

IONA COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2018

INTRODUCTION

As I read through this report I couldn't help thinking "There's a lot going on!" Having sat in the Convener's chair for a year, this came as affirmation rather than surprise – an antidote to my being consumed by the particular and the immediate. The Iona Community is active and relevant to many as it seeks to "find new ways to touch the hearts of all".

I write this on the eve of our Annual General Meeting when we gather to account to one another for what we have done over the past year and where we hope to go – a vital part of our Rule which states "supporting one another in prayer and by meeting, communicating and accounting with one another for the use of our gifts, money and time, our use of the earth's resources and our keeping of all aspects of the Rule". This report is part of that accounting – thank you for listening.

Brian Crosby

Convener of Council

(Following the 2019 AGM, a financial statement will be added to this Report)

1. THE RECOVERY OF THE KNIFE-EDGE

'There are times when our prayer life is refreshing; but analysed, they turn out to be the times when the pressures have been so weighty that you have simply had to go with them to God. But this is precisely the recovery of the knife-edge. The religious moment flows from the practical. When we have wrestled with our state and given it to God, the illuminative becomes our urgent need and not our pious obligation.' (from 'Only One Way Left' by George MacLeod, *The Iona Community 1955*)

These words of George MacLeod's had a fresh resonance for the Iona Community in 2018. Would a season without residential guests in the Abbey mean that that common life of work and prayer would cease to be central to the Community's life on Iona? Would the Capital Appeal raise enough money to enable us to move directly on to Phase Two of the refurbishment programme? Would the gargantuan task of stripping out every bit of furnishing and fitting after sixty years in occupation ever be finished?

And how would the Community manage the financial and organisational pressures of another year without our main source of income? There were many days when the illuminative did indeed become the urgent need.

Many of the answers are to be found in the following reports from the Community's diverse areas of work. And as is so often the case, major work on the infrastructure of a building has needed to be accompanied by work on the organisational infrastructure and systems. Much of this derives from the Community's existence as both a **movement** with a voluntary membership, and as a **charitable organisation** running several businesses - three residential centres, a shop and a publishing house. In addition, the Community owns or leases a substantial portfolio of properties. The challenges of running both of these in tandem are experienced by many voluntary organisations, including churches. Regulatory frameworks and public expectations have changed hugely in the last three decades, and the commitment and knowledge required of Trustees in particular is considerable. The governance of the Iona Community needs continuing review and reform to ensure that it enables us to meet strategic priorities. Strengthening the organisation, its strategic planning and decision-making processes, finances, property maintenance and operating model are central to this work.

The Iona Community Council has therefore established two time-limited working groups, reflecting the two main ways in which the Community invites its members to participate in Point Four of its Rule: *Sharing in the corporate life and organisation of the Community.*

- As voluntary dispersed members of a **movement**, united by our Rule of mutual prayer and accountability, working for justice, peace and the integrity of creation locally, nationally and internationally, meeting together in local family groups, regional and community-wide plenaries, and Community Weeks and participating in thematic working groups.
- As those members who give their time and energy to the **governance** of the Community in its organisational aspects, serving as Trustees or co-opted members of Council, or its committees and working groups.

These working groups will report to the March Council with their recommendations, for final approval at the AGM in June.

The questions continue. But the prayer also goes on. As the report from Iona indicates, thousands of people from across the world worshipped with the Community in the Abbey last year. The Wild Goose Resource Group continues to be in great demand in its faithful and ongoing task of resourcing and supporting the whole people of God in the work of the people that is liturgy, song and prayer. At Camas, celebrating 70 years as part of the Iona Community, many young people share the experience of 'reading God's big book' (*John Scotus Eriugena*), the created world in all its beauty and fragility. Our publications and our magazine and e-magazine, Coracle, continue to remind us that '*God is life; not religious life, nor Church life, but the whole life that we now live in the flesh.... God is the Life of life.*' And the hidden ministry of the Iona Prayer Circle involves around 600 people world-wide in regular prayer for people and situations in need or distress. The Community is grateful to one of its members, Rosemary Power, for her faithful work of co-ordination of the Prayer Circle for the last three years. Another member, Chris Polhill, will now take on this vital role.

