



ST DAVID'S HIGH KIRK DUNDEE

THE KIRK NEWS

ISSUE 98

APRIL 2017

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

It hardly seems possible that it is almost ten years since I first wrote to you as your new minister. They say that time flies when you're enjoying yourself and in many ways it has flown and I still feel quite new!

On that occasion I wrote, *'You have entrusted me with a very important role in your church community, and my prayer is that by the grace of God I shall be enabled to fulfil that role, to be there for you, to share with you in your joys and your sorrows, and most of all, to share the love of Christ in Word and Sacrament Sunday by Sunday'*. What a joy it has been under God to do my best to keep that promise down the years. But there has been so much more, for friendships have been forged that will continue to stand the test of time, and that has been and will remain so important.

Now I have begun the process of packing up the accumulated books, papers etc. of my time with you, a daunting task indeed. And this time I also have to pack up and dispose of furniture, because, instead of moving to another manse, I have to downsize. It will not be easy to part with my piano, but there is simply no way it will fit into my new house.

In all this sorting out and packing up, one of the things I treasure and am very anxious not to lose is my Baptismal Certificate. It is quite a unique document since every name on it is Paton. I was baptised by my uncle, and my parents signed the baptismal promises. I was confirmed by my father. And I myself signed the promise that read, *'I believe in God through Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Lord, and accepting all the good things that are ours in Christ, I promise through his grace to serve him in his kingdom. ... I promise to do my best to live the Christian life, making diligent use of the means of grace – the Word, Sacrament and Prayer, to seek the peace and welfare of Christ's body, the church, and in reliance upon the grace of God, to serve him all the days of my life.'* That was on the 25th September 1965, and a lot of water has flowed under the bridge since then.

The fact is that all of us who are communicant members of the church have made similar promises at some time in our lives, and it is good to be reminded of them, particularly at this time of challenge and change both for me and for everyone who is St David's High Kirk. I should like to place on record my gratitude to so many of you for your understanding, support and encouragement during all my time with you, but especially during recent months of so many hospital visits.

And now to the future. As I write, we are walking the way of the cross with Christ, and preparing for the great festival of Easter, and his glorious Resurrection, the central tenet of our faith. It was for love of his people that Christ went to the cross, and through the cross. In these acts of love he defeated sin and death for all time, and gave us the hope and promise of eternal life. And it is that love, a love that never fails, that binds us all together, no matter what distance or time separates us from one another.

So please remember that there will always be a welcome for you in St Andrews, although I can't give you a phone number just yet. However, my email address will remain the same for the time being. The only thing I would say is, please don't all come at once, the house simply isn't big enough!!

With very best wishes for Easter, every blessing and much love

Marion J. Paton

Easter Hymn

Death and darkness get you packing
Nothing now to man is lacking
All our triumphs now are ended
And what Adam marred is mended.
Graves are beds now for the weary.
Death a nap, to wake more merry.
Youth now, full of pious duty
Seeks in thee for perfect beauty,
The weak and aged, tired with length
of days, from thee look for new strength.
And infants with thy pangs contest
As pleasant, as if with the breast,
Then, unto him, who this hath thrown
Even to contempt, thy kingdom down,
And by his blood did us advance
Unto his own inheritance.
To him be glory, power, praise
From this, unto the last of days.

Henry Vaughan 1622-1695

OUR EASTER SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

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.

11.00 am – normal morning worship followed by short Communion Service for those who wish to stay.

In addition these, our friends and neighbours are holding the following events

Wednesday April 12 at 7 pm - St Salvador's Tennebrae Service.

Friday April 14 at 1.30 pm— Walk of Witness carrying a cross from Coldside to The Steeple where there will be an Easter video etc for children.

Saturday April 15 from 11am to 1pm—Easter Cream Tea at Coldside— see page 13 for more details

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN THEM AT THESE EVENTS

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MARION'S DEPARTURE

I am sure by now that I do not need to remind you that Marion will conduct her last service as our Minister on **SUNDAY APRIL 30 2017 AT 11 am**. This will be a Communion Service and as always the whole church family is invited to attend. There will be crèche, Sunday School and Youth Group that morning.

To mark Marion's Ministry and time with us, **WE HAVE OPENED A FUND TO ALLOW ALL WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO A PRESENTATION TO MARION TO DO SO**. With this issue of 'The Kirk News' comes an envelope to allow you to make your contribution (attached to the additional 'Supplement' cover). The envelope will be collected by your elder when they visit you prior to the April Communion.

