

APPENDIX

REASONS FOR A FAST

It is natural to ask why, and why now. The following gives rise to major concerns that require a seeking of the face of God.

Reasons

The Monarch

Charles III, since his coronation, has shown little or no regard for the responsibilities of his office in relation to the Church. This is evidenced, sadly, in his disregard to uphold his oath to maintain the Protestant and Reformed faith. This is demonstrated in his appointing a Roman Catholic as Lord High Commissioner, his representative to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2025. Further, he appears to give more attention to Islam than to the Protestant Faith that he swore to uphold.

The National Church

The national Churches in both England and Scotland have fallen to a very low ebb in terms of membership, adherence and creedal confession. Sinful practices that are clearly forbidden by Scripture have been approved and affirmed.

Political Representatives

Without regard to their accountability under God, our political representatives have proceeded to pass the most wicked laws which are having an increasing impact. Abortion, same-sex marriage, and transgenderism are legally promoted and there are attempts to introduce a conversion therapy law.

What is true in England is also true in Scotland where Holyrood not only copies Westminster but seeks to outdo it. This has been evident in the transgender position taken by the SNP-led Scottish Government over the years.

National Judgments

The Lord's anger is surely upon us nationally because of the immoral stance now taken on ethical issues. Abortion is not only legal, but the goal is to decriminalise those who assist or facilitate abortion in any manner or form. Worse, there is the desire to permit abortion up until birth. Assisted dying, which is a euphemism for suicide, is another sad example. Its promoters want to extend the guilt and folly of suicide from the individual to the nation so that the entire nation may become guilty before God.

Sodomite unions have led to children being raised in such wicked contexts. Transgenderism, historically seen as a psychological problem, is now promoted as a legitimate lifestyle. The denial of our very creaturehood as made by God is readily apparent in such an ideology.

Religion

There is a very real and urgent concern over Islam and Islamic influence upon society. The widespread acceptance of halal meat is appalling. How few know that animals are killed facing east towards Mecca and that their throats are slit because they are deemed as sacrifices to Allah!

Other barbaric practices are becoming the norm – female genital mutilation, child brides and cousin marriages.

In addition, there is the influence and promotion of Sharia law as an alternative to British Law.

Ourselves

In the midst of this examination, we must, as a denomination, look at ourselves. The following are very

concerning. First, worldliness in dress, music and recreational activities. Second, lack of spiritual zeal for God and faithfulness in our congregations. Third, lack of men taking up the office of elder and deacon. Fourth, the fewness of men for the ministry. Fifth, the fewness of conversions, which suggests the withdrawal of the Holy Spirit. Sixth, the use of social media without any discernible difference between the Christian and the world. We are losing the antithesis that marks the difference between the children of God and the children of the devil.

Resurgence of Romanism

In Spain it is reported that some 14,000 young people have sought admission into the Roman Catholic Church. That is replicated elsewhere across Europe. The Antichrist and his servants are busy making recruits to their cause. By contrast, we appear to have lost our jealousy and zeal for the crown rights of the Redeemer and have become apathetic towards that resurgence of Rome.

International Events

The heightened conflict in the Middle East that has resulted from the terrorist attack upon Israel in 2023 has destabilised further the whole region with the involvement of Iran and Hezbollah. Few are aware that Iran is governed by an eschatology which demands and requires world war and total destruction in order to bring in the 12th Imam. They actively seek the end of the world. Alongside that agenda is a hatred for Jews and Christians. They aim to kill all Jews and then all Christians.

Also, unnoticed in the media, is the persecution and slaughtering of Christians across the world which has reached an unprecedented scale.

Proposal

That the General Assembly commend to our Congregation a day of fasting and prayer on Saturday 27th June 2026. The aim is that our meeting-houses will be opened for congregants to gather through the day for prayer, seeking the Lord on behalf of the Church and state, that he would be pleased to hear us and turn the tide of wickedness and irreligion.

The Committee also recommend that sermons be preached on the Sabbath before, setting out the practice and need in times of national and spiritual crises.

Warrant

In 1565, the General Assembly, fearful for the future of the Reformation in Scotland, ordered that a General Fast be held as appointed by the General Assembly. Knox's sermon of the 19th of August highlights the crisis being faced. Surely, as outlined above, there is a similar crisis today?

Directory

Contained within our Standards is the Directory Concerning Public Fasting. It advises that a large portion of the day is spent in the public reading of Scripture, singing Psalms, and hearing the Word to quicken affections for prayer. We commend the study of this Directory.