



ST DAVID'S HIGH KIRK DUNDEE

# THE KIRK NEWS

ISSUE 97

MARCH 2017

## FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

Many of you will remember Delwen Foster, a former member of this church, who I have never met, but to whom I have spoken on the phone. Imagine my surprise then, when in response to my last letter in "The Kirk News," I received a lovely letter from her. Delwen, I do hope you won't mind this quotation from your letter as I think it worth sharing with everyone.

Delwen writes

*Every issue of the Kirk News comes to me and is read from cover to cover, beginning of course, with the 'Message from the Manse'. Your quotation from Donne prompted me to take up my copy of his works to read Devotion XVII again. To my surprise – and dismay at a complete memory blank – I found a cutting slipped in between the pages of that passage, an unpunctuated translation of lines from a 14<sup>th</sup> century Iranian poet Sa'adi.*

*Human beings are parts of a body  
Created from the same essence  
When one is hurt and in pain  
The other parts cannot remain unhurt  
If the misery of others leaves you indifferent  
You cannot be called a human being*

Wise words indeed. And although this poet is unlikely to have been a Christian, words that resonate with the words of St Paul in his Letter to the Romans, sometimes known as the Gospel of Love,' when he says, **'Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.'**

As part of the world wide human family then, we all have a responsibility to each other, and a responsibility to the whole human race, to sympathise and to empathise, to help and to encourage, to build and not to destroy, for it is only as we do this that our communities and our world will become a better, more harmonious, and more peaceful place in which to live. And goodness knows, the world of today needs those probably more now than it has ever done.

But there is more, for as part of the Christian family, we are all bound together in the love of God, mediated to us through the very practical love of Christ. In every sense, in all that God in Christ has done for us and continues to do for us, we have a responsibility to be part of the building of his kingdom here on earth. Though we may be separated by the miles, still we belong together as his witnesses and his servants and his friends. We all have different gifts, but we all have something important to give as we seek to make the world a better place.

With every blessing

Marion J Paton

The fruit of silence is PRAYER  
the fruit of prayer is FAITH  
The fruit of faith is LOVE  
The fruit of love is SERVICE  
The fruit of service is PEACE

## **EASTER ARRANGEMENTS**

The Kirk Session has agreed the service arrangements for Easter will be:

**Maundy Thursday April 13** – Communion Service in our church at 7 pm.

**Good Friday April 14** – Service in Coldside church at 7 pm

**Easter Sunday April 16** – Service at the top of Dundee Law at 9.30 am, followed by bacon rolls in the hall. 11.00am – normal morning worship followed by short Communion Service for those who wish to stay.

There will be a further issue of 'The Kirk News' before Easter when these details will be repeated, but please make a note of them now.

## **THE VACANCY**

The Kirk Session met for the first time with our Interim Moderator, Rev Donna Hays, on Monday February 13 to deal with vacancy matters. Also present were the Presbytery Clerk, Rev James Wilson and Rev David Collins who is convening a group looking at the Presbytery Plan.

At the meeting of Presbytery on February 8, the Presbytery agreed to the suspension of the plan in relation to an number of Charges (congregations) in the centre of the city, including ourselves, so that a review can be undertaken of the situation given the number of vacancies at present or imminent in that area . For this reason we have not yet been granted permission to call a Minister. This group has undertaken to report to the June meeting of Presbytery so something might change then. James and David were present at the Kirk Session meeting to explain the reasons for this move by Presbytery.

Although we have not yet been granted permission to call a new Minister, we can start to make arrangements for the compilation of the Electoral Register. This process will start with an Edict being read on Sundays May 28 and June 4. More information as to what members need to do or others who worship with us might want to do will be explained at that time. You may feel that this timescale is too long but because of the delay caused by the suspension of the Presbytery Plan, there is nothing to be gained by doing anything sooner.

Rev Donna Hays will 'Preach the Charge Vacant' on Sunday May 7. In effect, Donna will conduct our service that day.

