. We shared photos and memories of all the young adults who had passed through our school and I could sense change. We are now communicating more and she has felt able to explain to me how she is feeling. We almost met up last week, but she cancelled at the last minute. However, now I have hope this will happen soon. **Thank you Father, for giving us hope.**

5. Over the summer months God has been challenging me and changing me in my personality and relationships with others. He has given me a confidence in myself that I never had before. He has shown me how to be myself and not take myself too seriously, to laugh at my mistakes and learn from them. He has shown me how to relax in people's company and to enjoy being with them. God is an amazing God, amen. **Thank you God**

# The feeling of powerlessness in Mozambique

*Some excerpts from a recent letter from Mark & Suzanne Barrell.*

Do you do lists? We do, and of late these have seemed quite long, involving project development for both CAPAZ (sewing) and AMAC (justice), language training, travel for conferences in Mozambique and in Kenya (see team photo below), trips to visit colleagues and colleagues visiting us, time with family both in



work and on holiday (although not necessarily together). Each has provided opportunities to ponder on what God is doing here in Mozambique and beyond, but at times leave us feeling a little overwhelmed and powerless.

It is not easy being a teenager in Mozambique, especially when your parents are both working full-time in mission, but a four week break allowed Lizzie to fly back by herself for a fabulously full month in the UK including camp as a tent leader, Soul Survivor and time with cousins and friends in Suffolk. Do remember her as she starts term three of year 10. Before Lizzie's trip to the UK we had the joy of welcoming her older brother Jake, and his girlfriend Beth, to Mozambique. It was both work, filming for BMS, and a chance to see our home. Mark accompanied them to Beira, his first visit since the cyclone, where Jake filmed places and interviewed people affected by the devastation in March. The city is again functioning, but the aftermath is fully evident with fallen trees everywhere and many buildings still lacking roofing and windows. Please don't forget this city in your prayers. (Jake's earlier film featuring South Sudan will be shown at Harvest in Viewfield)

Also please pray for:

- **Presidential Elections.** On 15th October we have elections. Pray for peace, safety and stability for Mozambique and us.
- Four energetic eighteen year olds arrive in November for five months in Maputo. Pray for the **Action Team;** and us as we prepare.
- **Portuguese.** Understanding and perseverance to cope with the confusion working in a second language can bring.

*Full prayer letter available from Jim & Mary-Jane Kirkland*

# Resourcing our Ministries and Vision

Over recent months we have been seeking God's leading regarding our vision for the ministry of Viewfield and our mission to our surrounding community. As discussed at recent Church Meetings, in addition to developing our existing ministries, we are working towards three key projects:

1. to install Soft Play equipment, a Sensory Room and Community Café in the Hall
2. to employ a Children and Families Worker (part time or full time)
3. to provide a drop-in facility for vulnerable people, possibly in partnership with an agency such as Bethany Christian Trust

Clearly if these are to go ahead they need to be resourced, both in personnel and in finance. If you would like to get involved either in the development of these projects, or in volunteering once they are established, please speak to Rae, Joe, Pete or Evelyn.

It's been really encouraging to see growth in financial support for our church. At the spring Church Meeting we reported that donation income for 2018-19 was 24.5% higher than the previous year. Since then our donation income has increased by almost 20%. However, our target, in order to be able to support our growing ministries and vision including the appointment of a Children and Families Worker, is to have an increase of 31% compared to last year. (For a more detailed financial update, please see the Annual Reports.)

If you would like to commit to regular financial support for our ongoing ministries, here are some options to consider:

- use weekly or monthly offering envelopes to help you to plan your giving
- set up a standing order, or give by bank transfer
- if you are a UK tax payer, then you can sign a Gift Aid Declaration which will allow us to claim back the tax you have already paid on that donation which equates to a further 25% on top of the amount you give i.e. if you give £100, it will be worth £125 to the church

If you give under the Gift Aid Scheme, it is necessary for us to keep details about your giving, but by using a reference number, the only person who will know how much you are giving is myself. If you prefer that no one in Viewfield will know how much you are giving, you could set up an account

with Stewardship Services ([stewardship.org.uk](http://stewardship.org.uk)) or Charities Aid Foundation ([cafonline.org](http://cafonline.org)). They can process your Gift Aid claims and forward donations to the church, or any other charity, anonymously. They will, however, charge a small admin fee.

We have also re-opened the Project Fund which will be used to raise funds for the Soft Play and Community Café. If you would like to make a donation to this, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Project Fund" and put it in the offering bag, making sure you use your Gift Aid number if you have one (envelopes are available by the tea bar). Or make a Bank Transfer with "Project Fund" as the reference.

If you would like envelopes, a standing order form, a Gift Aid Declaration form, or to discuss any aspect of giving and/or Church finances, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If you already give regularly and would like to change the amount you are giving, there is no need to let me know – just change the amount of your standing order or the amount you are putting in your envelope.