2019 is another year without a residential programme, as work continues on the refurbishment of the living accommodation. But the worship goes on daily, the Welcome Centre and Shop still have open doors, and planning is now in full swing for the re-opening of the Abbey as a place of daily living, hopefully by Easter 2020. The Community, like everyone else, does not know what impact Brexit might have on its work, or on its ability to welcome guests and volunteers from every corner of the world. It is to be hoped that it will still be able to offer in the Abbey that place of reconciliation, witness for justice and common prayer to members of the Body of Christ worldwide which has drawn so many thousands of them over the centuries.

In all of these adventures, and in the daily prayer of the members gathered and scattered, the Iona Community trusts that '*God is love, and love is never static, it is always outgoing.*' *Closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet, God is with us.*' In a world where peace is so often crowded out by angry and divisive words which hurt and exclude, many long for access to the silence. '*A corporate commitment is the fibre of our prayer.... We are already passed from death unto life because we love the brothers and sisters.*'

Christian MacLean and Kathy Galloway, Co-Leaders

(All quotations from 'Daily Readings with George MacLeod', ed Ron Ferguson, Wild Goose Publications)

2. IONA ABBEY CAPITAL APPEAL

2018 has been a miraculous year for the Iona Abbey Capital Appeal. Phase 1 was completed to include:

- a lift and fully accessible bathroom
- a new welcome area with a small kitchen
- safer lighting and insulation
- preparations undertaken for Phase 2.

The high standard of the work enhances the inherent beauty of the Abbey accommodation. From January 2018, the campaign re-doubled efforts to raise the funds needed to complete the task. It really has been an extraordinary journey, with everyone pitching in to help with concerts, calendars and a request for help to organisations called 'Columba'. Whether walking or swimming, people have 'gone the extra mile'. Stories of transformation accompanied donations and when, during May, we sought to bring Phase 2 forward by a year, 830 people from 13 different countries helped to raise £312,139 during the month! Such staggering generosity caused members to recall the miraculous story of how wood 'became available' for the reredorter roof in the 1940s. Blessing followed blessing such that, when assets from a defunct Christian charity were assigned to the Iona Community, the work on Phase 2 was started in November, 2018, twelve months earlier than planned.

Work will continue at the Abbey until spring 2020. It has been a collaborative effort with Historic Environment Scotland and Iona Cathedral Trust whilst, on behalf of the islands Council, Iona Renewables will install a unique renewable energy heating system.

The journey has been informed and supported by Members; Associates; Friends; supporters; islanders; Trust Funders; and 'out of the blue' donations. From £1 to £882,857.30 every donor will be recorded in a commemorative book to be displayed in the Abbey. During December 2018, the University of Glasgow hosted a reception at which The Princess Royal was the honoured guest. Her Royal Highness spoke individually to every person and graced those gathered with her reflection of the work of the Iona Community, with community being at the heart of work that has an international reach. In appreciation of her royal patronage and to her delight, the Iona Community presented the Princess with two pairs of socks made from Iona wool!

A capital campaign initiated to raise £3.7 million has a significant impact for the organisation. People are needed with skills to design, administer, oversee, communicate and completely empty the Abbey of its contents! Effective management and strategic planning have been required to support the non-residential seasons with faith needed to work through complexities which arise on a remote Hebridean island. The Development Team of Raymond Young and Walter Dunlop, the Iona Futures Group steered by Neil Squires and the Appeal Group of Chris Jones, Isabel Sarle, Jo MacInnes, Phyllis Ives (USA), Benedicte Scholefield, Joy Coppell and Maria O'Neill have all played a crucial role. Meanwhile, the Iona Community has continued to work for peace and justice in a turbulent world.

1,500 people and organisations contributed to the Appeal, the trust and generosity has been humbling. 'Why are we doing this' is the question we hold before us in looking towards 2020. Celebrations may include the opening of the new Village Hall, the development of the island-driven renewable energy scheme and the re-opening of the refurbished community space at the Abbey. As an original builder, previous Leader and Warden, John Harvey has contributed to Iona Abbey Project Group since day one:

'Since it was first built for the Benedictine community in the 13th Century, successive communities have had to renew, enlarge and rebuild Iona Abbey many times - it has always been a work in progress. Our contribution over these last few years is the latest in a long line of offerings to and for this building and it certainly won't be the last. It remains a huge privilege to share in the care of such a gifted place - for Scotland and for the whole world.'