On Sunday February 26 there was a further meeting of the Kirk Session, again moderated by Donna, when the appointment of Rev Alastair Morrice as our Locum was approved unanimously by the Kirk Session. Alastair is a retired Minister, his last Charge being in Glasgow from where he retired in 2002 and he now lives in Kirriemuir. He has holidays already planned and will not be with us until late May. Initially Alastair will be conducting Sunday worship on most Sundays, some of the midweek services and one day pastoral work each week, although this will be kept under review in case it needs to be increased. We look forward to welcoming him.

**COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk**

## **KIRK SESSION MEETINGS**

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that all meetings of the Kirk Session are open to all, unless there is a decision to meeting 'in private' either for all or part of the meeting. This openness applies equally to meetings which are being moderated by our Interim Moderator, even although until April 30 these meetings can only deal with matters relating to the Vacancy.

**COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk**

## **STATED ANNUAL MEETING**

The Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place immediately after the morning service on Sunday March 26. This will follow the format of previous years where the Kirk Session will meet as the Trustees to deal with the Statement of Account and then that meeting closed and the Stated Annual Meeting will take place. ALL are welcome at both meetings. The Minutes of the 2016 Stated Annual Meeting are reproduced in this issue of 'The Kirk News'.

## **WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Those who use weekly offering envelopes should have their new supply for the 12 months from April 2017 delivered with this issue of 'The Kirk News'. Anyone who is expecting envelopes and doesn't receive them should contact Colin Wilson.

## **PROPERTY UPDATE**

The boxes for the stained glass windows are presently with the french polisher in Glenrothes for finishing. It is still hoped to have these installed in late March. Work has begun on the reinstatement of the doorway between the main hall and the Committee Room which was affected by dry rot. The annual testing of the lightning protection system fitted to the buildings was done in February.

## **THE GUILD**

Our programme for the remainder of our session is – March 14, Signpost International; March 22, Bill Harper's Glee Club [members of the congregation are welcome to come along!]; and March 22, Bible Study with Marion. Our Coffee Morning will be on Saturday April 22 – please come along and support us.

**WILMA DUNCAN**

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|  <p><b>£2.50</b></p> | <h2 style="margin: 0;">GUILD COFFEE<br/>MORNING</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">High Kirk Hall<br/>Saturday April 22 at 10 am<br/>Home Baking, Tombola, Books<br/>Craft Stall and excellent teas!!</p> |  <p><b>£2.50</b></p> |
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## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The younger group has been looking at the Old Testament and the story of Joseph using drama and craft. The older group have been making and looking at “the armour of God”. They showed the congregation on Sunday February 26 what they have been doing. If you are in the main hall of the Kirk you will notice that we have hung up, on our notice board, the ‘prayer hearts’ which were made for the Christmas tree. We think these prayers are not only for Christmas but for the whole year through. We continue to enjoy our prayer time when the children contribute their own suggestions for prayer, sometimes we use bubbles or make a prayer web. Singing choruses is also enjoyed especially with actions like “I may never march....etc.” We are so grateful to all those children who come along each Sunday and also the Staff.

**KAY HUSBAND**

## FOODBANK COLLECTIONS

Just a reminder that foodbank collections are on the first Sunday of every month and any donated food can be left in the Ladies room as you enter the church. Donations alternate between the Dundee Foodbank and St Salvador's Drop-In café. If you wish any more details on either of these foodbanks, or what food to donate, please speak to Margaret Mulgrew or see the leaflets in the pews.

## RAMBLERS – February

On a damp, cold morning eight ramblers assembled for our walk. The prophet of doom told us there would be at least an inch of snow on Perth's North Inch and that the roads would be treacherous. Others thought it “too wet and nasty” for walking so we went our separate ways – six to a coffee shop and two to Perth and how glad we were! Not for nothing is Perth the 'Fair City' as we had only a little light drizzle on our walk. Starting at the South Inch car park, we made our way across the river and Moncrieff Island by the footpath next to the railway line then turned on to the Sculpture Trail which runs alongside the river. There are several interpretation boards on the trail, giving details of the sculptures. Snowdrops and daffodils were to be seen, a robin perched on a tree, and a rabbit ran across our path - signs of spring were in abundance. Some of the path was inaccessible because of sewage works but we were guided onwards by good signage. We completed a circuit of the North Inch, meeting many others out enjoying a brisk stroll, and returned to the car feeling invigorated and planning to return with a full complement of ramblers on another day. Next walk – April 8. **NORMA STURROCK**

