



ST DAVID'S HIGH KIRK DUNDEE

THE KIRK NEWS

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FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

"As the English clergyman and poet John Donne said in his Meditation XVII, 'No man is an Island, entire of itself, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.' The truth of this becomes very clear as we examine our part in the life of our community, and the people who have, through their great endeavours, carved the world we have inherited". So begins Angus Shaw's book 'Is there any Scandal?' which traces the history of the people and the parishes that make up Howe of Fife Parish Church in our own day. Of course I was interested in this book for its very inception, since that was my first and only other parish, and indeed I made a contribution to the book.

But what a wonderful way to start, for in these words of John Donne we are reminded that although we are all individuals, unique and loved by God, we do not stand alone. Each one of us is an important part of a much greater unity. Everyone matters, no one should be ignored, for we all have something important to offer. If this is true in the secular world, it is so much more true in the life of the church. The loss of any one person from the Christian family always diminishes the whole. This is what Jesus was telling the people in the parable of the lost sheep. Although the shepherd in question still had ninety-nine sheep, he kept on searching until he found the one that was lost, and then carried it home rejoicing.

In today's secular world it is very hard for all of us to maintain our Christian commitment. Indeed, it even is becoming more difficult to maintain our commitment to each other because there are so many calls on our time. But if that is the case there are also so many distractions from worship, fellowship and prayer, all of which look very attractive and compelling. The golf course on a sunny Sunday morning, the shopping that has been crowded out of the week but still has to be done, a warm bed on a cold winter's morning when you have had to get up very early every other day of the week, even courses that you might want to take that are only available on a Sunday. It is all very tempting. And who really wants to go out to a meeting on a cold winter's night when there is a good programme on television? I know I don't.

But whilst all these things are good things to do, the question has to be whether they are the most important things in life. Surely it must be important to give thanks to God for the ability to do these things, and to do it together, and just as it was important for the shepherd to search for his lost sheep until he found it, so it is important for us to appreciate just what a vital part of the family of God we all are. This is what John Donne is saying in his Meditation XVII. (part printed below.)

The coming year is going to be full of challenges and changes for all of us. But as all this happens, we need always to keep in mind that we all belong to God, that we are unique and loved by him, that he has a purpose for each one of us, and that as his family we also belong to each other. This means that we will always need the support that we can give each other.

There are those who would try to stand alone, to express their Christian commitment alone, to convince themselves that they don't need the support of anyone else. In the secular world we can see the results of that in the increased numbers of chronically lonely people reported by our social services. But as the family of God and the church in this place we are in a position to do what we can to help alleviate this situation, for as John Donne so rightly said 'No man is an island.'

With every blessing

Marion J Paton

**'No man is an island, entire of itself;
every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less,
as well as if a promontory were,
as well as if a manor of thy friend's or of thine own were:
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind,
and therefore never send to know for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee.'**

John Donne 1573-1631

MARION'S RETIRAL

Arrangements to mark Marion's retiral and her time with us as our Minister are still at an early stage but the intention is that all of the events take place on

SUNDAY 30TH APRIL 2017.

This will be our April Communion service (delayed by one week from the norm). The service will be a normal service but at the end there will be a presentation to Marion and then a lunch provided in the hall. There will be an opportunity for everyone to contribute to the presentation by way of an envelope collection which will take place in early April onwards. There will be more information in the next issue of 'The Kirk News' but in the meantime please put the date in your diary and make every effort to be in the church that morning.

As part of the process for Marion's retiral, we as a congregation will be 'cited' to attend the meeting of Presbytery on Wednesday 8th March 2017. This may seem early but it is the last meeting of Presbytery before 30th April as there is no April Meeting. What this means is we have the opportunity to be present when the matter of Marion's retiral will be considered by Presbytery. The formal notice has not arrived yet but when it does I will intimate it in church. Although the word used is 'cited', in this context it actually means 'invited' and I would invite those who would like to be part of the congregation's representation to contact me either any time from now onwards or when the citation is read in church. There is no limit on the size of the group and as Presbytery now meets in The Steeple Church, space is not as limited as it once was. That said, around 12 people is 'normal' for these occasions. The time will be intimated in church.

COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk

OUR FORTHCOMING VACANCY

There is little to add to what was in the last issue of 'The Kirk News'. There was no 'determination' (decision) made by Presbytery at their December meeting as to whether or not we are to be allowed to call a new minister. Although that decision has still to be made, there are parts of the vacancy process which we can progress and for that reason the Kirk Session will be meeting on Monday 13th February with our Interim Moderator, Rev Donna Hays, moderating the meeting. As with all meetings of the Kirk Session, this meeting is open to all.

COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Our Midweek Services have restarted on Wednesdays at 1.45 pm and we will alternate weekly with Coldside church. The next service is on Wednesday 8th February at Coldside church. Please encourage as many as are able to come along to these more informal gatherings, but gatherings which mean a lot to many who get so much from them. The services will continue until the last Wednesday in April.

ALISTAIR JOSS

PROPERTY UPDATE

The work in the Lower Hall over the Christmas and New Year holidays went well. The wall is now ready for the stained glass windows to be fitted. The windows themselves are almost at the stage of being ready for the french polisher (they may even be there by the time you read this). How long he will take to finish them is unknown, but once they are back the intention is to install them immediately as that is the safest place for them to prevent damage. There will be a rededication in due course.

COLIN WILSON

THANK YOU

I want to thank you all for helping me to celebrate 25 years in the ordained ministry. It does not seem that long, which all goes to prove what a very special way of life ministry is. But this is not something that is done by one person, but by the whole Christian family, for all ministry by its very nature is shared, and it would be impossible to mention everyone who has been part of my ministry.

I would like to mention the Celebrations Committee of St David's High Kirk who provided and served the lunch on 4th December. Very good it was too. There cannot be many people, who when lying in the operating theatre waiting for a procedure, are thanked by the surgeon. However, this is precisely what happened to me when I went to have my cataract removed. The surgeon was very grateful for the £170 that we sent to 20/20 Vision at Dundee University, the proceeds of the lunch held on 4th December. Thank you all very much for your generosity to this very worthwhile work.

MARION

FAIRTRADE "BIG BREW"

Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 27th February to 12th March and as a way of supporting Fairtrade, we are to hold a **"Big Brew" Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th March from 10.00am to 12 noon.** Admission at the door £2 for adults and £1 for children, with a couple of interesting games together with "goodies" on the Traidcraft stall. Please come along and meet and chat with friends knowing you are helping change families in some of the world's poorest communities to grow a better future.

MARGARET MULGREW

*Sign on a church noticeboard –
Professionals built the Titanic. Amateurs built the Ark*

PRAYER TIME

Our next Prayer Time will take place on Sunday 5th March at 10.30am in the vestry. All will be made welcome at this informal time of fellowship. If you have anyone or anything that you would like us to include in our prayers, please complete the prayer request slips which are located at both doors of the church. Look forward to seeing you.

FIONA ANDERSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In December we enjoyed a Christmas Party in the church hall when we played some traditional games like Farmer's in his Den and musical islands as well as newer games like pin the nose on Rudolph. There were 12 children and babies (from our crèche) who enjoyed the afternoon and especially the visit of Santa Claus who thankfully managed to fit us into his busy schedule. He reminded both children and staff about the importance of not being on his naughty list!

The following day the children performed their Nativity Play in church. The children played numerous parts this time and we were grateful to the congregation for their help finding sheep, finding 'gold' coins and helping to retell Christ's birth which thankfully is always the same. We re-started in the New Year and welcomed nine children back. We try to share the Christian story in imaginative ways which can be quite challenging and I am grateful to the staff for their input. We go on into whatever plan God has for us and 'Put our hand into the hand of God'.

KAY HUSBAND

KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

We had a very enjoyable "Nibble and Natter" night on our last meeting before Christmas and would like to thank Ellen and Alison, our Elders, for coming and joining us on that evening and hope they had an enjoyable night with us. We are always looking for new members to come and join us. We are a very very casual group and very friendly. So dust down those knitting needles and come join us. Needles and wool supplied if needed.

Here is the list of dates we will be meeting over next session - 6th and 20th February, 6th and 20th March, 3rd and 17th April, 1st, 15th and 29th May and 12th and 26th June. We will no doubt be starting on knitted chickens for the children's hospice but not sure what else. If anyone knows of any charities looking for knitted items please let me know as we are always looking for new charities.

CHRISTINE WILSON AND ALL THE MEMBERS

THE GUILD

The Guild had its 75th birthday in December and we celebrated with a beautiful floral demonstration by Mabel and Margaret with our oldest members Rose Soutar and Betty Bell cutting the birthday cake. We heard a potted history of our Guild which is reproduced later in this News.

Our coming programme is – Feb 7, Dundee Dance Halls, Ron Elder; Feb 14, New Kirk Singers; Feb 21, People's Friend, Margaret Scott; Feb 28, Guild Rally, Trinity Church; March 7, AGM and Bring & Buy Sale.