There are alternative ways you can make your contribution:-

1. You can hand your contribution to the office bearers at the door of the church on Sundays 16, 23 or 30 April if that is more convenient to you.
2. You can post it to the Church Treasurer, Mr G Kenneth D'All [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to arrive no later than Friday April 28 2017. Please do not send cash in the post.
3. If you have access to internet banking you can make a contribution directly to the church bank account. The payee name is St David's High Kirk Dundee, sort code is 83-18-12 and account number 00105902. Please enter the reference 'MPaton retire' in the reference box which will appear on your bank's screen.

The **PRESENTATION** will be made to Marion in the church at the end of the service on Sunday April 30. After that is over, there will be a group photograph taken, again in the church. There will then be a **BUFFET LUNCH** in the hall. As space is limited, we are issuing tickets (at no charge) for the lunch. **These will be available from Christine Oswald from Sunday April 9, either at church or you can telephone her** [REDACTED] These will be issued on a first come, first served basis. Please reserve your tickets as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Colin Wilson, Session Clerk

THE GUILD

Our coffee morning is on Saturday April 22. We invite members of the congregation to come along and support us. You will be made very welcome – and the cakes are lovely! Our summer outing is on August 12 to Pitlochry Theatre to see *High Society*. We restart on Tuesday September 26.

WILMA DUNCAN, Co-ordinator

PROPERTY UPDATE

The Stained Glass Windows formerly in St David's were in place in time for the re-dedication on Sunday March 26. Although the lights behind them were working when installed during the previous week, one LED driver (the bit that converts the incoming electricity supply to work the LED lights) wasn't working on the Sunday morning which I replaced with a spare that morning during the service, and by the time we were leaving after the Stated Annual Meeting, one of the other two drivers had packed up. I will get these replaced as soon as possible.

COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk

THE VACANCY

There is not much to report since the last issue. The Presbytery committee tasked with the review of the suspended area of the Presbytery Plan has met several times and is still on track to report to the June meeting of Presbytery. I am aware of rumours circulating in other congregations about what is happening but as a member of that committee I can assure you these are unfounded as we have not reached the stage of any proposals.

As I said in the last issue of 'The Kirk News', we have arrangements in place for the Electoral Register process to be started on Sunday May 28 and I will give more information at that time.

COLIN WILSON, Session Clerk

SUNDAY SERVICES DURING MAY AND JUNE

On **Sunday May 7** our service will be conducted by our Interim Moderator, Rev Donna Hays. Donna will 'Preach the Charge vacant'.

On **Sunday May 14** our service will be conducted by our Worship and Pastoral Care Committee.

On **Sunday May 21** our service will be conducted by Rev David Collins, recently retired Minister from Auchterhouse linked with Murroes and Tealing, Monikie and Newbigging.

On **Sunday May 28** we will welcome our Locum Minister, Rev Alastair Morrice to conduct our service for the first time.

On **Sunday June 4** our service will be conducted by Alastair, and we will also welcome Rev Kate McDonald, Presbytery's Mission Partner in Israel who will take part in the service, which is also the Sunday School and Youth Group Prizegiving Service.

Three young lads boasting....

[1] *My dad writes poetry and gets £5 for each poem.*

[2] *My dad writes songs and gets £20 for each song.*

[3] *My dad writes sermons and it takes four men to collect the money*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Alistair Joss, Battalion Secretary of The Boys' Brigade in Dundee & Angus, who has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by YouthLink, the National Youth Agency for Scotland. The award was presented at a dinner in Glasgow in March 2017. The citation said that the Award was very well deserved for "unstinting work completed in the name of The Boys' Brigade".

[Well done, Alistair. Editor]

COMMUNITY CONTACT COMMITTEE

Our Fairtrade "Big Brew" raised £195. This will go towards the work of Traidcraft who help change families' lives in some of the world's poorest communities. If anyone is interested, I have a DVD showing some of the families who have been helped by Traidcraft and will be happy to pass it on.

Dates for Dundee Foodbank collection is Sunday May 7 and for St Salvador's Drop In Sunday June 4.

MARGARET MULGREW

To all Dundee Starter Pack supporters...

We are very excited to share our news. Dundee Starter Packs won "Fundraiser of the Year" award at the Evening Telegraph's Community Spirit Awards night at the Apex Hotel in February! We are delighted and very proud to have been awarded this and wish to share it with you as you have all played a vital part in the continuation and progress of our organisation and without your support we would not be celebrating this happy news. Thank you all for being part of our team.

