



10

died for us.  
MANS 5:8

YEARS OF  
20 schemes

Thanksgiving  
Service

10 years of bringing gospel light to  
the schemes of Scotland through  
church planting & revitalisation.



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# PAST PROVISION

20schemes is the joint ministry of two local churches, Niddrie Community Church in Edinburgh, Scotland, & Redeemer Fellowship Church, Bardstown, USA. It is often mistaken as a para-church organisation when, in reality, it is the church planting and revitalisation ministry of both churches.

I (Mez) first had the vision for what is now 20schemes in 2009 when I came across a newspaper article concerning the fifty poorest housing schemes in Scotland. I read the article and began thinking about the impact a gospel church would have in each of those communities.



20schemes was officially launched in November 2012 in the kitchen of the Niddrie Community Church manse by Sharon Dickens, Matthew Spandler-Davison & myself. We had less than £500 in the bank and a dream to reach Scotland's poorest communities with the gospel of Jesus.

The early years were very tough because nobody had heard of us and those that did thought that we were a passing fad. Many churches across the UK were wary of supporting us and, although we gained some support from faithful Scottish & UK Christians, the majority of our giving came from the USA.

I began to travel around the country speaking about the vision of the ministry. Many people were sympathetic to the work, but that emotion didn't translate into hard cash or volunteers. This led us to turn to the USA and this is where Matthew Spandler-Davison stepped in to help us recruit and raise money. Mark Dever and 9marks were massively helpful to us during this time by promoting our ministry and giving me opportunities to speak at some major conferences. Slowly, but surely, we started to gain a little momentum as more Christians rallied to our cause and began to support us financially and prayerfully.

We have been through some lean and trying times and we have skirted the abyss of financial meltdown on more than one occasion. Yet, through it all God has used these times to deepen our faith and dependence upon Him. Here we are 10 years later, still skirting the abyss, but alive and functioning to the glory and praise of His name!

What I know for certain is that 20schemes would not exist without God. That's a given. But, it also wouldn't exist without the encouragement of men and women from around the globe who didn't squash our vision, or throw cold water over it.

Instead, they prayed for us, gave to us, and visited us to encourage the work. There are those who give sacrificially to do the work, and there are those who have given enormous sums over the past decade to make what we do a reality.



We also have to give thanks to the efforts of the backroom staff in both the UK and the USA who work tirelessly at all the administrative jobs, allowing the planters and gospel workers to get on with the job. Nobody fundraises for accountants, office staff and those who spend countless hours answering legal questions about visas and employment law. Yet, they silently work to make 20schemes happen.

If you are with us for our 10th Anniversary then know that many of those seated around you did not know Jesus ten years ago. There were no Christians who could meet up to worship God in their respective communities. Every church planted and revitalised is a miracle. Every soul saved is a miracle. Every cynic who thought it would never work, but now joyously celebrate with us, is a miracle. Every new church is evidence of God's wisdom and power and glory. As I look back I do so with gratefulness and amazement, and sometimes even slight disbelief.

10 years ago, three people sat in a room in the scheme of Niddrie and prayed. We could not have dreamt that the Lord would bring 20schemes to where it is now, and for that we praise Him.

**Matthew Spandler-Davison,  
Executive Director, writes:**

“

*Today we have over 100 churches and 1,000 individuals who faithfully and sacrificially give their time and money to support the work of planting churches in Scotland schemes. Over 300 people have been on vision trips, mission trips, and internships in Scotland schemes, providing a valuable helping hand to our church plant teams. The Lord has also raised up almost 50 full time gospel workers to leave their churches, homes, and careers to move onto the schemes to invest their lives in the work of making disciples there.*

*We could not do this without the prayers and support of countless people all over the world who generously and faithfully support us.*

*On behalf of all of us at 20schemes we want to thank you and trust that the Lord has blessed you as you have been faithful to partner with us.*

”

## Psalm 100 (Unaccompanied)

All people that on earth do dwell,  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.  
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,  
Come now before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;  
Without our aid he did us make:  
We are his flock, he doth us feed,  
And for his sheep he doth us take

O enter then his gates with praise,  
Approach with joy his courts unto:  
Praise Him, and bless his name always,  
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,  
His mercy is for ever sure;  
His truth at all times firmly stood,  
And shall from age to age endure.