WILMA DUNCAN

*When you get to the point where you really understand
your computer, it's probably obsolete*

RAINBOWS

We had a busy autumn term starting with a Halloween party with the Brownies and finishing with a Christmas party, also with the Brownies. In between we did Christmas crafts, cooking, lots of games (the best was indoor hockey). One Rainbow made her Promise and some of us completed our Rainbow Roundabout Festivals badge. We also had our annual Christmas concert with the Brownies - we hope those of you who came along enjoyed it. The money raised from the concert and from the very kind donations we received (thank you) will be put towards craft materials and outdoor activities - two things we love doing.

Our numbers are very low at the moment and we'd love any girl age 5 or 6 to come along on a Wednesday at 6 pm till 7 pm to the lower hall to join in the fun.

JENNIFER KINNEAR, Rainbow Guider

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

Both the Brownies and Guides started back with a very busy programme planned for the weeks ahead. The Brownies are going to the Dundee Science Centre to complete their science and also stargazers badge, and the Guides have chosen to do the animal activity Go For It. As part of this, just before Christmas the Guides visited Camperdown Wildlife Park to do their promise. Also on the lead up to Christmas, we joined with the Rainbows for a carol service. Thanks to all who came along to support us. As always, if you know of any girls aged 7 to 14 who would like to come along, they would be made very welcome.

RHONA DUNCAN, Brown Owl

CIRCULATION OF PAPERS FOR KIRK SESSION MEETINGS

After a trial it has been agreed that from now on papers for Kirk Session meetings will be circulated to members of the Kirk Session by e-mail where they have a personal e-mail address, unless they ask to receive them in hard copy. Any member of the Kirk Session who wishes to 'opt out' of the e-mail process should contact the Session Clerk. Those without personal e-mail access will continue to receive them in hard copy as before.

COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk

WORSHIP COMMITTEE SERVICE

On 8th January the Worship Committee conducted the service and what an uplifting service it was. The theme was a new year, a new start, a new beginning - and the prayers, readings and reminiscences all reflected this theme beautifully. Thank you to Fiona Anderson and her committee for such an inspiring time of worship. The poem, 'New Beginnings' by Gertrude B McClain was read by Alison Marshall which summed up "new beginnings" perfectly. You can read it at the following link.

Editor.

http://www.ellenbailey.com/poems/ellen_305.htm

THANK YOU

Elizabeth, George and Janet would like to thank everyone who gave us support in the loss of our dear Mum. We thank all who sent cards and offered messages of support. We are grateful to those who came to Mum's funeral in spite of the bad weather and to Marion for her lovely tribute. Anytime we took the Kirk News to her she always said that she was pleased to see that the Church had not forgotten her even although she could no longer attend.

RAMBLERS

December. With the days so short and uncertain weather, our walk was a 3- mile tramp along the Dronley railway. It was fairly bright when we set off, the old railway providing a perfect track for a winter walk, being flat and sheltered by trees on either side. There were leaves aplenty underfoot which helped to coat the very muddy parts, churned up by horses' hooves. The surrounding countryside looked lovely in the weak winter sunshine and we spotted several tractors making their way along the farm tracks. Stopping at Rosemill, the furthest extent of our walk, we enjoyed our picnic in the shelter of some trees, before making our way back to the tiny car park. Most of the hilarity was engendered by the antics of the three back seat passengers attempting to fasten seat belts in a fairly small space while encumbered by bulky jackets and gloves. The struggle was almost, but not quite, enough for us to forego our usual coffee stop but by the time we regained our seats for the third time, we were skilled enough not to need assistance from our driver. The Ramblers and look forward to many more expeditions in 2017.

January. Undaunted by freezing temperatures and lots of snow, four Ramblers completed a circuit of Camperdown Park. The snow actually added to the enjoyment of the walk as the muddy parts were frozen and so easily crossed. Having passed some hardy runners on their regular Saturday morning outing, we walked down to the playpark and on to the café at the zoo for a wee warm and a coffee. Continuing round the park to the top path, we met several dog walkers and paused to watch children on sledges. It was just the thing to blow away the cobwebs on a January morning and enjoyed by all. Next walk - Feb 11.

NORMA STURROCK

A POTTED HISTORY OF THE GUILD

The earliest record I can find is October 1933 when a Ladies Work Party was active in The High Kirk and I quote "to do their bit for the work of the church and meet in a friendly capacity". There must have been a women's group before that as there was an entry thanking the treasurer for her 26 years' service but there is no paperwork before 1933.