*Evelyn Stewart ([finance@viewfield.org.uk](mailto:finance@viewfield.org.uk) | 01383 860476)*

## **An Ancient Prayer**

Give me a good digestion Lord,  
And also something to digest.  
Give me a healthy body Lord,  
With sense to keep it at its best.  
Give me a healthy mind, O Lord,  
To keep the good and pure in sight,  
Which seeing wrong is not appalled  
But finds a way to set it right.

Give me a mind that is not bored,  
That does not whimper, whine or sigh.  
Don't let me worry overmuch  
About that fussy thing called "I".  
Give me a sense of humour Lord,  
Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some happiness from life  
And pass it on to other folk.

I picked up a copy when visiting Lanhydrock Estate in Bodmin in June. It made me smile - and think!! *Nena Albrock*

# The Summer in Retrospect

I don't know if it's because I'm getting older but time seems to whizz past - although when I'm waiting at a bus stop or on a station platform with a 4 year old it doesn't go past quite as fast as I would like! It seems as if it was just yesterday that I was preparing for the beginning of summer activities, spending time booking coach tickets for Scripture Union Scotland Holidays, being in the Isle of Man, first for Lifepath at the end of June, then later back for Port St Mary Beach Mission at the end of July. Then in the middle driving minibuses and trying to help people with their IT problems.

Like everything in our Christian walk, running these summer events is not easy, with many practical, pastoral and spiritual issues to deal with. The only way through is relying on God.

The Scripture Union Bible Reading Notes have this last week been looking at Nehemiah. Here we see a man who saw the importance of prayer and serving/working. He prayed, he listened and then he worked, and he worked very hard and was an excellent example to those that he lived with.

That is how we try to work as a team on Mission. With so much happening it's easy to push out the prayer and the waiting and listening, so we start the day with our Prayer Time and we timetable in "Quiet Time" for team members.

In our day to day lives the same can happen with the stresses and pressures of our daily lives pushing out the prayer and the waiting and listening.

Each year perhaps our biggest concerns for Beach Mission is having a big enough team, in particular having a cooking team, and having people with a range of abilities and experience. So we pray and we make our needs known. Each year we end up with a great team. Sometimes we don't have all the posts covered and we need to move people around. One year we didn't have a cooking team for the second week so local Christians came in on a rota basis and fed us. This year we had a new chief cook who had only one year's experience as assistant cook, but he did a fantastic job, with an all new team of assistants – very much an answer to prayer. We also had our biggest ever team of 80 people (around a third of whom were part time) which was fantastic because we also had a significant rise in the number of children and young people

attending, with almost 400 registered, more than half of whom are not linked to any church. Children and young people across the age groups were enthusiastic, with many keen to discuss what it means to be a Christian. We were especially encouraged to see many of the teenagers growing in their faith.

Thank you to everyone who prayed and encouraged us over the summer – by supporting us in this way; you were part of the team.

And finally here is one of the prayer requests/thanks from the SU Scotland prayer line which sums up what had been happening over the summer:

“We can rejoice and thank God for the news from one of this week’s events that a number of young people have just committed or re-committed their lives to Christ after evidence of real spiritual hunger last night. There is also evidence of the reality of the spiritual battle however, with challenging disciplinary issues emerging at the same and other events. Please pray for God’s protection over all the campers and leaders and wisdom for leaders responding to these issues

*David Stewart*

## **Sunday Fellowship Lunches**

Our first lunch was on 21st October 2018 when 23 people attended. This was followed by one on 24th March and a third on 25th July 2019 with numbers of 39 and 48 respectively. It was really great to see the numbers increase each time and how old and new friends from Viewfield came along and the objectives of sharing experiences and getting to know each other better were achieved.

Having spoken to quite a number of friends since the last lunch, there seems to be a continuing demand so, it is now intended to have another lunch at the Elgin Hotel in Charlestown on Sunday 24th November. Although in November (to avoid the Christmas rush), the hotel will lay on some Christmas options and is also reviewing the menu generally. This will be an opportunity to look back on the past year, chat about all the changes we have seen in Viewfield and to look forward to next year. It would be great if we could top the July numbers as we head for a new year.

Watch out for more information in the Sunday Bulletin

*David Reid*

'Pray for Schools' has as its vision that every School in Scotland be prayed for. Perhaps you might want to join with other Christians in your area to pray for your local School or perhaps your Small Group could do that as well.