Christine Jones: Co-ordinator, Iona Abbey Capital Appeal

3. IONA ABBEY

2018 was a '**year with a difference**' at Iona Abbey. Being closed for residential guests due to Phase I of the refurbishment of parts of the abbey accommodation, the community decided to offer hospitality to tourists and pilgrims in the form of a café in the abbey refectory.

Open seven days a week for just over three months, we hosted in excess of 3,800 guests for morning coffee and afternoon tea and a simple, wholesome and home cooked lunch.

The operation was run by a small but dedicated and hard-working international team of members and associates of the Iona Community who formed a temporary resident community of the common life,

based on the old principles of 'ora et labora' and provided endless opportunities to engage in conversations with day visitors, weekly residents and many islanders, too.

In addition, there were a number of programme weeks run by the Community in conjunction with the Programme Development Worker, Community and outside speakers both at the start and the end of the season, based at the Columba Hotel. Overall, these had a positive impact on the life and work of the Community as they provided additional opportunities for engagement with the ethos of the Community and other opportunities of involvement for participants.

Services in the Abbey Church were held daily at 9am and 9pm and 10.30am on Sundays, attended throughout the season by great numbers of people from all over the world. Highlights were Holy Week and Easter and, for the first time in many years Columba Day, organised by local ministers of denominations represented on the island, which also marked the official end of Phase I of the refurbishment, even though building work continued for another month, which caused some unavoidable and regrettable delay for the refectory café project.

In the autumn, the refurbishment of the Abbey library by the Iona Cathedral Trust came to a successful conclusion and the library was opened in the presence of the Duke of Argyll and his family, Trustees of the Cathedral Trust and a good number of civic representatives, members of the island community and the general public.

Throughout the year, the Community continued to be involved in the affairs of the island through participation in meetings of the island council, the island business forum, the ground source heating and the village hall projects, as well as other areas of concern, lending support and giving encouragement wherever possible for the benefit of the whole island community.

In October, the Abbey was successfully cleared by John Dale and his dedicated team in time for the beginning of Phase II in November.

In 2018 Iona Abbey was:

- A place of hospitality and encounter,

- Providing a challenging rhythm of work, prayer and common life and opportunities for staff, volunteers and visitors to explore concerns of justice, peace and preservation of creation in worship and dialogue.
- A place to explore, model and celebrate community and nurture and resource people
- Creating space to encounter and share the love of God in and through service
- Successfully delivering a new, exciting hospitality project

The main challenges arose from issues of governance (at present addressed by the governance review group), difficulties in forward planning and a (subsequent) insufficient staffing structure on the island. We have learned from this experience as we look to the reopening in 2020.

For me, the greatest rewards were the opportunity to lead a staff team which was dedicated and at times prepared to serve beyond the threshold of duty, and to contribute to the common life.

Heinz Toller: Iona Centre Manager

4. IONA COMMUNITY SHOP

The Community Shop is the public face of the Iona Community on Iona. It is a place of ministry, witness and hospitality, a consistent source of income generation which also supports a visitor attraction. Customers include day visitors, guests from the Community and other island centres.

The shop is located within the Community's Welcome Centre, near the Abbey, and its literature, crafts and other products reflect the Community's ethos and concerns for the renewal of worship, community-building and peace and social and ecological justice.

Great care is taken to source products from a range of small family-run businesses, local where possible, and fair-trade organisations. It holds a core range of excellent books that include the Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications (and music), Scottish history, geography and literature, and children's books, along with Celtic jewelry, sacramental items, pilgrimage guides, clothing, maps and cards.

It is an attractive and welcoming space, and it is to the credit of the 2018 Shop Manager, Susan Allen, and her dedicated team of volunteers, that in spite of all of the upheaval around them, they had such a successful season.

5. CAMAS CENTRE

Camas had a very full season in 2018, running all the way from early March to end of October with each week being occupied. Many of the weeks in peak season were at full occupancy or nearly full. We have had some fantastic weeks with groups such as the GK Experience, St Paul, United Glasgow, the Barn, and Cre8. We were hugely lucky with some very sunny and dry weather for weeks on end which made running activities very easy although it also meant we didn't have much wind power. Youth Festival was very successful thanks to a well organised youth team, as were many of the adult and university weeks. Generally, we received excellent feedback from all groups and individuals. Almost all want to come back next year and say that Camas is important to them and is great value.