William Kethe (Died: 1594) Hymn Tune: old Hundreth



### Brian's Story

Brian entered Christian rehab in February 2016 while living in addiction to heroin, and now he serves as a gospel worker in Maryhill, Glasgow, evangelising to and discipling men in the scheme who have the same issues that once plagued him.



## How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

And when I think that God,  
His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come,  
with shout of acclamation  
And take me home,  
what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God,  
how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul,  
my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul,  
my Saviour God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Carl Gustav Boberg (1859-1940) Translated by Stuart  
K. Hine (1899-1989)  
Copyright 1949 and 1953 Stuart Hine Trust CIO  
Stuart K. Hine Trust (Admin. by Integrity Music Ltd)  
CCLI #14181



20schemes  
**WOMEN**

In the schemes, 52% of all families are run by single parents. Nine out of ten of these single parents are women\*.  
20schemes Women seeks to prepare and equip women for ministry in the local church.

[20schemes.com/women](https://20schemes.com/women)

\*Stat taken from survey done by One Parent Families Scotland.





## Flee From Sin/Run to Jesus

There is grace for the daily war with sin  
For the battles that rage within my heart  
I am held in my Father's everlasting arms  
He's my shield from the devil's fiery darts

There's a refuge for every lustful thought  
From old habits enticing me away  
When I fear my addictions won't be  
overcome  
There is hope through Christ's resurrection  
day

There is power in the finished work of Jesus  
To change helpless sinners just like me  
There's contentment where nothing else can  
satisfy  
So I'll flee from my sin to Christ the Lord  
Put my faith in the promise of His Word

God calls all of His children to obey  
Live a life of submission to His Word  
May I learn what it means to seek His  
kingdom first  
Die to self, give my all to serve the Lord

There is power in the finished work of Jesus  
To change helpless sinners just like me  
There's contentment where nothing else can  
satisfy  
So I'll flee from my sin to Christ the Lord  
Put my faith in the promise of His Word

There's forgiveness for every time I fail  
As I turn in repentance from my sin  
God provides all the help I need to persevere  
Praise His name! that my life is found in Him

There is power in the finished work of Jesus  
To change helpless sinners just like me  
There's contentment where nothing else can  
satisfy  
So I'll flee from my sin to Christ the Lord  
Put my faith in the promise of His Word.

Sol Fenne. © 20schemes music 2018  
CCLI #7133563



20schemes  
**MUSIC**

20schemes Music comes alongside church plants to practically prepare them for worship through music, whether that's through training up musicians from the schemes or creating a database of Biblically rich songs for planters to pull from.

[20schemes.com/music](https://20schemes.com/music)

# PRESENT SITUATION

In the last decade we have revitalised or planted churches, including Niddrie Community Church, across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Inverness. We currently employ sixty people across two continents, whose energy, drive and focus is fixed on our mission to reach Scotland's poorest with the gospel of Jesus.

## Churches

To date, we have either planted or revitalised churches in eleven schemes across Scotland.



## Training

We have theologically trained men and women who are now engaged in gospel work across Scotland.

## Publishing

More than a dozen books available in seven languages that have sold hundreds of thousands of copies.



## Music

20schemes Music writes songs for the church in hard places that point us to the gospel.

## Women

Across Scotland women are being trained, discipled & equipped to serve in their local church.



## Retrain

A back-to-work ministry that will one day finance indigenous interns for future church planting ministry.



## Inspired

We have inspired and supported similar ministries in England, Canada, America, and Africa.

## Ragged School of Theology

Training indigenous people to become greater servants of Jesus in the local church or serve in ministry.



## Acts 29 Church in Hard Places

Our partnership with CiHP means men & women are being trained for ministry in over 30 countries.

Even as I write these words, I find it incredible what God has done over the past decade. He has just been so good to us. There is no way on earth that 20schemes would exist today were it not for our kind and gracious God. Every one of these ministries aforementioned is subservient to the greater vision of planting and revitalising churches among Scotland's poorest.

There is not a week goes by when we don't hear of somebody, somewhere being saved in one of our schemes. Of course, we hear bad news in our communities too. Sometimes dark and evil stuff. But, the darkness can never extinguish the light of the world and each church plant is a testament to that great biblical truth.

## We Rest On Thee

We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!

We go not forth alone against the foe;  
Strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,

We rest on thee, and in thy name we go;  
Strong in thy strength, safe in thy keeping tender,

We rest on thee, and in thy name we go.

Yes, in Thy name, O Captain of salvation!

In thy dear name, all other names above:  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,

Our Prince of glory and our King of love,  
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,

Our Prince of glory and our King of love.