More information at: [www.suscotland.org.uk/pray/pray-for-schools-scotland](http://www.suscotland.org.uk/pray/pray-for-schools-scotland)

Here are the latest Prayer topics from "Pray for Schools" which you might want to use both as individuals and in your Small Groups:

- Give thanks: Be thankful for your local schools and all who teach in them. Pray that pupils and staff will have a positive attitude. Why not send a note to those who are finding school tough, telling them you are praying for them?
- Staff: Pray for a good start to term. Pray that challenges are quickly overcome, new staff settle in well and staff bond well together as a team.
- Pupils: Pray for those starting nursery, P1 or S1, that they settle down quickly, make friends and enjoy their new learning environment. Pray for children and young people you know, that school would be a positive place for them. Pray for senior pupils not to be anxious about exams and their future. Pray for calm, and for Christian pupils in particular to step out in faith and seek God's leading and guiding.
- SU Groups: Pray for energy and encouragement for those restarting SU Groups; for favour in the school, good attendances and a real sense of fun and enjoyment in exploring the Bible. Pray for schools who would love a group but there are no leaders: pray for God to put the right people in place!

And of course in our local area please continue to pray for Woodmill High School Staff and Pupils and the DAS Unit (Department of Additional Support, which has pupils from across the West Fife Area) as they cope with moving to temporary accommodation.

*David Stewart*

## **Editor's Note**

My thanks to those who have taken the time to send contributions, always room for more!

A pdf version of the Viewfield News is available on the Church Website at <http://www.viewfield.org.uk>



# Dunfermline

## Recruitment Drive 2019

TO: All Dunfermline Churches

We are looking for:

- Men and women 18 – 80 + years old
- Committed Christians
- Who want to make a difference in their Community
- One Saturday night shift per month

Or if you prefer a 2hr day time Patrol

### ***Do you want to Listen, Care & Help***

We are looking to deliver the complete training Programme with Edinburgh Street Pastors over just two weekends, in October and November 2019 (Friday evening, Saturday Daytime and Sunday).

For further information.

Please speak to a Street Pastor in your Church or email:

[dunfermline@streetpastors.org.uk](mailto:dunfermline@streetpastors.org.uk)

*Dunfermline Street Pastors is part of a UK wide team, first pioneered in 2003, that continues to grow throughout the UK and across the world.*

*Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches and we care about our community.*

*We are usually on patrol from 10 p.m. to 3.30 a.m. on Saturday nights to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.*

*We also have a large mobile safety van 'Abraham' that is parked (when operational) on the High Street where we can chat, offer basic first aid, a listening ear and a hot cuppa.*

*We are led by our local coordinator and we also have support from local churches and community groups in partnership with the police, local council and other statutory agencies.*

## Books by 'Viewfield' Christian Authors

### What's Up Doc? A Surgeon's Story

Recently, Dr Riaz Mohammed has published his autobiography. Riaz and Janet (his wife) were members of Viewfield from 1988-2001, while Riaz was a consultant surgeon at the Queen Margaret Hospital and was well known in the area owing to his medical work. He subsequently moved to Glasgow and is retired and living in Edinburgh.

His book covers from his childhood, when at the age of six his Muslim family immigrated to the UK, settling in Glasgow. He was born in the village of Gujarat in Pakistan in the province of Punjab. It is perhaps surprising today, but Riaz experienced throughout his life a good deal of discrimination owing to his Pakistani origin. Despite, the difficulties encountered along the way, the thread which runs through his book is that of an early, developing faith which matured to fortify him for the experiences ahead. He continuously attributes to God His help in overcoming the many hurdles in his life. He became one of the best qualified and top surgeons in Scotland who ensured that his Christian belief was foremost in his career and family life.

A good read available from Amazon. *Or, at a reduced rate of £10, courtesy of Riaz, you can get a copy from David Reid*

### **The Rodney Eldridge Trilogy - Letters to the Editor (2012), Lessons for the Nation (2017), Loops of Dubious Worth (to be published October 2019)**

The Rodney Eldridge Trilogy of novels has been written by David Golder McKenzie who is currently a member of Viewfield with his wife, son and daughter-in-law. David, now retired, was an Assistant Rector and maths teacher at Queen Anne High School in Dunfermline. In all three novels, David uses a very creative technique to address many of the cultural issues of today. The latest - "Loops of Dubious Worth" explores the church's degree of involvement in current culture and why it must not allow the fake news propounded by secularism and aggressive atheism to control the social narrative. To learn more you will have to buy the book.

All three are highly recommended reading and none is a massive tome, well within everyone's budget and appetite for a story.

All three are available from Amazon and "Letters to the Editor" can also be purchased from Waterstone's and other book shops.

*David Reid*

# Symphonic praise

**Sunday 6th October 7.30pm**

Palmerston Place Church  
*Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, EH12 5AA*

**Free tickets:**

[www.originscotland.org](http://www.originscotland.org) or call 0131 208 0095

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*Join the  
Origin Scotland singers  
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some of the greatest hymns  
ever written.*



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