Camas has had a very capable team this year. I was fortunate coming in as the new coordinator that many of the staff had already done a few seasons and knew the place very well. The volunteer team was really excellent and they worked incredibly hard. We were sad to be saying goodbye to Hannah and Barry (Programme Workers) who have given a tremendous amount to Camas over several years. We are very glad to be welcoming Brig and Angela to the resident team. Brig has worked for Venture Trust and for Lagganlia Outdoor centre and comes with a wealth of outdoor skills and experience. Angela has volunteered at Camas for the past two seasons and will be the Environment Programme Worker.

A highlight in 2018 was the planting of over 2,000 native trees at Camas. This was made possible by donations to our Crowdfunding appeal, and with the help of volunteers from New Caledonian Woodlands. Groups were enthusiastically beating back the bracken all summer to allow light to the young saplings. Over time this project will greatly help to restore the natural ecology of the area as well as being a beautiful place to explore.

Another highlight has been releasing the Camas film. This was widely shared around the web and has been viewed over twelve thousand times helping to raise Camas' profile and the work that goes on down the track. The 7-minute film gives a picture of what groups can expect from a week at Camas, what makes Camas special and what it means to many different people. Young people from SiMY Youth

Development in Glasgow were interviewed as part of the film and talk about what stands out for them about Camas.

<https://iona.org.uk/island-centres/camas-the-outdoor-centre-with-a-difference/camas-video-and-blog/>

We're looking forward to another great year at Camas. Most of the weeks have been filled already, and while it is always a challenge for groups to find funding, we are confident that Camas delivers something quite unique in Scotland and continues to be a very valuable experience for many people from all walks of life.

Darragh Keenaghan: Camas Co-ordinator

6. CARLTON COURT, GLASGOW

Carlton Court, on the south bank of the River Clyde on the edge of the Gorbals, is the Glasgow home of the Iona Community. Very near the city centre with excellent transport links, it houses the Community's administrative and finance staff; they are the people who often don't get seen, but are the beating heart of its work, and the Community is extremely grateful to them for their dedicated service. Carlton Court is an ideal location for a regular programme of urban events and encounters, including a weekly liturgy. It has played host on several occasions to a Hadeel and Fair-Trade Pop-Up Shop. It is also the base for:

6.1 Wild Goose Resource Group (WGRG)

The WGRG are a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community concerned with the development of liturgy, song, prayer and creative approaches training, with a particular emphasis towards the training of the laity. It exists to enable and equip congregations and clergy in the shaping and delivery of contextual and relevant, participative worship. It consists of three resource workers, John L. Bell, Jo Love & Graham Maule and administrator, Gail Ullrich.

In 2018, John continued to be in great demand throughout Scotland, the remainder of the UK and beyond. In churches, centres and conferences in Ireland, N. Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Canada and the USA, he led workshops, enabled worship and preached – for local parishes, ecumenical groupings, denominational councils and organisations. In the summer, he was one of the two main speakers (the other was hymn-writer, Marty Haugen) at the National Network of Pastoral Musicians

conference which focused on the theme 'Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive'. At Greenbelt Festival in August, he delivered seminars for the 34th consecutive year. And as has been the case for many years, John featured on BBC Radio 4 with multiple 'Thought For The Day' inputs and a Daily Service. Throughout the year, in a variety of forms and places, John has particularly been exploring the Psalms – in terms of what a closer involvement with them might look like beyond the conventional church encounters.

Some of the highlights of Jo's 2018 would be as follows: she took on an invitation from the Church of Scotland Priority Areas committee to organise and lead a series of three workshop days encouraging creative approaches and 'ways in' to the Bible. As we go to print, a second series is being worked on for Spring 2019. She agreed to a second term of service with the Mission & Discipleship Council and its subgroup 'Resourcing Worship', and with the Iona Community Board. She also continues as a contributing writer with Spill the Beans (the all-age worship and learning resource), which this year ventured into a one-year experimental new lectionary compiled in response to subscribers' feedback about often overlooked Scripture stories. Ecumenically, Jo keeps up her role as creative advisor to the Scottish Committee of the World Day of Prayer, now for a fifth year. In the summer she was Worship Co-ordinator for the General Assembly of the Ecumenical Forum of European Christian Women, a lively gathering of 100 women from 22 nations, held at Soko Grad Orthodox Monastery in Serbia. In the latter part of the year, she had an adventurous autumn away on a three-month sabbatical.