Some events the Ladies Work Party organized were: a jumble sale which raised £9, a talk in 1933 about how to improve house lighting by electricity, several lantern lectures, and picnics - one to Dunkeld cost 3/6d which included tea. They had the Creamola Concert Party to entertain them, and had a visit to Stevensons Laundry. They held a Burns Social in 1935 which was curtailed due to the death of George V. At the October 1939 meeting it was agreed the ladies would knit socks, scarves, etc. for those serving in the Forces and Red Cross and collection boxes were placed in the church for this. In 1940 they sent parcels to members of the Forces belonging to our own congregation, including toffee and chocolate. They also adopted a submarine and sent 80 knitted scarves, socks, pullovers and a large box of boilings.

In December 1941 the Ladies Work Party became the Woman's Guild of The Church of Scotland with 28 members. They met on Tuesday afternoons with an evening meeting once a month and continued to send parcels to the Forces - knitted garments, a postal order for 2/6d and cigarettes to prisoners of war along with a letter from the minister Rev Roy Hogg. A Sale of Work in 1944 raised £125. In May 1946 the WVS headquarters thanked The High Kirk Guild for sending 1,665 knitted garments to the Forces since 1939. In 1944 the Guild asked permission to supply flowers in the church every week [*don't know if that has ever been changed!*] Also, in 1951 it was agreed Guild members should give first aid to anyone falling sick in church [*again, don't know if that has ever been changed either!*]

In 1957 Guild membership was 112 and in 1966 they celebrated the Guild's 25th anniversary when the committee served a meal to 140 people. In 1981 the committee served a meal of soup, roast beef and trifle to 113 people to celebrate the Guild's 40th birthday. In 1991 the 50th birthday was celebrated with a buffet meal. The 60th and 70th birthdays were also celebrated in the hall. It is humbling to think about all the women since 1933 who have made our Guild what it is today.

WILMA DUNCAN, Co-ordinator

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The University of Dundee is looking for volunteers aged 60 to 80 to take part in an eye tracking experiment in the psychology research wing of the University. This is an exciting opportunity for members of the Dundee community. The researcher, Sarah Callander, can be contacted on s.a.callander@dundee.ac.uk or on 07850 3329335.

CHALMERS LECTURES 2017 – REFORMING THE KIRK – THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In this series of three lectures, Glasgow-based Theologian and Kirk Minister, Rev Doug Gay offers a candid, forthright and bold analysis of the state of the Church of Scotland and the choices facing it. They are taking place in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh on Wednesdays 1st, 8th and 15th February 2017 at 6.30pm. Entry is free but you can also watch online from the comfort of your own chair at <http://stream1.churchofscotland.org.uk/chalmers-lecture>

YOU A CARER? SMART CARE CONVENTION 2017

Do you, or know someone who does, care for someone with health or social care needs? Are you someone who has health or social care needs?

Dundee Health and Social Partnership is organising a free exhibition and conference about the way technology can be used to let people live safely and independently in their own homes for longer. There will also be information about home health monitoring, saving visits to the doctor and to hospital.

This is to take place in The Caird Hall, City Square, Dundee on WEDNESDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2017 from 12 noon to 4.30pm. All are welcome. More information is available from Joyce Barclay on 01382 433947 or at <https://goo.gl/32xYOO>

CREATING A CULTURE OF INVITATION

The Church of Scotland is holding a day conference on Wednesday 29th March 2017 at Hampden Park Conference Suite for Church of Scotland ministers, elders and mission conveners on the above subject. Nowadays it takes a brave person to walk into a church building on their own or start a God conversation with a Christian. This is why building a culture of invitation, alongside a culture of welcome and transformation is essential in our post-Christian context. Andrew was one of the first two disciples that Jesus called. The first thing he did was to invite his brother Simon. That invitation alone has impacted the world. Jesus is still inviting and calling people today. Further information can be found at <https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/creating-culture-invitation> where you can also book.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Wed Feb 8 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Feb 15 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Sun Feb 19 | Soup and Roll Lunch after service |
| Wed Feb 22 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Mar 1 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Sun Mar 5 | Prayer Time, Vestry, 10.30 am |
| Wed Mar 8 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Mar 15 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Sat Mar 18 | Fairtrade coffee morning, 10 am |
| Wed Mar 22 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Mar 29 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Apr 5 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Apr 12 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Apr 19 | Midweek service, Coldsides church, 1.45 pm |
| Wed Apr 26 | Midweek service, High Kirk, 1.45 pm |
| Sun April 30 | Communion – Marion's final service as our Minister |