We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling,

And needing more each day thy grace to know:

Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,

"We rest on thee, and in thy name we go";

Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing,

"We rest on thee, and in thy name we go."

We rest on thee, our Shield and our Defender!

Thine is the battle, thine shall be the praise;  
When passing through the gates of pearly splendor,

Victors, we rest with thee, through endless days;

When passing through the gates of pearly splendor,

Victors, we rest with thee, through endless days.

Edith G. Cherry (1872-1897) Public Domain  
CCLI #2689139



## Katy's Story

Mum of two Katy, from Niddrie in Edinburgh, has come from the depths of drug addiction to working for her church, sharing the gospel that saved her with the lost in the scheme.

*"That void that we're all trying to fill by materialistic things, by taking drugs to numb it all. You find a peace in Christ. He fills you."*



## It Is Well

When peace like a river attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials  
should come  
Let this blest assurance control  
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate  
And has shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh the bliss of this glorious thought  
My sin, not in part, but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul

And Lord, haste the day when my faith  
shall be sight  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord  
shall descend  
Even so, it is well with my soul!

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) Philip Paul Bliss  
(1838-1876) Public Domain  
CCLI #25376

**RAGGED** School of  
Theology

The Ragged School exists to provide theological training and teaching to ordinary students from our communities who might not be able to access higher learning in seminary or Christian colleges.

[20schemes.com/ragged](https://20schemes.com/ragged)



## Because He Lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives

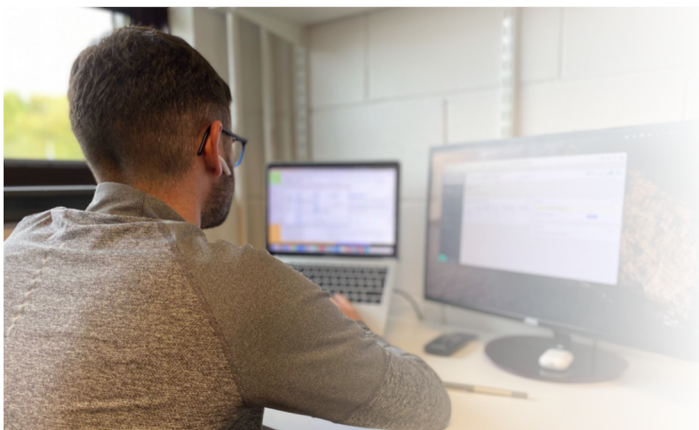
God sent His son, they called Him Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive  
He bled and died to buy my pardon  
An empty grave is there to prove  
My saviour lives.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives

And then one day I'll cross the river  
And I'll fight life's final war with pain  
And then as death gives way to victory  
I'll see the lights of glory  
And I'll know He lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living  
Just because He lives

Bill & Gloria Gaither. © 1971 William J. Gaither, Inc. All rights controlled by Gaither Copyright Management. CCLI #16880



## 20schemes Admin

We wouldn't be able to plant & revitalise churches across Scotland if it wasn't for the dedicated hard work of our admin team. From Finance to HR, Fundraising to Communications, they make the wheels go round and we are thankful to them for all they do in Christian service.

## All Glory Be To Christ

Should nothing of our efforts stand  
No legacy survive  
Unless the Lord does raise the house  
In vain its builders strive  
To you who boast tomorrow's gain  
Tell me what is your life  
A mist that vanishes at dawn

His will be done, His kingdom come  
On earth as is above  
Who is Himself our daily bread  
Praise Him the Lord of love  
Let living water satisfy  
The thirsty without price  
We'll take a cup of kindness yet  
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign will ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!

When on the day the great I Am  
The faithful and the true  
The Lamb who was for sinners slain  
Is making all things new.  
Behold our God shall live with us  
And be our steadfast light  
And we shall ere his people be  
All glory be to Christ!

All glory be to Christ our king!  
All glory be to Christ!  
His rule and reign will ever sing,  
All glory be to Christ!

Dustin Kensrue. 2012 We Are Younger We Are Faster Music  
(Admin. by Song Solutions) CCLI #7008232

A promotional graphic for Scheme Sunday. It features a background image of a church building. Overlaid on the image is a circular graphic with a blue map of Scotland and the text 'Scheme Sunday' in white. To the left of the graphic is text about the event, and to the right is a call to action with a website link.

