



October 2021

(Associate member of Interfaith Scotland)

## Message from the Chairman



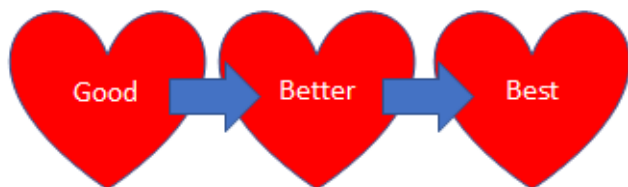
Iain Liston, Chairperson

### **Good, Better, Best**

Like you, my life has been busy these last few weeks. How did that happen, or more specifically, why did I let that happen? It is human nature to give attention to the noisiest of our tasks but that may not be the right way – the best way.

Being involved in good activities is worthwhile and of course every task has value.

Finding the best solution is not easy nor it is the simplest to implement but, by definition it is the best. How do we do our best? It comes through experience and some might add through divine assistance.



Let me know how you identify the best:  
[chairperson@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk](mailto:chairperson@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk)

Finally, thank you for your support and encouragement. We'd love to hear from you.

## Membership Up

In the last few months, we've seen our membership increase. We are delighted to witness this, and I put it down to the best efforts of our committee members. Once again, we have an active membership secretary who will look for ways for our group to become more relevant in the faith and belief community in Fife. Everyone should expect a personal call from Evelyn Liston in the coming weeks.

[membership@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk](mailto:membership@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk)

## Upcoming events

The committee would love to have you join us at our upcoming events and talks. Our website is updated regularly, and we encourage everyone to visit frequently. If you have ideas for a presentation, you can contact our secretary

[secretary@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk](mailto:secretary@fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk)

<http://www.fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk/>

## Rededication

On Sunday 27th September my wife and I attended the rededication service for the **Congregational church** in Kirkcaldy. The building has been fully refurbished and is now a modern place of worship, whilst still retaining the grandeur of a traditional church building. The service was well attended, and each participant added to the spirit of the gathering.

We were pleased to meet up with Cllr. Judy Hamilton. Judy is our vice chairperson but was attending in her official capacity as a local councillor.

During the service one of the sermons mentioned the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-28) and is a reflection back to my opening remarks. We have an obligation to society and to God do the best with the talents we have however meagre they may seem to us.

At the end of July, the Fife Interfaith Group was invited to participate in the celebration of the opening of the **Salvation Army's** newly completed building in Kirkcaldy. Three members of the committee attended and helped with the stalls. Even though there were strict safety measures in place, each visitor had a personal experience. We were delighted to be invited and look forward to being invited to future events.

## Interfaith Buddies

Borrowing from Interfaith Scotland's web-based "buddies" event, the Fife Interfaith Group held our own version. Once again, a quiz helped break the ice and the related topics of *"The New Normal"* and *"What have we learned?"* were discussed with some important take-aways.



The diversity in the human family should be the cause of love and harmony, as it is in music where many different notes blend together in the making of a perfect chord. If you meet those of a different race and colour from yourself, do not mistrust them and withdraw yourself into your shell of conventionality, but rather be glad and show them kindness.

[\(From the writings of the Baha'i Faith\)](#)



## Picnic 2021

After two years of postponement, we finally held our annual Interfaith picnic. The weather was perfect, the “getting-to-know-you” games were entertaining, and we had more than 25 people attend, including a few “drop-ins”. The support from [Fife Centre for Equalities](#) was appreciated as was Pat Greenhough’s attendance. It was part of the Diversity Week Fife. The theme of this year’s Diversity Week is ‘[Rebuilding Community](#)’ and it was very fitting indeed to invite people of Fife to our picnic. It was a pure joy to be able to meet friends, family outside in the fresh air after a long time and excellent way to make new friends. The kids had a good time playing with balls, bubbles and running. You can view further photos on our website:

<http://www.fifeinterfaithgroup.org.uk/events/past-events/picnic-2021.html>

### [Talk by Plastic Free Dunfermline - 19 May 2021](#)

We welcomed Pete Hogg and Zora Tamas to FIG and they started by stating that they were volunteers not experts in this subject. They were concerned about the plastic being used around the world and wanted to make a difference. Plastic-Free Dunfermline is a small group about 6 committee members dedicated to change people's habits. The Group works with businesses and demonstrates how to reduce the use of plastic. . Their motto is [Refuse Reduce Reuse Recycle](#). Instead of using plastic use alternatives. Every step in the production of plastic disperses pollution and some leakage at each stage. The group is proud as Dunfermline received the Plastic-Free Communities award from Surfers Against Sewage. Just think of all the plastic we use in the home especially the kitchen and bathroom and try to reduce these items by buying refills or items in wood or another recyclable material. It is never easy to change and take up new ways. Cost can be a factor when obtaining the alternatives but when you realize that only 9% of plastic is recycled then we can understand the problem we have on our hands. Each year the problem gets bigger and bigger. 73% of litter on the beaches is plastic, 1.1million animals and birds are killed by plastic annually, and scientists reckon that most people ingest 70K of micro plastics annually.





## Scottish Interfaith Week

### 10th Annual Interfaith Lecture Fife Interfaith Group

#### Talk on Climate Change

#### “Together for our Planet”

7pm 3rd November 2021 on Zoom

Talks by local groups from Fife who  
are leading the way in combatting  
Climate Change

For details of the Zoom link please  
use our e-mail

[fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk](mailto:fifeinterfaith@live.co.uk)

or

telephone 07887380601



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## 9th Annual Interfaith Lecture 2020

Talk by Sarah Keeble – Founder of **S.H.I.E.L.D Sarah Keeble** only recently moved to Fife and as the pandemic began to bite, she saw a great need for people who had been affected by the pandemic and built up an organization which has helped thousands over the last two years. Mainly in Food but also in other ways; obtaining household items for those in needs, providing help to those people who were struggling. Sarah stressed that she could not have done this without the many volunteers who have helped her so much. S.H.I.E.L.D started in West Fife and is now doing great work in Central Fife as well. Sarah summed up “ “I just can’t wait to move forward. People are asked to help and when they do it really lifts them. We try to enable someone to have a sense of self-worth as all of us have gifts to share with each other”.

#### **Anne Marie Smith - NHS Mental Health:**

This was a very interesting talk telling of the ways that NHS Fife is working to improve people’s mental health especially as there has been a rise because of lockdown and people being very lonely. She talked about self-help by ensuring people look after themselves but she also emphasised that services are there to help. Ask for help from professionals, the Samaritans and look for Fife Health Promotions which will have a page to help.

<https://www.accesstherapiesfife.scot.nhs.uk/>

#### **Daryl Watson – Director for**

**Communications LDS Church:** An interesting talk explaining how using the Media can help lift the profile of voluntary groups. All talks are shown in full on our Facebook and Web page. If you wish to contact us, see details on the advert for our lecture.