While Graham's remit tends to be less event-focused than that of his colleagues, 2018 nevertheless saw him contribute to the Church Service Society's 'Technodoxology' conference in Lanark as main speaker, as well as leading worship at Scottish Christians Against Nuclear Arms (SCANA) annual Pentecost worship, and at a monthly participative liturgy in Glenapp.

In collaboration with the Iona Community's Programme Development Worker, WGRG continued to develop the weeWONDERBOX events programme for a second full year, largely at the Community's base on the south side of the Clyde. WWBox allows us to reclaim and rearticulate, in the urban context, large parts of one of the original, core purposes of the Iona Community – that of training God's people. Regular 'Wee Weekly Worships' each Wednesday evening continued to provide liturgical punctuation to the twelvemonth; and we have organised other one-off events, weekend urban retreats and pilgrimages. There were two major series - 'The Wee Music Box' on the potentials of music in worship, pastoral work and spirituality; and 'Violence Divine', a 10 week 'Living the Questions' DVD-based faith exploration of

the betrayal of the essential non-violence of the Judeo-Christian tradition and God. In June, the second 'ColumbaFest' weekend festival of faith, politics, culture and creativity, again celebrated compelling themes in the life of the saint who founded the monastery on Iona and from there Christianised Scotland.

Graham Maule: WGRG

6.2 Mainland Programme

Once again, we have also extended hospitality to individuals and small groups passing through Glasgow who want to engage with and learn about the Iona Community in different ways.

The Community was also present again at Greenbelt where we used our venue (shared this year with Church Action on Poverty) to host and present a range of programme events which reflected our ethos, interests and concerns. It also allowed us to offer hospitality and to engage in more informal ways with people interested in exploring the Community's life and witness. In addition, we led worship in one of the main venues on the opening night of the festival.

6.3 Youth Programme

This was the first year of our very scaled-back mainland youth programme and involved three part-time workers. Despite these constrained circumstances, we ran a residential Youth Festival at our Camas Centre on Mull in which young people, chiefly from Glasgow, enjoyed a varied programme of outdoor activities, discussions, games, and creative challenges. Once again this also provided an opportunity to offer some training and development for young leaders. *IGLOW* - our Glasgow-based youth club - has also continued to meet regularly, exploring a wide variety of different topics and experimenting with different formats for meeting. Looking to the future, we have also used 2018 to conduct a wide-ranging audit of our youth work, including extensive consultations with young people who are currently, or have been recently, involved in our programmes - either as participants or as young leaders. This report is an important part of a strategic review of our youth work which is currently being carried out.

Pat Bennett: Programme Development Worker

7. WILD GOOSE PUBLICATIONS

<https://www.ionabooks.com/>

Through its publications, the Iona Community offers inspiration and resource on holistic spirituality, social justice, political and peace issues, healing, innovative approaches to worship, song in worship, including the work of the Wild Goose Resource Group, and material for meditation and reflection. In 2018, its extensive range of e-books and downloads outsold its print publications for the first time.

2018 was another very busy year for Wild Goose Publications during which we published several new books and e-books, as well as numerous short downloads providing liturgies and resources relating to various occasions and subjects.

7.1 New books published:

Iona of My Heart, Neil Paynter; *The Warriors Who Do Not Fight*, Alison Phipps & Tawona Sitholé; *Known Unknowns*, John L Bell & Graham Maule; *The Sound of Iona* (CD), Kenneth Steven; *Strange Majesty: The hymns of Leith Fisher*, Douglas Galbraith; *Olives & Obligations*, Ruth Burgess; *The Very Life of Life*, Tom Gordon; *Open Our Hearts*, Ann Gerondelis; *Wild Goose Big Book of Liturgies vol. 2*, The Iona Community; *Fig Trees & Furnaces*, Ruth Burgess.

7.2 New e-books:

All the above titles except *Known Unknowns* and *The Sound of Iona*, for which an audio download is available.