Best wishes

FIONA, Administrator, Dundee Starter Packs SCIO

 <p>£2.50</p>	<p>GUILD COFFEE MORNING</p> <p>High Kirk Hall Saturday April 22 at 10 am Home Baking, Tombola, Books Craft Stall and excellent teas!!</p>	 <p>£2.50</p>
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RAMBLERS – March

Gathering on a dull morning, we arranged to meet at House of Dun near Montrose for our walk. This National Trust property had a snowdrop festival so we were anticipating some lovely scenes. Unfortunately, persistent drizzle met us at the house but, undaunted, we set off on what proved to be a very pretty walk, or rather, squelch round the quaintly-named Lady Antonia's walk. Though well maintained, the path was frequently several inches deep in churned mud but we soldiered on, albeit carefully and a trifle gingerly, as nobody relished falling in the glaur! A rushing stream accompanied us and there were many patches of snowdrops, interspersed with aconites, bordering the path. There were signs of Spring in the trees and ferns which abounded, and we caught a glimpse of some colourful hellebores. By the time we had completed the walk, the drizzle had stopped and we were able to have our picnic at tables in the children's adventure park. Unfortunately, we deemed the equipment too slippery for us to use safely! Despite the weather, this was a walk enjoyed by us all and we shall perhaps return when the house and shop are open. Next walk - May 6.

NORMA STURROCK

THE WORSHIP GROUP will be leading the service on Sunday May 14. We hope you will come along and share in our worship and enjoy our time of fellowship together. Look forward to seeing you there.

FIONA ANDERSON

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have been singing our choruses and popular at the moment is 'I may never march with the Infantry' which now includes a verse which the young people put together themselves (with a little help!). Our prayer time sometimes involves bubbles or making a web prayer with wool or just speaking, and listening, to God. The younger group have been learning about the story of Joseph and his coat of many colours. The older group recently looked at the parable of the wise man building his house and the importance of good foundations not just for a house but for life. They made some very interesting architectural models of houses from jenga blocks **KAY HUSBAND**

RECYCLED TEENAGERS WEEKEND

In March ten ladies from the congregation. May Craig, Wilma Duncan, Joyce Halley, Kay Husband, Maggie McMahan, Margaret Mulgrew, Alison Marshall, Christine Wilson, Elizabeth and Janet Wood gathered at Teen Ranch for a refreshing and relaxing (for some) weekend. There were 50 ladies altogether at the weekend including groups from Inverness and Dunfermline. After we had "sorted out" who were the lucky ones to get low level bunks we met for coffee and chat and then a quiz. Regrettably for Wilma none of the answers included Cliff Richard or Bergerac! We did keep our record of coming 5th out of five. [St. David's High Kirk don't like to show off!]

Next morning the weather was somewhat wet but cleared when some of us were involved in horse riding and canoeing. A game of elimination handball in the gym hall was our first activity. Thankfully most of us managed to be eliminated fairly early on. Before we knew it, it was time for coffee, cake, knitting and nattering by the roaring fire. As the rain had cleared it was possible to enjoy a walk round the property. After the outdoor activities we held our table tennis competition. This has become a tradition for our group – an elimination competition – to our own rules! Unfortunately we did not manage to get the final completed, maybe next year. During this time, of course, there was more tea, coffee, cake and chat. After dinner there was another group competition which involved the whole team with a variety of skills - painting, "beat the goalie", basketball, snooker and baking. We managed 4th out of 5 teams!! One of the young weekend staff, who comes from Skye, recently started his own chocolate business "Chocolates of Glensheil" [they can be bought on line] and gave us a talk about his venture and we are glad to say let us make some chocolates [messy!] and have the opportunity to buy some. He gives a percentage to Teen Ranch to help in their much needed fund raising. He already has a contract with Gleneagles Hotel.

On Sunday morning the weather was kinder and there was opportunity for another horse ride and also a trip on a horse and cart round the ranch as well as archery (stopping of course as the horse riders rode past!). It was good to catch up with Fiona Gevers [nee McArtney] who along with her husband works full time at the Ranch. Teen Ranch is not just for various activities. It includes sharing the Christian message and during the weekend we had the "Time Out" sessions when we reflected on the Christian message. We sang choruses, hymns and joined in prayer. This was undertaken this year by Bob Ockenden who came from Australia with his wife and family to set up the camp in 1985. This year Bob's message in the three sessions was concentrating on "Following Jesus – on God's Terms and Conditions – not ours." Putting your hand into the hand of God. After lunch it was time to pack up and head for home hopefully looking forward to next year's visit.