From 2023, we are hoping to launch Scheme Sunday, a chance to join together with churches across the world to praise and thank God that he is growing his kingdom in the schemes of Scotland, and to pray for continued growth and new opportunities.

Scheme Sunday will launch in November 2023!

Find out more and sign up:  
[20schemes.com/schemesunday](https://20schemes.com/schemesunday)

# FUTURE VISION

I am often asked what we will do if and when we hit 20 schemes. My answer is, 'I will let you know when we get there!' One thing is for certain, there will never not be a need for gospel churches in Scotland's poorest communities. Glasgow and its greater area alone, have just short of 100 schemes, the vast majority without the settled Christian witness of a local church. The need for pastors, planters and gospel workers remains as critical as it did when we began this ministry.

At the time of writing we have planting teams ready to go in several schemes in Glasgow and another in Edinburgh. We have decided to focus our attention heavily on Glasgow for the next 5 years, and to that end have established a hub in Hope Barlanark to cover the west of Scotland, directed by Pete Stewart.



*When you talk about working class communities in Scotland, you can't not talk about Glasgow and the West. Glasgow alone has 97 schemes and when you move out through the surrounding regions there are hundreds more. These are all communities full of characters but they are also places of much need. We know, however, that the biggest problem is the lack of healthy gospel churches.*

*This is why we have said we are going to focus, primarily although not exclusively, on Glasgow and the West of Scotland for the next 10 years, and to that end we have recently set up our 'West of Scotland' Hub.*

*Hope Community Church Barlanark (which we planted in the first wave of 20 schemes churches) is the base of our training and resourcing here, but we are already working towards planting new churches in Maryhill, Onthank and Baillieston, and revitalising a church in Kilwinning. We are also developing partnerships for church plants in Govan and Lambhill and revitalisations in Harestanes and Port Glasgow.*

**Pete Stewart,**  
Director of West of Scotland Hub



We are also in the planning phase of a Highland Hub, to expand on our work started by Chris Davidson in the scheme of Merkinch.

“

*The Highlands has a rich history and, at one time, was a stronghold of gospel preaching. However, the situation is now dire. Not only are churches closing, but they are also ageing out with the migration of younger people to cities for university or work prospects, coupled with a stark shortage of people involved in gospel ministry.*

*These factors make the Highlands hard ground, not to mention the challenges of the geography posed by the Highlands, which is 33 per cent of the land area of Scotland. The impact of geography means that poverty is integrated and less identifiable in rural communities than in a traditional urban scheme setting.*

*20schemes' vision for the Highlands is to help revitalise and plant churches with contextualised training. It is a practical outworking of training in a context relevant to each church or plant. Resourcing teams to go into some of the most challenging spiritual grounds and understand the Highland scheme context. To be aware of the pitfalls of historic pains and brokenness.*

*Simply put the need is great for the Highlands, but we have a great gospel.*

”

**Chris Davidson,  
Church Planter in Merkinch**

We are still looking for men and women of all ages and skillsets to come to the schemes of Scotland and to give their lives to the work of the gospel in these dark and needy places. We need more money, more people, and more prayer. This mission field really is ripe for harvest. Therefore, we must keep pushing forward for the sake of the gospel and the holy name of our God.

One of the ways I encourage all of our planters is by reminding them to look up from their own schemes from time to time and rejoice in what God is doing in schemes across Scotland. People are being saved as the gospel is being preached.

It's the way it's always been and it's the way it will always be. We have no grand strategies other than proclaiming the good news of Jesus to the least, the last and the lost, discipling the saved, and equipping them for future service.



Somebody asked me recently if I thought 20schemes will outlast me. I hope so, otherwise I've been doing it wrong. It will last just as long as God wants it to last. It will last as long as faithful men and women refuse to let the apathy of the wider church discourage them from our Scottish mission field.

Handwritten signature of Mez McConnell.

Mez McConnell

*He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?*

*Micah 6:8*

# GET INVOLVED



Will you or your church commit to praying regularly for the work of 20schemes?

Giving a financial gift will grow the gospel work in Scotland's poorest communities.



Come and serve with us or visit on a Vision Trip to encourage the workers in the schemes!

We hope you have enjoyed your evening with us hearing about what God has done over the last decade in the schemes of Scotland, but we hope you agree that there is still much to be done!

Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera, or go to the link below to sign up to regular email updates from 20schemes, including prayer points, ministries, events & ways to give.



[20schemes.com/pray](https://20schemes.com/pray)