## FAIRTRADE “BIG BREW”

To support Fairtrade, we are holding a “Big Brew” coffee morning on **Saturday March 18, 10 am – 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**

## **CELEBRATIONS COMMITTEE**

We are hoping to organise another Pub Quiz at The Fort Bar, Broughty Ferry, on Monday October 30. It will be the usual format of teams of 3, 4 or 5 so you have plenty time to select your team members and swot up. Nearer the time we will be looking for donations for the raffle. We have also arranged another trip to the Edinburgh pantomime on Saturday January 6, 2018. Please don't leave it too late and give your names to Wilma Duncan.

**CHRISTINE OSWALD**

## **THE GUILD**

The Copper Pot raised £850 in 2016 which was divided between the four chosen charities - St Salvador's Foodbank, Spectrum, Dundee Young Carers' Centre and Street Chaplains. Letters of thanks were received from each of these. Of the total raised, we contributed £142. Well done everyone.

The four local charities chosen this year to benefit from your coppers are Starter Packs, Hyperbaric Unit in Peddie Street, Alzheimers Centre in Morgan Street, and Tayside Children with Cancer and Leukaemia [TCCL] which supports families who have a child under 18 who has been diagnosed with either cancer or leukaemia during their treatment and for some time afterwards. All are very worthwhile causes deserving of our support. Please continue to save your coppers and hand them to me or to any guild member. Thank you.

**CATHERINE CARDOZO**

*From a church magazine:*

*Vicar is on holiday until the 27<sup>th</sup>. Clergy from the neighbouring parish will be celebrating on the Sundays when he is away.*

## **RAINBOWS**

All children love badges, especially Rainbows! They have been working hard to earn their next Roundabout badge - the 'Festivals' badge. We have also covered St Andrews day when the girls made tartan from coloured paper strips, Burns night when we recited Scottish poems and made stone haggis(es) and discussed Chinese traditions for their New Year. They then made a large Chinese dragon [you can still see it hanging on our notice board in the lower hall] and then wore it to do a dragon dance. They then surprised their parents when they came to collect them, by performing the dance again. Other festivals covered were May Day with all its colours, Valentine's Day making paper craft cards and a Mexican festival making good luck bangles. All our girls are now proudly wearing their Festivals badge. We also had a musical evening with lots of singing including action songs and using percussion instruments. February 22 was Girl Guiding's Thinking Day and we discussed this annual event celebrating Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and all older sections all over the world. The girls completed a work sheet and coloured in the world flag. With only a few weeks left until the Easter holidays and the lighter nights, we are looking forward to getting outside again for outdoor games. Please pass on our invitation to any girls aged 5 or 6 to come and join us.

**IRENE AIRD, RAINBOW LEADER**

## **PASTORAL CARE CONFERENCE**

A Pastoral Care Conference organised by the Church of Scotland is to take place in Dunfermline on Saturday June 24. More information can be found on the leaflets in the Lower Hall, on posters in both halls and at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/learn). Booking is essential. One of our members has already intimated a wish to attend. All are invited, not just elders. Those interested should contact Colin Wilson as soon as possible and no later than Sunday March 26.

## **THANK YOU**

At our Soup & Roll lunch in December, £170 was raised and donated to 20/20 Vision at Dundee University. Marion received the following thank you letter from Mr Ellis, consultant ophthalmologist:

*Thank you for your letter. Your gift was extremely generous and well received. As you comment, every little helps and our charitable venture has been funded over the years by multiple moderate donations rather than large donors giving significant sums. To my mind this is in some ways a more beautiful way of proceeding although we certainly have to live by faith! As your grandfather clearly had compassion for the Chinese, it would be wonderful to be able to inform your Kirk Session that your own church's generosity will be used to help the poor and visually impaired in the East of Indonesia by training staff who should sustainably deliver eye care over the many years ahead. Such is the low bar in Indonesia that even a little does go a long way and has a disproportionate impact for good, for which I would ask you to receive our thanks and pass them on to those who gave.*