KAY HUSBAND

*There will be an **Easter Cream Tea** at Coldside church on Saturday April 15, 11 am – 1 pm. Adults £3, children £1.50.*

Cake and candy, books, chocolate goodies.

All welcome.

RECIPE FOR LIFE

1 tongue - that does not slander

1 heart - generous and kind

2 ears - closed to gossip

2 eyes - overlooking others' faults

1 mind - full of tolerance

2 hands - extended to help others

1 dash of wit, sunny disposition
and cheerfulness.

Blend the above ingredients together.

Form into one being.

Serve generous portions to everyone you meet daily.

MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES AND STATED ANNUAL MEETING

The Kirk Session met as the Trustees of the congregation to deal with the Statement of Accounts for 2016 after the service on Sunday March 26 2017. This was immediately followed by the Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation. This was done to avoid repetition of the accounts.

At the meeting of the Trustees, the Church Treasurer, Ken D'All, gave a summary of the Kirk's finances for 2016. He said that the headline figures were that total income for the year was £79,364, an increase of 15% on 2015, but to off-set this expenditure at £83,254 was 13% up on the previous year. The net result therefore was an operating deficit of £3,890, rising to £4,038 when Treasury Stock investment losses were added. This was an improvement on 2015 where the total deficit was £4,845.

Ken continued by saying that once exceptional expenditure on stained glass windows and roof repairs that had been fully funded by an insurance claim and transfers from Fabric Fund reserves held by the Church of Scotland General Trustees was excluded, income for the year had actually dropped by 6.7% to £64,176 and expenditure by 7.5% to £68,066. The net result was still the same but this gave a better overall picture of operating results. Within the revised income total, 70% was derived from offerings and associated gift aid, all of this had fallen by 7% comparing 2016 to 2015, on the back of a 2.5% drop in the previous year – a worrying trend.

Ken said that on a positive note, our Kirk organisations continued to be generous in their financial support and although changes to reporting perhaps didn't highlight it fully, there has been a 7.5% increase in such donations and he thanked all concerned for their generosity.

Turning to funds held, Ken reported the Kirk at 31st December 2016 held £93,301 in its Royal Bank of Scotland bank accounts, down £1,769 from 2015. This appears to be and is a healthy state of affairs, but it must be remembered that £1,663 of this is restricted in its use by conditions on donation and £76,892 is endowment funds from which only interest on the capital can legitimately be used without full approval by the Trustees, and at present virtually no interest is being earned through the Royal Bank. This leaves £14,746 of operating funds, still a healthy balance but one which requires prudent management at a time of uncertainty, especially when he point out that the budget for 2017 projects a deficit increase of £5,412.

Anyone who wants a copy of the Statement of Accounts for 2016 should contact the Session Clerk.

At the Stated Annual Meeting which followed, Marion said this, her tenth Annual Report, would be her last. She thanked the office bearers who worked incredibly hard on behalf of the congregation and everyone for being the a pleasant, friendly, hard working and faithful congregation, all doing what each could for our Christian witness in this part of the city. She also thanked our musicians, those who read the scriptures week by week, the beadles, the young people who were so ready to participate in worship when asked, and those who helped them to do so, as well as everyone in the congregation for their lively participation in worship. Marion said that an important aspect of our work is pastoral care, and there are many who visit and provide care and support for our elderly and infirm members.

Marion said we must look to the future, which will be a very different future both for herself and for the congregation. Of course there will be more of the same, as well as some new challenges as yet unknown for everyone. On a personal note, Marion said she was very grateful to all who supported her in prayer and in practical ways, particularly in this last year that had seen two lots of eye surgery, and possibly more to come, as well as many visits to Ninewells.

The Session Clerk, Colin Wilson, in his report said the number on the roll at the end of 2016 was 217, down 40 on 12 months earlier, due mainly to the revision of the roll carried out by the Kirk Session during the year. Colin thanked those who had looked after the church grounds over the past year and hoped they would continue to do so on the coming year. He also thanked in particular those who produce and circulate 'The Kirk News' particularly as the recent issues have been closer together than normal, but he said this was important as it was the means by which the whole congregation could be informed of developments in the vacancy.

Out of the mouths of babes ...

When granny asked her granddaughter aged 5 what the real meaning of Easter was she said 'God's boy was put on a wooden stick and left to hang there.

He was put into a cave and someone rolled the stone away. That's why we roll eggs! Then he came back to life and he helps make things better for all of us.