7.3 New original downloads:

Love Endures, Jan Sutch Pickard; *Lord of the Upper Room*, Roddy Cowie; *Out of Our Brokenness*, Jan Sutch Pickard; *Waiting for the Light*, Rebeka Maples; *God of Desert Places*, Rebeka Maples; *Take, Eat, I Call You My Friend*, Alison Swinfen; *Seven Moments*, Stephen J Maunder; *Walking in a Wider World*, Peter Millar; *A Story of Love*, Ruth Burgess; *An Ordinary Day*, Joy Mead; *Women at the Well*, Janet Lees; *For a Discernment*, Rosemary Power & the Iona Prayer Circle; *The Gift of Life*, Paul Nicolson; *For an International Situation*, Rosemary Power & the Iona Prayer Circle; *For a Person with a Chronic Long-Term Illness*, Rosemary Power & the Iona Prayer Circle; *Compline*, Rosemary Power & the Iona Prayer

Circle; *My Gran's Porch*, Ruth Burgess & Thom M Shuman; *A Harvest Blessing* (song), Philip Fox; *God's Harvest Gifts* (song), Philip Fox; *Only One You* (song), Philip Fox; *Peace to You* (song), Philip Fox; *A Blessing for a New Car*, David Coleman; *The Granaries of Heaven*, Roddy Cowie; *Irish Blessing* (song), Philip Fox; *Celebrating Love for All God's Creation*, Nancy Cocks; *Prayer of Approach for Christ the King*, David Coleman; *Prayers for Remembrance Sunday*, Roddy Cowie; *The Gospel According to Sheep*, Janet Lees; *The Council of the Magi*, Richard Skinner; *Jesus Comes* (song), Philip Fox; *The Light Which Illumines the World*, Peter Millar.

16 new downloads from already-published books were also added.

As always, we are grateful to our authors for providing material that so many people around the world find of inspiration and great use.

Sandra Kramer: Publishing Manager

8. MEMBERSHIP

Three new members were welcomed into full membership at the Hallowing Service held in Glasgow at our AGM in June. Currently, there are 16 people on the New Members Programme. Iona Community groups meet regularly in the Netherlands, Austria, Finland, Germany, Switzerland and the USA. In October 2018, for the first time ever, Community Week was held outside Scotland, in a beautiful Mennonite Conference Centre in Schoorl, on the north Holland coast in the Netherlands. This week was one of great joy. Very positive feedback was received from everyone who attended, and thanks were duly given to the Dutch Iona Members, Associate Members, Friends and supporters, especially the Dutch team who organised it. The programme was thoughtful and creative, and included daily reflections on 'The Works of Mercy.' The whole week was very relaxed and inclusive with a strong sense of being part of a European community - something we want to maintain as we head towards Brexit - inspired by the story of the Dutch Iona group, and hearing 'our story' from a different, fresh perspective. The Dutch Iona group have now made a DVD about the Community and their place in it.

In spring 2018, the Council of the Community appointed Christian MacLean and Kathy Galloway as Co-Leaders, working on a job-share basis, for a two-year term from June 2018-2020. Their role for this two-

year period has a particular focus on guiding the Community through a period of major organisational change across all its activities.

At the AGM in June 2018, the Community showed its heartfelt appreciation for the work of its Convener of Council, Marlene Finlayson, and its Interim Leader, Caro Penney, who both stepped down from their roles. In addition to its Annual Service of recommitment and Hallowing of New Members, the Community also celebrated the 70th anniversary of Camas as a Centre of the Iona Community with a film show and storytelling ceilidh.

And as always, the warm thanks of the Community was expressed to its all staff and volunteers, whose commitment in challenging times has been exemplary.

Every 31st day of its monthly prayer cycle, the Community remembers those who have died since its formation in 1938 and prays 'tell them we love them and miss them'. Since the 2018 Annual Report, the names of Ian M Fraser, theologian, Maggie Birley, environmental activist and 'accidental sawmiller' and Irene Gillespie, parish minister, have been added to that list.

The thirty-first day

I remember those who have died:

those who were part of my living

those who live on in my life.

God of the elements, you inhabit me:

family and friends and strangers are at home in me,

stars and planets dance in my bones and blood.

I am me,

and yet I am more than me;

I remember, I learn, I dream,

I touch death and life.

God of eternity,

comfort your people,

living and dying.

*Quicken us with wonder,
salt us with justice and integrity,
welcome us with love.*

Ruth Burgess, from Acorns and Archangels, Wild Goose Publications